



Stories of the World: Precious Cargo Project Summaries

1. Regional Overview

Exhibitions themed as Precious Cargo will reveal the region's World Collections in new and creative ways. How have objects, ideas and customs found their way across the world and become 'precious' items of Yorkshire heritage in the process? What are the things that are precious for Yorkshire people? What stories do they tell?

Between now and 2012 a partnership of museums in the region led by Renaissance Yorkshire invites individuals, groups and especially young people to work together to select objects from collections, share their own precious things and design exhibitions around them. The exhibitions and events that Precious Cargo's young people create will be seen by over a million people.

Precious Cargo is part of London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme *Stories of the World* which is led by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) in partnership with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG).

2. Partner Projects

The Precious Cargo partners are:

- Barnsley Museum and Heritage Service
- Bradford Museums and Galleries
- Dales Countryside Museum
- Doncaster Museum Service
- East Riding of Yorkshire Museums
- Hull Museums
- Kirklees Museums & Galleries
- Leeds Museums & Galleries
- Museums Sheffield
- North Lincolnshire Museums
- Scarborough Museums Trust
- Shandy Hall
- South East Asia Museum

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- Whitby Museum
- York Museums Trust

2.1 Barnsley Museum and Heritage Service

Barnsley's 'Seeds of Change' programme enables young people and community groups to explore the Moorcroft pottery and historic plant collections of Cannon Hall Museum, Park and Gardens and the stunning plant collections of Wentworth Castle Gardens.

Young people have already created work with the visual artist Fabric Lenny. The next phase will involve story telling, film and new interpretation for the park and gardens.

This programme is linked in with Barnsley Council's partnership agreement with Newham Borough Council (one of the host boroughs of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games) to deliver inspirational cultural and sporting activities.

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2.2 Bradford Museums and Galleries

The 'Golden Threads' exhibition for 2012 will explore the past, present and future of textile tradition in Bradford and its links with the wider world. The textile collections, rich with 20th century woven, embroidered and embellished textiles from India and Pakistan, not only represents one of the largest and most important collections of South Asian art and craft outside London, but also includes the designated worsted collection connecting Bradford's industrial textile heritage with Eastern European and Pakistani communities in the city.

Young people, as curators for Golden Threads, will be investigating and responding to these collections with artists and our communities.

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<http://preciouscargobradford.tumblr.com/> (Blog link)

2.3 Dales Countryside Museum

Community groups, schools in the Dales and museum visitors have been thinking about what's special to them, and what the Dales Countryside Museum should collect today to save for future generations. They've been choosing things they think are special in the Museum, interviewing their families about things that are special to them and creating digi-stories to display in the Treasured Possessions exhibition.

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Let us know what things are special to you. Do they have stories to tell? Does it have links to a local custom or family tradition, or is it from outside the area?

Take part - tell us your treasured possession or send a photo of it. Contact: The Dales Countryside Museum. jane.sammells@yorkshiredales.org.uk

2.4 Doncaster Museum Service

Precious Cargo at Doncaster will make the museum's dormant World Cultures Collection more accessible, engaging with new audiences and strengthening ties with BME and other interested communities. Key activities will be research and production of a travelling exhibition and a handling collection. This builds on work undertaken by volunteers for the Museum's Centenary exhibition (March 2010), providing them with the necessary materials to research the collection along with cases and other materials to take the collection into the community, as well as to the service's two sites (Doncaster Museum and Art Gallery and Cusworth Hall and Park). A World Cultures handling collection will be established for use by schools, community groups and at public events

2.5 East Riding of Yorkshire Museums

The project will engage with tourists travelling to the East Riding before and during the Olympic Games by celebrating the East Riding's diverse range of international links and influences (as a maritime county). The celebration will consist of:

1. A touring exhibition based on the Museum Service's extensive collections which will focus on the international nature of the archaeological, architectural, industrial and maritime heritage of the East Riding. The exhibition tours to the Treasure House (Beverley), Goole Museum and Sewerby Hall (Bridlington), before being adapted for use at other community venues. A version will be displayed in the mobile libraries.
2. A consultation programme involving the schools improvement team, individual schools, heritage groups and faith and ethnic communities.
3. A school education module.

