2018/19
York Museums Trust
A year of positive change and celebration
Our vision is for York Museums Trust to play a major part in positioning York as a world class cultural centre.

Our Headline Priorities

Headline priorities for the coming years continue to be:

› Deliver the York Castle Museum major capital project, including collection and storage rationalisation, and develop the Castle Area as a cultural quarter.

› Excellent, high profile programming, including strategic York Museums Trust led events to attract visitors to York and high quality exhibitions at York Art Gallery.

› Expanding Enterprises and fundraising activities, building on success, becoming a more business-like charity and increasing resilience.

› Ensuring a 21st century Visitor Experience, pro-actively engaging visitors to sites and online.

› Improving York’s and York Museums Trust’s profile through local, regional and international leadership, partnership and delivering on all expectations of key stakeholders.

Mission

“To cherish the collections, buildings and gardens entrusted to us, presenting and interpreting them as a stimulus for learning, a provocation to curiosity and a source of inspiration and enjoyment for all.”

Our Vision

“Brilliant Vivienne Westwood exhibition at York Castle museum. Catch it if you can.”

Visitor comment
York Museums Trust

York Museums Trust is an independent charity founded in 2002 to be responsible for York Castle Museum, York Art Gallery, the Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens and York St Mary’s on behalf of City of York Council.

All Designated as nationally important, York Museums Trust collections cover archaeology, natural history, social history, costume and textile, military, and art including the world’s largest collection of British studio ceramics.

All the museums occupy listed buildings and we look after two Scheduled Monuments. The museums managed by the Trust have been awarded Full Accreditation with the Arts Council England’s Accreditation Scheme and we are a National Portfolio Organisation.

York Museums Trust is a registered Charity and company limited by guarantee.

York Museums Trust welcomes in excess of 500,000 visitors across our three main sites annually, with an estimated 1.7 million annual visitors to York Museum Gardens.

Chair’s Foreword

As the new Chair, it gives me great pleasure to present this report on the work of York Museums and Gallery Trust for the financial year 2018-19.

It has been a privilege to work more closely with such a talented and committed team and, as part of the board of trustees, help support them through governance and our collective skills, experience and expertise. Taking over as the new Chair at a time when we have been thinking deeply about York Castle Museum, the site, the buildings, the collections and the stories they tell, was a good opportunity for us all to ensure that the board works as effectively as possible.

Compared with just a few years ago, York Museums Trust now receives a very much smaller proportion of its income from public sector funding. We continue to operate in a challenging environment and without the hard work and dedication of all the staff, volunteers and my fellow board members the Trust’s many successes would not have been achieved.

Finally, I would like to thank my predecessor, Professor Sir John Lawton, for his long term support of York Museums Trust. I am delighted to confirm that he has agreed to continue his support by bringing his distinguished scientific background to bear on a new role as Champion of our Natural History collections.

James Grierson
Chair of Trustees
The year started out extremely successfully for York Museums Trust. Following its official opening by Sir David Attenborough, visitors flocked to the Yorkshire Museum to see the major new exhibition – Yorkshire’s Jurassic World. The exhibition attracted 10,000 visitors in its first week of opening and, by the end of the year, had resulted in the highest footfall at the Yorkshire Museum since the formation of the Trust in 2002.

We continued to drive this success with high-profile, ambitious and thought-provoking exhibitions across our attractions with The Sea is the Limit, addressing the current and ongoing issues of immigration, migration, refugees, integration and borders, Strata-Dust-Rock-Stars as part of the media arts festival York Mediale, The BFG in pictures, and When All is Quiet: Kaiser Chiefs in Conversation with York Art Gallery at York Art Gallery.

The financial year ended on a fantastic note, with the opening of the major exhibition Ruskin, Turner & the Storm Cloud: Watercolours and Drawings, marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of artist and art critic John Ruskin. It received publicity in The Guardian, The New York Times, a double page spread in The Big Issue, and specialist art journals Apollo and Frieze. It was also given a rave review on Radio 4’s Saturday Review.

At York Castle Museum, A Personal Collection of Vivienne Westwood Shoes opened in summer 2018 and, following York Art Gallery’s appearance as a finalist at the 2017 European Museum of the Year Awards in Croatia, we were delighted to bring Zagreb’s Museum of Broken Relationships to York for spring 2019. The latter being a wonderful example of the importance of curation, and of ordinary objects made extraordinary by inspired story-telling.

