

Volunteer VOICE



Spring 2023

We hope you had a healthy and happy Winter and are looking forward to the lighter evenings and warmer weather. We are moving into a busy time for York Museums Trust with new exhibitions opening, more activities and events and welcoming back school groups to our sites.

We have started recruiting for nearly all of our public facing volunteer roles and by the time this newsletter goes out we will have reached 100 active volunteers! For those who have recently joined us, and everyone who has been with us for while, this newsletter will give you an update on YMT and some key news about our volunteering programme. If you would like to submit a story for our Summer newsletter, contact Philip.

Opening Hours

Castle Museum

Mon to Sun - 10am to 5pm
(except term time Mondays
opening at 11am)

Yorkshire Museum

Tues to Sun - 10am to 5pm
plus August B/H Monday

York Art Gallery

Weds to Sun - 10am to 5pm
plus all May B/H Mondays

News

We have had clarification that, as we practiced before the pandemic, all volunteers will be able to apply for internal staff vacancies. I will update the newsfeed on [Myvolunteeringpage.com](https://myvolunteeringpage.com) and send it by email to all active volunteers.

In April, we will send out our volunteering survey. Please do respond as it will help us develop our volunteering offer for the future.



Finds Feature

Did you know that we often receive interesting finds?

In January, Yorkshire Museums Portable Antiquities Scheme team recorded a lead-alloy Medieval pilgrim badge depicting Saint Eloi. The front of the badge depicts St Eloi hammering on an anvil and being presented with a trindle (a coiled candle) by a pilgrim and their horse. You can read more about by following this link

<https://finds.org.uk/database/artefacts/record/id/1094626>



Remember we can reimburse travel expenses



CEO – Kathryn Blacker

I'd like to thank Philip for inviting me to share a message with you all through this newsletter, and also to use this opportunity to thank each of you for all you do to support York Museums Trust.

I've now been in post for eight weeks and it's been such a privilege to get to spend time in each of our sites and get to know some of the different people who volunteer. If you see me, please do stop me and say hello, I'm keen to meet you all. I'm really well aware of the importance volunteering plays in the life of the Trust, and that there are countless different motivations to supporting us in this way. I have enjoyed hearing the different stories of what prompts so many of you to volunteer, and about the experiences you have. One of my favourites is from the family who volunteer together and spent a long time talking to the Australian Minister for Education on Kirkgate, him not expecting to meet such knowledgeable people, and them definitely not expecting to be hosting a Minister of State!

Thank you all for all you do to support the Trust. Please do let us know if there are things we can do to make you feel more welcome or to enhance your volunteering experience. We are always interested to hear from you.

With best wishes

Kathryn



Castle Promo Video

The Communication and Marketing team would like thank everyone who supported us with the promotional video for the Castle Museum. It is wonderful to see our volunteers being celebrated and highlighting the amazing experiences they give our visitors.

The video is posted on our website and will be used across our social media platforms.

Collections Corner

Did you know York Castle Museum is said to have the first umbrella ever seen in York?

It belonged to William Lockwood, Sheriff of York in 1837-38. When it was donated by Mr J. Triffit, he said it was the first seen in York.



You can now book sessions in advance up until July 2023

EDI Focus

In this issue I thought we would focus on local campaigns and groups you could get involved with or learn more about. This is not an exhaustive list but reflects organisations YMT have worked with recently.

[York Human Rights City](#)

[York Travellers Trust](#)

[York Racial Equality Network](#)

[York Disability Rights](#)

[York LGBT Forum / Pride](#)

[York Older People's Assembly](#)

[SASH](#)

[Refugee Action York](#)

[York Food Bank](#)



Exhibitions

York Art Gallery

Marvelous and Mischievous
10 February - 4 June

Bloom
23 June - 8 October

Yorkshire Museum

Mary Anning
July - September

York Castle Museum

Co-produced exhibition with
York Travellers Trust
May - September

Spotlight

Store Project

Jane, Tony and Rosie have been hard at work in the museum store, helping to empty an area called the Loading Bay. We're doing this to make space for essential repair work to the museum store's roller shutter. Since we started last Summer, we've put away over 1100 objects, and created 268 new records on Adlib, our collections management system. We're now on the final leg, organising the very last things to be put away: the Castle Museum's collection of several thousand military badges!

Jane says 'I'm really enjoying this Project. We have come across all sorts of weird and wonderful items. Memorable for me - researching the inventor of the Dorcas thimble, Charles Horner of Huddersfield - many boxes of sewing implements and haberdashery - the 'pleating machine' - and now the details and nuances of Army Uniform Cap and Collar badges from WW1.'

Tony reflects that 'It has been fascinating picking up an object from the loading bay and trying to figure out what it might be! This leads to lots of research on the internet tracking down clues about what an object might be. Some objects it is easy to find out what they are, others leave us scratching our heads!'



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