

Luton Culture media statement  
For immediate release

## Theft of Wenlok Jug

Luton Culture regrets to confirm that the Wenlok Jug was stolen from Stockwood Discovery Centre over the weekend of the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May. The Wenlok Jug is a very rare example of metalwork that can be associated with royalty from the 1400s. The bronze Jug is decorated with coats of arms and badges and is inscribed with the words "MY LORD WENLOK". The Jug was on display in a high security display cabinet at Stockwood Discovery Centre at the time of the break in and theft.

Karen Perkins, Director of Museums, speaking about the incident said 'This is an extremely serious and upsetting situation. The Wenlok Jug is a nationally significant medieval object, which came close to being lost to the UK when it went up for sale with Sotheby's in May 2005. However, a temporary export ban provided the opportunity to raise funds to secure the purchase of the Jug. Due to the fundraising work undertaken in Luton and the generosity of funders and donors, the Jug was able to be purchased and to remain in the UK. We are extremely proud that the Wenlok Jug is part of the collections at Stockwood Discovery Centre and are working extremely closely with police and investigators to do all we can to recover it. Should anyone have any information about this theft, I would ask that they please contact Bedfordshire Police right away.'

**End**



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Luton Culture runs the arts, libraries and museums in Luton, alongside a range of community based services. To find out more please visit [www.lutonculture.com](http://www.lutonculture.com)

Registered Address: Luton Culture, Luton Central Library, St George's Square, Luton LU1 2NG  
Arts: The Hat Factory, 65-67 Bute Street, Luton LU1 2EY  
Libraries: Luton Central Library, St George's Square, Luton LU1 2NG  
Museums: Wardown Park Museum, Old Bedford Road, Luton LU2 7HA

## **Notes to the Editor / Press meeting notification**

Due to the ongoing police investigation, no further information about this crime can be provided at this time. Luton Culture is arranging a press meeting in Luton on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm to speak to members of the media about the theft. All members of the media are invited to attend.

Registration to attend the meeting is required in advance. Please contact Clare Wood by email to [clare.wood@lutonculture.com](mailto:clare.wood@lutonculture.com) by 12noon on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May if you would like to attend. Details of the press meeting location will be provided on receipt of an email registering your intention to attend.

All members of the media are welcome to submit questions in advance that you would like addressing at the press meeting. Please submit these to Clare Wood at the email address above. Please note that it may not be possible to provide answers to all questions due to the ongoing police investigation.

Stockwood Discovery Centre is part of Luton Culture.

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