

York Museums Trust



at the Castle Museum

Hands on Here! is a Trust wide programme where staff and volunteers demonstrate and interpret objects from our collections to visitors. At the Castle Museum there are two broad themes: Military and Social. Each theme has a set of activities which volunteers can choose from.

We run a programme of changing activities throughout the year. Some examples include:

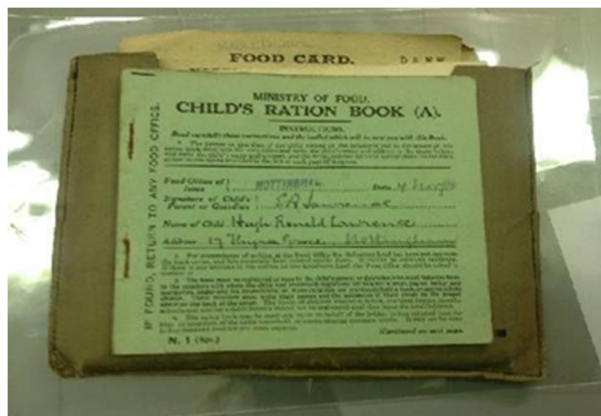
Military:



Weapons of War, looks at the weapons and tactics used on the western front during the First World War. It gives an insight into how the war was fought by the 'Tommies' in the trenches.

Social:

Children's War, explores the experiences of Children during the First World War. It looks at how the war affected children in Britain and the crucial roles they played in collecting funds and materials for the war effort, working on the land and for some, enlisting to fight for king and country.



Poverty in Pre-War York, looks at the life of those who lived below the poverty line in York in the period leading up to the First World War, using objects from the collection and excerpts from Seebohm Rowntree's poverty report.



Training:

We provide object handling and customer care training for Hands on Here! volunteers as well as specific training sessions for each of the different activities we run. All our volunteers receive a full health and safety site induction.

Time Commitment

Hands on Here! sessions are volunteer-led and run during both term time and school holidays. There is a selection of activities for volunteers to choose from; running them on their own or in pairs. Volunteers can run activities from 10am to 1pm and/or 1pm to 4pm every day of the week and it works best when volunteers can commit to a regular slot, eg every Tuesday morning or every Saturday afternoon.

A minimum commitment of one half day activity session per week or fortnight is acceptable, but volunteers who have more time to offer can always be accommodated. Ideally we like volunteers who can commit to the project for at least 6 months, as it can take several weeks to get through the initial training programme.

Other essential information

As a charity, we do not have a budget for travel expenses or meal allowances, so unfortunately we are unable to reimburse travel or subsistence costs incurred by volunteers in the course of their day to day volunteering.

We do cover the cost of all the training and training materials that we provide. All our visitor facing volunteers are required to wear YMT volunteer t shirts and/or sweatshirts and name badges, so that visitors can easily identify them as being the people in the know!