2.6 Hull Museums ('Stories via Hull')

Through young people's interpretations, Hull Museums will deliver an exciting programme that offers new perspectives of Hull's international collections. The programme will culminate with an exhibition starting on the 9th March 2012. This will showcase young people's creative responses and re-interpretations in a key exhibition at Ferens Art Gallery, supported by a satellite show in the community.

Leading up to March 2012 students from Hull School of Art & Design will be generating their own creative responses to Hull's archaeology collections, focussing on themes of identity and the exchange of skills, knowledge and crafts from other cultures. In September 2011 an exhibition drawn from Hull

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Museums World Cultures objects will launch proceedings, (showing in the Museums Quarter Open Space at Streetlife Museum).

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2.7 Kirklees Museums & Galleries

Kirklees Museums & Galleries delivers a Precious Cargo-themed public programme of activities at Bagshaw Museum, Batley. The programme responds to the displays at Bagshaw Museum that are particularly strong in collections from all over the world and especially South Asia, Egypt, China and Japan. The programme is aimed at families and children.

2.8 Leeds Museums & Galleries (Precious Cargo Leeds)

Precious Cargo Leeds is using its vast collection of objects to explore stories from across the world. Groups of young people from across Leeds are working with artists and museum curators to reinterpret the Museum's collections. The projects so far have included creating graffiti art on a giant packing case to tell the story of the gorilla Mok, who travelled from the Congo to London Zoo, via Paris.

Precious Cargo Leeds will culminate in a major exhibition at Leeds City Museum, in July 2012, which will be curated and organised by young people.

Involve Yourself!

There's loads of opportunities to get involved, from attending one off workshops, to organising big events; and from joining our youth forum 'The Preservative Party', to helping with the exhibition. Email mostlyolderthanmygran@gmail.com for more information about how to play your part in the Cultural Olympiad and help to make 2012 a really special year. <http://www.mostlyolderthanmygran.org/>

2.9 Museums Sheffield (Precious Cargo Sheffield)

Precious Cargo at Sheffield links people to their collections and to the things they value most. We will work with material from across the World Cultures collection and explore Sheffield's cultural past and celebrate its present identity. It will delve into the wealth of different cultures that exist, and draw precious things together from Africa, Eastern Asia and Europe. Precious Cargo will look at the things people treasure and how they came to Sheffield.

Museums Sheffield will work closely with young people and local communities to create new displays, activities and events at Weston Park and

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across the city in 2011-12 that bring alive the stories that these collections tell – stories of hope and identity, stories of journeys made and stories of the World

Young people will research and select the objects, drawing out items that have a world story to tell, that resonate with audiences and that convey a wide breath of life experience. The project tests the principal that wherever you may be from, no matter what you may have experienced along the way, there are common threads that enable people to connect, understand and respect each other's values"

2.10 North Lincolnshire Museums Service ('Stories through Suitcases')

Both BME and young people are currently non-users or low users of North Lincolnshire Museum Service. We will be working closely with these priority groups over the next year to create two exhibitions in 2012. The exhibition starts on the 17th July 2012 until 6th January 2013.

The exhibitions will focus on the oral history and objects telling the stories of why people have moved to the area and where they came from. The North Lincolnshire Museum display will be based around a series of suitcases, representing the migrant's journey, with the contents of the suitcase representing their homelands and life. The Normanby Hall Country Park exhibition will be a costume exhibition and will feature traditional clothing from the cultures, loaned by community groups.

The project will include intergenerational work, with young people taking a lead on collecting objects, photos and oral history from community groups and creating short films. These will all feature in the exhibitions and will hopefully become part of the museums archive.

