



Birmingham
Museums

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 / 19



REFLECTING
BIRMINGHAM
TO THE WORLD,
AND THE WORLD
TO BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham Museums Trust is an independent educational charity formed in 2012.

It cares for Birmingham's internationally important collection of 1 million objects which are stored and displayed in nine unique venues including six Listed Buildings and one Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Birmingham Museums Trust is
a company limited by guarantee.

Registered Charity Number: 1147014



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CHAIR'S FOREWORD

What are museums for? In an ever changing world the place of museums in our society is a perennial question for the museum community, and this includes Birmingham Museums Trust.

One way to address this question is to share our achievements in the present and our ambitions for the future. This year's Annual Report tells in numbers, words and images our successes: visitor numbers over 1 million, nearly a 100,000 school visits, a quarter of a million visitors to the *Dippy on Tour* exhibition, and a successful international touring exhibition to eight venues in the US. It would be easy to keep adding to this headline list of success, but there are others which are equally important but have a lower profile.

Two partnership examples are worth celebrating. First, Birmingham Museums has worked with Birmingham City Council to negotiate long-term leases for our different sites, and second, in the context of climate change, our staff have worked with the Collections Trust to map indoor pests and provide an integrated pest management website for memory institutions to use. The former allows us to plan effectively for our future and the latter to conserve our collections. All of these activities are dependent on the skills and commitment of our staff and on behalf of Birmingham Museums I wish to thank them.

Finally, as this will be my last year as Chair I wish to formally thank all of you who have supported me in this role.



Professor Ian Grosvenor
Chair, Birmingham Museums Trust

DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

One of the year's highlights was winning the Museums Association Museums Change Lives award for the HLF-funded Collecting Birmingham project.

We wanted to address the lack of objects in the collection that told stories of working-class life in general – growing up, living and working in Birmingham – and post-WWII immigration in particular. The project was very successful, both in terms of collecting objects and of creating lasting relationships with a wide range of communities. The award reflects a growing recognition in the sector of Birmingham Museums' expertise in community engagement across this young, super-diverse city.

On a different note, we won applause in the pages of the Art Newspaper for our decision to make low- to medium-resolution images freely available. Academics and researchers have been quick to take up this service. The long-term result will be that Birmingham's great collection becomes better known nationally and internationally.

This was the year of *Dippy on Tour* and Leonardo da Vinci, two famous but very different individuals who helped us to exceed visitor forecasts. And across all our sites the less famous but equally important individuals who make up our Board, staff, volunteers and supporters made their own equally valuable contributions to the continuing success of Birmingham Museums.



