

# Behind the Scenes at York Museums Trust

2012-14



York Museums Trust



## Behind the scenes at York Museums Trust 2012-14



Over the last two years, York Museums Trust, an independent charitable organisation, has excelled in many ways and in many areas. Major funding and increased income generation has allowed the Trust to develop and build on its past successes, resulting in more and more people having access to and being inspired by the collections we look after.

We have done this by using traditional and innovative methods, embracing new partnerships and new technology.

Some projects you may be aware of, such as the major exhibitions and events. But a lot of the work that York Museums Trust does happens behind the scenes or by working with individual groups, institutions or schools. This document is an attempt to give you an insight into the huge variety of projects we are involved with and our ambitious plans for the next few years.

**Dr Janet Barnes CBE**

# York Museums Trust: In the Public Eye

**291,747**  
visitors to  
York Castle  
Museum in  
2012-13

**95,880**  
visitors to  
the Yorkshire  
Museum in  
2012-13

**99,893**  
children visited  
for free since  
April 2012

**3 million**  
visitors to  
York Museum  
Gardens 2012-14

In the last two years, York Museums Trust has commissioned a range of high profile exhibitions and events that gained much recognition from the public and specialist visitors.

At York Art Gallery the life and works of William Etty were explored in the exhibition: *Art and Controversy*.

The first major UK touring exhibition of one of the country's most significant ceramic artists, Gordon Baldwin: *Objects for a Landscape* opened in February 2012.

The work of LS Lowry, Walter Sickert, Andy Warhol and more were brought together for the *Art & Music* exhibition.

York Art Gallery closed for an £8 million development on 31 December 2012. In celebration, more than 3,000 people took to the walls of the gallery with paint and pens, yarn bombed the exterior and much more on this fun-filled day of creativity. The gallery will reopen in spring 2015, with 60 per cent more exhibition space, a new Artist's garden and the opening of the Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA).

At York Castle Museum the Victorian world got bigger thanks to the £300,000 refurbishment of the recreated Victorian street, Kirkgate, and the *Toy Stories* exhibition was expanded to display hundreds of toys from the last 150 years.



At the Yorkshire Museum, the *1212: The Making of the City* exhibition, officially opened by Her Royal Majesty the Queen, brought together some of York's most significant medieval objects to mark the 800th anniversary of the city being granted its Royal Charter and the museum's historic library was opened to the public for the first time. The *Capital of the North* exhibition, telling how great swathes of northern England were ruled from York, and the exhibition *After the Ice: Yorkshire's Prehistoric People*, which brought together some of the most remarkable and complete finds from Britain's Stone Age for the first time, both opened in 2013.

While on show at the museum, the reconstructed *Head of Richard III* saw visitor numbers to the Yorkshire Museum double.

An outstanding achievement of the Yorkshire Museum was when 5,500 people voted in just two weeks for the museum to win a visit from award-winning ceramicist Grayson Perry, as part of the *Museums at Night* competition. This is highest number of votes ever seen in the competition.



Image of Grayson Perry courtesy of the artist, the BBC and Victoria Miro, London.  
© Grayson Perry. Photograph © Richard Ansett.



In **York Museum Gardens**, the ambitious **York Mystery Plays 2012** were attended by a huge 36,000 people in August. They involved more than 1,700 volunteers and saw a purpose built auditorium for 1,400 people constructed around the ruins of St Mary's Abbey.

At **York St Mary's** a thousand cast glass bells were suspended in the nave of St Mary's Church for the **Laura Belém** exhibition: ***The Temple of a Thousand Bells***.

In 2013, the venue hosted the first **Aesthetica Art Prize** exhibition.

The passage of death was explored with the exhibition, ***Julian Stair: The Matter of Life and Death***.

The sculpture, film and video, neon and performance pieces of 1960s artist **Bruce Nauman** were displayed in the exhibition **ARTIST ROOMS: BRUCE NAUMAN**.

**ARTIST ROOMS On Tour** is a partnership with Arts Council England and the Art Fund, making available the ARTIST ROOMS collection of international modern and contemporary art to galleries throughout the UK. ARTIST ROOMS is jointly owned by the Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland and was established through The d'Offay Donation in 2008, with the assistance of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Art Fund and the Scottish and British Governments.



A thousand cast glass bells were suspended from the nave of St Mary's Church for the Laura Bélem exhibition: ***The Temple of a Thousand Bells***.

# Our Collections Have Been Growing!

The collections are at the core of everything that York Museums Trust does; we want to make sure that visitors have an unforgettable experience with the nationally important and interesting artefacts that are on show.

## FUNDING AND PUBLIC APPEALS:

The Yorkshire Museum raised more than **£150,000**, which included the high profile purchases of a rare 15th century silver boar badge, worn by supporters of Richard III, and the Iron Age gold torcs – the first Iron Age gold jewellery ever found in the north of England.

York Art Gallery also raised **£100,000** through the Art Fund's RENEW programme funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Part of this has already been invested in new works for a major exhibition planned for 2016.

## DONATIONS:

York Art Gallery was the recipient of the Anthony Shaw Collection of 800 examples of British Studio Ceramics on long term loan, which York Museums Trust will showcase in the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA), housed in York Art Gallery.

York Castle Museum has continued to receive a high level of object donations, including selective collecting to be included in the *1914: When the World Changed Forever* exhibition.

In 2010, York Art Gallery received two bequests amounting to around £2 million from Karen Madsen and Peter Emil Madsen. They were a sister and brother living in retirement in York after long and successful careers. Amongst their interests were art and archaeology. This donation enabled York Art Gallery to undertake the £8 million development opening in spring 2015.



Almost  
**£300,000**  
has been raised  
to enhance  
the Trust's  
collections



# Portable Antiquities Scheme

Rebecca Griffiths, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, continues to be based at the Yorkshire Museum. **In 2013 alone 2,841 objects were reported to her, with 36 declared as treasure.** On average Rebecca is in contact with 300 people a month. The vast majority are metal detectorists reporting finds, but she also liaises with land owners, gardeners and walkers who have objects to report.