Our ambitious plans for the York Castle Museum transformation are taking shape. Incorporating all of the invaluable feedback we have received, we are confident that the transformation will elevate York Castle Museum and its collections to create a 21st century visitor experience and enhance the Castle Area as a whole.

Without funding from Arts Council England, City of York Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, other stakeholders, local supporters and members, visitors and the expertise of our staff and volunteers, these successes would not have been possible and we would like to thank you for your contribution to the work of York Museums Trust.

Reyahn King
Chief Executive, York Museums Trust

A year of… Excellence

The current exhibition was fantastic. The Sea is the Limit is a thought-provoking, well-curated exhibition.” TripAdvisor review
A year of… Increased Audiences

Thanks to such high profile exhibitions such as Yorkshire’s Jurassic World, When All is Quiet: Kaiser Chiefs in Conversation with York Art Gallery and Ruskin, Turner & the Storm Cloud: Watercolours and Drawings, visitor numbers have risen across all sites. We have had a good retention of our members through sales of the York Museums Trust annual membership card and continue to have over 25,000 members.

The annual Visit England, Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme mystery visit was undertaken and we met our targets by improving or maintaining the scores at all the sites. At York Castle Museum the score was 79%, at the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens it was 84% and 90% at York Art Gallery.

We run Low Sensory Experiences for people with sensory impairments across all sites. Over 5,000 free visits were made to our venues during York Residents Festival in January 2019. A further 1,000 York Museums Trust weekend festival free visits were made in June 2018.

We had over 150,000 children and young people visitors against our target of 130,000.

We measure and encourage the diversity of our staff through recruitment and good working practices. 12.3% of our staff in 2018/19 had a disability or a long term health condition.

“The collaboration with the Kaiser Chiefs – ‘When all is quiet’ – is a real treat. The highlight for me was Janet Cardiff’s ‘The Forty Part Motet’. I’ve experienced this installation in other locations and this is by far the best. The acoustic is perfect and there’s plenty of space to really walk around and enjoy the individual ‘singers’. It’s a relaxing, beautiful, yet oddly thrilling experience that I highly recommend.”

TripAdvisor review
A year of... Numbers

513,113
Visitors engaged with our attractions

1,700,000
Visitors to York Museum Gardens

263,732
Visitors to York Castle Museum

163,805
Visitors to the Yorkshire Museum

81,402
Visitors to York Art Gallery

4,174
Visitors to York St Mary’s

York Museums Trust volunteers have contributed...

15,951
Hours in twelve months

7,502
Hours at York Castle Museum

4,156
Hours at the Yorkshire Museum

2,582
Hours at York Art Gallery

1,711
Hours behind the scenes in generic roles across the sites

+ 2,068
Visitor-facing activities delivered across all sites

“I enjoy being part of a supportive and professionally-run organisation.”
York Museums Trust volunteer

“Volunteering is my time to do things outside of my normal life.”
York Museums Trust volunteer

150,000
Children and young people visitors.

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A year of... Recognition

It was a year for celebration as we continued to be recognised with awards that celebrate all that the Trust has to offer. These achievements endorse all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes of our organisation and highlight that our museums and galleries are outstanding and show imagination, innovation and excellence.

York Castle Museum
Won Best York Attraction in the Little Vikings Awards for the fourth year running in 2018.

York Museum Gardens
Won a Yorkshire in Bloom Gold Award in 2018 for the fourth year in succession.

Yorkshire’s Jurassic World
Won the Excellence in Media Arts award at the York Cultural Awards in 2019.

*We went with our two grandchildren aged 6 and 9. The dinosaur exhibition was excellent. Lots of information and exhibits. The children enjoyed making a fossil and my grandson really enjoyed the virtual reality feeding the dinosaur.*

TripAdvisor review

“We loved these gardens; great place to get away from the traffic and watch the world go by. Lovely to rest in between all the site-seeing we did in York.”

Visitor comment

“We loved these gardens; great place to get away from the traffic and watch the world go by. Lovely to rest in between all the site-seeing we did in York.”

Visitor comment
A year of... Support and enthusiasm

York Castle Museum
“This is a must for anyone visiting York.”

“This is an absolute must see if you are visiting York. The beautiful cobbled streets make you feel like you are in the past and the horse and carriages are gorgeous. They have put so much into this beautiful historical building it’s amazing. I would highly recommend this as a must see you won’t regret it.”

