



# Creating Digital Interpretation with Young People

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**SHEFFIELD  
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Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
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# The Context

In the US 95% of teenagers have access to a smartphone (*Pew Internet*)

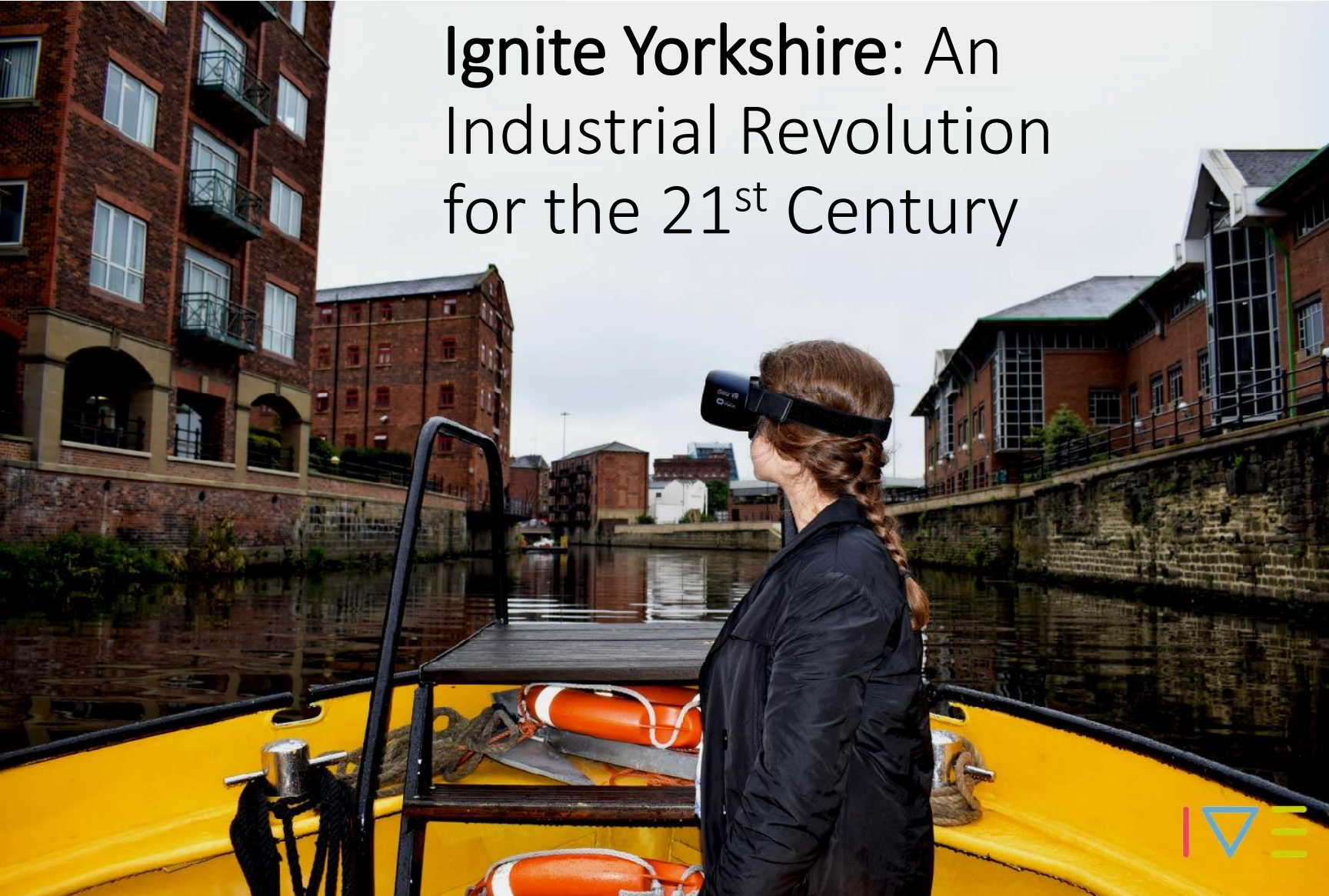
Over a third of UK 15-year-olds can be classed as ‘extreme internet users’ (*The Guardian*)