Dr Ellen McAdam
Director, Birmingham Museums Trust

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

VISITOR ATTENDANCE

1,190,893

VISITS TO OUR
VENUES, 44%
FIRST-TIME
VISITORS

DIVERSITY



DIGITAL



1,393,905

visits to Birmingham Museums
Trust's website

SOCIAL



207,877

social media followers

VOLUNTEERS



1,126

volunteers gave
27,436 hours
of support

LOANS FOR EXHIBITIONS



525,649

people saw **277** loans

INFORMAL LEARNING



214,051

visitors participated in
informal learning

SCHOOL BOOKINGS

121,329

School children from
2,322 schools took part in
our education programmes



97,155

pupils made on-site
school visits



24,174

pupils were engaged
through outreach and
Museum in a Box kits



100

children and young people
participated in accredited
Arts Award programmes



VISITOR SATISFACTION

VAQAS

standard achieved for
7 museum venues



AWARDS

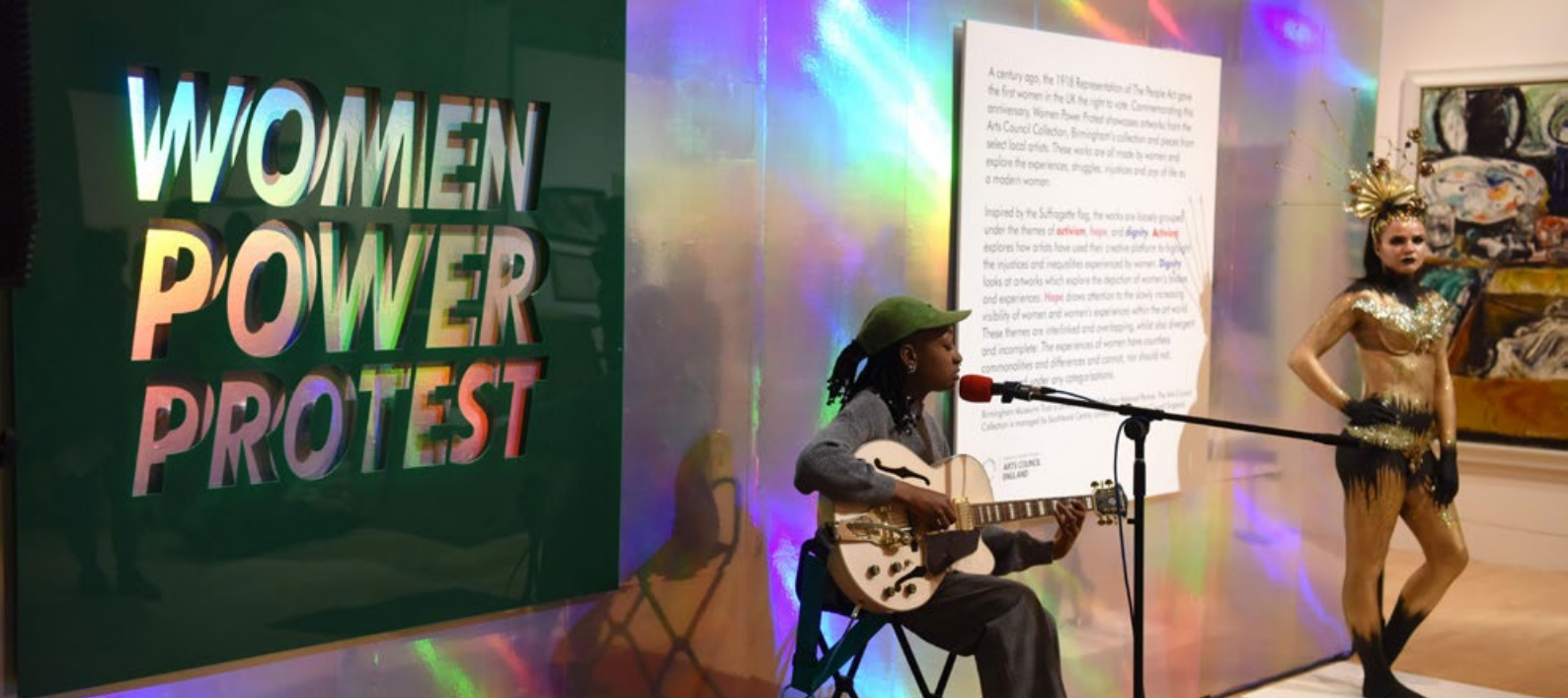
Museums Change Lives Awards
Best MCL Project 2018, for Collecting
Birmingham, Museums Association

Family Favourite Award:
Best event at an attraction, Midlands
for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History
Adventure*, Birmingham Museum & Art
Gallery, Day out with the kids, 2018

Best Birmingham Visitor Attraction,
for Birmingham Museum & Art
Gallery, Birmingham What's On
Readers' Awards 2019

Best Exhibition in the Midlands,
for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History
Adventure*, for Birmingham Museum
& Art Gallery, Birmingham What's On
Readers' Awards 2019

Best Birmingham Art Gallery/
Exhibition Venue, for Birmingham
Museum & Art Gallery, Birmingham
What's On Readers' Awards 2019



AUDIENCES





CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our portfolio of museums continues to be a source of inspiration and high quality heritage learning for children and young people. We host the highest number of school visits of any cultural organisation in Birmingham.

