



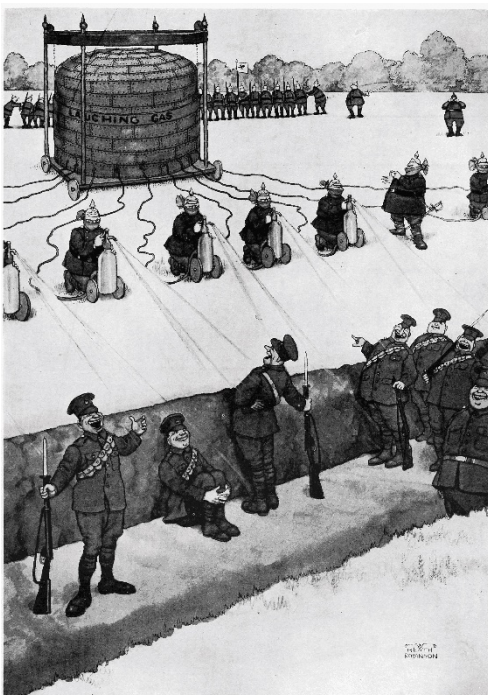
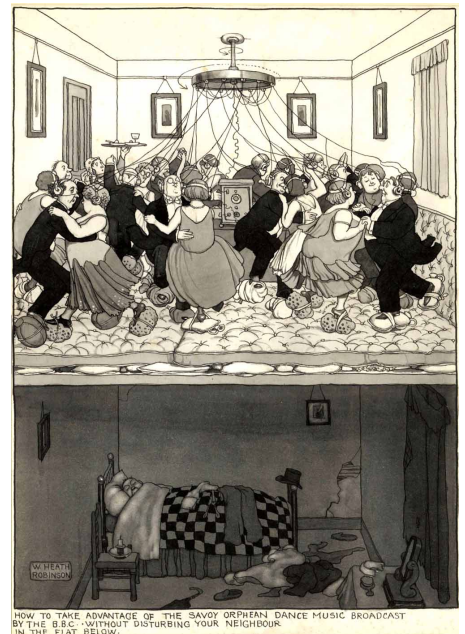
The Humour of Heath Robinson The Heath Robinson Museum 21 May – 4 September 2022

A special exhibition highlighting the humour of William Heath Robinson launches on 21st May at his eponymous museum in Pinner as part of their celebrations of his 150th birthday.

The Humour of William Heath Robinson features a chronological cross-section of his ironic observations, including the comically convoluted contraptions that made him a household name. It charts the development of both his style and range of subject matter between 1905 and 1943.

The drawings on display take a satirical swipe at the pompous or the pretentious by exaggerating their folly to the point of absurdity. Straight faced individuals undertaking seriously silly endeavours are the butt of his humour, as well as organisations and institutions, the laws of physics and the workings of fate.

During two World Wars he used gentle irony and irrationality to counter enemy propaganda and to relieve the fear and depression both at home and abroad engendered by the horrors of war.



A contemporary review praised the unexpected, “fineness of Heath Robinson's craftsmanship – the clean and firm fluency of his pen line, the quality of his water-colour washes. Those who have known his work only in reproduction will be surprised at its technical excellence.” *

Geoffrey Beare, curator of the exhibition, affirms, “While he was renowned as a fine illustrator and painter, it was his humorous work that provided the larger part of his income over many years and for which most people these days remember him. We hope this exhibition will be a fitting tribute to this unique illustrator 150 years after his birth and that visitors will not only enjoy his sense of humour but discover in the exhibition and our permanent galleries the surprising breadth and exquisitely detailed work of a fine artist”.

The exhibition builds on a programme of work supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Heritage Memorial Fund. Made possible by National Lottery players, £1.1m from the Heritage Fund enabled the museum to be built in 2016 and for an extensive part of the Heath Robinson collection to be conserved and displayed. The

museum also received £250,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to acquire the Heneage Collection of Heath Robinson material, which forms a key part of the collection.

The Humour of Heath Robinson, 21 May-4 September, 2022.

Heath Robinson Museum, Pinner Memorial Park, West End Lane, Pinner HA5 IAE heathrobinsonmuseum.org.

Opening Times: Thursday – Sunday from 11am to 4pm. Entry Fee: Included in cost of museum entry

Image top right: How to take advantage of the Savoy Orphean dance music broadcast by the BBC without disturbing your neighbour in the flat below, pen and wash, Sunday Graphic; bottom left: German breaches of the Hague Convention - Huns using siphons of laughing gas to overcome our troops before an attack in close formation, Some Frightful War Pictures.