Creativity is being “squeezed” in schools (*BBC News*)

Falling numbers of GCSE entries in arts subjects (*The Guardian*)



# Ignite Yorkshire: An Industrial Revolution for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



<https://weareive.org/ignite-yorkshire-connecting-young-people-with-yorkshires-industrial-heritage/>



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# The Partners



**SAYiT's "Fruit bowl" - a group for  
LGBT+ 14 - 19 year olds**

**Curious Things - young writing duo and  
graduates from The Writing Squad's  
programme**

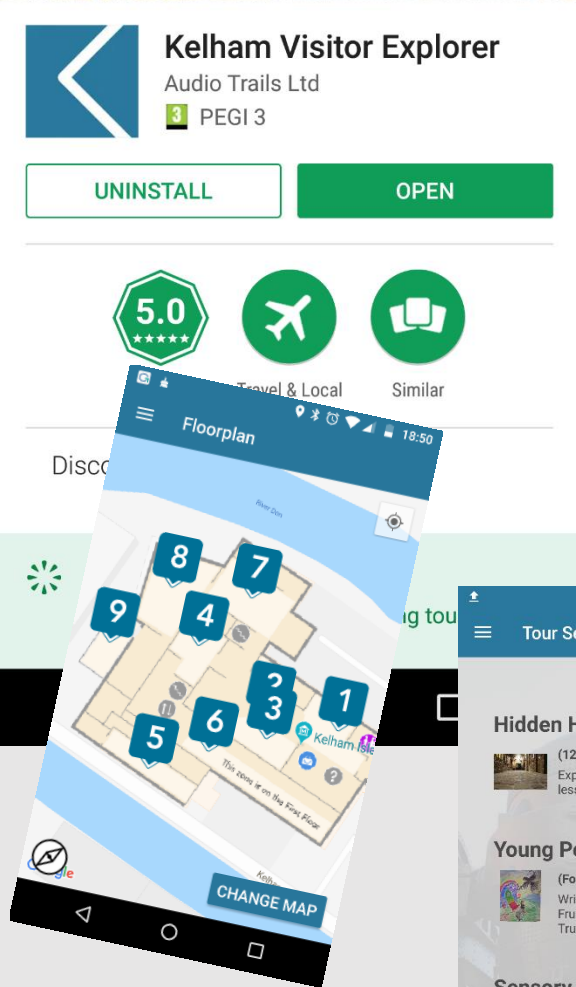


**Audio Trails - App developers**

**Scott Russell - Professional Musician**

**THE WRITING SQUAD**





# The Task

To develop unique, engaging interpretation for the museum app by facilitating meaningful, creative engagement for the young people with the museum collection and stories.





# The Workshop

“Museum Experts” giving creative descriptions of mystery objects

“Erasure Poems” using text from oral histories and erasing words to create poetry

“Flash Fiction” writing a story under a time limit sometimes with a starting phrase or prompt words

**Margaret (remembering a 1916 zeppelin attack)**

I remember quite well, I was only young when the zeppelin got through down to Sheffield,

in fact you may not believe it but it's quite true, I actually saw it. We lived at number 77.

There were no lights, no gas lights, in the back kitchen and I think I'd gone for a drink of

water or something and I was looking through the back window. I saw this long dark object,

like a long cigar really, and it made a peculiar booming noise (mmmmmm) and I was

frightened, I was only young, of course. I was frightened, and I understand it did drop some

bombs.