“I visited here when I was a kid and loved it. It was just as good now, 20 years later. It’s really informative and lots to see.”

“This was the best experience of our stay in York! The street was fantastic. I would recommend listening to the guides on the street – very interesting.”

“Wow what a fantastic place to see when visiting York. All the different areas of the museum are really interesting. Can’t wait to visit it again.”

Yorkshire Museum
“The Yorkshire museum is an interesting place to go and visit! It has Roman and Viking architecture and the staff are friendly and knowledgeable!”

“Fantastic place to visit, loved looking at everything, I certainly learned a lot. Great place for everyone to learn.”

“We went to see the Jurassic world exhibition. We all loved it. I loved the whole museum. Never been there before, but definitely I will go back again to see the exhibitions again because they are really interesting.”

“We went to the Yorkshire Museum on a rainy October day and weren’t disappointed the Roman history was great and the abbey history was great and so was the dinosaur exhibit.”

York Museum Gardens
“Beautiful gardens and walk by the river, nice to get away from the crowds for some peace and quiet, the lovely ruins of St Mary’s Abbey are there too.”

“Very well looked after gardens next to the river, a great place to sit and relax and look at the flowers and the wild life. Plenty of birds and of course the squirrels which are very tame.”

York Art Gallery
“A definite must see museum when visiting York. We were first timers to York and had a whole stop tour of the city over 3 days. The BFG exhibition was a great hit with the kids, (6 and 7) only wish we had longer to enjoy it. So much to see and do in the gallery. If you can give yourselves a few hours to explore it.”

“The ceramics section is second to none and highly recommended.”

31,500 Children enjoyed school trips at York Museums Trust attractions
25,000+ Active YMT Card holders
732 Workshops took place across all sites
This year, we were delighted to partner with York Mediale. This media arts festival was created to celebrate York’s designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Media Arts. The exhibition Strata-Dust-Rock-Stars, in partnership with FACT Liverpool, brought work to York Art Gallery from leading international artists including Isaac Julien, Agnes Meyer-Brandis and Ryoichi Kurokawa.

Later in the year, we partnered with the renowned Yorkshire band, Kaiser Chiefs, creating an exhibition exploring the boundaries between music, art, creation and performance. This was a very ambitious project particularly as the band had never curated an exhibition before. However, with full support from our highly professional team, the exhibition was a huge success. Combined with the BFG offer this period delivered the highest visitor numbers in the year.

The Anthony Shaw space underwent a redisplay with a difference. Anthony Shaw worked closely with pupils from Burton Green Primary School who chose their favourite pieces, created their own artwork and curated the exhibition.

Aesthetica Art Prize opened on 8 March 2019 featuring a wide range of artists including Turner Prize shortlist nominees Jane and Louise Wilson. The winning artist was Jenn Nkiru.

We were thrilled to work with the studio of Dame Vivienne Westwood on a display that complemented the touring exhibition – A Personal Collection of Vivienne Westwood Shoes at York Castle Museum. Murray Blewett, Creative Design Manager worked closely with the curatorial team and this great partnership resulted in the donation of a Vivienne Westwood Gold Label ensemble.

As a finalist at the European Museum of the Year Awards held in Croatia in 2017, we were able to establish new international partnerships for York Museums Trust and were delighted to bring the award-winning Museum of Broken Relationships exhibition to York Castle Museum for spring 2019. This was a wonderful example of the importance of curation and ordinary objects made extraordinary by inspired story-telling.
York Museums Trust shares expertise. We provide accreditation monitoring for other museums, mentoring for Arts Marketing Association and Touring Exhibitions Group, and we run a Subject Specialist Network open to people in and beyond museums. We are part of the National Museum Directors Council and the English Civic Museums Network.

The Chief Executive is chair of the York Cultural Leaders Group and is leading in the delivery of the York Cultural Strategy. She is also a trustee of Crafts Council and New Art Exchange. The ceramics curator is a trustee of the York Stained Glass Centre.

York Museums Trust co-ordinate Culture and Wellbeing York, a cultural commissioning consortium of organisations providing cultural activity for wellbeing as a pilot project funded by City of York Council.

The Eboracum Roman Festival 2018 saw York Museums Trust working with the University of York, Make It York, The National Trust, Owl Adventures, Council for British Archaeology, WYAS and Roman Tours.

