

Museum reveals conservation techniques

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Witness how Dacorum's historical and vintage treasures are preserved at a museum open day.

The Dacorum Heritage Trust will reveal the painstaking processes taken to clean and care for its collection.

Curators and volunteers are going to be working on textiles, books and paper records when the trust opens its museum store in Berkhamsted to the public on Saturday (June 13).

Visitors will get to learn about how items are protected from dust and kept safe from insects.

Assistant Curator Nina Bevan said: "If you have ever wondered how pests are kept at bay or how objects are looked after in the museum store, you can come and discover how museums clean and care for their objects."

Conservation teams don masks and white gloves to handle objects and photographs are taken on a regular basis to keep a record of their condition.

The irreversible nature of Tipp-Ex, nail varnish, sticky labels and sticky tape, means they are banned from use on the collection.

Lacquer, Indian ink and acid-free tissue paper are among the antique-friendly tools that the curators instruct people to use.

More information and tours of the store will be available throughout the Conservation Open Day, at Clarence Road, from 10am and 2pm - suggested donation of 3 per person.

Please call the Dacorum Heritage Trust on 01442 879525 or email assistantcurator@dacorumheritage.org.uk to reserve your place.