Some of the Yorkshire Museum's star objects have been found through metal detecting and the post is a vital link between enthusiasts and museums.

**2,841** objects  
have been examined  
by the Portable  
Antiquities Scheme  
based at the  
Yorkshire Museum  
in 2013



The Bedale Hoard



## THE BEDALE HOARD

This spectacular hoard containing a Viking's life savings was discovered by metal detectorists in May 2012. It includes a gold sword pommel, a silver neck ring and neck collar which shed new light on the region one thousand years ago.

The Yorkshire Museum is seeking the £51,636 needed to buy the hoard. If the money is raised, this nationally significant find will go on public display in the museum.



# We Have Been Sharing Our Collections

York Museums Trust's internationally significant collections have been loaned out around the world as well as in this country. The Vale of York Viking Hoard, jointly owned with the British Museum, spent time at the National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, before coming back to this country to star in the British Museum's exhibition *Vikings: Life and Legend* in March 2014.

Meanwhile York's marble head of Roman Emperor Constantine took pride of place in an exhibition at the Colosseum in Rome.

In turn, York Museums Trust has also brought significant loans to York including the reconstructed head of Richard III at the Yorkshire Museum in 2013. Shakespeare's First Folio from Craven Museum and Gallery, Skipton was also loaned to the museum in March 2014.

More than 100 ceramics from one of the country's leading potters, Gordon Baldwin, were loaned to York Art Gallery in 2012. A touring exhibition, the first of Baldwin's work, was organised by York Museums Trust and went on to be exhibited in galleries across the country.

**39,384 people visited the Yorkshire Museum to see the reconstructed head of Richard III**



## YORK ART GALLERY

York Museums Trust felt it was important to continue to offer a strong programme of art exhibitions and events while York Art Gallery was closed. To do this works were loaned to national and regional galleries as well as Fairfax House in York.

In total, four works have gone on show at The National Gallery and four to Tate Britain. They are being featured in special exhibitions and also shown amongst the permanent collections. The works include Albert Moore's *A Venus* in Tate Britain's new displays and Annibale Carracci's *Portrait of a Man* at the National Gallery.



## MASTERSTROKES – MAY 2013-2015

Artwork from York Art Gallery has gone on tour across Yorkshire and the North of England as part of the *Masterstrokes: Great Paintings from York Art Gallery* exhibition.

The list of 30 works includes the gallery's 15th century Italian paintings, 18th century portraits by Hogarth and Allan Ramsay, Victorian masterpieces including *Hogarth's Studio* by EM Ward and LS Lowry's iconic view of York. The tour is on show in Lincoln, Preston, Huddersfield, Scarborough, Barnsley and Harrogate.





### THE HEPWORTH WAKEFIELD

#### Ceramics

Over 700 ceramics from our W.A. Ismay collection were recently showcased at an exhibition at The Hepworth Wakefield, entitled *Matthew Darbyshire: The W.A. Ismay Collection*.

#### Paintings

The Hepworth Wakefield has also shown paintings from York Art Gallery's Dean Milner-White's collection, including works by Stanley Spencer, Walter Sickert, Gwen John and John Piper.

### FAIRFAX HOUSE, YORK

Paintings and sculpture from York Art Gallery's collection are on display in the Georgian town house until early 2015.



The Vale of York Viking Hoard, jointly owned with the British Museum, spent time at the National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, before coming back to this country to star in the British Museum's exhibition *Vikings: Life and Legend* in March 2014.



Photo © Trustees of the British Museum



# We Have Gone Digital!

In the last two years York Museums Trust has expanded its digital team from one part time role to three full time positions. This has led to some exciting digital developments and projects for the Trust.

## GOOGLE ART PROJECT – W.A. ISMAY: COLLECTOR, CONNOISSEUR AND POTOHOLIC – JANUARY 2014

The Google Art Project involves the creation of online exhibitions, enabling access to the collections of some of the most prestigious museums and galleries in the world.

Three hundred institutes in 44 countries are involved and York Museums Trust now joins the likes of the British Museum, Tate and the National Gallery.

York Museums Trust's first online exhibition: *W.A. Ismay: Collector, Connoisseur and Potoholic*, features 52 images of works along with video and detailed information about W.A. Ismay.

<http://goo.gl/Kz5o2s>



## NEW WEBSITES FOR YORK MUSEUMS TRUST – SPRING 2014

York Museums Trust will be launching a brand new website this spring.

The website will be easy to navigate and provide more concise information on each museum and gallery, promoting projects, attracting a wider audience and encouraging more people to get involved.

As part of the new website launch, the digital team has taken on the ambitious task of uploading all of York Museums Trust's catalogued collections online. This will mean that more than 180,000 individual items, with around 100,000 photographs, will be made accessible to the public online.



## YORK ART GALLERY AUDIO GUIDES

In a pioneering project York Art Gallery will launch the use of the new audio guide system, Layar. This Augmented Reality App can be downloaded onto visitors' smartphones or tablets and used on selected 'Layar activated' artwork to give an audio description.

## HISTORY PIN

History Pin is an online programme which enables works of art to be placed on an online map in the exact spot they were created.

'Digi vols' of all ages took up the challenge to put some of York Museums Trust's collection onto the programme, looking at works which depicted York. There are now around 500 works 'pinned' to the map, with more being added all the time.





#### CASE STUDY: ROBIN GUTHRIE TRAVEL AWARD

##### Rijksmuseum – Graham Thorne, Digital Creator

The Robin Guthrie Travel Award is a yearly award that allows staff to visit a place of interest in Europe in relation to their line of work.

York Museums Trust employees Chris House, Enhanced Gallery Guide, and Graham Thorne, Digital Creator, were interested in visiting The Rijksmuseum in Holland which recently reopened following a huge €370 million redevelopment.

