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York Museums Trust Museum Development Yorkshire

**Latest news for week ending
Friday 27 November 2020**

In this Issue

Dear <<First Name>>

With the confirmation on Thursday 26th of the [three tier system](#), this time will be busy with reopening plans for some, whilst many more are focusing on the safety and security of their collections during an extended lockdown. Whatever your situation MDY is here on hand – whether via online training and advice such as our [Collections Trust session](#) and [Elevenes](#) or (if you fancy talking to a friendly voice) chatting to [your MDO](#) over the phone.

- [News & Notices](#)
- [Your Week Ahead](#)
- [Dates for Diaries](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [Funding](#)
- [Your Wellbeing](#)
- [Your Development](#)
- [And Relax...!](#)
- [Previously...](#)
- [Contacts](#)

It has been a long year so please do forgive our new found obsession with [Christmas Elevenes](#)! Did you know it is only 20 days to the big event?! We're calling on you all to get involved – d'elve into your accession register and highlight your key object or send us a Festive Fact – at least that way you'll get one of the quiz questions right...

Contributions

Events Listings

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News and Notices

John Roles, Obituary

Sadly, John Roles, Head of Museums and Galleries at Leeds City Council passed away last week after a long illness.

John joined Leeds City Council from Brighton in 2004 and oversaw the transformation of the city's nine museums and galleries sites including the development of the Leeds Discovery Centre and redevelopment of Leeds City Museum and Leeds Art Gallery. Under his leadership, visitor figures in Leeds rose from 358,000 in 2004/05 to 1,698,640 in 2018/19.

John invested hugely in the development of his team, encouraging leadership, experimentation and innovation. Yvonne Hardman, interim head of Leeds Museums

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share his expertise in national and international initiatives.

One of his greatest skills was to empower his staff to become leaders and influencers, supporting them to experiment and be creative. John was part of, and encouraged his teams to be part of, networks and partnerships, supporting the museum and gallery sector regionally and nationally.'

In addition to leading the team in Leeds, John had a lifelong commitment to the importance of arts, museums and culture being a Trustee at the Thackray Medical Museum. He also played a significant role with the Leeds Art Fund, Leeds Craft and Design Gallery and the Leeds Philosophical Society. Beyond that, John used his knowledge, experience and influence to support the development of the museum community across the region and country.

He will be sadly missed.

Coronavirus Updates

Three tier system from 2 December

From Wednesday 2 December, the current national restrictions will end and England will return to a three-tier system of coronavirus restrictions. The government announced which areas are in which tier on Thursday 26 November. We recommend that you read the government's full guidance on the tier system and the Covid-19 Winter Plan.

www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know.

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/2020/11/24/coronavirus-updates-24th-november-2020-three-tier-system.

Christmas Elevenses!

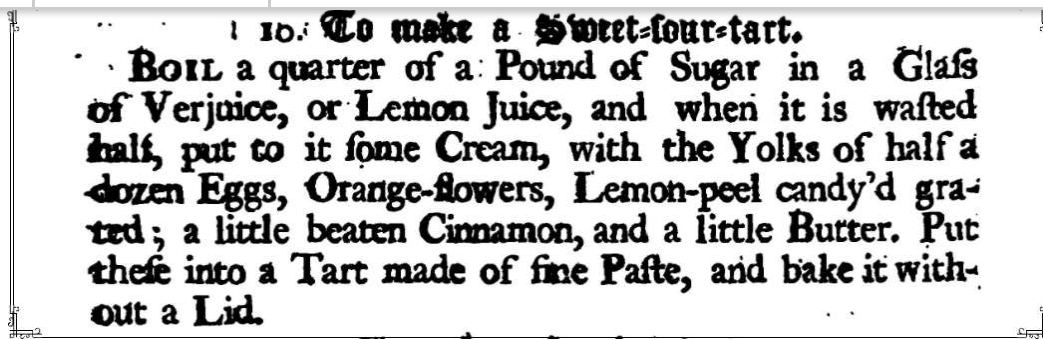
As announced last week, we'll be hosting a special **Christmas Elevenses with MDY on Thursday 17 December**. We've loved connecting with so many of you online this year, and wanted to celebrate getting through 2020 with you. There are now more ways to join in the seasonal fun...



Museum Christmas Bake-off Challenge

Sift gently through your collections and see if you can whip up any historical Christmas recipes - mince pies, gingerbread, sugar-plums, or maybe something more unusual? We will post the recipes online, have a go at baking them and then test those tasty treats together during our Elevenses Christmas Special.

To start us off, Alice has found this recipe for 'Sweet-sour tart' in The Cook's and Confectioner's Dictionary: Or, the Accomplish'd Housewife's Companion by John Nott (1723). It's a kind of lemon custard tart with candied peel and cinnamon. Check the

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Send your recipes to Alice at alice.macpherson@ymt.org.uk.

