



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 September 2016

### Announcing the first Special Exhibition at the new Heath Robinson Museum: **HEATH ROBINSON AT WAR**

Running from  
**15 October 2016 – 8 January 2017**

To mark the centenary of the First World War, and in particular the Battle of the Somme, the first Special Exhibition in the new Heath Robinson Museum will be 'Heath Robinson at War'.

Geoffrey Beare, Collection & Exhibitions Manager for the Museum, said "In each World War, Heath Robinson demonstrated his ability to counter, by the application of gentle irony and absurdity, both the pompous German propaganda and the fear and depression engendered by the horrors of war. The subject matter also gave him immense scope to devise ever more ingenious contraptions."

The exhibition will show about 60 pieces of original artwork, mostly from the Trust's collection, together with books, Christmas cards made for different military units and letters from the troops and the public thanking him for his morale-raising efforts and suggesting subjects for future drawings.

Heath Robinson described this period in his autobiography *My Line of Life*: "As the war developed, I at last found an opening for my humorous work. The much-advertised frightfulness and efficiency of the German army, and its many terrifying inventions, gave me one of the best opportunities I ever enjoyed."

This Special Exhibition, the first in the Heath Robinson Museum's rolling programme of quarterly themed exhibitions, is kindly sponsored by O'Hara Bros Surfacing Ltd, a major local employer founded in 1975 and specialising in planning, surfacing and civil engineering projects.

**ENDS**

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# Notes to Editors

## heathrobinsonmuseum.org

William Heath Robinson (1872-1944), acclaimed British illustrator, painter and cartoonist, lived in Pinner from 1908-18, ten of the most productive years of his life.

The West House and Heath Robinson Museum Trust is a registered charity which restored West House in Pinner Memorial Park for community use. The Trust is a partnership between local Pinner people and the William Heath Robinson Trust, custodians of the artist's work.

Trustees are now completing a new Museum at West House to Heath Robinson, having received funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £1.3m.

A significant addition to the national arts, educational and cultural landscape, this project is delivering:

- The first purpose-built museum in Greater London for over 40 years
- A permanent home for the Heath Robinson collection of original artwork and other artefacts
- The only museum dedicated to Heath Robinson, hosting the largest collection of his original works
- In addition to the permanent exhibition, a rolling programme of special themed exhibitions, starting with Heath Robinson at War from October 2016 to January 2017
- For schools, colleges and people of all ages, a comprehensive programme of formal and informal learning: thought-provoking and entertaining, reflecting the style of the man himself.

Donations are welcome on <https://mydonate.bt.com/charities/heathrobinsonmuseum>

## Background to the William Heath Robinson Trust

When Heath Robinson's daughter Joan died, her husband wanted her collection of her father's work to be kept in public ownership. As a result the William Heath Robinson Trust was formed in 1992.

The original collection included about 500 pieces of original art work together with an archive of letters, association copies and special editions of the books that he illustrated, proof prints, advertising booklets and ephemera.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Art Fund grant-aided the William Heath Robinson Trust in 2015 to purchase some 400 additional important works for the Museum, bringing the collection to nearly 1,000. It is the only substantial collection of the artist's work in public ownership.

## Use of icons and images

A range of authorised Heath Robinson images are available in jpg format. Please talk to any of our media team below about your requirements.

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