Graham said: *"No expense was spared when they redeveloped the Rijksmuseum; everything had been thought of and the digitisation process was incredible.*

*"It was amazing to hear how they had been working on new techniques for photographing glass and how they had worked with modern day fashion designers to work out the best way to photograph clothing. It was above and beyond.*

*"I brought lots of recommendations back to my department and also to York Museums Trust as a whole, such as new working methods, policies and online references to consider.*

*I think I will be talking about the trip for a long time to come and the ability to refer back to the trip is invaluable."*

#### WIKIMEDIAN IN RESIDENCE – OCTOBER 2013

Funded by Wikimedia UK, York Museums Trust has appointed its first Wikimedian in Residence, Pat Hadley. The role was created to promote the colourful life of York volcanologist Tempest Anderson. Pat also planned Yorkshire's biggest Edit-a-thon, inviting volunteers to help improve the recognition of some of the city's key historical figures.



# We Are Establishing CoCA!

**With a collection of more than 5,500 ceramics, York Art Gallery will establish the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA) when it reopens in spring 2015.**

A newly built first floor gallery and a new mezzanine gallery in the original Victorian roof space will become CoCA. This will showcase work from the most extensive collection of British Studio Ceramics in the world and position York Art Gallery as one of the country's leading authorities on ceramics.

**More than 5,500 examples of British Studio Ceramics at York Art Gallery - the biggest in the world!**

## **COLLECTIONS AT CoCA**

The vast amount of work includes the collection donated by W.A. Ismay who was an avid ceramic collector from Wakefield. By the time Ismay died in 2001, his collection had grown to 3,500 pots which filled his house from top to bottom.

His collection includes works by leading 20th century ceramicists such as Bernard Leach, Lucie Rie, Hans Coper and Shoji Hamada.

This was a remarkable achievement for one collector and is by far the biggest collection of studio pottery in the UK.

The Anthony Shaw collection has been amassed over 40 years and features key works by ceramists Gordon Baldwin, Lucie Rie, Gillian Lowndes, Ewen Henderson and Sara Radstone. The 800 ceramics collection is on long term loan to York Art Gallery.



## **RESEARCH AT CoCA**

It is hoped that CoCA will become a leading institution of new research into Studio Ceramics, using the collections and archives as source material.

In 2012, York Museums Trust started a Subject Specialist Network for Contemporary Studio Ceramics which now has 113 members.

The network holds two meetings per year when curators, potters and academics get together to share their experience and knowledge and generate partnerships.

York Museums Trust also encourages more student interest in the ceramic collections and currently has two students from the University of York researching York potter Barbara Cass and the teaching and techniques of potter Hans Coper.

## **CERAMIC ART YORK 2015**

To mark the opening of CoCA, York Museums Trust is working with the Craft Potters Association at the Royal College of Art, London, to organise the Ceramic Art York fair for Contemporary Ceramics from Friday 11 – Sunday 13 September 2015.



# We Have Been Researching!



**At York Museums Trust, we go to great lengths to learn about the history of our collections and we actively encourage collaboration with academic institutions to conduct research on our artefacts.**

The last two years have seen numerous partnerships, including projects with Newcastle University, the University of Bradford and Manchester Metropolitan University.

In fact, the two major developments at York Castle Museum and York Art Gallery will both create new spaces to be used as research rooms for academics who want to study the collections.

## **PREHISTORY – CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITY OF YORK**

For the Yorkshire Museum's *After the Ice: Yorkshire's Prehistoric People* exhibition, York Museums Trust's archaeology team collaborated with the University of York's archaeologist, Nicky Milner, who has been involved in the excavations and recent interpretations of the Mesolithic site of Star Carr.



## **THE RING IS ROYAL?**

York Museums Trust worked with more than 30 medieval experts from the country's top universities to try and solve some of the mystery surrounding a recent acquisition, the Esrcrick Ring. The ring was found by metal detectorists in 2009 but had baffled curators because it is unique.

The findings shed new light on the ring; it is now thought to be from the 5th or 6th century – not the 10th or 11th as originally believed.

They also suggested the ring was made in Europe, possibly France, and that it would have belonged to a king, leader or consort – not a Bishop which was a previous theory.

The Esrcrick Ring is now thought to be from the 5th or 6th century – not the 10th or 11th as originally believed.



### THE COLOUR OF SEA DRAGONS

An ichthyosaur from the Yorkshire Museum was used by scientists to help reveal the colour of the sea creatures that lived millions of years ago.

The international team of experts analysed three exquisitely preserved fossils as part of their research.

The research suggests that the three reptiles found in the ancient oceans were near-black. Lead researcher, Johan Lindgren, from Lund University in Sweden, said: "It's amazing. Suddenly we get this idea of the colour of animals swimming around millions of years ago."

### THE W.A. ISMAY COLLECTION

Doctoral research on the W.A. Ismay Collection by Helen Walsh, Assistant Curator of Decorative Arts at York Museums Trust, through Manchester Metropolitan University, was used to develop the exhibition *Matthew Darbyshire: The W.A. Ismay Collection* which was a collaborative project with York Museums Trust and The Hepworth Wakefield.

As well as the physical exhibition, other outcomes included the production of six short film interviews with a range of people who knew W.A. Ismay and an essay, all of which are accessible online.

<http://goo.gl/iniqmv>



## We Have Been Working with Other Museums

**With its wealth of knowledge and experience, York Museums Trust is often asked to advise and support organisations across Yorkshire and Humber.**

Museum Development Yorkshire is a team within the Trust, funded by Arts Council England, which dedicates its time to providing this service.

"The work has made us ensure we are making the best use of our current resources and has also highlighted the changes we can make to the things that aren't currently as efficient as they could be."

"Taking action now will considerably help the museum's sustainability for the future."

**RYEDALE FOLK MUSEUM**

"This project has helped us to dramatically improve the museum's costume store. Objects are now better stored in a monitored environment and will all be placed in suitable storage boxes."

**CRAVEN MUSEUM**

"This work has proved very useful in giving us a clear starting point on which to take the next steps in putting together an audience development plan. We simply weren't in a position to do this until the basics were put in place. We are now ready to take Audience Development forward."

