

# A Chance Comment During a Park Walk Has Led to a Fascinating Journey

Eileen an 89-year-old woman from a Stroud care home joined one of our Gentle Park Walks in Stratford Park and as she was walking mentioned she had often been here ‘to see the lawnmower’. The Museum in the Park has a model of the first lawnmower in their exhibition invented in Stroud by Edwin Budding in 1830.

She said her dad was a relative of Edwin and had worked at a local factory, Waller’s Engineering, which had previously been the Phoenix Ironworks, where the Budding Lawnmower had been produced. So, the Museum’s Education Officer came and spoke with Eileen because of the historical significance of her family connections and because the museum is considering an event to celebrate the Budding mower and would like relatives of the family to attend.

Staff at Eileen’s care home were interested in highlighting her place in local and national history with other staff and residents. Contact was made with her niece who had more information about the family.

Fair Shares then contacted the founder of the Budding Museum of Gardening and the Budding Foundation in Sussex, set up to support young people promoting horticulture and conservation. This person has a particular interest in Edwin Budding and said he like to meet Eileen and her niece.