



Let's investigate.....

Chesham's teddy bear factory history
Fun activities and challenges for all ages !



Do you know how our museum mascot got her name?

In 1908 Josef Eisenmann, a German toy maker established The Chiltern Toy Works in Bellingdon Road, Chesham. They started making dolls but soon added a range of Teddies. It was one of the first companies in the UK to make soft toys on a large scale. The factory moved to 1920 to what is now 21, Chiltern House Waterside in Chesham.



Winifred bear is named after a Winifred who worked at this factory (last on the front row of the middle photo above). Winifred Glenister was born 1903 and lived in Chesham all her life. Winifred would have walked up and down Waterside to the factory each day making lots of famous the Chiltern 'Hugmee' bears. The company only employed unmarried ladies and young girls like Winifred. Some of her sisters also worked there with her before they left to get married. The factory stopped making toys there in 1940.

AGES 0-7

Have a 'teddy bears picnic' with all your toys out. You could also make an invitation to send to Winifred.

Make a play list of your favourite songs to play at the picnic.

Famous Chiltern 'Hugmee' bears were made there from 1923.



Ages 5-11 Prepare a Victorian picnic and you could even try and dress up like a Victorian!

Before Chesham has supermarkets and fast food restaurants, there were no crisps or plastic wrapped chocolates or biscuits! Food in Chesham could be brought wrapped in a cloth (like a tea towel), a basket, brown paper bag or in a tin rather than a plastic lunchbox. There were no fridges yet to keep things fresh for longer.

Food you could include in your Victorian picnic: *Thick sliced cheese sandwich *Bread and jam *Pickled onions *Cooked ham *Boiled egg *Fruit *Gingerbread biscuits *Shortbread *Fruit cake *Jam tart * 'Traditional' lemonade * Ginger beer

Eagle eye challenge

The first photo is from 100 years ago and the second of the old factory building today. What has changed and what is similar? Can you spot Winifred the bear in the second?



Ages 9-16 Research life in Chesham for women like Winifred who worked at the toy factory when it was open

Try and find as many different types of evidence (pictures/photos/written sources) to show what life may have been like for Winifred. She also never got married.

You could research the following if stuck for ideas? buildings, new technologies and fashion. What stayed the same and what changed for Chesham?

Family Chat

How does your teddy compare to this one from the factory – what’s different and what’s is the same?

Ask members of your family what were their teddies and early toys like?

What differences and similarities are between them?



1915 MASTER TEDDY; CHILTERN

Height: 20cm (8in)

Manufactured at the Chiltern Toy Works in Chesham, Bucks. (later H.G. Stone & Co. Ltd.), Master Teddy was available in five sizes. His googly eyes are typical of the period, and mimic the popular animal caricatures of the day.



Card chest-tag

Fantasy picnic party guest list

Make a list of who you would invite from history to your picnic party and why?

We would love to hear about what activities you have done and any photos you have taken. Send us and email or message to our Facebook or Instagram accounts.

Keep an eye out for Winifred in town in our 'Where's Winifred?' competitions