

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 22 March 2pm - 3pm, Yorkshire Museum

Curator Talk

1,000 years ago Cnut the Great became king of England. He was one of the most powerful men in Europe, uniting the kingdoms of England, Denmark and Norway. See and handle coinage from his reign and learn about this important Viking king. £10 PER PERSON - Museum admission applies.

To book a place please contact York Museums Trust on 01904 697979.

**Wednesday 23 March 12:30pm—1:15pm
York Art Gallery**

Tactile Sculptures: sensory tour for adults

Find out more about the tactile sculptures by Harold Gosney and Martin Jenkins. Everyone over 16 welcome, but especially suitable for partially sighted or blind adults. FREE EVENT - Gallery admission applies. To book a place please contact York Museums Trust on 01904 697979.

Families in Easter!

**Tuesday 29th March 12:30pm—1pm
Yorkshire Museum**

Kids Curator's Talk

Join us for a family-friendly talk to learn about some surprising animals that used to roam the Yorkshire landscape.

York Castle Museum Every day, all day

Have a go at our Egg and Spoon obstacle course in the exercise yard! Self-led family activity.

A Huge Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped out January to March.

IN THE LOOP

ISSUE 19

MARCH 2016

Spring is nearly here!

Welcome to our first edition of 2016! Winter is nearly over and the daffodils are springing up all over the city! Thank you all who volunteered in the last few months at all of our sites. We have had a great winter period with some fantastic visitor numbers! In February alone we had 1147 people visit the Observatory in the Museum Gardens! This is our biggest number of visitors in a single month since we started! Well done to all our volunteers who braved the freezing cold weather in the depths of winter to open it up to the visitors. The open evening in February had over 350 people look through the telescope, sadly it was cloudy so nothing was seen but the enthusiasm and knowledge from the team kept the crowds entertained and warm!



Rare Star Carr Pendant Now On Display

Last Friday, an 11,000 year old engraved shale pendant went on display at the Yorkshire Museum and caused a flurry of excited activity in the press and online. The fascinating story of what is thought to be the earliest known example of Early Mesolithic art in Britain, featured in The Independent, the Mail Online, York Press, Culture24 and ITV News to name a few.

Discovered by archaeologists at the Star Carr site in North Yorkshire, university research teams from York, Manchester and Chester have been trying to uncover the secrets of this object as the engraved motifs are an extremely rare find.

Their discoveries and the pendant itself will be on display at the museum until 5 May 2016. 'We are thrilled to be able to showcase such a nationally significant object for the first time', says Curator of Archaeology Natalie McCaul, 'Its remarkable discovery changes the way we think about our ancestors who lived in Yorkshire 11,000 years ago'.



York Museums Trust

Meet the team!

Charlotte Kindesjö

Charlotte is Head of Communications and has just returned from maternity leave. She is based at the Castle Museum in the office next to ours and manages marketing, the website and digital teams as well as membership.



Lucy Knock

Lucy is Assistant Curator of History Learning (informal) and has also just returned from maternity leave. Lucy looks after all the learning elements of our galleries at the Castle and organises events as well. She works part-time and is based in our office.



Health and Wellbeing

Jess and Philip went along to a conference in early March which looked at how museums can help with promoting peoples overall health and wellbeing. We have had a few ideas on how we can put on some specific activities which can help but if anyone has any ideas of their own do get in touch. We would like to put together a programme of events for volunteers, visitors and staff such as exercise activities like walking groups or Yoga, or learning new skills. Keep a look out for events like this and drop in if you have any questions or



New Hands on Here! role

Gillian Lowndes: Mixing Mediums

Help our visitors to learn about the history and work of ceramist Gillian Lowndes and how she liked to experiment with clay. Getting up close and personal with Gillian's work which is normally too fragile to be handled, you'll be in the Centre of Ceramic Art (COCA) at York Art Gallery giving the visitors a new opportunity to explore ceramic art.

This is our first Hands on Here! role at York Art Gallery and we are very excited to get this up and running. If you are interested in joining this new project email Philip or Jess and we will give you more information.



NEW EXHIBITION AT YORK ART GALLERY

Truth and Memory: British Art of the First World War.

York Art Gallery

This is the largest exhibition of First World War art for nearly 100 years.

York Art Gallery is the only venue outside London to display this collection of more than 60 artworks produced during the war and in its immediate aftermath. Many are by artists who themselves served on the front line and have helped to define how we understand the conflict.

