

# MuseumsMonthly

The latest news and announcements from Southend Museums Service.

This month...

**Timeless Tales**  
A new storytelling series  
from Southend Museums  
Service

**Recent additions to our fine  
art collection:**  
John Aldridge  
Edward Bawden

**December's Object in  
Focus... ECKO Christmas  
lights!**

**Snapping the Stiletto:  
Campagin for Equality**

## Southend Museums

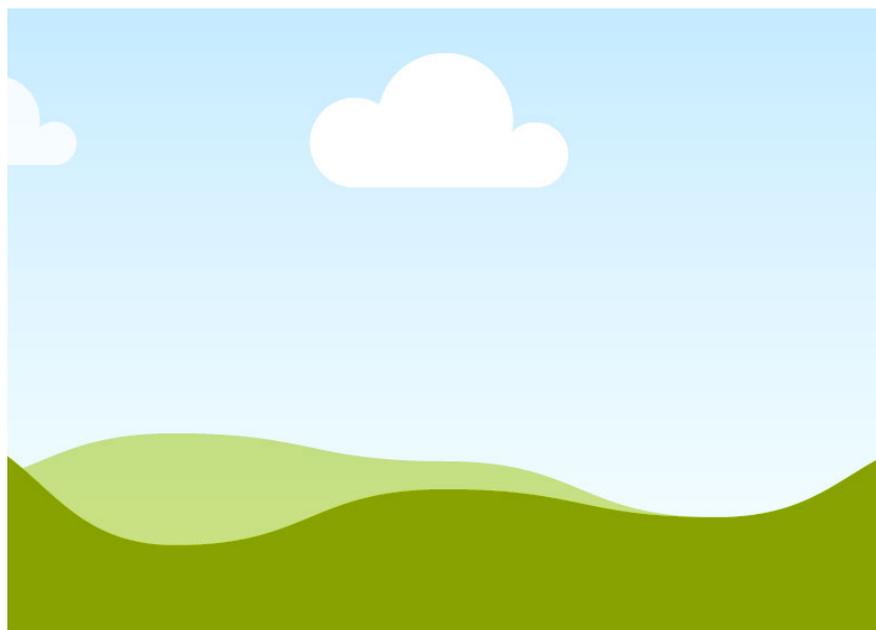
Southend Central Museum

The Beecroft Art Gallery

Prittlewell Priory

Southchurch Hall

[www.southendmuseums.co.uk](http://www.southendmuseums.co.uk)



'How I feel today' By Vicki J Merrick

## Timeless Tales

### A new storytelling series

Southend Museums will be launching a new storytelling series called Timeless Tales. Some of the stories are inspired by the Scratton family who lived at Prittlewell Priory and some are inspired by our collections. We also want to read your stories. Each week we will be presenting a handful of objects from our collection and you can send in your children's stories which are inspired by those objects and we will read them out in a later episode.

Just send your stories to [museumseducationteam@southend.gov.uk](mailto:museumseducationteam@southend.gov.uk). All stories used will be suitable for children aged 7 to 13. Weekly episodes will be aired every Wednesday at 6pm on our Youtube channel but updates will be available on our social media channels and our website.



'Essex Farmyard'  
Lithograph by John Aldridge



'Liverpool Street Station'  
Screenprint by Edward Bawden

## Recent additions to the fine art collection

At the end of 2019 we were directed to a project in which Derbyshire Schools Library Service, with the help of the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, was undertaking the task of finding new homes for over 2000 works from their collection. The Service had for 72 years provided a loan service for schools across the county. During this time it had amassed a collection of objects ranging from pictures by Paul Nash, Kyffin Williams and Edward Bawden to objects such as Pacific war clubs and Native American moccasins but sadly in 2018, the service closed.

We applied for 'Essex Farmyard' by John Aldridge and 'Liverpool Street Station' by Edward Bawden. We were successful with our application and following the collection of the work by John Aldridge prior to lockdown, we have just added the very large Bawden view of Liverpool Street Station.

Both works will be part of Colour 2, a new exhibition of works from our permanent collection in 2021.

## Object in Focus: EKCO Christmas Lights



As it's December and Christmas season is well and truly upon us, we thought we would share a Christmas themed object.

These lovely EKCO Christmas lights date to around the 1960s and would have been made at the EKCO factory here in Southend.

Christmas lights have been in use since 1882 when Edward Johnson had the idea to replace the traditional candles with a string of coloured electric lights, which he did with 8 pear-shaped bulbs on a single wire. The lights eventually became used more widely in the 1920s when the lights became more accessible and cheaper.

# Snapping the Stiletto: Campaigning for Equality

Earlier this month the museum announced a new exciting phase of Snapping the Stiletto entered its second phase! Snapping the Stiletto is a National Lottery Heritage Fund project created by Essex County Council and Essex Record Office in collaboration with local museums throughout Essex. Just like the first time around Southend Museums are proud partners in the project.

The project's purpose is to find and tell the stories of women in Essex of all ethnicities, class, nationality, LGBTQ+ individuals, working women and women with disabilities. To launch their new campaign the organisers are looking for five women to be the new faces of the project. Nominations are now open for any woman from or in Essex you think should represent women's call for equality and challenge stereotypes about Essex.

The deadline for nominations is Sunday 20th December 2020.

You can find the nomination form and more information about the project here:

<https://www.explore-essex.com/snapping-the-stiletto-2020>

As part of the project a campaign was launched against the Oxford University Press to remove the expression 'Essex Girl' from a dictionary.

According to the Oxford University Press, 'Essex Girl' was previously defined as 'a name used especially in jokes to refer to a type of young woman who is not intelligent, dresses badly, talks in a loud and ugly way and is very willing to have sex.'

It has now been removed from the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary used to teach non-native English speakers.



## Reopening our venues

We have been working on plans to reopen our venues safely, and have re-opened Central Museum, Southchurch Hall, and Prittlewell Priory. The most recent opening times for our venues can be found on our website, and any updates can be found on our social media platforms.

Unfortunately Beecroft Art Gallery and the Planetarium remain closed until further notice.

Please be patient with us as we navigate a safe and responsible phased reopening of our venues, and keep an eye on our social media channels for lots of exciting collections content in the meantime!