



# The Hundred Parishes

## An introductory article about MUSEUMS

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The Hundred Parishes is blessed with an exceptional number of museums. Their collections of assorted artefacts and documents shine a light on the human history of this area. Website, contact details and opening times for most can be found on [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk) on either the Attractions page, towards the end of the relevant Parish introduction, or on What's On.

Saffron Walden Museum, shown on the right, was purpose-built and opened in 1835. It displays a real treasure trove of material relating to the local area.



Imperial War Museum, Duxford is an enormous museum, displaying all kinds of wartime material including its own listed buildings from each World War, as well as many aeroplanes, both civilian and military. Two small elements are pictured below.



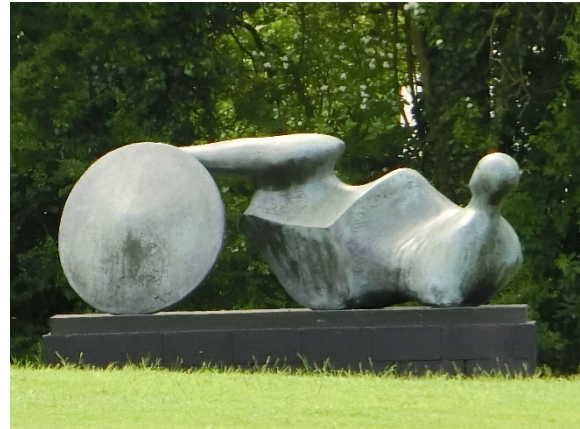
Great Dunmow Museum is housed in a former maltings. It encompasses displays about its former function as well as broader elements of the Dunmow area's history. Shown here is an ancient fire engine from nearby Stebbing.





The Grade II\* building of the Forge Museum in Much Hadham is shown on the left. It has an adjacent forge, collections of metal tools and displays of local heritage, plus its own striking medieval wall paintings which reveal an insight into Tudor fashion.

Still in Much Hadham, the hamlet of Perry Green was for many years the home of sculptor Henry Moore. Today, the Henry Moore Studio and gardens includes an extensive outdoor display of his large works and indoor history of his life.



Stansted Mountfitchet's House on the Hill Museum has an extensive collection of toys and much more beside – as illustrated by the photo on the left. It is situated within Mountfitchet Castle which is itself a popular destination for children who probably don't realize that this fun place is teaching them a lot about the history of Norman times.

Ashdon Village Museum, shown in part below, has an extensive range of exhibits about local life, mostly in the 20th century, and a friendly tea room.



Finchingfield Guildhall, seen on the left, incorporates a small presentation of local history, presented with help of modern technology.





Nuthampstead Airfield Museum, behind the Woodman pub, has extensive displays relating to the former military airfield. Part of the display is pictured on the left. The Museum's limited opening times are shown on its website <https://www.nuthampsteadmuseum.com/>

Several of our windmills are opened to the public from time to time, offering an insight into the workings of these early wind turbines and industrial plants. Stansted Mountfitchet, Finchingfield, Ashdon and Great Chishill (shown on the right) have open days and it is hoped that Thaxted will soon be able to resume regular opening.



Hinxton's watermill – pictured on the left - is usually opened on a few days each year. Dates are usually displayed on the What's On page of [www.hundredparishes.org.uk](http://www.hundredparishes.org.uk)

Linton's zoo might also be classified as a museum.

Almost every parish church is a museum in itself, with a great deal of family and social history reflected in its monuments and memorials.

Please keep watch for opening days and times on the What's On page.

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Any comments or suggestions for improvement may be submitted by using the Feedback form on the website. The website has many short articles on various aspects of The Hundred Parishes, as well as introductions to individual parishes and to a number of local celebrities, and an extensive What's On section. More than a hundred walk route descriptions can be freely downloaded, with each of the hundred parishes featuring in at least one walk.