

MuseumsMonthly

The latest news and announcements from Southend Museums Service.

This Issue...

London shipwreck cannon back on display!

350 year old cannon finds new home in atrium of Central Museum

Beecroft Art Gallery News

A sneak peek at some of the exciting upcoming exhibitions.

Census 2021

In the countdown to Census 2021 we've been exploring what this has meant to the residents of Southend over previous decades

Night Sky

This month's planetarium pick is the first planet to be discovered by telescope and is an icy giant of the astronomy world.

LGBTQ+ Histories

Read about our latest collaboration with Snapping the Stiletto & Saffron Walden Museum, exploring sexuality, gender, and identity in Essex.

Southend Museums

Southend Central Museum

The Beecroft Art Gallery

Prittlewell Priory

Southchurch Hall

www.southendmuseums.co.uk



Cannon from the *London* on display in the atrium of Central Museum.

Cannon from *London* Shipwreck back on display

Whilst we remain closed to the public for a little while longer, we have been working behind the scenes preparing our spaces with exciting new objects on display.

The stunning 350 year old, 12ft, 2 tonne cannon was previously on display during our *The London Shipwreck: A Sunken Story* exhibition. The cannon comes from the *London* shipwreck, a 17th Century warship which exploded mysteriously in the Thames Estuary in 1665.

The cannon is now back on permanent display in the atrium of Central Museum and we can't wait for visitors to come and be able to see it again.

Beecroft Art Gallery News

There's much to look forward to at the gallery when we can welcome visitors back through our doors, and here's a sneak peek at three of the shows we have planned for 2021.

Alicia Paz / Michael Szpakowski

29 May - 7 August

Beginning with Alicia Paz who'll be showing at the Beecroft in May. Paz is a Mexican born artist based in London. She graduated from UC Berkeley, École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, Goldsmiths College and Royal College of Art, London and has since exhibited internationally. Her work will be shown in collaboration with sound artist Michael Szpakowski and their exhibition will be part of the associate programme for Estuary Festival.



Detail: 'Tears of Laughter' by Alicia Paz, 2019
Oil and mixed media on canvas

All Kinds of Naughty

Also showing in May, All Kinds of Naughty, a group show by The Thames Group of Artists that celebrates artist, musician and lyricist, the late, great Ian Dury.

March 27th 2020 marked the twenith anniversary of Ian's untimely death at just 57 years of age and with the blessing of his wife, Sophy and his children, Jemima and Baxter, the Thames Group has created a multimedia experience inspired by the songs and lyrics of the great Lord Upminster himself.

All Kinds of Naughty will be an associate event during Estuary Festival and will be displayed at the Beecroft in May.





'Essex Landscape' by Harold Steggles, 1934
Oil on panel

Brothers in Art: Walter & Harold Steggles of the East London Group

We are very excited to welcome Brothers in Art: Walter and Harold Steggles of the East London Group to the Beecroft this summer.

Following our popular 2015 exhibition 'East London Group: Out of The City', this new exhibition, curated by Alan Waltham, will focus on the work and archives of the two brothers at the heart of the fascinating story. From evening classes in Bethnal Green and Bow for untrained, working men and women in the mid to late 1920s, to exhibitions at the Lefevre Gallery in London's West End and even the Venice Biennale.

Census 2021

Census 2021 is a crucial tool to make sure local and national public services reflect the needs of our real society.

The UK census has been happening every 10 years since 1801 with the exception of 1941. In 2021, for the first time, it will mostly take place online. Census 2021 is a historical census. Alongside questions on age, work, health, nationality, and ethnicity there will be, for the first time, voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity. There will also be a new section for those who have served in the armed forces.

Marking the countdown leading to Census Day on March 21st we've been posting objects from past census years. Each Monday and Thursday we explore a decade and ask ourselves: 'what were the people of Southend doing during past censuses?'

Follow us on social media to discover the Southend Census Time Capsule!

census
2021

The Night Sky: Uranus

13th March 2021 marked the 240th anniversary of the discovery of Uranus by Sir William Herschel, British Royal Astronomer. Herschel originally believed he had found a new comet but it was later identified as a planet.



The ice giant Uranus was the first planet to be discovered by telescope. It is the seventh planet from the Sun and the third largest in our Solar System.

Uranus takes 84 Earth years to complete an orbit of the Sun and is unique in the Solar System because it spins on its side like a barrel. There are several theories to explain why Uranus tilts on its axis at an angle of 97°. The tilt may have gradually increased due to Uranus' interaction with the other giant planets or may have been the result of Uranus colliding with another planet-sized object or objects as it was being formed.

Uranus has 27 moons and 13 rings, and although it is closer to the Sun than its neighbour Neptune, it has the coldest average temperature of -224°C of all the planets in the Solar System.

Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited Uranus, performing a fly by on 24th January 1986. Photographs taken by Voyager 2 show a blue-green planet with no markings..

Snapping the Stiletto - Queer Reflections

Southend Museum has worked in collaboration with Snapping the Stiletto and Saffron Walden Museum to create an online archive of LGBTQ+ relevant objects from the two museums' collections. Exploring sexuality, gender, and identity, Jenny Oxley (Collections Officer, Human History) at Saffron Walden Museum and Vittorio Ricchetti (Assistant Curator, Social History) at Southend Museums, have delved into their respective collections to highlight objects that have connections to LGBTQ+ histories and experiences.

The project seeks to revisit areas of our collections where stories may have previously been overlooked or unexplored in order to hear from people living in Essex today. You can submit your reactions and reflections to these objects, and research other objects in our collections.

To get involved check the project webpage:

<https://www.snappingthestiletto.co.uk/queer-reflections>

If you wish to donate an object that represents the LGBTQ+ experience of or in Southend, contact us on: museums@southend.gov.uk



A Queen Anne silver shilling, 1711