

Where the Light Falls: Winifred Joseph's Rural Archive 1917 –1939

30 September – 20 December 2025

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery Unveils Previously Unseen Photographs
Offering a Glimpse into a Rural Life in the Early 20th Century.



*1*Winifred Joseph feeding carrots to ponies, May 1935

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is delighted to announce its new exhibition, offering a glimpse into artistic and rural life in Hampshire during the early 20th century. Featuring modern exhibition prints created from original negatives belonging to Winifred Joseph, a keen photographer, this exhibition brings to life a personal chronicle of family, friends and the shaping of a modern life.

The photographs are mainly taken around Oakshott Hanger, the beloved country

home of East End-based Dr. Harry Roberts. They capture the close bonds and playful antics of those who gathered there, including images of family members, cherished pets and animals, alongside walking trips Joseph undertook across Italy and Switzerland.

During the 1920s and 30s, "Kodaking" – the act of amateur photography – surged in popularity, allowing



Bas with brass, 1922

individuals like Joseph to meticulously document their daily lives, in a similar way to Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell, who were then living in nearby West Sussex.

Photographs are not simply documents but testimonies of relationships, friendships and the significance of empathetic lives.

Maggie Humm 'The Bloomsbury Photographs' (2024)

Joseph's remarkable archive, part of Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery's collection, provides a personal perspective on the period, showcasing her artistic eye and the joyous spirit of her world. The images range from consciously framed moments that imply a psychological proximity between photographer and subjects to blurred images as if taken in a hurried moment, quick to capture a sensation or a fleeting moment. However, the choices of subjects are deliberate and Joseph used photography to construct her own identity and the modern life she was living among friends.

Louise Weller, Head of Collections and Exhibitions, Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery, says, "We are incredibly excited to share Winifred Joseph's extraordinary work with the public. Her photographs offer a truly personal and evocative window into a specific time and capture a sense of place, revealing the everyday connections that defined her life in rural Hampshire over a century ago. It's a testament to the power of photography to preserve history and evoke emotion."

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery is an accredited, independent museum and registered charity. A rare example of a restored Victorian Justice Heritage site, its permanent collections include Archaeology and Social History relating to Petersfield and the surrounding area, the Flora Twort Art Collection, Photography and Fashion (including the Bedales Historic Dress Collection). There is a dedicated temporary fine art and contemporary craft exhibition programme, as well as an inclusive public programme. It is also home to the Tim Wilton-Steer Collection of works by and about the poet Edward Thomas, housed in The Edward Thomas Centre. For more information visit www.petersfieldmuseum.co.uk / Facebook '[petersfieldmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/petersfieldmuseum)' / Instagram [@petersfieldmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/petersfieldmuseum) / TikTok [@petersfieldmuseum](https://www.tiktok.com/@petersfieldmuseum) / Threads [@petersfieldmuseum](https://www.threads.net/@petersfieldmuseum)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES

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Winifred Joseph at Oak, 1917
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery



Flora Twort and Waggles in the window of Oak, 1918
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery



Interior of Pocock's cottage, 1917
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery



Pudding sitting on a step at Oak, 1917
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery



Family Group at Heath Fair, Petersfield, October 1927
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery



Waggles in her gas mask, September 1938
Image courtesy Petersfield Museum and Art Gallery