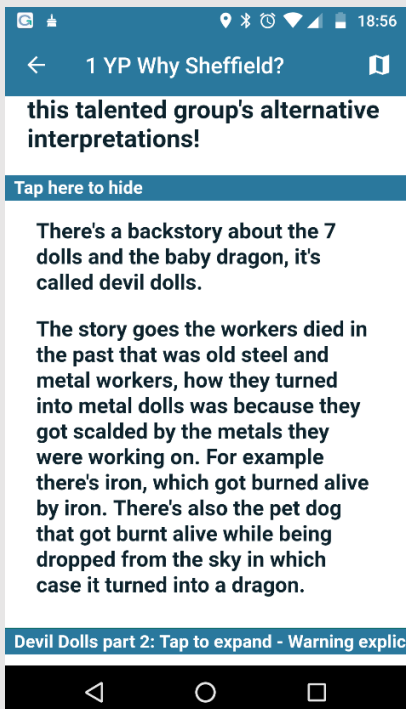
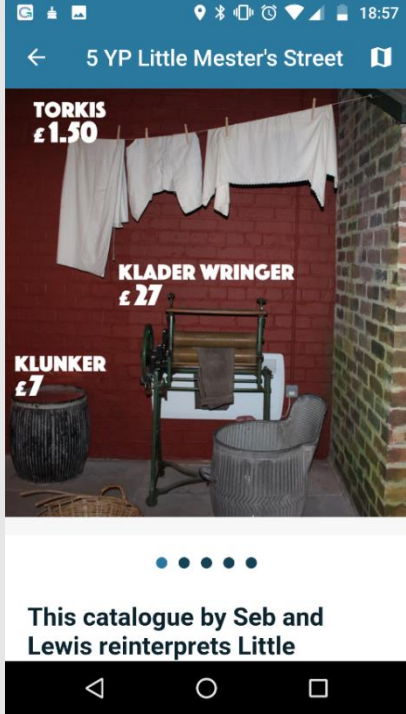
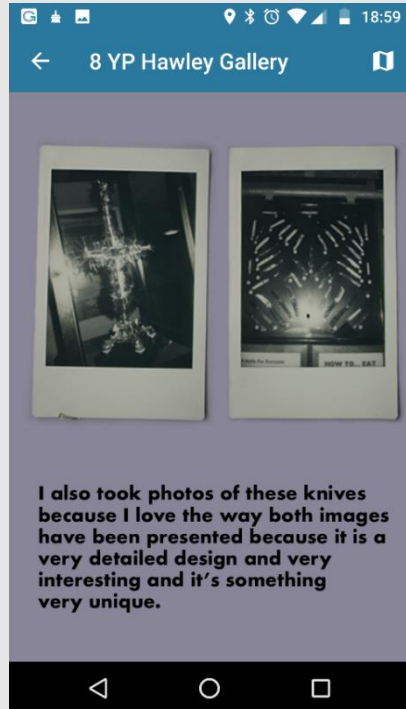
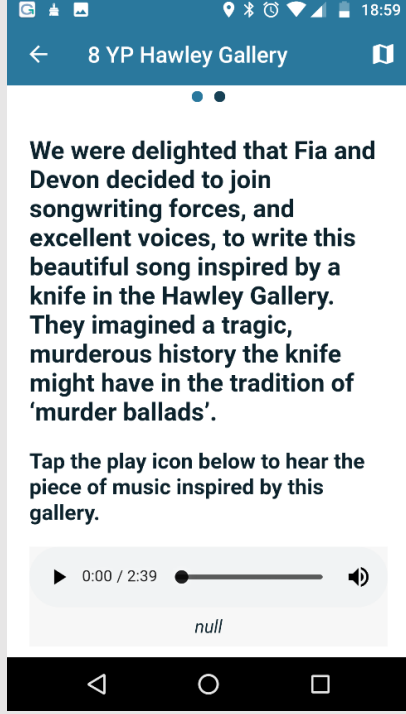
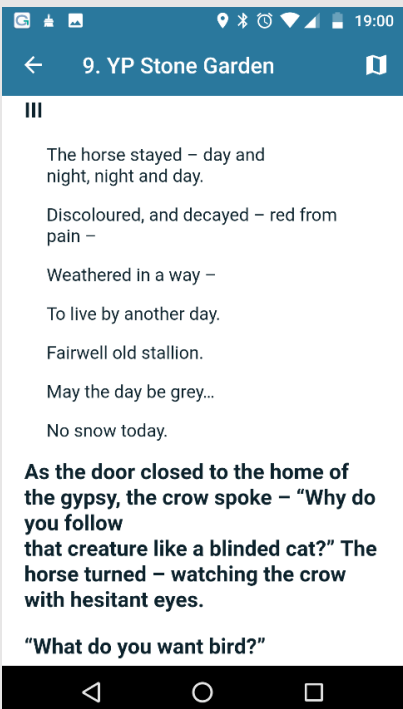
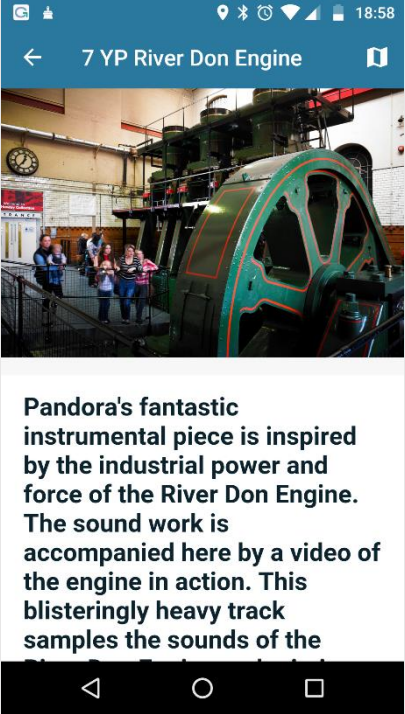
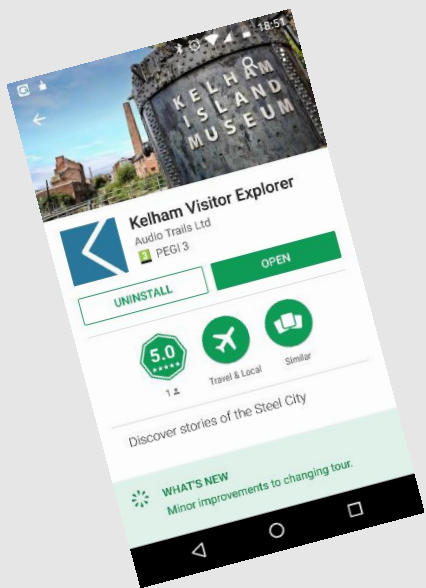