MDY's Christmas Quiz

You can also guarantee that you'll get at least one point in our quiz by sending us a Festive Fact about your museum. Have you got a special Christmas tradition connected with your building? A Christmas story linked to your collection? Maybe a Christmas ghost?! Send us your fact or question and answer to mdyoffice@ymt.org.uk.

Dieter's Christmas Challenge

There's still time to join in - 'd'elve' into your stores and catalogues, dust off that accession register, and locate your favourite museum Christmas object. We'd love you to share your Christmas-linked object virtually during Christmas Elevenses! Maybe you can share it in your social media or museum communications too? To be in with a chance of winning a prize, please drop Dieter a line at: dieter.hopkin@ymt.org.uk. In preparation, Dieter has dug out a second object to spark your ideas – [check out 'And Relax'](#) to see what he's found...

Curators' Christmas Objects:

Victorian Wassail Doll from York Museums Trust

Thank you to Helen Thornton, Curator of Social History at York Museums Trust, for this fascinating object! Open this oval wassail box to discover the dolls inside which represent Christ and the Virgin Mary. Wassailing, once a common Christmastide blessing custom going back several hundred years had mostly died out by the start of the 20th century. Dating from 1870 - 1900, this box would have been carried from house to house by women and children. The box lid would have been raised, revealing the contents to those who donated food or money. Wassail boxes were a custom unique to Yorkshire, Durham, and other northern areas, sometimes replacing the more well-known practice of drinking from a wassail cup or bowl.

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What's your favourite museum Christmas object? We'd love you to share your Christmas-linked object virtually during our Christmas Elevenses on 17 December! To be in with a chance of winning a prize, please email: dieter.hopkin@ymt.org.uk.

Low Cost Fundraising with SMS Text Giving

Did you know that it is free to set up and own a text to donate number? You only pay a transaction fee. There is more information on the website below, and some great ideas how you might use this really effective method of fundraising to bring in money to your museum.

www.nationalfundingscheme.org/sms-text-giving.

Your Week Ahead

Elevenses With MDY

Please note that this week's Elevenses is on the rescheduled date of ***Thursday 3rd December*** (moved from Wednesday 2nd). We apologise for this change, but that's what comes of having high profile guests... we have graciously given way to an engagement with BBC Radio 4 Woman's Hour.

Join Michael Turnpenny and guest for our insightful, interactive and informal coffee time conversation, meet colleagues from the region, and connect with the MDY team. Everyone who works and volunteers in museums in our region is most welcome, including museum freelancers who want to stay connected and in the conversation during this time.

Our days vary so please [check the schedule](#), save the date, and join us using the

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If you'd like to speak about your current or emerging work at Elevenes, please contact Jo Bartholomew at: joanne.bartholomew@ymt.org.uk.

Thursday 3 December (*rescheduled date*)

Diversity and Inclusion: Diverse histories in natural history collections

Miranda Lowe, trustee of York Museums Trust, and a Principal Curator & Museum Scientist at The Natural History Museum, joins us to talk about her work on identifying and sharing diverse stories in natural history collections. A chance to ask questions and discuss how you could move diversity and inclusion forwards at your museum.

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event/elevenses-wednesday-2nd-december.

Playing and Messing Around with Playeum

Tuesday 1 December, 10.30am - 12.00pm

Find out about play and what really works with Anna Salaman, ex Director at Playeum/Children's Centre for Creativity, Singapore. We'll be talking about play, pedagogy, and questioning how we work with managed 'playful chaos' and 'playful learning'. There'll also be an opportunity to workshop your own ideas with experienced play facilitators, inspired by the creative ideas from Playeum's playful stories. Come be playfully inspired in your own work!

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/playing-and-messing-around-with-playeum-singapore-tickets-128475282027.

Dates for Your Diary

Elevenes with MDY:

Thursday 10 December, 11.00am - 12.00pm Learning Lessons: Bridging the Digital Divide

Laura Travis, from Museums Sheffield and Sarah Hammond from East Riding Museums join us to talk about their non-digital learning offer while the world was shifting online, and on-going alternatives to digital delivery. How can we bridge the digital divide, for people in need of support.

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event/elevenses-thursday-10th-december.

Thursday 17 December, 11.00am - 12.30pm* Christmas Elevenes with MDY (*extended time!)

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celebrate with some Christmas museum fun and games. Join us with a Christmas coffee and mince pie. Lovely prizes to be won* for best museum Christmas object, a taste of museum Christmas Bake-Off, best virtual Christmas background, and the MDY mini Christmas quiz!

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/event/elevenses-thursday-17th-december.

