

Dates for Your Diary

Jorvik: Home & Abroad

25 June - 28 February 2017, £5 adults, £3 conc., under-16s go free. Volunteers go free with an up-to-date ID badge.

The Battle of the Somme (film screening)

6 July, 7 - 8.30pm, free, book online.

Curator's Talks. The Guilds of York

28 June, 12.30 - 1pm
Free (Yorkshire museum admission applies), no need to book.

YMT Book Club - The Danish Girl by David Ebershoff

2 July, 3 - 4pm,
free (museum admission applies), book online.

A Huge Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped out from April to June. The visitor numbers are as follows:

York Castle Museum:
56318

Yorkshire Museum:
17798

York Art Gallery:
18298

IN THE LOOP

ISSUE 20

SUMMER 2016

Welcome

 **Sophie Hill**
@soph2308
Had such an amazing day in the @YorkCastle museum yesterday!! The volunteers there absolutely made the experience x



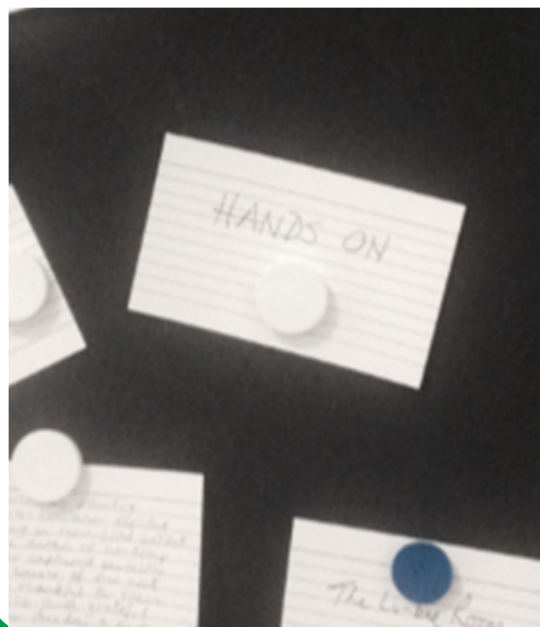
It's Summer!! We have had a busy but delightful few months which have gone in a blur. Looking back there is certainly lots to celebrate with a range of new projects, summer placements, new volunteers and great events. We are so thankful for the contribution our volunteers make and the diverse skills, experiences and personalities you bring. YMT would not be the same without each and every one of you and clearly our visitors agree!

Over at the Castle 'Shaping the Body' is in full swing, and we have some exciting opportunities coming up for volunteers to get involved with.

The Castle Kitchen will reopen soon with food experiments and we will also soon be launching our new 'Hands on Here! Shapeware'. Kirkgate has attracted a flurry of new volunteers and visitors have been voicing their approval of the difference having people in the shops has made. The Drapers is our newest role where volunteers talk about the history of fashion, interpret the shop and do patchwork activities. Here's Jane explaining the complicated hat etiquette of the Victorian era. There will be new Kirkgate opportunities coming soon.



At the Yorkshire Museum, the Roman festival was a great success and launched our new 'Hands on Here! Hadrian's York', engaging visitors with the largest population change York has ever seen and the changes the VI Legion brought with them.



The Art Gallery's Hands on Here! projects are now up and running and offer visitors the opportunity to engage with a broad range of ceramics, learning more about the artists, different styles and techniques. Objects from our history collection are also giving visitors the chance to get hands-on with themes from the "Truth and Memory" exhibition. One visitor has even commented that "hands on" is what inspired them most from their visit to the Gallery! Well done everyone!

York Museums Trust

Fossils Roadshow



We had a t-rex-iffic time on Saturday at the Fossils Roadshow. Will Watts, from Hidden Horizons, brought a collection of fossils from the Yorkshire coast and Asst Curator Stuart Ogilvy was on hand to identify visitors' fossils finds. Visitors also enjoyed learning about and handling a beautiful array of fossils and minerals, thanks to our wonderful Hands on Here! volunteers and the Yorkshire Geological Society, alongside enjoying rock cutting in the Gardens. The Yorkshire Geological Society is one of the oldest geological societies in the UK (founded 1837).