Notes to Editors:

Dropbox folder of images of the museum are [here](#) © Heath Robinson Museum

Dropbox folder of examples of William Heath Robinson's Humour which will be in exhibition are [here](#) © Heath Robinson Museum

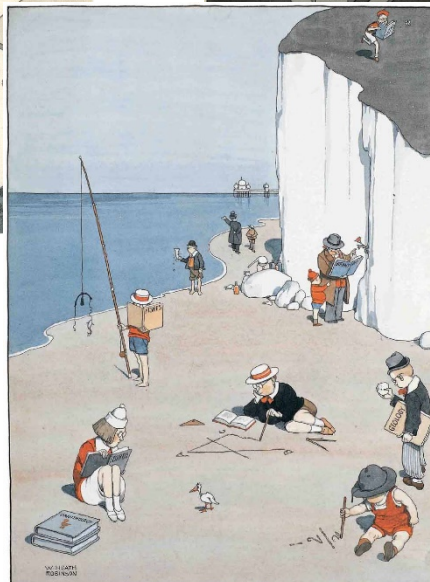
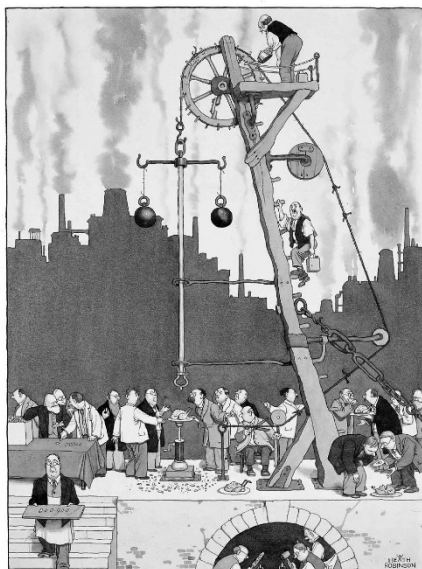
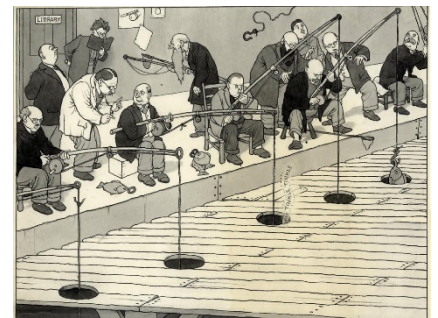
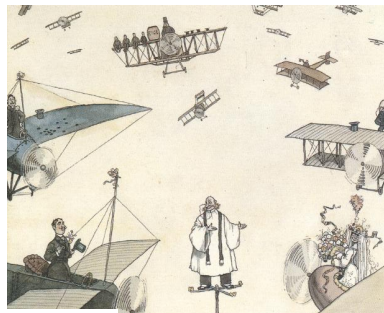
The Heath Robinson Museum was built in 2016 thanks to a £1.1million grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to house a collection of nearly 1,000 original artworks by this much-loved artist and illustrator. A further gallery holds special exhibitions through the year showcasing selections from the museum collection and other renowned artists and illustrators. The museum also received £250,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund to acquire the Heneage Collection of Heath Robinson material, which forms a key part of the collection at the Heath Robinson Museum. An activity studio hosts workshops and has drop-in activities for children. The shop sells a range of books and memorabilia about Heath Robinson and have a changing display of original contemporary craftwork by leading local artists. The Museum, which has recently been accredited by the Arts Council, is run by The West House & Heath Robinson Museum Trust, Registered Charity Number 1086567. Heath Robinson was born on May 31st 1872.

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*Quote from a review of the William Heath Robinson memorial exhibition from *The Times* in 1945

For more information/images please contact Communications Consultant Lucinda MacPherson

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LtoR top: 'A public demonstration for the benefit of professional rugby players by those interested in the inculcation of gentler methods in the game'; The first Aero Wedding; Teaching Would-Be Anglers. Bottom LtoR Testing artificial teeth in a modern tooth works; The intellectual summer holiday.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we Inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

About the National Heritage Memorial Fund

The National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) was set up in 1980 to save the most outstanding parts of our national heritage, in memory of those who have given their lives for the UK.

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