**BARNSELY MUSEUMS**

**78 Museum organisations received direct advice, support or finance from Museum Development Yorkshire**

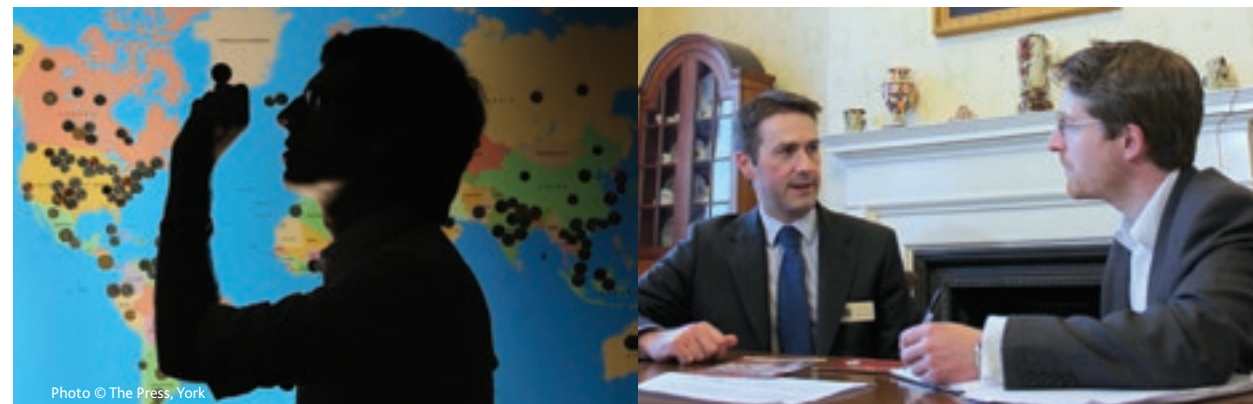


Photo © The Press, York

### SCARBOROUGH SITE VISIT

In July 2012, Jennifer Cork, Wedding and Events Supervisor, was invited to Scarborough Museums Trust to share her expertise in weddings and events. Jennifer was able to offer advice on how the spaces could be utilised, how the operations could run smoothly and how to market the venues effectively through different outlets such as website pages and open days.

### NUMISMATICS

As Curator of Numismatics (Coins and Medals), Andrew Woods is the **only specialist in his field in the whole of Yorkshire**.

Part of this role is to provide advice and support to other museums in the region with numismatic collections. Andrew has been visiting a range of museums over the past year, discovering their many exciting hidden collections.

A key element of these partnerships is the provision of training and as such, he has brought a number of museums together to learn about certain aspects of numismatics with the most recent focusing upon World War One medals.

The outreach element of his role is of utmost importance as specialist advice can help to transform often forgotten parts of collections. It also highlights the leadership role that York Museums Trust provides on a regional level.

### MARKETING AND THE 1914 CENTENARY WORKSHOP

Three members of the York Museums Trust marketing team spoke to organisations in the region who are involved with commemorating the 1914 centenary.

The aim of the event was to help the participating cultural institutions make the most of their events and exhibitions by learning about the best ways to market them. Some of the areas discussed included advertising, leaflet distribution, websites, social media and PR.



"The advice we were given has helped us to really assess the way in which we care for our photographic collection, a good example of this is our 35mm transparencies and glass slides which are actually starting to deteriorate."

**RYEDALE FOLK MUSEUM**

### 2012-13 STATISTICS

**78** museum organisations received direct advice, support or finance from Museum Development Yorkshire

**69** programmes of detailed advice and support (i.e. lasting upwards of two days) were delivered

**11** cash grants were awarded to 10 organisations

**£14,000** cash leverage

**£10,000** in-kind leverage

#### THIS MEANT THAT:

**85%** of all eligible museums were supported by Museum Development Yorkshire

**£1,016,467** of money was raised for museums

**171** individuals benefitted from CPD

**73%** of museums receiving collections management support reported an improvement in collections care

**100%** of museums receiving audience development support reported an improvement in audience data systems

**£14,540** of annual energy savings were identified and **£4,874** realised

#### FOR VISITORS TO MUSEUMS IN YORKSHIRE, THIS MEANT THAT:

**904** volunteer days were contributed to museums

**210,000** visitors attended sites benefitting from audience development support

**265,000** visitors attended sites benefitting from interpretation support

**13** formal and informal learning resources benefitted **44** schools

# We Have Been Leading on Regional Projects

## ART IN YORKSHIRE

Established by York Museums Trust in 2011, Art in Yorkshire has been a hugely successful marketing campaign to promote art throughout the region, attracting partners such as Tate and the Art Fund.

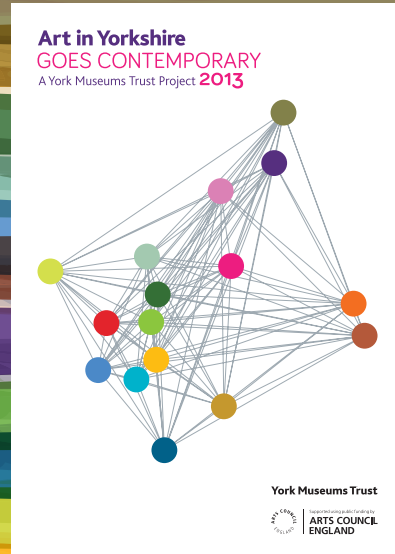
A promotional booklet and website, supported by a social media campaign, are created to help promote the diverse art on show in Yorkshire and the special exhibitions taking place.

Each year has a different theme. *Art in Yorkshire Goes Modern* was launched in May 2012 and featured 27 galleries throughout Yorkshire. Exhibitions included works from the likes of Andy Warhol, Joan Miro, Sarah Lucas and Fiona Rae.

In March 2013 *Art in Yorkshire Goes Contemporary* was launched, with galleries from every corner of Yorkshire taking part – from Skipton to Hull and Leeds to Hutton Le Hole.

