

Tripadvisor
comments



tripadvisor®

Please feel free to mention to visitors that they can give us feedback on Tripadvisor

Well informed. Good talks. Man in pharmacy was a mine of information.

One of the volunteers was excellent giving very factual history relating to ww1

Loved the hands on trollies

The gentleman in the Viking section (the one with the stall inc the ice skate) was very pleasant & informative. He took the time to answer all our Qs & is a real credit to the museum!!

A Huge

Thank You!

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

**York Castle Museum:
144,962**

**Yorkshire Museum:
46,410**

**York Art Gallery:
47,476**

IN THE LOOP

ISSUE 21

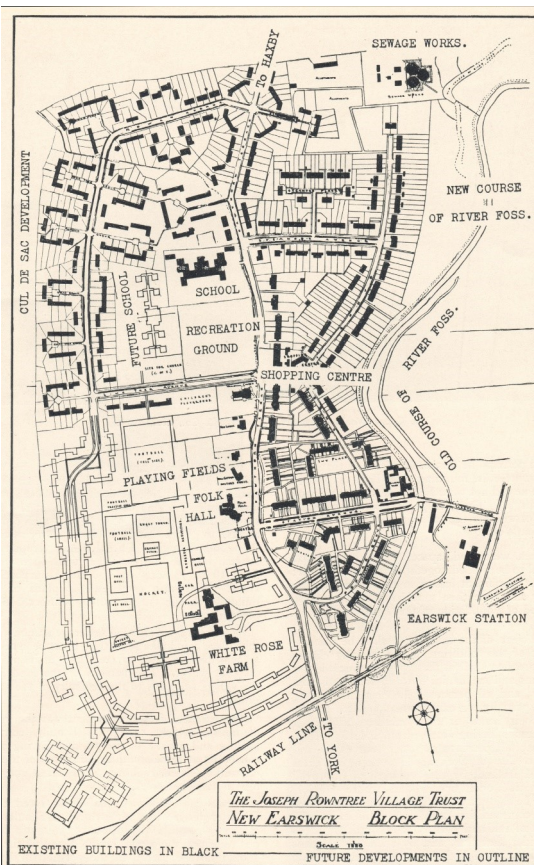
SPRING 2017

Welcome

Spring is here and we are gearing up for some great new exhibitions which start during the Easter Holidays. We will have some exciting new Hands on Here! boxes at the Castle and the Yorkshire Museum, more costumed roles on Kirkgate and a new installation, which has been crowdsourced, in the artists' garden at the Art Gallery called Leisure Land Golf by Doug Fishbone.

We have made a few changes to how we do things so there will be an update on page 4 about these.

We would like to thank you all for your contributions over winter, with over 6000 hours recorded, which is fantastic!



York Museums Trust

Chocolate: York's Sweet History 1 April 2017

Delve into the delicious history of some of the world's most iconic chocolates and sweets this Easter as York Castle Museum takes you on a chocolatey tour of sweets galore.

Start your chocolate journey from the museum's Period Rooms to discover how the Georgians, Victorians and the Jacobean satisfied their sweet tooth.

Then follow the steps to find a spectacular whizzing and fizzing sweet making machine in the Toy Gallery. Follow your nose to find out what's cooking in our working Chocolate Factory where you can explore what it was like to work in York's famous factories. At special times of year you can also enjoy tasting sessions and expert workshops.

Next, take to our world-famous Victorian cobbled street to find a traditional scrumptious sweet shop brimming with chocolates and sweets from days gone by. Discover the worldwide household favourites that were first created right here in York.

In the First World War exhibition, 1914: When the World Changed Forever, you can learn how the Rowntree's family were affected by war. Then it's the swinging Sixties gallery with its new shop displaying some of the most iconic chocolate brands to come from York.

See original adverts, packaging and more alongside the stories of those who took York's life-long love of confectionery to the world in this family-friendly, interactive experience through York's history of chocolate and sweets.



Volunteer Blog

I have always been a pottery enthusiast. I have been a hobby potter and I even had a small pottery workshop at home for a few years. I learned throwing at evening classes and weekend courses but most of all I enjoyed the risky pyrotechnics of Raku. I only moved to York in 2010 but before that I used to come to York to visit the pottery collection at the Art Gallery. I was delighted by the creation of CoCA and even more pleased when I realised that I might be able to volunteer there.



These days I am self-employed and work from my own home. This can be quite an isolating experience especially since, as a counsellor, my work with my clients is confidential and I cannot talk about it. I love my work but I miss having colleagues and friends to chat to during breaks and to socialise with. As a volunteer with the Anthony Shaw collection and with Hands on Here! I can, once again, be part of a big team. I can share my enthusiasm for pots with visitors to CoCA. I have been made very welcome by the other volunteers and the staff at York Art Gallery. A huge bonus for me is that feeling of belonging, of having people greet me when I arrive for my volunteering and say goodbye to me when I leave. At the beginning of each week I look at my diary and set aside a half day for CoCA. It is a lovely contrast to my own work and I even get to touch the pots.