*Visited the new exhibition @YorkshireMuseum some really cool technology being developed and making me excited for the future of museums and #scicomm.*

Twitter comment
York Museums Trust collections have been touring the globe, increasing awareness of the Trust and showcasing our exceptional works to an international audience.

17,005 visitors
As part of the Viking: Rediscover the Legend tour, objects from the archaeology and numismatic collections have featured at The Atkinson, Southport, 31 March – 8 July 2018.

90,210 visitors
Paul Nash’s, Winter Sea went on display at Fondation Vincent Van Gogh Arles, France, for the exhibition Paul Nash: The Sunflower Rises.

16,622 visitors
Juan de Valdes Leal’s, The Allegory of the Crown of Life toured to Musei Reali - Galleria Sabauda, Turin, for the exhibition Silence on Canvas: Spanish Still Life from Velázquez to Dali.

64,989 visitors
John Gilbert’s, Rembrandt’s Studio went on display at the Scottish National Galley for the exhibition Rembrandt: Britain’s Discovery of the Master.

51,588 visitors
Kitchen objects were lent to Castle Howard for the display The Twelve Days of Christmas.

64,015 visitors
Iron stays along with a ceramic jar Kwan Yin by William Staite Murray went on display at The Hepworth Wakefield for the exhibition Magdalene Odundo: The Journey of Things.

14,121 High resolution images produced through York Museums Trust’s digitisation programmes.

29,242,281 Page views of our collections on Wikipedia.

27,917 Page views on the Art UK site.

"It is fantastic that our objects are being showcased around the world. This reaffirms York Museums Trust’s collections as being internationally significant, raises awareness for all of our great attractions and allows our outstanding objects to enrich the visitor experience in museums and galleries across the globe.”

Melanie Baldwin, Registrar
A year of... Sharing our knowledge

The Portable Antiquities Scheme
Rebecca Griffiths, Finds Liaison Officer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme, continues to be based at the Yorkshire Museum. 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.

From April 2018 to March 2019, 2,343 objects were recorded making us one of the most productive PAS regions in England. Of these objects 88 were reported as potential Treasure. SS of these were from York and North Yorkshire with the remainder from the East Riding. The below are treasures that were originally reported to the scheme, and subsequently acquired by the Yorkshire Museum:

- The Wighill Ring: A gold Anglo-Scandinavian finger ring with Trewhiddle style zoomorphic decoration.
- The Fulford Ring: A gold medieval finger ring with a double bezel containing ruby and emerald gems.
- The Willerby Coin Hoard: A hoard of two silver Anglo-Saxon coins, known as sceattas, dating from c. AD 710–c. 730 and found fused together.

Museum Development Yorkshire
Museum Development Yorkshire is part of York Museums Trust, funded by Arts Council England, to provide advice and support for museums in Yorkshire and the Humber.

In 2018–19 Museum Development Yorkshire...
- Supported 92% of eligible museums in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Helped 11 museums to access over £380,000 of Ready to Borrow funding.
- Delivered 34 learning events providing 521 individual professional development sessions.
- Supported 17 museums with total grant funding of over £36,000.

Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, in Bradford, secured Museum Development Yorkshire funding of £2,100 to develop Gallery 5, a fun, creative and engaging space which is especially welcoming for children and families. It incorporates on-going informal dialogue with its visitors through thought-provoking question walls and reflection areas.
A year of... PR headlines
A year of... Events

Eboracum Roman Festival
Around 25,000 people came to see the Roman armies invade the ancient city of York for the Eboracum Roman Festival in June 2018. With military parades through the streets of York, a living history camp, best-selling authors and more, the festival continued to be a great success.

York Proms
York Museum Gardens hosted the York Proms in the summer which was a sell-out event. Plans are in place to make this an annual celebration in the gardens.

York Venues
Our venues team continued to be successful with increased business for weddings and conferences at the Hospitium in particular. The Hospitium was named as the best wedding venue in Yorkshire at the award ceremony of The English Wedding Awards 2018.

“We are absolutely thrilled to win this award. The team prides ourselves on making sure every couple who get married with us have the day they dreamed of, so we are delighted that one such couple took the time and effort to put us forward for this award. To then win and be named the Wedding Venue of the Year for Yorkshire is a fantastic accolade that we are very proud of.”
Claire Knott, wedding and events manager for York Museums Trust

A Victorian Christmas at York Castle Museum
York Castle Museum hosted the ever-popular Christmas activities on the Victorian Street, Kirkgate. The street was beautifully dressed with garlands and a glowing Christmas tree and visitors were entertained by our one-man show of A Christmas Carol, the wonderful Father Christmas and lots of special festive treats.

