

PRESS RELEASE

CLOCKING ON: Working Life in the 20th Century

Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum, 28 June - 7 September 2008

A new exhibition at Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum showing 28 June – 7 September will explore what it was like to work in Warwick District during the 20th Century. The exhibition, CLOCKING ON, presents the experiences of workers at four of the biggest employers in the region, Automotive Products (AP), Flavel, Ford and Potterton.

During the 20th Century, social reform and the impact of two World Wars radically influenced the workplace in Britain. The minimum wage was introduced, women joined the workforce in greater numbers than ever before and working hours were reduced. Using stories and memories from employees of the factories, the exhibition shows workplaces that offered much more than just a place to earn a living. Anecdotes from former employees describe friendships, opportunities to take part in sporting and leisure activities and a sense of community.

During World War Two this community feeling was extremely strong; rolls of honour from both AP and Ford commemorating those who lost their lives feature in the exhibition. Other exhibits include an ashtray that was given as first place prize in a relay race at a Flavel sports day and examples of products made by the factories. Visitors can learn about different jobs in the factories and find out about an average day at work by choosing a character and following a trail around the exhibition.

On Saturday 28 June, from 12 noon to 3pm, visitors are invited to celebrate the opening of CLOCKING ON. As well as the chance to take a first look at the exhibition, there will be a unique opportunity to examine objects from Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum's social history collections. A free cup of tea and biscuits will be offered to all visitors.

Also on Saturday 28 June, from 2 – 4pm, families can take part in the Art Gallery & Museum's regular Art Cart Family Fun sessions and create artwork in the galleries relating to the CLOCKING ON exhibition.

Both events are FREE, just drop in and join in. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Ends

Further information – Call Victoria Slade, Curatorial Officer, on 01926 742703 (victoria.slade@warwickdc.gov.uk) or Emma Lewis, Publicity Officer, on 01926 742709 (emma.lewis@warwickdc.gov.uk)

LEAMINGTON SPA ART GALLERY & MUSEUM

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Open: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday 10.30am – 5pm, Thursday 1.30pm – 8pm, Sunday 11am – 4pm, Monday closed (except Bank Holidays)

Admission free.