**Did someone mention Betty's online?*

Cidoc – Geneva 2020 Digital Transformation in Cultural Heritage Institutions

Online Conference, 7-10 December

Fancy a trip to Geneva to talk about digital opportunities in cultural heritage (documentation)?

If we said a conference by the International Committee for Documentation it might have sounded less exciting but it is by them and it looks great! Four days of online events and it is free to attend.

cidoc.mahgeneve.news/en/conference.

Creative Engagement with Dinosaurs and Nature

FREE CPD Event

**Wednesday 9 December
1.00pm – 3.45pm**

Dippy the iconic Diplodocus skeleton from the Natural History Museum is visiting the North West in Rochdale and has inspired this special SMILE event where you can: learn about the impact of partnerships between regional museums and the Natural History Museum through Dippy on Tour; find out more about science engagement and learning opportunities with fossils and nature from Museums across the North West; network to share expertise and science learning ideas.

[Book at: dinosaursmile.eventbrite.co.uk](https://dinosaursmile.eventbrite.co.uk).



Collections Care: Spotlight on Acquisition and Accessioning Procedure **only 7 places left**

Wednesday 9 December, 2.00pm - 3.00pm

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The session includes a brief introduction to the procedure, case studies from Bradford Museums & Galleries and Thackray Museum of Medicine, followed by questions and discussion.

This session is free of charge to your museum. There are only 10 places available, so please book quickly: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/collections-care-spotlight-on-acquisition-accessioning-procedure-tickets-128743371891.

Job Opportunities and Tenders

Ribble Steam Railway & Museum

Research and Interpretation Assistant

Salary: £4,452, part-time, fixed-term to mid-March 2021

Digital Communications Assistant

Salary: £3,108, part-time, fixed-term to mid-March 2021

Consultant Opportunity: Equality and Diversity Project

Fee: £3,000, Jan 2021 – 15 March 2021

To find out more about all three vacancies visit:

ribblesteam.org.uk/vacancies.

Closing date for all: midnight on Sunday 29 November.

Beck Isle Museum of Rural Life Operational Manager

Salary: £21,380, pro rata (3 days pw)

We are looking for an Operational Manager to assist the Museum Curator with the day to day running of the museum allowing the Curator more time to take forward some strategic projects. Ideally, the successful candidate will have experience in leading a front of house team of volunteers, in meeting and greeting visitors, in processing admission and retail sales and in running the day to day duties associated with opening a museum.

Download full details at:

www.beckislemuseum.org.uk/vacancies.

For an informal chat please email Sarah Maultby, Museum Curator

manager@beckislemuseum.org.uk with your name and phone number and Sarah will call you as soon as possible.

Closing date : 5.00pm on Monday 14 December.

Museum Development Yorkshire Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Consultancy

Request to Quote

Museum Development Yorkshire are inviting proposals for a consultancy contract to support us in enabling museums in Yorkshire and The Humber to better understand, embed and champion equality, diversity and inclusion as core to all areas of our work.

To find out more [download the tender document](#).

Submission deadline: Monday 4 January 2021.

Funding Opportunities

New Covid Essentials Support!

In response to the ongoing crisis and demand from museums, we are launching Covid Essentials to help you better survive now and prepare to reopen and relaunch your site. We are encouraging projects of up to £500 with NO match funding. There is a total fund of £3,000 and we anticipate supporting around six projects.

For speed and simplicity, we are using the existing small grant system. For the guidance notes and links to the online application form, visit:

bit.ly/MDY18SGApp.

Reopening the Small Grants Programme

We are reopening our scheme for strategic longer-term projects, offering grants of up to £3,000 (with two tiers of up to £1,000 and up to £3,000).

For full details read the guidance notes

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/MDY_Grant-GuidanceDocument-2018-Issue.pdf

We have a limited amount of money and encourage all interested museums to talk to their Museum Development Officer. They will be pleased to comment on potential projects for funding and assist with any queries on the paperwork.

For details about both schemes please visit:

www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/2020/11/24/mdy-small-grants-and-covid-essentials-support-now-available.

Henry Moore Foundation Grants Programme

Grants in a variety of areas are available, including Acquisitions and Collections' grants for the acquisition and conservation of sculpture and also for cataloguing and display costs. The maximum grant available in this category is £20,000. If your organisation

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www.henry-moore.org/grants/grants-programme#.

2020 deadline: 9 December.

2021 deadlines: 25 February, 20 May, 2 September, 9 December.

AIM Grants Open for Applications Now

AIM Hallmarks Awards

Grants of up to £10K available to support projects addressing AIM's new Tackling Inequality Hallmark. Closing date: **31 January 2021**.

www.aim-museums.co.uk/for-aim-members/grants/aim-hallmarks-awards.