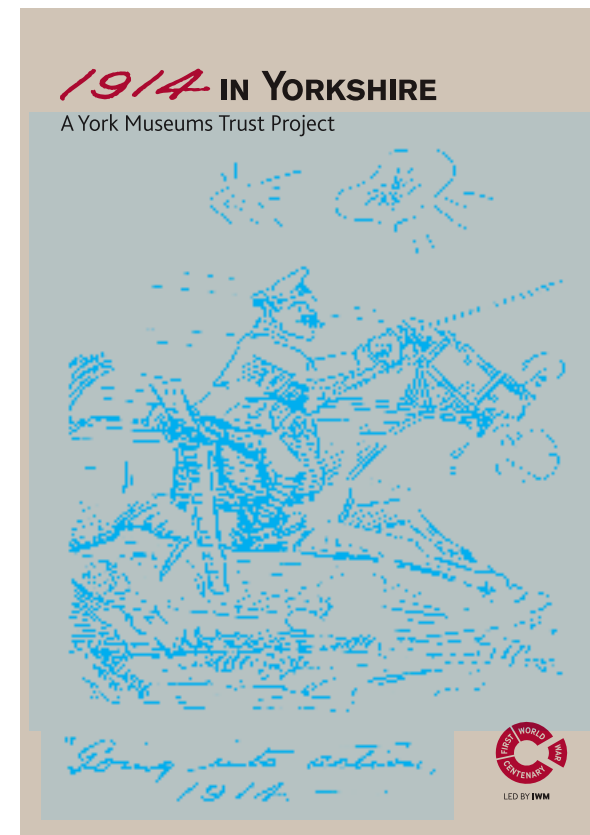
Art in Yorkshire returns for 2014 entitled: *Art in Yorkshire 2014 in association with the Art Fund*. A total of 200,000 booklets will be produced and the website will be updated and enhanced.

22 galleries have signed up for the launch in April 2014.



**Art in Yorkshire**  
A York Museums Trust Project 2014

Supported by **ArtFund**



York Museums Trust's plan is to integrate this regional project closely with the national campaign being led by Imperial War Museums.

## WWI CENTENARY COMMEMORATIONS IN YORKSHIRE – REGIONAL MARKETING IN 2014

York Museums Trust will be co-ordinating a regional marketing campaign to mark the WWI Centenary Commemorations for 2014.

This marketing project aims to keep in contact with everyone within the Yorkshire region who are holding events or exhibitions on this theme and co-ordinating a programme of exhibitions/events.

York Museums Trust's plan is to integrate this regional project closely with the national campaign being led by Imperial War Museums.

It is hoped that by working together with the regional museums/galleries and the IWM all participating partners can co-ordinate offers, avoid clashes of dates and also make the most of the joint marketing opportunities.

# We Have Made Learning Fun!



York Museums Trust provides a learning programme of interesting and imaginative educational events, workshops and activities for all ages.

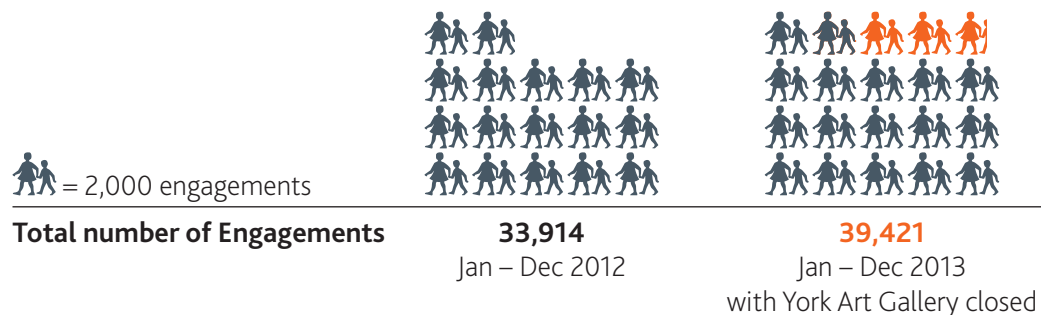
## FORMAL LEARNING

York Museums Trust invites schools to take learning out of the classroom by providing a learning programme at each museum and gallery. The programme is inspiring, interactive, and enjoyable while still directly supporting the National Curriculum.

Each venue offers a programme of education workshops for groups from Early Years up to Key Stage 2, covering art, history and science across the sites.

**In 2012, 33,914 school children visited the York Museum Trust sites, rising to 39,421 in 2013.**

## TOTAL VISITS TO ALL SITES:



**39,421**  
total school  
engagements  
in 2013



## INFORMAL LEARNING

### MUSEUM MONKEYS: FUN FOR THE UNDER 5s!

The learning team continues to provide fun activities for the Under 5s.

Engagement with the museums' collections and exhibitions is actively encouraged through songs, stories, games and craft activities.

All of the activities relate to the Early Years curriculum.

**Since the program started in 2012, 578 children have participated.**

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN!

During school holidays, the team puts together a great learning programme for children to enjoy.

Amongst our most popular activities are those branded 'Hands on Here', which encourage children to handle artefacts in the museums.

After proving so successful at York Castle Museum, these activities have now been adapted for the Yorkshire Museum too.





**WHY SHOULD THE CHILDREN HAVE ALL THE FUN?**

Adults are invited to take advantage of the fantastic learning opportunities on offer from York Museums Trust.

These include art, craft and writing workshops, curators talks, guided tours and hands-on sessions examining museum artefacts and specimens with the learning team at York Museums Trust.

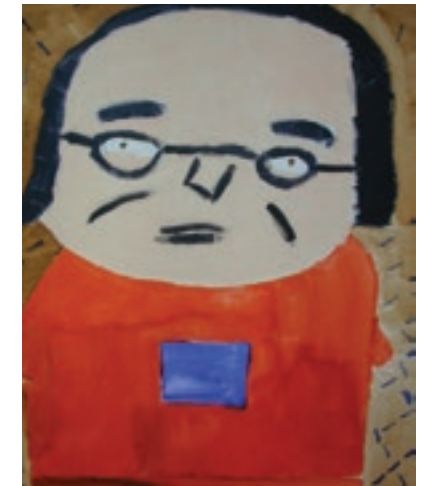
**In 2013  
2,958 people  
took part in York  
Museum Trust's  
adult learning  
programme**

**25-30%  
of all informal  
adult learning  
in York is run by  
York Museums  
Trust**

# Territories – Community Art Programme

Territories aims to break down barriers with community groups and individuals by inviting them to visit the galleries and museums and creating art.

The initiative is recognised by the Arts Council England as a project of Good Practice and has been used widely as a case study.