Variety of work: murder ballad, flash fiction, mixed media art, prose in three parts, IKEA style catalogue, heavy metal composition

To see and hear more download the App free on Google Play or Apple Store Search for: Kelham Visitor Explorer





# Challenges

Interests, talents, needs and skills of the young people were relatively unknown before the start of the workshop

Variety of equipment and expertise needed

Length of time required to edit and upload content





# Tangible outcomes

Museum has a new Young People's tour for our app

Every young person who attended the full workshop produced something that was used in the app

Young people engaged with heritage by making their own connections between then and now and creatively reinterpreting the collections

Celebration event to share achievement with friends and family and test the beta version of the app



# Intangible outcomes

Workshop leaders appreciated the museum giving freedom to be “irreverent and playful”

Reached a group that “would not usually engage with this sort of thing”

Young people gained an interest in writing

Museum staff gained valuable experience and knowledge

New ways of experiencing museum objects

Artwork created by young person during the workshops





# Young people's comments

**Favourite part of the week...**

Working on the laptop

Creating our project

Inventing 1916 IKEA

Having the motivation to actually write songs and poetry and be creative

The final result of what we did

Being able to spend time doing the thing I love (Art) so all the time I did that. p.s. also singing along with everyone





# The Future

Virtual Reality

3D Printing

Augmented Reality

Holograms

Artificial Intelligence



# Reflection

How could you use digital technology and co-curation in your museum?

Who would you work with?

Who would your target audience be?

Would you encourage an irreverent, playful approach?

Share your thoughts!

#irreverentinterpretation

Twitter@beccaw83 Instagram@BeccaLe

Download  
the app!



Photographs by Steve Dearden