AIM Biffa Award History Makers

Expressions of Interest for this round close on **14 December**. Receive up to £75,000 to tell the story of your historical figure, inspiring and educating the visitors of today.

www.aim-museums.co.uk/for-aim-members/grants/aim-biffa-award-history-makers.

AIM Pilgrim Conservation Care Grants

The grants support small to medium sized museums to care for their collections more effectively and efficiently and to meet the standards required for Accreditation. Closing date for next round: **31 March 2021**.

www.aim-museums.co.uk/for-aim-members/grants/collections-care-conservation-grants.

Support for Carers

If your museum wants to support you to attend an online workshop or conference but there is an obstacle, we can support your organisation with a small grant. This could pay for a support worker to take over your carer duties for an afternoon or the cost of an alternative technology that makes attending easier.

Please [contact your MDO](#) who will be happy to talk through all opportunities.

Your Wellbeing

Mindful Engagement with Art

Enjoy this new interpretation from Beverley Art Gallery, featuring 'A Panic' from 1872 by Henry William Banks Davis. The painting is permanently displayed in the gallery's recently restored Edwardian 'red' gallery'. By using the recorded guide, virtual visitors can immerse themselves in the painting and find a new fresh and relaxing way of exploring a work of art. This latest recording will soon be followed by others being

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To access the new recording, visit the East Riding Libraries, Museums and Archives YouTube channel: youtu.be/VVWUYToqZRQ.



Your Development

No Going Back: Creative Civic Connections for Climate

**New workshop from Happy Museum
Friday 4 December, 3.30pm - 5.00pm**

How museums might connect with their communities to respond to the climate emergency with immediacy, reciprocity, creativity and fun – using shared and pop up spaces as places for encounter and connection.

Tickets from: bit.ly/331NIi0.

And Relax...!

Dieter's Christmas Challenge

Here's a second historic Christmas object from Dieter's personal treasure trove ...

Felix is a cartoon character that was created in the silent film era, first appearing in a 1919 cartoon *Feline Follies*, although he didn't get his name until the third cartoon he appeared in. He was a massive success in the cinema and in merchandise. Pat Sullivan, the owner of the film studio, and copyright of the characters created by his animators, made \$100,000 from licensing the Felix character in 1923.

As a result Felix was the first licensed and mass merchandised cartoon character and was widely reproduced as soft toys, such as this one, and other products such as ceramics, toy figures and postcards.

Felix's popularity began to wane with the coming of sound to cartoons, in the late 1920s. Mickey Mouse's sound films made the silent offerings of Sullivan, and animator

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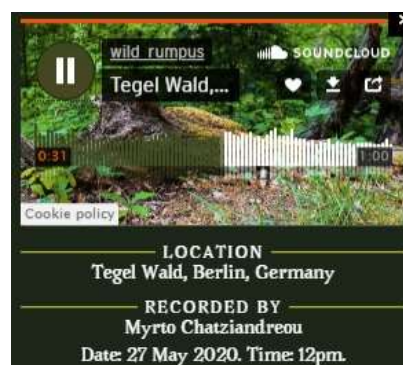
icon of popular culture. In this toy he is modelled in his characteristic pose as 'Felix keeps on walking with his hands behind his back' which also featured in a song and comedy Fox Trot dance which was the rage in London and a hit for the Savoy Havana band in 1923 - see www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulvPiWhkKQY.



Alice Recommends...

What could be more relaxing than the soundscape of a peaceful forest? This online library lets you listen from the comfort of your own home. Just pick a forest from the map, plug in your headphones and imagine you are among the trees...

[Sounds of the Forest - Soundmap: Timber Festival.](#)



Previously...

In case you missed it...

Just in case you missed them first time round, we're listing below snippets of some of the articles published in previous ebulletins that we think you might still find useful:

National Restrictions from 5 November - Resources for Your Museum (listed on MDY Website):
[www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/2020/11/04/national-restrictions-from-5th-november-resources-for-your-museum.](https://www.museumdevelopmentyorkshire.org.uk/2020/11/04/national-restrictions-from-5th-november-resources-for-your-museum)

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[lockdown](#)

- **Museum Detox - network for museum and heritage workers who identify as of colour**
www.museumdetox.org.
- **Museum and Heritage Access Survey 2020 Report**
vocaleyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020.
- **Museum Freelance Survey Findings**
[View the full survey report](#).
- **Museum Wellness Network: supporting staff wellbeing post-lockdown:**
www.museumsassociation.org/museum-practice/08062020-supporting-museum-workforce-wellbeing-post-lockdown.
- **Weston Jerwood Creative Bursaries 2020-22**
jerwoodarts.org/projects/weston-jerwood-creative-bursaries-2020-22.

Contributions

Please send items for the next MDY Bulletin to:

mdy-bulletin@ymt.org.uk

by 5.00pm on Wednesday 2 December.

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Find out more

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