"I haven't drawn for years and this has given me a great opportunity. Really enjoyed it. Thank you very much."

**SUPPORT WORKER**

**IN THE LAST TWO YEARS YORK MUSEUMS TRUST HAS WORKED WITH:**

- Aspire – young people with aspergers
- Auden House Burnholme Community College, York
- Burton Stone Community Centre – adults with complex disabilities
- City of York Council Community Facilitation team
- City of York Council, York Learning
- Creative Personalities – adults with personality disorders
- Here and Now – dementia support and advocacy
- Lakeside Primary School
- Traveller and Ethnic Minority Support Services, City of York Council
- University of York, Centre for Life Long Learning
- Song Box – early years
- Magnetic Arts – art for health and wellbeing
- York Carers' Centre
- York Carers' Forum

**From Jan - Dec 2012,  
218 people took part  
in the Territories  
initiative and in  
2013 there were 100  
participants despite the  
temporary closure of  
York Art Gallery**

# Genesis

Genesis is York Museum Trust's programme of creative and interpretative projects working with 14-24 year olds.

The projects offer training and experience while engaging with local culture and heritage.

In 2012 around 400 people took part in the Genesis project and by 2013 this figure had more than doubled.

Approximately  
**1,000** 14-24 year  
olds took part in the  
Genesis programme  
in 2013

## POP-UP GALLERY

As part of the *Bruce Nauman* exhibition, students from York College took on the roles of curators, artistic directors and marketers to produce a Pop-Up exhibition of art, language and performance in York city centre, with the Books for Amnesty shop providing the main exhibition space.

York Museums Trust staff worked with the students, offering advice, workshops and hands-on experience in addition to guiding the students on the various aspects involved in curating and promoting an art exhibition.



## CONSTANTINE ANIMATION

As part of Genesis, four York teenagers were commissioned by the Yorkshire Museum to produce an entertaining and accomplished video to tell the story of Roman Emperor Constantine and how the head of his statue came to be displayed at the Yorkshire Museum.

The teenagers spent a week in the summer with the animation company, Biomation, and York Museums Trust employees.

They researched the story of Constantine and his marble head, created a storyboard and set to work designing the characters and sets, sourcing the correct sounds and even providing the voices.

The video will be seen by around 90,000 people a year as part of the *Roman York: Meet the People* exhibition.

<http://goo.gl/6Q4Vll>

# We Have a Great Team of Volunteers



Professor Sir John Lawton

Volunteers have contributed **23,000** hours in the last two years

In the last two years, the volunteer programme at York Museums Trust has grown considerably. It now has in excess of **320 regularly active volunteers** across all sites. That is **1,250 volunteers since the programme started in 2006**.

The increase in volunteers has meant that the Trust can now implement more long term volunteer projects from 16 - 27 projects running concurrently.

The biggest of these is the 'Hands on Here' sessions, which proved such a success at York Castle Museum, that they have now been introduced to the Yorkshire Museum. These are all entirely volunteer led and allow the public to get closer to the museums' collections.

An increase in volunteers has also meant that the historic Yorkshire Museum library could be opened up to visitors for the very first time.



**1,700** volunteers were involved in York Mystery Plays 2012, with **36,000** people coming to watch

Volunteers also operate the historic waterwheel at Raindale Mill at York Castle Museum, which brings the area to life for visitors.

In addition, volunteers are developing a Physic Garden in the Riverside area, which will provide plants and herbs for demonstration and display in the pharmacy on Kirkgate at York Castle Museum.

York Observatory is also open two afternoons a week and for special events so that the public can learn about its history and the collections it houses.

Without volunteers, The Library, Raindale Mill and York Observatory would not be open to the public.

The 14 Trustees of York Museums Trust, which is chaired by Professor Sir John Lawton, are also volunteers. They spare their valuable time to provide good governance for the charity.



# York Museum Gardens Has Been Blooming Busy!

First established as a botanic garden by the Yorkshire Philosophical Society in the 1830s, the award-winning York Museum Gardens is now managed by York Museums Trust. This picturesque haven has attracted 3 million people in the past two years.

**1.71 million**  
visitors to  
York Museum  
Gardens  
in 2013

### IMPROVING THE GARDENS

**In October 2013, the 10 acre gardens were awarded the York Gold Rose Award by Yorkshire In Bloom.**

The visiting judge cited:

“An extensive tour of this wonderful garden highlighted the hard work and improvements undertaken”.

#### SUNDIAL AND TWISTER

The public are invited to have some fun with the new Sundial and Twister game. Both were made in the gardens using stone from Fagley Quarry, Bradford and Matthias Garn, a local stone mason, did the stone carving.

#### TANSY BEETLES INTRODUCED TO YORK MUSEUM GARDENS

The Tansy Beetle, which is almost extinct in Britain, was introduced to York Museum Gardens in 2012. Working with the Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG), a suitable habitat was created and the 10mm bright green beetles have now made a permanent home for themselves in the gardens.

While the majority of the volunteers are still young people between the ages of 18 and 24 (46%), the Trust welcomes volunteers of all ages, with 31% of volunteers being over 40 – a figure that is steadily rising.

York Museums Trust has developed a high quality training programme for visitor facing volunteers and is regularly asked to advise other regional museums on how to set up their own training programmes.

In addition to the ever-expanding visitor facing projects, there are now more back-of-house roles for volunteers, which is vital in the current climate of fierce competition for jobs in the sector. This enables lots of young people to gain valuable experience working with both the collections and alongside skilled and knowledgeable staff.

**Several of the volunteers have credited their time at York Museums Trust as being a key factor in being able to secure employment in the sector.**





#### **ANNUAL FLOWER COUNT**

The most recent Annual Spring Flower Count saw an amazing total of 102 separate varieties in flower which is a huge jump from 62 last year - and we thought that was pretty impressive at the time.

#### **THE STORY TELLING AREA**

The gardening team and the learning team have created an enchanting enclosure in the heart of the gardens which is the ideal setting for organised storytelling sessions. Visitors are welcome to come along with books of their own and make the most of this peaceful little hub.

