



Jayne Andrew, learning officer, and volunteer, Cam Falla, with some of the pocket diaries from 1800 to 2000, on display at the Aylsham Heritage Centre

Images: DENISE BRADLEY

New exhibition offers fascinating glimpse into pages of history

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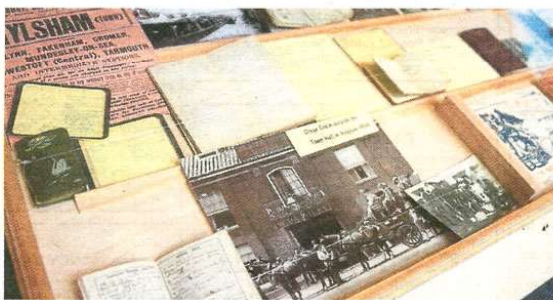
A collection of pocket diaries spanning 200 years of history has gone on display in north Norfolk.

The exhibition, called 'Today', will be at Aylsham Heritage Centre until October. It has previously been shown in New York and the Orkneys.

Visitors can get a glimpse into every year from 1800 to 2000 from the perspectives of 200 different peoples' lives.

Among the entries are a boy scout recording events during the Second World War, a farmer seeing a car for the first time and all the films a teenager watches in the 1950s.

There are also first-hand accounts of an elderly woman in New



Pocket diaries from an exhibition called 'Today' on display at Aylsham Heritage Centre.



A Punch pocket diary, dated 1879.

England eating Thanksgiving dinner alone, and a Belgian schoolgirl on a trip to Paris in 1906 who sees the headlines announcing the earthquake in San Francisco.

Jayne Andrew, the centre's learning officer, said:

"These are voices of people who could easily have been our friends, relatives and neighbours."

Dylan Jonas Stone, 56, who owns the collection and lives in Cromer, started collecting the diaries in the late 1980s.

"I found the first diaries on the street in a box of old things from the 1920s and 30s," he said.

Over the years he has added

to the collection with purchases at flea markets, car boot sales and on e-Bay.

"I thought it was nice to have a social history exhibition in a place like Aylsham because it's about normal people's lives," he said.

Alongside the diaries are information and photographs about what was happening in Aylsham at the same time.

The centre is looking for

local people who may have personal diaries that can be shared email aylshamheritage@gmail.com to get in touch.

The centre, in Aylsham Parish Church's yard, is open on Monday 10.30am to 1pm, Tuesday to Friday 10.30am to 3.30pm, and 10.30am to 1pm on the first Saturday of the month.

Entry is free.