Vikings 19 May – 5 November 2017

The most significant Viking treasure hoards ever discovered in Britain will go on display together for the first time in May 2017.

Featuring some internationally significant Anglo-Saxon and Viking discoveries, Viking: Rediscover the Legend will explore how the Vikings transformed life in Britain.

Star objects from the British Museum will feature alongside the Yorkshire Museum's world class collections and will be interpreted in new ways to give a fresh perspective on how Vikings shaped every aspect of life in Britain.

It will include the most famous Viking hoards ever discovered in this country, including the Vale of York Viking Hoard, Cuedale Hoard and the Be-dale Hoard.

It will also feature ground-breaking research by archaeologists and new discoveries by metal-detectorists which will challenge our perceptions of what it means to be Viking.

The exhibition will open at the Yorkshire Museum and then tour to the University of



Nottingham, The Atkinson, Southport, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Norwich Castle Museum, dates to be announced shortly.

Natalie McCaul, curator of archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum, said: "This is a unique opportunity to see some of the best Viking treasures in the UK displayed together for the first time.

"It will feature stand out loans from the British Museum alongside our fantastic collections, combined with new research, new technology and exciting displays. It will also be the first time the most significant Viking Hoards ever found in this country will be on display together in the same place."

Maria Bojanowska, Dorset Foundation Head of National Programmes at the British Museum, said: "The British Museum is delighted to be working in partnership with the Yorkshire Museum on this exciting exhibition. Viking: Rediscover the Legend will shed new light on some of the most significant Viking Hoards to be found in this country. With the support of the Dorset Foundation, we are able to tour the exhibition to the University of Nottingham Museum, The Atkinson, Southport, Aberdeen Art Gallery and Norwich Castle Museum, and share these stories with as many people as possible across the UK."



Albert Moore 7 April – 1 October 2017

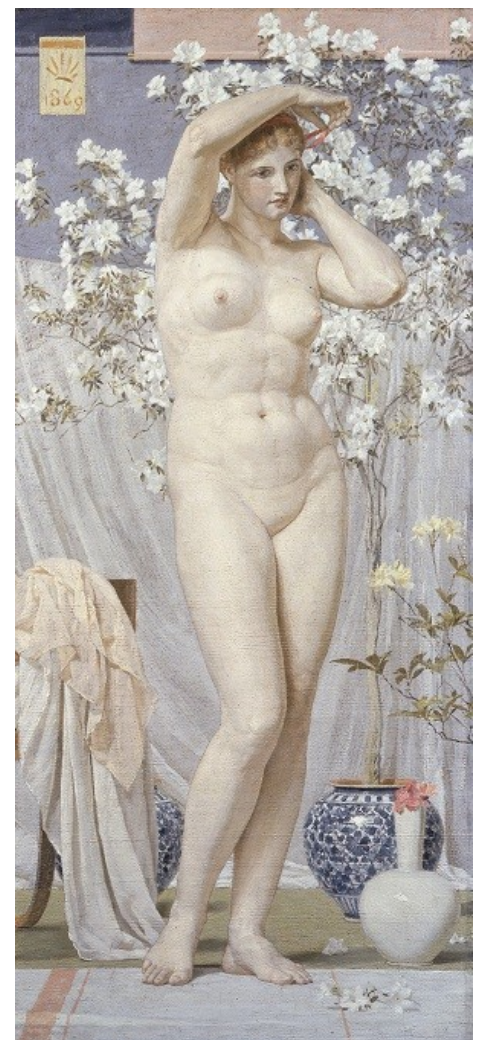
In Spring 2017, York Art Gallery will present the first monographic exhibition of York born artist Albert Joseph Moore since the artist's death in 1893.

Featuring more than 20 paintings and watercolours, it will highlight the beautiful and classical women for which the artist is most famous and demonstrate the modernity of Moore's approach.

Albert Moore was one of the leading artists of the Aesthetic movement who prioritised mood, colour harmony and beauty of form over subject matter to create 'art for art's sake'.

The exhibition will explore Albert Moore's career and body of work using the latest research into his work by leading experts. It will include examples of Moore's youthful Pre-Raphaelite works as well as the hauntingly beautiful classical figures of his mature style.

Organised by York Museums Trust and Museum De Buitenplaats, in Eelde, Netherlands, the exhibition features the stunning and ambitious 'Midsummer', 1887, from the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery, Bournemouth alongside other key works from public and private collections across the UK.



What's new with volunteering?

New Lanyard and Clothing Guidelines



After consultation with all of our visitor facing volunteers, and our new Head of Visitor Experience, Richard Seward, we have agreed to stop issuing volunteer uniform. This is for two reasons: more and more volunteers were telling us that they didn't feel comfortable wearing the T-shirts, and for us, it is a huge annual cost to cater for an ever growing volunteer team, which we think could be better utilised elsewhere across our volunteer projects.