#### **CATALOGUING OF TREES**

In 2012 the gardening team began cataloguing the gardens to compile a database on each individual tree and plant. The project began with a plant inventory, which hadn't been recorded since 2002. This revealed that there are 266 trees and 1300 plant species – not bad for 10 acres of land!



# Events



Ferdinand Kingsley and Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu.

## Our historic surroundings are a popular backdrop for community events:

### YORK MYSTERY PLAYS 2012

York Mystery Plays 2012 attracted 36,000 visitors, receiving much praise from the public and critics alike. So much so, that the plays have since been awarded the Tourism Experience of the Year 2012 at the Visit York Awards and the Tourism Event of the Year at the White Rose Awards 2013.

The production is currently being considered for the Visit England Tourism Event of the Year 2014.



HRH Princess Beatrice giving a helping hand with volunteers working on the Plays.



### BBC STARGAZING

In 2012 York Museum Gardens played host to the regional event for BBC Stargazing; a three night series on BBC Two presented by Professor Brian Cox and Dara O'Briain.

Together with the BBC, York Museums Trust organised a programme of exciting events, activities and workshops to entertain the 2,000 people who attended.

Back by popular demand, Stargazing 2013 attracted a crowd of 1,500 who enjoyed a talk from Astronomer Martin Lunn MBE, a look at the newly restored Abraham Sharp's Telescope and meeting members of the York Astronomical Society and The Star Centre from Keighley.

### RSPB BIRDWATCH

This national initiative is run by the RSPB and involves recording the different types of birds that visit a specific area in the space of one hour. This is intended to give a quick snapshot of the ecosystem of that area.

York Museums Trust continues to support this initiative, holding Big Garden Birdwatch events in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

In 2013, 25 different bird species were recorded during the specified hour. This is great news for the gardens, reaffirming a healthy ecosystem that encourages all wildlife to thrive.



### WILD WEDNESDAYS

Wild Wednesdays take place in York Museum Gardens throughout August. The free activities have become one of the most popular school holiday events in the city.

In 2013 the four events, which involve activities such as building bird boxes, planting seeds and handling objects from the museum's collections, attracted around 1,500 people each week; that's 6,000 visitors in just four days.

### GARDEN GUIDES

In the last two years, the number of garden guides has doubled.

As well as making sure the garden is kept to a high standard, the guides welcome the public to join a free guided walk through York Museum Gardens every Sunday afternoon.

They also work with Askham Bryan College and Apprentis d'Auteuil Centre, Bourgogne, supported by the Leonardo da Vinci Training programme, to provide four week gardening placements for European students each year.

## We Love A Good Wedding!



**The small team at York Venues provide a bespoke wedding service with a personal touch. In the last two years, their wedding and corporate client numbers have increased dramatically and York Venues intends to build on these successes.**

Weddings more than doubled in the last five years.

96 weddings and 127 other corporate events were held from April 2013 until March 2014.

Profits from weddings at the Hospitium increased by 23%, which will go towards supporting the work of York Museums Trust.

A record breaking 16 weddings were held in just 19 days over the summer of 2013.

393 likes on the Facebook page and 1,046 Twitter Followers.

"Thank you for making our day so special. You think of everything and work hard to make sure everything runs smoothly.

We had an absolutely amazing day in a gorgeous venue and it couldn't have been better."

**KATIE AND DAVID FOSTER**



“Thank you so much for everything you and the team at the Hospitium did for us in the run up to and on our wedding day. We felt totally and utterly in safe hands throughout and had a magical day in a beautiful building and surroundings.”

**RON AND LAUREN WATSON**

“Many thanks for making our wedding day the most perfect day imaginable. The Hospitium is a stunning wedding venue in a stunning location.”

**SHARON AND PAUL CALLINE**

“You made everything so easy for us, shared in our excitement and gave us such a bespoke service.

You did everything with a smile and such kindness.

We would recommend the Hospitium to all our friends and family – it is a 5\* venue with 5\* staff to match.”

**EMILY AND NEILL**



**York Venues also organise events and continue to look for new, innovative ideas that can be enjoyed by wedding clients and the general public.**

#### **WEDDING FAIRS**

York Venues wedding fairs are a great way to support local businesses and help wedding clients to source suppliers and find new ideas. The York Venues wedding fairs are amongst the most popular in Yorkshire with an ever increasing footfall and growing waiting list of exhibitors.

York Venues have also introduced a brand new event – A Wedding Table Top Sale. The first event was so popular that a further two are planned for 2014.

#### **THEMED FILM NIGHTS**

To make the most of the huge cinema screen in the Yorkshire Museum, York Venues organised a Christmas film night. This themed event completely sold out and, as a result, planning for similar events is already underway.

#### **CONFERENCES**

Over the last two years, York Venues has attracted a wide range of conference events from the public and private sector. Due to the high standards of customer service, many clients now return on an annual basis. Major clients include – York University, NHS, BBC and Aviva.



# What's Next For York Museums Trust?

## York Art Gallery 2015

York Art Gallery will reopen in spring 2015 after an exciting £8 million development that will see a dramatic transformation of the building and its surroundings.

The development has been possible thanks to a private legacy and funding from Arts Council England. This will create over 60 per cent more exhibition space with a suite of three galleries on the ground floor that will display ambitious and high profile exhibitions.

A first floor South Gallery and a new mezzanine gallery in the original Victorian roof space will become the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA), displaying the best collection of British Studio Ceramics in the world.

Extra learning space will be created and there will be a dedicated area for researching the collections.

The development will also include a garden entrance, better facilities including a new café, shop, toilets and lift and there will be a much improved storage area for the collections.



### CASE STUDY: TRANSFORM PROGRAMME, BRAZIL

#### Laura Turner, Curator of Art

In October 2013, Laura Turner was successful in applying to the British Council to be part of a delegation of 10 museum professionals travelling to Brazil on a study tour as part of their Transform programme.

This programme is designed to develop the artistic dialogue between the UK and Brazil and to promote the exchange of knowledge and best practice between museums in Brazil and the UK. Over six days, delegates visited 21 museums, galleries and cultural centres in Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Belo Horizonte, meeting a wide range of representatives and making contacts and networks in the hope of developing a number of projects between the UK and Brazil.