“Had a wonderful time at the Roman Festival in York this weekend. My little girl particularly enjoyed the craft activities run by York Museums Trust.”
Visitor comment
What’s next?

One of the headline priorities is to deliver the York Castle Museum major capital project, including collection and storage rationalisation, and to develop the Castle Area as a cultural quarter. Looking into 2019, York Museums Trust will focus on the following deliverables:

› Deliver a pilot contract with City of York Council to improve the Health and Wellbeing of communities in York.
› Significant ongoing public consultation on the future plans for York Castle Museum.
› Full business case for collection stores consolidation and relocation project.
› To continue to deliver high profile, ground-breaking and thought-provoking exhibitions including:
  • Sounds Like Her
  • Poussin: National Gallery Masterpiece Tour
  • Making a Masterpiece: Bouts and Beyond
  • Michael Lyons: Ancient and Modern
  • Harland Miller’s York: So Good They Named it Once.

“The Castle Transformation project is amongst the most exciting that I’ve worked on. Not only will York Castle Museum be able to deliver a 21st century visitor experience, but it will significantly improve the Castle Area as a whole which will create a beautiful space in York city centre.”
Charlotte Kindesjo, Head of Marketing and Fundraising

York Castle Museum Redevelopment Project

Working with City of York Council, significant progress has been made on the plans for the Castle Gateway regeneration and the redevelopment of York Castle Museum. We secured funds to allow staff to work on the project and we have appointed architects and designers to take this to the RIBA1 stage of development by the autumn of 2019. Our ambition is to continue to work in partnership with City of York Council to deliver a fantastic attraction and destination for the city. During the summer 2018 we undertook a significant amount of public engagement with the project, and over 4,000 people engaged with the team at York St Mary’s.
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(Incorporating income and expenditure account)
For the year ended 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>General Funds 2019 (£)</th>
<th>Designated Funds 2019 (£)</th>
<th>Restricted Funds 2019 (£)</th>
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Extracts from the Trustees report and audited financial statements, year ended 31 March 2019

Y ork Museums Trust

31
Extracts from the Trustees report and audited financial statements, year ended 31 March 2019

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

As at 31March 2019

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<th>Note</th>
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<td>Debtors</td>
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<td>Cash at bank and in hand</td>
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<td></td>
<td>CREDITORS: falling due &lt;1 year</td>
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<td>NET CURRENT ASSETS</td>
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<td>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</td>
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<td>CREDITORS: falling due &gt;1 year</td>
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<td>NET ASSETS EXCLUDING PENSION LIABILITY</td>
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<td>Defined benefit pension scheme liability</td>
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<td>NET ASSETS</td>
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<td>7,634,736</td>
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Funds

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<th>2018 (£)</th>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Strategic Fund</td>
<td>60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Infrastructure Fund</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Property Fund</td>
<td>6,913,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Total Designated Funds</td>
<td>4,838,907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Restricted Funds</td>
<td>874,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>6,713,123</td>
<td>6,207,424</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The summary financial information is not the statutory accounts but a summary of information relating to both the Statement of Financial Activities and balance sheet.

The full accounts of the trust have been subject to audit and that the audit report did not contain any concerns. Details of the full accounts can be obtained on our website www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/about-us/our-people/annual-reports-and-reviews/. The annual accounts were approved on 22 July 2019.
Support York Museums Trust

Our collections are of national and international importance, and our museums and galleries welcome thousands of visitors each year. York Museums Trust is a registered charity set up to care for the city’s art and heritage and develop them for future generations.

Donations, endowments and bequests of any size are welcomed – any gift makes a difference. For more information, or to make a donation, please contact Charlotte Kindesjo, Head of Fundraising and Communications:

Email: charlotte.kindesjo@ymt.org.uk
Tel: (01904) 687687

York Museums Trust

York Museums Trust is an independent charitable trust which manages York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum, the Yorkshire Museum, York Museum Gardens and York St Mary’s. Charity number 1092466.

Photography by Anthony Chappel-Ross, Mike Cowling, Yorkshire Post (James Hardisty), Gareth Buddho, Tim Smith, Red Jester, Reaction Photography and Charlotte Graham.

Discover more at yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk