

Luton Culture press release

For immediate release : 26 September 2012

## Recovered Wenlok Jug

Luton Culture is happy to announce that the Wenlok Jug, stolen from Stockwood Discovery Centre in May this year, has been recovered by Bedfordshire Police.

Following an in-depth investigation, Bedfordshire Police discovered the historical treasure in the early hours of Monday morning (September 24) at a property in Tadworth, Surrey. According to Bedfordshire Police, two people were arrested at the location. One has been charged with handling stolen property and the second has been released on police bail pending further enquiries. The investigation continues, and the police are still appealing to the public for information regarding the burglary.

Karen Perkins, Director of Museums said: "We are thrilled that the Wenlok Jug has been successfully recovered and would like to thank Bedfordshire Police for their diligence and hard work over the course of the investigation so far. We are delighted that this irreplaceable piece of local history has returned to Stockwood Discovery Centre and the community of Luton."

The Wenlok Jug is of enormous historical significance to the Luton area. Made approximately 1400-1500 AD, it is one of only three similar jugs in the UK and of the three, bears the earliest maker's mark. It is made of bronze, stands 31.5cm tall, weighs 6.1kgs and is decorated with the English coat of arms, the East Anglian coat of arms and the inscription 'My Lord Wenlok.' The inscription could relate either to the first Lord Wenlock,

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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  
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who lived near Luton, or William Wenlock (died 1391) who is buried under St Mary's Parish Church of Luton. He was a canon of King's Chapel and Master of Farley Hospital for the poor.

At the time of purchase in 2006, the Wenlok Jug was valued at £795,000. It was bought by Stockwood Discovery Centre with a contribution of £137,500 from The Art Fund and extra support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, The Headley Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, The Worshipful Company of Founders, The Friends of Luton Museums as well as individual donations.

The theft occurred at 11.22pm on Saturday 12 May 2012, when a man wearing a hoodie and a scarf to cover his face, and carrying a NIKE sling bag, climbed the fence, smashed first the door and then the security cabinet with a heavy metal object and stole the jug. A full investigation was then launched by Bedfordshire Police and the robbery featured on BBC1's Crimewatch programme.

## Notes to the Editor

For further information about this press release please contact Print and Media Officer, Kate John on 01582 547548 or, alternatively, email [kate.john@lutonculture.com](mailto:kate.john@lutonculture.com)

Luton Central Library is located at St Georges Square, Luton, LU1 2NG.  
For further information please visit [www.lutonlibraries.co.uk](http://www.lutonlibraries.co.uk)

Luton Central Library is part of Luton Culture.

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