Laura said: *"The trip was hugely inspiring and made me aware of the wide variety of museum management, governance and funding models operating in Brazil. In addition I was also able to visit a number of inspiring museums and galleries and talk to curators about the content and development, together with discovering a number of interesting Brazilian artists whom we could consider for York Art Gallery's future programme."*



...the original Victorian roof space will become the new Centre of Ceramic Art (CoCA).



## Extension of the Gardens

At the rear of York Art Gallery a beautiful Artist's garden will link to York Museum Gardens, opening up new access routes which will allow the public to walk directly from the gardens to the gallery and through to Exhibition Square.

The new gardens will host a range of interesting and entertaining cultural events themed around edible woodland and Yorkshire flowers.

It is hoped that this tranquil garden will become an artistic hub for local artists and enthusiasts to enjoy.

## York Castle Museum

With the help of £1,167,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this £1.7 million project will transform the half of the museum housed in the former Debtors' Prison. For the first time there will be lift access to the first and second floors, allowing access to all. On the second floor there will be four bookable community learning rooms for activities, as well as new spaces for curators, researchers and volunteers.

The first floor will become a newly created suite of exhibition spaces for major exhibitions.



### 1914: WHEN THE WORLD CHANGED FOREVER

#### Opens 28 June 2014

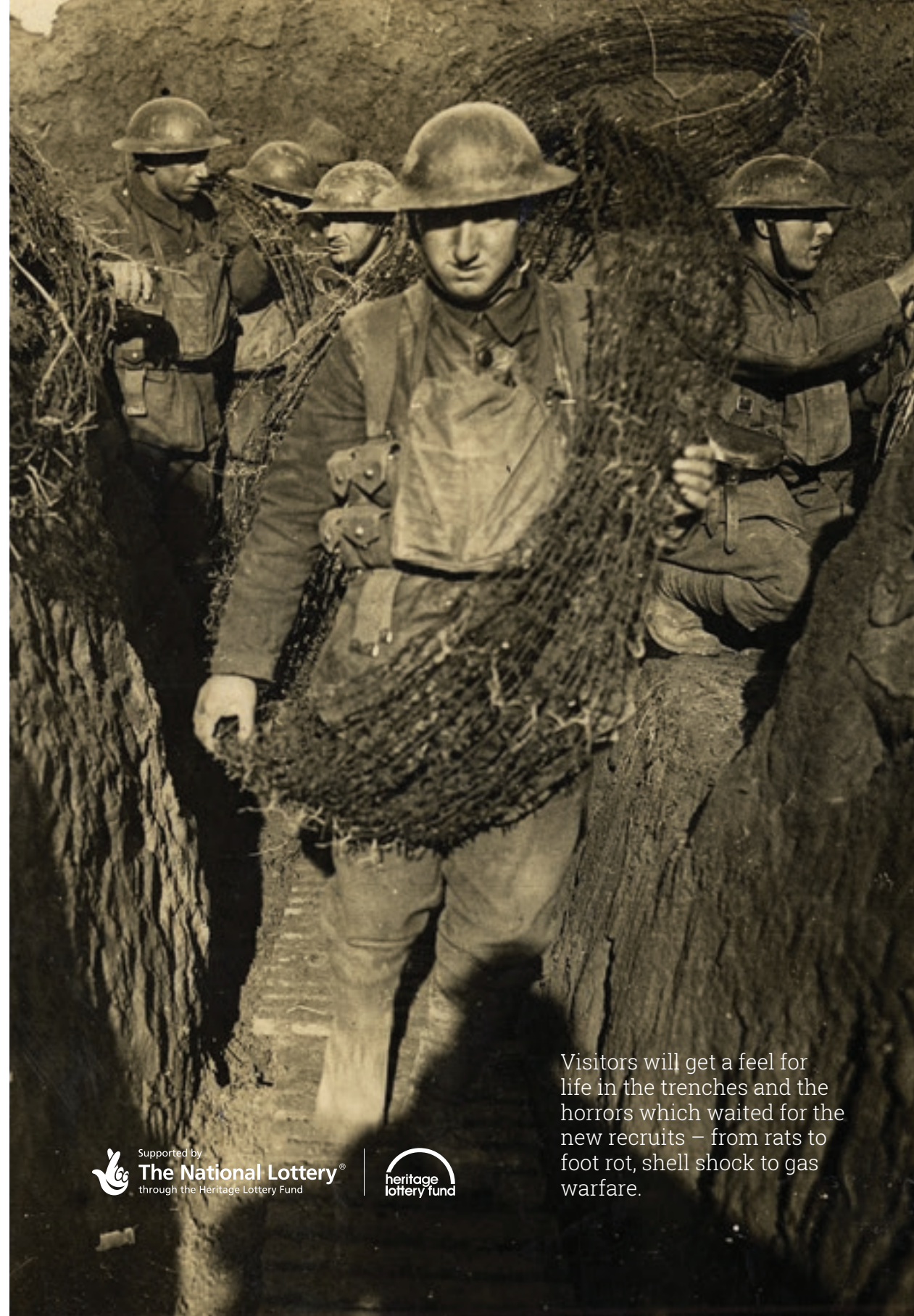
This will be the first major exhibition in the new suite of exhibition spaces.

Star objects from the museum's collections will be combined with new research and new technology to tell of the terror of total war and its revolutionary impact around the world.

Visitors will get the chance to "sign up" in a recruitment office, before heading to the front via train, in a replica carriage.

Once there, they will get a feel for life in the trenches and the horrors which waited for the new recruits – from rats to foot rot, shell shock to gas warfare.

For the first time there will be lift access to the first and second floors, allowing access to all.



Visitors will get a feel for life in the trenches and the horrors which waited for the new recruits – from rats to foot rot, shell shock to gas warfare.

Supported by  
**The National Lottery**  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

heritage  
lottery fund



Want to find out more or get involved with **York Museums Trust**?  
Visit [www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk](http://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk)

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**York Museums Trust** is an independent charity which manages York Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens, York Art Gallery and York St Mary's.

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