Working either privately or as official war artists, they wanted to give a true sense of the horror, human sacrifice and tragic consequences of 'total war'.

They reflected this in their fragmented depictions of soldiers, trenches, artillery, and in images of a torn and violated landscape. Modern artistic movements stressed the mechanised nature of the war and the new destruction this brought.

These artists searched for reason and meaning in the conflict, finding ways to capture and commemorate the events of the First World War both at home and on the front lines and helped to form a collective memory that remains with us a century later.

The exhibition features monumental paintings by Paul Nash, Wyndham Lewis, Stanley Spencer and William

Roberts, commissioned for the proposed Hall of Remembrance, and also includes arresting works by CRW Nevinson, William Orpen, Anna Airy, Dorothy Coke and Jacob Epstein.

The exhibition was originated by Imperial War Museums for the First World War Centenary and was first shown at IWM London. It has been specially reworked in partnership with York Art Gallery and features key works from York's own collections.

Keep a look out for a Hands on Here! opportunity which will use the York Castle Museums military collection to help interpret the space further.

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(Art.IWM ART
2243)
Oppy Wood, 1917.
Evening, by John
Nash 1918



Coffee Mornings

Yorkshire Museum & Art Gallery Mon 4 April at the Yorkshire Museum, Fairfax Room

Castle Museum Tuesday 5 April at the Castle Museum, Debtors' Retreat

Come along anytime between 10am - 12noon where there will be hot beverages and biscuits for all!

Volunteer Role Opportunities



Raindale Mill

We are looking for eager volunteers to open the Mill and get the fantastic water wheel turning! We already have a small team of volunteers who come in to help out but we can do more. We would love to get the Mill open as much as possible this year!

Riverside Gardens

The garden around Raindale Mill was created in early 2012 to provide wildlife friendly planting that enhanced the Mill and Castle walls. We are looking for volunteers to join our small gardening team and help keep the area tidy.

Kirkgate

York Castle Museum

Opened in 1938, Kirkgate became the world's finest re-created Victorian Street. Its period shops and cobbled thoroughfare have captured the imagination of generations and helped make many fond and lasting memories for our

visitors. We are now developing a team of costumed volunteers to interact with the public, talking to visitors about Kirkgate and demonstrating the daily activities of shop keepers.

Hands on Here!

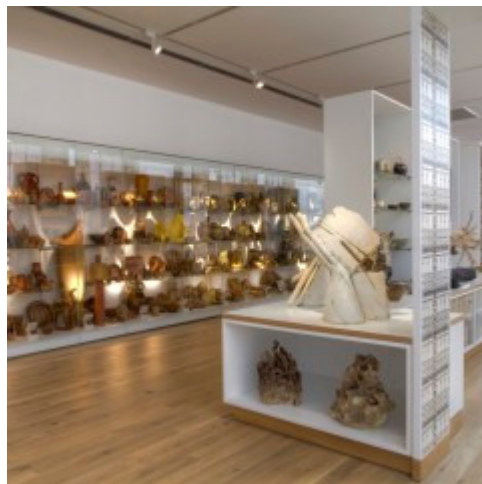
York Castle Museum

Volunteers help visitors get up close and personal with objects from our social and military history collection. There are a variety of themed handling activities for volunteers to choose from.

Hands on Here!

Yorkshire Museum

Volunteers help visitors get up close and personal with objects from our natural history and natural science collection. There are a variety of themed handling activities for volunteers to choose from.



Anthony Shaw Space

York Art Gallery

York Art Gallery is looking for volunteers to help in Anthony Shaw's

display space. We want you to help invite the visitors into the space making it feel like a welcoming home environment and to be there to help answer questions on the collection and Anthony as a collector.

It is also important for the volunteers to keep the space invigilated as objects are out on open display and you will help to keep them safe and secure from accidental damage.



York Observatory

Museum Gardens

Volunteers open the Observatory and welcome visitors to this beautiful building in the Museum Gardens, explaining the history of the Observatory itself and the collections it houses

Interested?

If you would like to register your interest in any of these projects, please contact Philip on 01904 650329 or at philip.newton@ymt.org.uk.



Contributions

If there is anything you would like to see included in this newsletter, or you would like to be the next profile in our 'Volunteer Spotlight' (or write an article) then please email Philip Newton on philip.newton@ymt.org.uk. Any suggestions welcome!