It was a great team effort. Thanks to all who were involved and to the Yorkshire Museum staff and curators who were as helpful as ever!

Volunteer Blog

Hi, I'm Adrian and I am a volunteer at the Castle Museum in the WW1 Hands on History gallery. I had always been a fan of museums since I was young and to this day wherever I travel, the local museums are one of the first things I want to visit. A few years ago I took the plunge and became a self-employed magician! With this I normally work weekends or evenings so this led me with much free time during the day so wondered what I could do to fill this led me to pursue a history degree with the Open University.

One day by chance I saw on the Castle Museum website they wanted people to volunteer. I thought would be perfect in that it would fill up my mornings; feed my passion for working in front of the public. Whilst starting this I looked into applying for a Master's degree at York. Experience at volunteering at the museum I thought would also look good on my application, which was successful... come September I hope I still have time to volunteer!



I enjoy helping in the WW1 gallery as I get to talk to people from many different backgrounds, each bringing their own views and knowledge of the war. Having studied the war in my last degree, I am able to flesh out information I give to the public about the objects and how and why they were used. I feel privileged in allowing people to actually handle objects and amazed as people sometimes get really over excited that they are allowed to do such things. It is bringing history closer to people and reminding people how the past is linked to the present, as well as informing young people who do not actually know anything of the past..

I also feel the experience has also taught me things I did not know, plus has ignited passion for extra research around the objects I show. As a magician I work face to face with people I do not know & I feel volunteering strengthens my persona and communication skills.

In memory of Hayley

We would like to dedicate this issue of Better Impact to Hayley Webb who sadly passed away last week. Hayley was a beautiful, lively and friendly young woman, and was a popular and much valued member of the volunteers team for nearly three years on the Hands on Here! project at the Castle Museum.

Hayley loved history and talking to people, and she also enjoyed doing personal projects, as well as sharing her enthusiasm for history with visitors. She loved to sing, and performed regularly with, "hands and voices".

Hayley always had time to say hello to everyone and she will be sadly missed by all her friends and colleagues at the Castle Museum.



York St Mary's Exhibition



We have some very exciting news for you! York Museums Trust is partnering with the Jorvik Group for the new York St Mary's exhibition 'Jorvik: Home and Abroad', which started on 25th June.

We have agreed to a reciprocal ticket arrangement with them for the foreseeable future. Which means their staff with their Jorvik Group ID badge and photo ID will be allowed free entry into all YMT sites.

In turn, YMT staff and volunteers will be allowed free entry into all Jorvik Group sites with their YMT ID badge. This includes the exhibition at St Mary's, entry to Barley Hall, DIG, Richard III and Henry VIII Experiences.

You need to make sure that your ID badge is up-to-date to gain free entry. New badges have just been printed for the July–September period so

please do make sure to pick up your new badge next time you are in.

Summer Party

We hope to hold our annual volunteer summer party and quiz in the Museum Gardens again this year, so keep your fingers and toes crossed for good weather! It's a great chance for volunteers and staff to get to know each other better and a chance for us to say thank you. More information will be coming your way shortly.



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!



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. Kirkgate volunteers are in

costume and demonstrate 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!

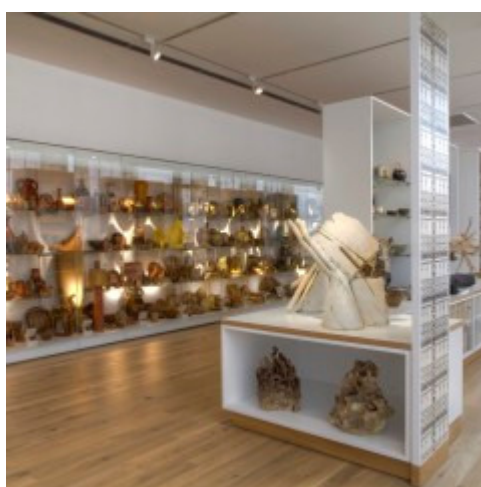
Yorkshire Museum

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.

Hands on Here!

York Art Gallery

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



Anthony Shaw Space

York Art Gallery

Volunteers steward Anthony Shaw's display space, encouraging visitors into the space, making it feel like a welcoming home environment, chatting about 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!

York Museums Trust