Heya!👋 The room we’re in today used to be a bedroom when the Manor House was lived in. The floor used to be so wonky they must have always felt seasick! Luckily they fixed it in the restoration in 2016. It might have been a children's room, so there’s lots of toys in here on display, do you recognise any of them? Some of them might have even been made in Harrow, as there used to be so many factories here!

This room is now the Industry & World War 1 room and has lots of cool things in it! The industries of Harrow were well known, and included Kodak, Winsor and Newton, Hamilton Brush Works, and of course Whitefriars. Lots of people who live in Harrow now used to work in these factories but they are all closed now. 😞 Do you know someone who worked in a Harrow factory?
Welcome to the Industry & WWI room.
This is what it looked like before restoration!

Can you see the wonky floor?
This room was a bedroom for hundreds of years! It may have had furniture like this Victorian bedstead.
Every bedroom needs toys! We’ve stored some in this cupboard.
WOW! Toy jackpot!
See anything familiar?
Hello again! 🙋‍♀️ Today we’re discovering more about World War I and the suffragettes! Harrow was greatly impacted by World War I and lots of people here were affected by it, whether at home or on the front line. Many men from Harrow served on the front lines, plus nearly 3000 alumni and staff from Harrow School. William Leefe Robinson, who lived in Stanmore, was the first person to shoot down a German zeppelin on British soil. Leefe Robinson was awarded the Victoria Cross for this act.

Talking of heroes, Harrow was also a hub for the suffragettes and suffragists of over 100 years ago. Do you know the difference between the two? Suffragists were peaceful protestors, whereas suffragettes tended to be a bit more militant – but both groups wanted voting rights for women. Janie Terrero was one of the most prolific suffragettes in Harrow, and was often imprisoned for her actions. Sewing was one of the many ways that both suffragists and suffragettes used to put across their message. Keep an eye out in this room as there’ll be a new suffragette related object coming soon!
The case on the right tells the story of World War I in Harrow.

Fewer objects survive from WW1 than from WW2.
The Victory Medal, the British War Medal, and the 1914–1915 Star were nearly always awarded together to members of British and Imperial forces who served in the First World War.

Princess Mary’s Christmas Fund pack for soldiers included tobacco, cigarettes, a Christmas card, and a photograph inside a brass tin.
Rationing existed on the home front in the First World War – here are some purchaser’s shopping cards for butter, margarine, and meat!

Letters home from soldiers at war were cherished. Look at this beautiful embroidered postcard! And the tin tube above once contained pictures, sent all the way from India!
Women in the UK had been petitioning for the right to vote since 1832, but that right was not granted until just before the end of the First World War.

National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies represented many groups fighting for women’s rights, including the Pinner branch of the Women’s Social and Political Union. This pin badge was likely worn at many protests, rallies, and parades!

Lena Ashwell, founder of the United Suffragists group, led a campaign to bring entertainment to the soldiers still stationed at the western front. These glass slides were sold to fund the concerts and hung in windows all over the UK.
Hi! 🦆 Today I want to tell you more about Harrow’s industries including Hamilton & Co. and Winsor & Newton. These two companies had some of the biggest factories in Harrow and a lot of local people worked for them!

Hamilton & Co. brush works, also known as ‘Hamiltions’, was founded in 1811 and moved to Harrow in 1897. They created all sorts of brushes, including this giant one in the pictures! They even created over 7 million shaving brushes for the army and navy during WWI! They left Harrow in 1991 when they merged with Acorn and are now in Norfolk, trading under the name ‘Hamilton’.

But what good are brushes without paint?

Winsor & Newton are still one of the leading producers of painting materials! They were founded in 1832 in the arts district in London, but didn’t move to Harrow until 1898 when the brush and woodworking facility was moved to Wealdstone. Then the colour works came in 1937, followed by the head office in 1938 - just in time, too, as their original building was destroyed by the Blitz. Sadly they left Harrow in 2011 when their factory moved to France, but the Wealdstone factory building left behind is now called the Whitefriars Studios (confusing I know!) and parts of it are used as studios for local artists! Have you ever been there?
Today we’ll learn about industry in Harrow!

First up — Hamiltons & Co. brush works!
Check out this enormous model paintbrush! Like the case of brushes in the last picture, this giant brush was used for display purposes at trade shows. It is over a metre long – way bigger than me!

Hamiltons made all sorts of brushes at their factory in Wealdstone, including paint brushes and shaving brushes!
Let’s take a peek inside the Hamiltons case! On the left you can see the stages of making a brush head:

1. The bristles are straightened by steaming them in an oven while bound to a stick.
2. They are bound together with a laying up band knocked into place with a mallet.
3. The bottom is dipped in rubber.
4. The metal ferrule is attached.
5. The brush head is ready!

Can you spot these cool steel typeblocks in the case?

What about the Master Key to the factory?
Next up is Winsor & Newton!
Winsor & Newton produced fine art materials at their Wealdstone factory! People could order supplies from catalogues like the ones below. You can still order materials today from their online catalogue!

This paint set from 1886 contains 44 separate pieces, including paint and wax blocks, paint brushes and brush rests, glass water bowls, and more!
Hey there! 🦆 I didn’t mention this place in the last post because there’s just SO much to talk about! Kodak was Harrow’s largest private employer and arrived in Harrow in 1890. George Eastman, founder of Kodak, was attracted to Harrow because of the clean air that was perfect for developing and processing photos, as well as the proximity to Central London. And Harrow was attracted to it, too!

The prosperity of the factory helped to turn Wealdstone from a hamlet to a proper town. It was one of the few places which hired female employees in the early 1900s, and by the 1950s over 6000 people worked in the Harrow site. Most of them lived here, too! Kodak even built new homes for some of the employees, as well as their own sports ground and theatre. However, Kodak struggled to keep up with the technology of digital photography and filed for bankruptcy in 2012. 😞 The site on which the factory used to stand is now being used for new housing, but the landmark chimney has been saved and will stay as a reminder of the great factory that once stood there!

Do you have any memories of Kodak in Harrow? Maybe you attended a play at the theatre or ran in the Kodak Harrow Charity Marathon? I’d love to hear about them! 📸
KODAK
HARROW'S LARGEST EVER PRIVATE EMPLOYER

In 1890 the American Eastman Kodak Company bought seven acres of Headstone's farmland to open its first overseas factory. Kodak's products brought photography to the masses. With new inventions and brilliant marketing, they led the field for the majority of the 20th Century. Their site in Harrow grew to be the largest private employer the area had ever seen.

Last but definitely not least is the Eastman Kodak Company!
Kodak is most famous for its cameras!
Some of these were produced in the Wealdstone factory!
But Kodak also made more than just cameras! They produced film, glass plates, and photographic paper. During WWII, these materials were crucial for aerial reconnaissance photography. For many years, they set the standard for film used in movies, too!
This cool contraption is an 1890 George Hare sliding box camera!

It was used at the Kodak factory, likely for experimenting with chemical solutions!
But my favourite Kodak creation are the Kolorkins! These two are my good buddies, Click and Flash! They came to Earth from the planet Koloron to discover new colours, like red and blue!