For more information, contact Rose Nicholson at North Lincolnshire Museum

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2.11 Scarborough Museums Trust (Fears, Foes & Faeries)

Fears, Foes & Faeries will open in April 2012 at Scarborough Art Gallery. At the heart of this exhibition are the bizarre and beguiling collection of charms and amulets created by the most curious curator William James Clarke. Whether you are afraid of lightning, witches or double glazing salesmen... we have a charm for it!

Clarke's collection of fascinating but tiny objects hold the key to many stories of bravery and fear; they ultimately acted as coping mechanisms for dealing with fear in its many guises. Our fears and superstitions, then and now, will be explored in this enchanting, eclectic exhibition.

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2.12 Shandy Hall (Laurence Sterne Trust)

Shandy Hall is an Accredited Museum situated 15 miles to the north of York in the beautiful surroundings of the North York Moors National Park and contains a collection of books, paintings, manuscripts, prints and ephemera relating to the writer Laurence Sterne (Author, 1713 – 1768).

The Precious Cargo project focuses on artistic interpretation of the “absent presence” in Sterne’s correspondence with his “muse”, Eliza Draper on her 9 month voyage to India (at a time when there was a trend of women going to India). Eliza’s half of the correspondence no longer exists although spurious versions were published in the late 18th century. Responding to the published letters and the counterfeit versions, the artist will create an exhibition within the room that was made especially for Eliza – although she never came to live or stay there. She was absent from Sterne and absent from the house, but ever present in his mind.

2.13 South East Asia Museum

The South East Asia Museum, located at the University of Hull will introduce the puppetry collection and other related material through the time-based mediums of theatre, music and narrative performance in collaboration with international performance group Indigo Moon Theatre Company.

Using actual items from the museum, as well as their extensive working collection, performances will entertain and illuminate the fascinating world of shadow puppetry while providing the raw material for conversion into audio-visual formats for enhanced museum displays.

This is an opportunity to celebrate a specialist museum that is unique to this area, and to develop its content to become accessible to wider audiences. The cultures of South East Asia combine all the major religions, in particular Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam. This collection shows both important historical and contemporary facets of this complex cultural geography and as such can play a significant part in understanding cultural diversity.

2.14 Whitby Museum (Whitby Literary and Philosophical Society) – Bringing the world to Whitby

Bringing the world to Whitby looks at the history and the heritage of selected objects in Whitby Museum. Some of the objects were brought from cultures on the other side of the world at a time when few people had opportunities to travel. The project focuses on objects from the Pacific Oceania and the Americas. We have commissioned two cabinets from a local cabinet maker, designed to complement existing cabinets. These will enable the museum to display a wider range of objects while allowing them more space to be seen,

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affording better access to the visitor viewing them. The project has enabled volunteers to have a greater involvement in the display and care and a greater understanding of the importance of the collections.

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2.15 York Museums Trust (Precious Cargo York)

The Yorkshire Museum's Precious Cargo project begins a new phase with The Mystery Plays and York Stories. We'll be using objects from our Medieval collection to inspire exciting new projects with young people which we will exhibit, but also hope to embed into local youth culture.

Some of these include looking at body adornment, as well as artistic projections as part of the city's Illuminate festival.

We've celebrated York's shared cultural heritage with Celebrating Severus, an event showcasing our key projects from 2010/11. These are Fashion, Film, Drama, and Slam Poetry, all capturing York's Roman history and the city today.

We will continue to celebrate the diversity of people who've lived in York and who live here now through our new projects as part of The Mystery Plays and York Stories.

CALL: Precious Cargo on 01904 687610 OR 07730642909

Email: preciouscargo@ymt.org.uk. For more information on Precious Cargo at the Yorkshire Museum please visit www.yorkshireremuseum.org.uk.

For further information on the regional Precious Cargo programme:

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