

# Ⓐ Dream come true...



## Setting up the Teddy Bear Museum By Hilary Pauley

I started collecting antique teddy bears 5 years ago when my daughter in law Lisa, bought me a Pedigree ted and the Pauline Cotrill encyclopaedia for my birthday. That was it! I started to read and I was hooked. 600 teddies later cramped in a bedroom at home and we decided to move house. New house, old barn, conversion, ideas brewing..... the rest is history, we have a beautiful old teddy bear museum. I wanted it to sit comfortably in our 1700s barn so the obvious starting point was to have a feel for life for children when the teddy bear was first made in the early 1900s. Sparse living for some, country crafts nearby, war time, hardship and loss. The teddy bear would have played a huge part in the life of a little child more than a hundred years ago. Probably their only toy, certainly their companion in times of joy and sorrow, someone to talk to, laugh with and cry with.

So the seed was sown. We have weavers and spinners plying their trade earning an honest crust! There is a wonderful tableau in a teddy bear making factory. It has to

be the Chiltern factory! What fun sourcing the little sewing machines. There's a very superior lady in charge so they have to mind their Ps and Qs!





London next. Pearly Kings and Queens, Guardsmen with bearskin hats, beefeaters, and the smell of the market. "Roll up roll up.....!"



ABOVE: A group of musicians is enjoying themselves.



Cobblers, potters, ironmongers, wheelwrights, glass blowers, butter makers they are all busy bustling about.



**TEDDY BEAR MUSEUM**  
*'Grandmas Teddies'*

ABOVE: Enjoying a pint in the "Harbour View"

We stop at the seaside, have a pint at the "Harbour View" or an ice cream while we paddle. We can even join the Aetnas and Heclas for a picnic tea.

THE HARBOUR VIEW



A group of musicians is enjoying themselves, piano, strings, wind instruments and percussion all blend in with bellows musical boxes and more traditional growlers. (image top right)





MICKEY MOUSE  
IMAGE

MINNIE MOUSE  
IMAGE



Bear and animals in literature include Mr. Toad, Moley, Ratty and friends by the riverside, Mickey and Minnie, Paddington Bear, Winnie the Pooh and so many more. War breaks out and a military hospital is set up

The women and children are left at home to fly the flag and keep the home fires burning

POSS 4 More lines in here



We had our first annual open day during the British Teddy Bear Festival in June. It was good to see a few artist bears in with the old, the antiques of the future. What a joy to show these treasures off to like minded people. Looking forward to next year already!

[www.teddybear-museum.co.uk](http://www.teddybear-museum.co.uk)  
An online museum for teddy bear fanatics all over the world!

Hilary





The on line museum or archive of bears is to help collectors or those interested, to identify the make, type and date of bears and form a pictorial history of bears through the first half of the twentieth century, from the 1900s to the 1950s [www.teddybear-museum.co.uk](http://www.teddybear-museum.co.uk)