Highlights include:

- **97,155 children and young people** from schools or alternative educational establishments engaged with our museums through facilitated activities and guided resource learning across all key stages.
- **214,051 children, young people and families** took part in informal learning through outreach, holiday activities and our Planetarium programme.
- **85 teachers** accessed continuing professional development activities relating to our exhibitions via our work with the local Secondary Visual Art Network.
- We collaborated with children and families in the design of MiniBrum at Thinktank, a new gallery enabling under 8s to explore science and industry in a playful and energetic way.
- Birmingham Museums Trust achieved its first year as an Artsmark Partner, enabling four Birmingham primary schools to achieve Artsmark status as part of school improvement programmes.
- As a legacy of *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*, Birmingham Museums Trust became part of the Natural History Museum's Real World Science network, helping us to create new biodiversity and natural history learning programmes to support local schools and communities.
- **100 children and young people** received an Arts Award, awarded by Trinity College London in association with Arts Council England.

SCHOOL IN RESIDENCE

In 2018/19, Chandos Primary School (Highgate, Birmingham) was our flagship school in residence. As part of our Arts Council Collection exhibition programme, museum engagement staff worked with 600 children, families and teachers to explore contemporary art collections and their own creativity. Through working with Birmingham Museums Trust, children developed new confidence in responding to exhibitions and sharing their experiences with others. The project culminated in an exciting school and community collaboration which secured a long-term Arts Council Collection loan from artist Michael Ayrton. The work will be on display in the school for the next four years and the loan has helped support school leadership in their journey to become an Artsmark Award school.

"Working with the museum and its collections was positively challenging, inspirational and overall a wonderful experience. Our journey started with a spark of an idea and grew into an amazing project which drew together the whole of our school community."

"Our teachers had CPD [Continuing Professional Development] and our Parent Link worker learned how to talk about art and communicate its importance to our parents. The learning curve has been steep, creating a new blueprint for our parent workshops and engagement and forging a sustainable museum link for our school."

LEZLI HOWARTH
ARTS LEAD CHANDOS PRIMARY SCHOOL

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- This year our community engagement programme engaged around **5,000 people in 151 events or projects**.
- The *Faith in Birmingham* gallery was used by groups for events such as Buddha Day and, for the first time, we hosted an event led by the Bahá'í community which was attended by over **100 people**.
- Our wellbeing programme was popular, in particular the Creative Carers sessions. This year we increased the number of sessions to provide as many opportunities as possible.
- We provided bespoke facilitated visits to both Thinktank and Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery for local charities including Refugee Action, Shelter and Spurgeons Young Carers.
- Community-focused exhibitions included *Asian youth culture: exploring the heritage & history of young British Asians in Birmingham*, *Fighting for our heritage* and *The legacy of industrial textiles enterprise (LITE)* project.
- The exhibition *Within and without: body image and the self* tested new ideas for storylines and created a powerful and moving exhibition that explored complex topics such as colourism.
- Our International Women's Day and Refugee Week events were successful due to long-term partnerships with local charities New Neighbours and Celebrating Sanctuary.
- Now entering its tenth year, Café Scientifique, a monthly programme of adult talks, attracted **500 attendees** to hear speakers drawn from all of our local universities.
- Inspire 2018, our youth art competition, attracted a record **401 entries** from children and young people across the region, culminating in a celebration event with over **200 attendees**. 68% of entries came from children and young people living in areas with high levels of deprivation, demonstrating that the competition is reaching communities who are underserved by conventional arts and culture. The exhibition was seen by around **300,000 visitors**.
- We continued to be involved with the Beatfreeks-led project Don't Settle. We have supported the recruitment and setup of the project and are looking forward to welcoming young people to reinterpret Soho House.

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery contributed to the celebration of the centenary of the Representation of the People Act through a diverse range of events attended by around 600 people. These events included:

- Welcoming the Suffrage Flag on its national tour,
- *Edwardian Tearooms late: a story of suffrage* – an immersive acting experience,
- Hosting all four female Birmingham and Solihull MPs in a discussion about women in Parliament,
- Launching a Blue Plaque commemorating suffragette Bertha Ryland.



"I really valued this exhibition. Despite being 23 and quite self-assured in some ways, I have terrible body image issues and I am only just coming to terms with my sexuality. To come across this exhibit during my travels was very affirming. Thank you."

