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News release

Local residents invited to donate items for new exhibition celebrating Golcar's socialist history

To help mark its 50th anniversary in 2020, Colne Valley Museum in Golcar, Huddersfield, is calling on local residents to share photographs, objects and documents that celebrate its past as the former home of the Golcar Socialist Club.

Artist, illustrator and printmaker, Ed Kluz, is developing a brand new exhibition at Colne Valley Museum as part of the anniversary celebrations that will explore the socialist history of Golcar and the museum's past as headquarters of the Golcar Socialist Club from 1910 to the 1960s.

Melanie Williams from Colne Valley Museum said: "Originally four separate weavers' cottages and home to the Pearsons, a family of independent cloth manufacturers, Colne Valley Museum was also an important part of the socialist movement in the area.

"The end cottage, which is now home to our 1840s kitchen, was taken over by the Golcar Socialist Club in 1910. It remained the meeting place for the Socialist Club until the 1960s.

"We want to celebrate this important part of the museum's history in our 50th year so we're calling on people in the area to share their pictures, slides, ephemera and artifacts that remember Colne Valley Museum as the seat of the Golcar Socialist Club."

The new exhibition by Ed Kluz will open in June 2020 to help mark the 50th anniversary of Colne Valley Museum. The exhibition forms part of Meeting Point, a programme led by contemporary arts agency Arts&Heritage (www.artsandheritage.org.uk) that partners leading UK and international artists with museums, this year in Yorkshire, the North West and the North East, to produce new artworks inspired by the museums and their collections.

Steph Allen, Executive Director at Arts&Heritage said: "Meeting Point supports museums and heritage organisations to test new approaches and reach new audiences by working with artists. Each commission will help visitors experience the museum's collections in a new way.

"Ed's exhibition at Colne Valley Museum will include stories from the local community and help visitors gain a deeper understanding about the venue and its role as a family home, an important part of Yorkshire's textile industry, and as a political meeting place."

Anyone interested in loaning or donating items for the exhibition can contact Colne Valley Museum by emailing info@colnevalleymuseum.org.uk or by calling 07984 195 145.

For more information about Colne Valley Museum, visit www.colnevalleymuseum.org.uk.

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