

WORCESTERSHIRE'S TREASURES

ISSUE 1 AUTUMN 2014

We are the third and final group of HLF funded Skills for the Future graduate trainees in Worcestershire. The project aims to provide practical experience and the opportunity for training to those who wish to pursue a career in the heritage sector.

Through this newsletter, which will each be edited by a different Graduate Trainee, we will keep you updated on our activities including training, site visits, projects and events at our heritage sites. We also regularly update our Worcestershire's Treasures group blog www.worcestershiretreasures.wordpress.com. This first newsletter was edited by Emalee Beddoes and will be dedicated to introducing the seven new trainees and exploring our first few months on the scheme.



About us (from left to right)

Rachel Murphy (Museum of Royal Worcester) graduated in History from the University of York, then went onto Berlin to intern at an art gallery as part of the EU Leonardo scheme

Tom Hopkins (Worcester Cathedral Library and Archive) After receiving an MA in Classics from University of Birmingham in 2011, Tom volunteered at a number of sites including the National Maritime Museum, as well as interning with the London Borough of Sutton.

Lily Dean (Elgar Birthplace Museum) Studying for a BA in Education Studies, Lily discovered a passion for museum learning. She went onto volunteer at several museums and completed a PGDip in Museum Studies.

Etta Griffiths (George Marshall Medical Museum and The Infirmary) After studying History of Medicine at UEA, Etta

interned with the Anaesthesia Heritage Centre, followed by a Collections Management Traineeship at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse.

Emalee Beddoes (Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery) Emalee studied for an M.Phil in the history of art at University of Birmingham whilst interning at The Barber Institute of Fine Arts, then worked as Junior Editor at a publishing company.

Danielle Joyce (University of Worcester Research Collections) After studying History at the University of Sussex, Danielle volunteered at the Marx Memorial Library and the Lewisham Local History and Archive Centre.

Sarah Ganderton (Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service) Sarah recently graduated with a BA in history from University of Worcester. Whilst studying, she volunteered at many local museums, assisting with events, front of house and research.

Pet projects

Notes on some of our most enjoyable tasks so far

During these first weeks, getting to know the collections we are working with has been fascinating for all of the trainees. Each of us are working on different projects to make the most of them...

Etta has been perusing the collections at Worcester's medical museums, highlights of which have included repacking a collection of fascinating autopsical prints at the George Marshall Medical Museum.

In preparation for an exhibition this winter **Tom** has been getting to know the Cathedral Library's collection. The strong collection of Early Modern travel writing has sparked his interest in European travellers who journeyed to unknown places

Top tips

'Understanding and responding to your audience should be your overarching aim in anything you do' – Etta

to find what lay beyond their horizons of knowledge.

At University of Worcester Research Collections, **Danielle** has been working through unlisted objects in the Brown Collection. She came across a number of unexpected items and found personal letters that



have helped the Research Collections make sense of the origins of their notable collection of G. A. Henty books.

At Worcester City Museum and Art Gallery, **Emalee** has been planning a research project to further knowledge about the fine-art collection. She is also working on an exhibition that will develop our understanding of

one of the collection's most notable pieces, Stanhope Forbes' *Chadding on Mounts Bay* (below).

Rachel from the Museum of Royal Worcester has been enjoying spending her time designing an imaginative and exciting events program for the

museum over the next few months.

Lily from the Elgar Birthplace museum particularly enjoyed creating a window display for Malvern Tourist Information Centre. As well as an enjoyable, creative project, it also gave Lily

the opportunity to reach out to a family audience for her upcoming events.

Sarah had the idea to create something that would coincide with the Tour of Britain cycling race which passed by The Hive. She sourced interesting cycling-related items from The Hive's vast collection and collated them into a display board that both highlighted the collection and, hopefully, inspired local people to get on their bikes!

Interesting objects

A spotlight on the treasures we have uncovered

Tom has found himself surrounded with fascinating objects at the Cathedral library; his personal favourite so far is the Nuremberg Chronicle, a medieval printed history book lavishly illustrated with woodcuts – some of which are believed to have been designed by Albrecht Durer.

Danielle was excited to find an unpatented 1937 version of Monopoly in the University of Worcester Research Collection, which offered an interesting insight into the past of a well-loved family favourite.

At the Elgar Birthplace Museum, **Lily's** current favourite exhibit is the newly painted *Cycle d'amour* mural created by WeLoveArt (below). The mural was funded by The Elgar Society West Midlands Branch and The Kay Trust and featured on the front page of *Worcester News* Tuesday 2nd September.

Etta and the teams at The George Marshall Medical Museum and The Infirmary cleverly used crowd-sourcing to learn more about an



unknown object which Thackray Medical Museum spotted on twitter and identified as a skull tripod used for autopsy.

Whilst managing @worcestermuseum's participation in the twitter hashtag #AskACurator, **Emalee** was amused to find out that Museums Worcestershire care for a 100 year old beef sandwich that is part of the collection. It was found perfectly preserved in brown paper wrapping down the back of an antique sofa.

Rachel has become fond of the Museum of Royal Worcester's moustache cup which has a small ledge on the inside, with a gap for the drink to flow through. These were developed as Victorian men found that the heat of tea and coffee was melting their moustache wax as they drank, causing it to run into the tea!

At The Hive, **Sarah** was pleased to find a 1910 photograph of Earnest Payne (above), a local cycling hero who won an Olympic medal in 1908 (a replica of which can be seen at the City Art Gallery and Museum). A reproduction of the photograph became a key part of Sarah's Cycling display.

Training

A brief summary of some of the informative courses we have attended

- Danielle and Sarah spent a day with Rachel Johnson at the Hurd Library to learn more about the care and handling of books as well as paleography
- Emalee attended the Marches Network training in museum loans led by Birmingham Museums Trust conservator Jane Thompson-Webb at the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster
- Etta, Rachel and Emalee attended Heritage Insider training on guiding and interpretation, led by Kate Measures at The Infirmary
- All trainees attended Heritage Insider training on exciting writing for interpretation led by Kate Measures at University of Worcester City Campus
- Rachel and Etta attended an Oxford Aspire Understanding Audiences symposium at the Ashmolean Museum
- Etta attended an ACE and HLF funding application workshop
- Lily attended a Kids in Museums Family Fortunes training day at the People's History Museum, Manchester

Find Us...

- [Worcestershire's Treasures Blog](http://www.worcestershiretreasures.wordpress.com)
www.worcestershiretreasures.wordpress.com
- Twitter: @WorcsTreasures

Recommended websites

- For free, downloadable resources:
<http://sharemuseumseast.org.uk/>
- For digital media & museums:
<http://www.freshandnew.org/>
- For web philosophies in museum design:
<http://museumtwo.blogspot.co.uk/>
- For museums and inclusion:
<http://includemuseum.com/>
- On managing special collections:
<http://specialcollectionshandbook.com/>
- The Independent Association of Museums blog: <http://aimuseums.wordpress.com/>

Recommended follows

- @Britishmuseum and their #MysteryObject hashtag
- For ideas and enthusiasm:
@ MuseumsShowoff

Top tips

'When giving a tour, try to tailor it to your audience: If you know they're interested in a specific subject, highlight related content for them to see; if they're visiting from abroad, find content relating to their country. Tailoring tours will keep your audience interested and engaged – and you might well learn something new!' – Tom

Nurturing Worcestershire's treasures is a Heritage Lottery Funded scheme in partnership with Worcestershire County Council and the University of Worcester.