So, visitor facing volunteers are no longer required to wear the YMT volunteer T-shirts/sweatshirts (though if you already have it and prefer to keep wearing it that's fine). If you are going to switch to your own clothes, we ask you to please come dressed in smart-casual clothing, preferably plain, with no really bright colours or loud patterns, and no advertising or slogans please. Jeans are still fine, but no stonewash or rips. As before, no shorts, vest tops and short skirts only if they are worn with totally opaque leggings please.

As we move away from the uniform we have also changed the Volunteer ID badges, to meet our new security guidelines, making them larger and with photo ID, on a broader lanyard so you are more identifiable for the public. The Castle Museum has also introduced security access cards.

Removal of diary sheets

We have switched from diary sheets to notepads for the Hands on Here! and Kirkgate projects. You will now find a notepad in the HoH! trolleys at the Yorkshire and Art Gallery, in the object store cupboards at the Castle and in the shop drawers on Kirkgate. Please keep recording how many people you have interacted with as we need to report on this to show how much the public engage with us.

There is a small comments box, but as always, if there is an issue with the objects or the space, please let the Volunteers Team know as soon as possible either by phone or email.

New Projects!

Amblers Grocers

This is a jam packed shop full of well... Jam and other staples for the working class and poor residents of York in the Victorian era. You can show visitors what and how people bought their items and then the real coins! Other activities include price matching from Victorian to now and what your wage would allow you to buy.

Kendrick's Toy Shop

You can show some of the weird and wonderful toys of the Victorian period and talk about the 'birth of childhood'.



Hands on Here! at the Castle

There is a new object handling activity which looks at Rowntree's philanthropic work in York, to go with our new Chocolate exhibition.

Leisure Land Golf at the Gallery

We have an exciting new crowdsourced interactive exhibition coming to York Art Gallery over the summer. It will be a stewarding role, helping visitors to use the pieces and tell them more information about the artists.

Keep an eye out for more information about the new role.

Health and Wellbeing

YMT Health & Wellbeing Activities for Staff and Volunteers 2017

Thursday 30 th March	Making Chocolate Truffles With Laura For Easter	Castle, Kitchens	12-1 And 1-2
Thursday 27 th April	Yoga - With Phillip	Castle, Kirk Room	5:15pm
Thursday 25 th May	Still Life Drawing With Rob W	Art Gallery, Studio	12-1, 1-2
Thursday 29 th June	Film Night	Yorkshire Museum, TA Hall	5:15pm
Thursday 27 th July	Picasso Pictures - Making Collages With Fiona G	YAG - Meet Cocal	12-1,1-2
Thursday 31 st August	Yoga - With Phillip	Castle, Kirk Room	5:15pm
Thursday 28 th September	Edible Wood Walk	Gardens - Meet Back Of YAG	12:30 And 1:30
Thursday 26 th October	Introduction To Mindful Art Tours With Fiona G	YAG, Burton Gallery	12:30 And 1:30
Thursday 30 th November	Homemade Christmas Decorations With M	Castle, Kirk Room	5:15

A big push in museums currently is to try and improve the health and wellbeing of visitors, and we have decided to also take a look at what we can do internally to support the health and wellbeing of our volunteers as well as staff. So, we have put together a series of activities which are open to all our volunteers and staff.

These events are based on our five ways to wellbeing.

Meeting people

Get active!

Thought provoking

Helping others

Learning something new

If you want to join any of the events, please email philip.newton@ymt.org.uk and say which activity and time you would like to come to.

Welcome to Laura our new Volunteers Training Assistant

Some of you may not have met Laura yet, who has been with us since late November. Laura is responsible for training new visitor facing volunteers on gallery so they feel comfortable talking to visitors and engaging with our collections.

Laura is new to the Volunteers Team but not to the Trust; she started with us as a volunteer in 2014 while at University and later become a Keyholder at the Castle Museum. Laura has previously worked for York Chocolate Story where she qualified as a Chocolatier. Which is why Fiona and I have had to start exercising more!

Laura works across all of our sites, so if your paths haven't already crossed, you will get to meet her at some point when you are in volunteering.

You can reach Laura on:
laura.chapman@ymt.org.uk
 01904 650338

Laura's favourite film is Pillow Talk
 and her favourite colour is Yellow



Volunteer Roles



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

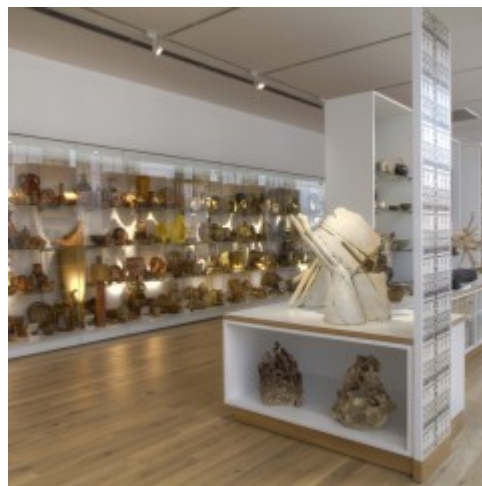
Volunteers help visitors get up close and personal with objects from our social and military history collection. There are a variety of themed handling activities for volunteers to choose from.

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!