

Preserving the past for all of our futures

Explore the museum's Town gallery to discover the story of East Grinstead and its surrounding villages.

The museum's collections of local artefacts, photographs, ephemera and film illustrate the daily life and trades of the people from the East Grinstead area dating back to earliest times.



Delve into the museum's extensive photographic collection via the gallery's interactive touchscreen.

Younger visitors can help themselves to one of our Explorer Backpacks and follow the clues, answer the questions and spot new things in the displays.

Throughout the year the museum mounts a series of small changing exhibitions inspired by local themes and national events.



Interested in finding out more about the history of the East Grinstead area? The museum's Research Room is open to the public with a comprehensive range of books, pamphlets and maps of the town.



Events & activities

East Grinstead Museum runs a lively programme of events and activities for all ages. For further details see our website.

Holiday activities

During school holidays there are art & craft activities and workshops linked to the collections and displays.

Schools programme

A range of Rebuilding Bodies & Souls inspired curriculum linked workshops are available for nurseries and schools. For further details please contact our Learning & Community Engagement Officer.

Gift Shop

Pop in and browse our exclusive range of museum inspired gifts, cards, souvenirs and books.

Adult & community programme

A range of gallery talks and town walks linked to the town's history and the Rebuilding Bodies & Souls story are available throughout the year. The museum can also provide speakers for local groups.

Support us

There are lots of ways you can help the museum from becoming a volunteer, joining the Friends of the Museum or becoming one of our Patrons. Please see our website for details of the current opportunities.

Opening times

Wednesday – Saturday
10am – 4pm

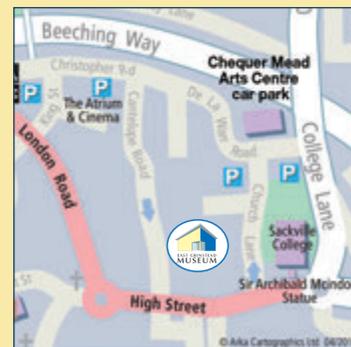
Sundays and Bank Holidays,
1 – 4pm

Mondays and Tuesdays
Open by appointment only

The museum will be closed from mid December to mid January – for details of the winter closure please see our website.

Contact us

01342 302233
info@eastgrinsteadmuseum.org.uk • www.eastgrinsteadmuseum.org.uk
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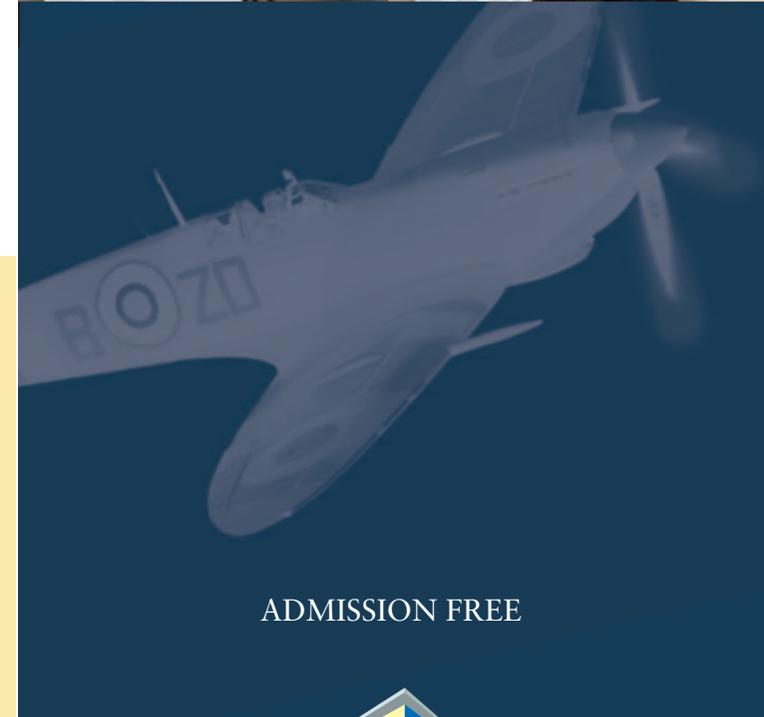
East Grinstead Museum

Old Market Yard, Cantelupe Rd,
East Grinstead RH19 3BJ



Rebuilding Bodies & Souls

THE STORY OF THE GUINEA PIG CLUB



ADMISSION FREE



EAST GRINSTEAD
MUSEUM





Rebuilding Bodies & Souls

THE STORY OF THE GUINEA PIG CLUB



"When I looked down on the operating table and saw I had to replace a pair of burned eyelids for a boy of 21, I felt God come down my right arm." **Archibald McIndoe**

McIndoe arrives in East Grinstead

On the eve of war the Government was concerned about how to treat the large number of burns victims anticipated from aerial warfare and air raids. In September 1939 pioneering New Zealand surgeon Archibald McIndoe arrived to set up the Centre for Plastic and Jaw Surgery at the Queen Victoria Hospital. Discover how McIndoe's work saved the hands and faces of more than 1000 patients.



Flying Officer Charles Davidson & Sergeant Jack Toper with nurses

"Facial reconstruction and plastic surgery were really experimental in those days. He told us that every operation he did was essentially an experiment, which is why we were nicknamed the 'guinea pigs'..."

Lieutenant Arthur 'Sandy' Saunders



The most exclusive club in the world

The Guinea Pig Club, formed over a glass of sherry in 1941, was expected to disband at the end of the war. Find out how this drinking club, and its often raucous antics, became an invaluable support network for the 649 members of Allied Aircrew and their families for more than 75 years. Learn more about the Guinea Pigs and their stories on our interactive touchscreen.

The Town That Didn't Stare

In an approach ahead of its time, McIndoe promoted the social rehabilitation of his patients.

The Guinea Pigs were encouraged to go into East Grinstead and the townspeople were encouraged to accept these injured heroes.

Come and hear first hand accounts of how East Grinstead became known as, 'The Town That Didn't Stare.'



Above: 'Gentlemen of the Guinea Pig Club arrive at the Whitehall for the Dinner,' cartoon by Guinea Pig Sergeant Henry Standen



The Story of East Grinstead

ADMISSION FREE

