

Two centuries of diaries to feature in new exhibition

A fascinating new exhibition at Aylsham Heritage Centre will give visitors the opportunity to view two centuries of diaries from the years 1800 to 2000.

The exhibition, which starts on March 1, has been on display in New York and the Orkneys and is now ready to open in Aylsham.

Jayne Andrew, Learning Officer at the centre, said: "The visitor will wander through every year of two hundred different peoples' lives: a boy scout writing everything he hears on the radio during WW2; a farmer seeing a car for the first time; all the films a teenager sees in the 1950s; an elderly woman in New England eating Thanksgiving dinner alone; a Belgian schoolgirl on a trip to Paris in 1906 who sees the headlines announcing the earthquake in San Francisco; the flight schedule of an airline pilot from the 1960s and 1970s; a visit to a sickly relative in 1900 and a musician travelling to concert engagements around Europe in the 1980s.

"These are voices of people who could easily have been our friends, relatives and neighbours.

"Alongside this walk through of people's lives will be

information and photographs about what was happening in Aylsham at a similar time. We are also looking for people who may have personal diaries which are based locally that we can share with visitors."

If you have anything which may be of interest, please contact the centre – aylshamheritage@gmail.com

Professor Irving Finkel of The British Museum, who made the world famous discovery of the first reference to The Ark written on Mesopotamian clay tablets, is a passionate diary collector and will speak about diaries in May 2023, date tbc.

Aylsham Heritage Centre was awarded funding from Norfolk Community Foundation through the Love Norfolk Fund to support the 200 Years of Diaries exhibition and the community projects to run alongside it.

The exhibition will be open in Aylsham Heritage Centre from March 1 until early October. The centre is open Monday 10.30am-1pm and Tuesday-Friday 10.30am-3.30pm. It is also open 10.30am-1pm on the first Saturday of the month. Entry is free, although donations are welcome. Dogs on leads also welcome.



ON SHOW: Some of the diaries (above) which will be on show at Aylsham Heritage Centre (below).



As part of the project Aylsham Heritage Centre will be looking for people who would like to be part of a special diary project in August and September this year.

Learning Officer Jayne Andrew said: "We want to ask a cross-section of our community to take part in a 'time capsule' diary project where diary entries will be collected to create a snapshot of what life is like in this town in 2023 which will be a valuable resource to keep in our archives for use in the future.

"If you would like to be part of this project – we are not looking for pages and pages everyday or expert writers! – then please do email aylshamheritage@gmail.com or call in to see us."

'Soul Space' open to church visitors

Aylsham Methodist Church will be opening its doors from March 14 to 17 (4pm-8pm) to allow the chapel area to be used as 'Soul Space'.

The initiative was initially run in schools across the north Norfolk area to allow people to come and sit in peaceful

surroundings, created by using atmospheric lighting, fabrics and reflective spaces.

No charge will be made for the event at the Methodist Church, in White Hart Street, and people will be able to stay as long as they like during the opening hours.

DOROTHY DAVIES

The funeral of Dorothy Davies, formerly of Lancaster Gardens, Aylsham, will take place on Thursday, March 2. The service will be held at St Faiths Crematorium at 10.30am.

Dorothy passed away peacefully at the Manor House Care Home, in North Walsham, on February 5, aged 89.

Family flowers only, please, however donations for Redwings Horse Sanctuary may be given online at www.ivanfisher.co.uk or sent care of Ivan Fisher Independent Funeral Home, The Old Bank, 2-4 Norwich Road, Aylsham, NR11 6BN.