VISITOR
WITHIN AND WITHOUT:
BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF



WITHIN AND WITHOUT: BODY IMAGE AND THE SELF

Our second exhibition in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Story LAB gallery – a space inviting visitors to help shape the future of the museum – involved eight dedicated volunteers who formed our ColLABorator steering group. They shaped the concept and themes of the exhibition and selected key objects for display. The group were diverse in terms of background and experience which created an exhibition dedicated to diverse representation that was very well received by visitors.

VOLUNTEERS

- **1,126 volunteers** gave us **27,436 hours** of their time.
- Volunteers welcomed visitors, supported conservation work, assisted with family activities, worked with our curatorial team, gardened, milled, helped with documentation and worked on several individual projects.
- During our three-year Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, **42 individuals** supported us dedicating over **2,800 hours** of their time. Many of these volunteers have since gone on to take up employment, undertake further study and/or develop as practitioners in a number of organisations nationwide.
- Over the course of *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*, **65 volunteers** supported us giving over **1,900 hours** of their time. Many of these volunteers have now joined us in other volunteering roles.
- We offered two accredited training courses to the volunteer team this year, and one in-house training opportunity each month.
- Our Volunteer of the Year Award was presented during National Volunteers Week and Student Volunteer of the Year during Student Volunteering Week. We also awarded our three and ten-year service awards in December 2018.
- Our Corporate Volunteering and Meet the Expert programmes saw employees from companies across the West Midlands volunteering with us for a day.
- We offered corporate volunteer activities to employees of AIG, Amey, Barclays, Beazley, Environment Agency, Highways England, Lex Autolease, Murphy Group, National Express, National Trust, NatWest, Network Rail, RBS, Selfridges, Turner & Townsend and Virgin Media.

"I enjoy the satisfaction of working in such a peaceful place; an oasis. Sometimes, particularly on cold mornings, I don't feel like turning up, but I do, and I always come away feeling glad that I made the effort."

VOLUNTEER
BLAKESLEY HALL

MARKETING AND AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

- Birmingham Museums Trust attracted **1,190,893 visitors** in 2018/19, up 28% on the previous year. There were particularly significant increases at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery (**855,508 visitors**, up 45% from 2017/18), and at Aston Hall (**30,962 visitors**, up 16% from 2017/18).
- C2DE visitors increased to 25% overall.
- The trend for increasingly young visitors has continued from last year – **60% of adult visitors** to Birmingham Museums Trust venues were aged 44 and under.
- There was an increase in family visitors enjoying our venues. **53% of visitors** to all venues came with children.
- A high-profile marketing and PR campaign helped *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* become the most popular temporary exhibition ever at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, attracting over a quarter of a million visitors.
- Our press office achieved **£3,835,167** of media coverage regionally and nationally, up from £3,159,644 the previous year.
- There was an increase in national media coverage for exhibitions at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. *Too cute! sweet is about to get sinister*, *Women power protest* and *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing* were featured in titles including The Guardian, Independent, The Times and Stylist. Effective marketing and PR campaigns contributed to these exhibitions far exceeding visitor targets.
- The appointment of a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) marketing officer enabled us to deliver more effective and frequent email marketing campaigns.

STAFFORDSHIRE HOARD HELMET RECONSTRUCTION

Birmingham Museums Trust led on the PR announcement for the launch of the Staffordshire Hoard helmet reconstruction, on display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. This resulted in widespread national and regional coverage, with over 50 articles achieving £252,890 equivalent in advertising value. Coverage was secured in titles such

as The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, i news, Express & Star, Birmingham Mail and BBC Midlands Today along with main features in British Archaeology and Current Archaeology. We also worked with historian and broadcaster Dr Janina Ramirez for a livestream video, which has reached over 57,000 views, and a podcast recording.





CREATIVE COMMONS CC0

In 2018/19, we made images of our out-of-copyright collections freely available under a Creative Commons CC0 waiver, meeting the legal requirements of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015. Aligning with our charitable objectives, this initiative provides public access and free use of digital collections. It has been particularly beneficial for academics and researchers, around 100

of whom used the images in the first year. It has contributed to raising Birmingham Museum Trust's profile nationally and internationally, and has aided the creation of new partnerships such as the transatlantic Pre-Raphaelites Online network, an AHRC-funded project uniting UK and USA collections of Pre-Raphaelite work.

