

Braintree Museum Holiday Club Newsletter

ISSUE 4 • FEBRUARY 2026

Top news

- **This February, we welcomed 76 children!**
- **Pokemon celebrates its 30th birthday on 27th February.**
- **We learnt that Malteasers were invented in the 1930s.**

February Half Term 2026

This February, our themes included: 'Chinese New Year!', 'Natural History!', 'Art Deco and Beyond!' and 'Pokemon!'. We had a busy start to the week learning about Chinese New Year but also Pancake Day, Ramadan and Random Acts of Kindness day which were on this day as well! We created Easter cards for local charity Kinder Essex to hand out as our random act of kindness. We also decorated pancakes with Chinese fruits for our snack.



POLLY TALKING ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Fun Activities

For 'Natural History' we learnt about John Ray and the local research he did on plants and insects. We explored the museum and used this knowledge to create miniature John Ray dolls and other nature inspired art. We also practiced sewing to create the John Ray doll.

Our most popular day was 'Pokemon!'. Together we celebrated the 30 year anniversary of Pokemon being created by trading cards, creating Pokemon bookmarks and Pokeballs and even participating in quizzes about our favourite Pokemon.

Art Deco and Beyond?

On Thursday, we welcomed Polly Redman who is the Museum Manager. Polly told us all about why she wanted to work in museums, what inspires her and how she creates the content for the museum exhibits. Art Deco and Beyond explores design in Braintree during the 1920s and 1930s. This includes businesses like Crittalls, Courtaulds and Warners. When exploring the museum, we saw items such as a really early television, locally made fabrics and historic clothing.



Practicing Our Sewing!

Silver End Dolls!



Archaeological Work!

Museum Makers!



Over the past few years, the holiday club children have participated in many projects around the museum and garden. In the museum garden, we have planted a garden next to the museum shop, which was a lot of hard work! We also helped created voiceovers about climate change in coordination with new signs created for the garden. The holiday club has previously created artwork for the museum including recycled dinosaurs and decorative tiles of animals at risk of extinction. Our next task will be to help create content for the summer exhibit, 'Football: a Local History of the Beautiful Game'. We will be aiming to design an activity for people to try in the museum!

Silver End Dolls Project!

This February, we have helped the museum with the Silver End Dolls Project. In 1934, Silver End Women's Institute created 47 dolls of historic figures from Essex as part of an art competition. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Silver End being built, we have recreated John Ray and St Osyth to be displayed in the museum. We sewed the clothing, glued on hair and accessories and drew on their faces.



Coming Up!

Easter Break:

Bookings go live on Tuesday 3rd March, 12pm. Please book via Holiday Activities:

- Tuesday 31st March-
Our World: The Netherlands!
- Wednesday 1st April
April Fool's Day!
- Thursday 2nd April
Museum Makers!
- Friday 3rd April -
Easter Eggstravaganza!

- Tuesday 7th April
Super Mario Galaxy!
- Wednesday 8th April
Early World Book Day!
- Thursday 9th April
World Art Day!
- Friday 10th April
Welcome Spring!



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