DIGITAL AUDIENCES

- Visits to the Birmingham Museums Trust **website** grew by 17% to **1,393,905 visits** in the year.
- **Social media followers** increased to **207,877**.
- **Social media reach** for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram totalled **1,384,525 people**.
- Our digital asset management system (DAMS) was developed and trialled by several teams within Birmingham Museums Trust. Launched with approximately 10,000 images covering collections, events and marketing, DAMS will be rolled out to all staff and become public facing in 2019/20.
- Our digitisation programme captured 6,000 works on paper in 2018/19, due to be added to DAMS in 2019/20.
- We made a significant step to improve digital access by releasing digitised images under an open licence, receiving positive coverage by The Art Newspaper and Europeana Pro.
- In February 2019, we held an idea/prototype hack (digital lab) at BOMlab (Birmingham Open Media), working with 18 young coders and data enthusiasts. It explored possible digital uses of the collection, current limitations of the data, the queries that people would like to make, and established the data that was needed to facilitate these queries and build online content using the collection.
- To meet the training needs of staff who use digital communication as part of their roles, we held a workshop that focused on photography, film and social media skills. This was attended by 16 staff.

ALL OUR SUPPORTERS PLAY A KEY ROLE IN THE WORK WE DO

MAJOR FUNDERS



WE OWE A SPECIAL DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO

Patrons of Birmingham Museums Trust / Friends of Birmingham Museums /
City of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Development Trust / Public
Picture Gallery Fund / All the donors and supporters of our Annual Appeal
and Sarehole Mill Crowdfunder

THANK YOU TO ALL FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS OF BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS TRUST

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Fund / Arts Council England Designation Development Fund / Arts Council
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Trust / The Grimmitt Trust / The H B Allen Charitable Trust / The Kirby Laing
Foundation / The Michael Marsh Charitable Trust / The Rowlands Charitable
Trust / The Tolkien Society / The Wolfson Foundation / Turner & Townsend /
University of Birmingham / Westhill Endowment Fund

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL SUPPORTERS OF BIRMINGHAM HERITAGE WEEK 2018:

Colmore Business District / Greater Birmingham Chambers of Commerce /
Historic England / National Trust / University of Birmingham

**AND A BIG THANK YOU TO THE PUBLIC AND OUR
VISITORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS**



OUR VENUES





ASTON HALL

HIGHLIGHTS

- **30,962 visitors.**
- **£144,914 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- Aston Hall celebrated its 400th anniversary with the exhibition *Walls have ears: 400 years of change*, an Arts Council Collection National Partners exhibition.
- The site hosted the Independent Birmingham Festival for the second year running. This year's event was even bigger, attracting 4,000 festivalgoers who celebrated their city's heritage and independent culture.
- Our commercial offer was significantly improved with the launch of a new gift shop located inside the grand old mansion itself. Work also began on rebranding the café. The shop product ranges and café branding have taken direct inspiration from Aston Hall's magnificent interiors and architecture.
- Aston Hall scored 88% in VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme and also received their Best Told Story Accolade.

WALLS HAVE EARS: 400 YEARS OF CHANGE

Walls have ears: 400 years of change presented an alternative narrative about this Jacobean mansion, displaying portraiture reflecting the ethnic diversity and socio-economic profile of Aston's local population today, in contrast with when the Hall was constructed in the early 17th century. Contemporary art in the form of painting, tapestry, photography, film, sculpture and ceramics offered a surprising twist on Aston Hall's history. The displays incorporated 18 artworks on loan from the Arts Council Collection alongside three works from our own collection. The exhibition attracted 20,764 visitors, including 556 people who took part in on-site learning activities. A digital audience of 27,000 viewed livestreams and podcasts.





**BLAKESLEY
HALL**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **17,969 visitors.**
- **£89,859 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- Blakesley Hall continued to create and deliver successful community and commercial events such as our *Apple day and Falconry day*. The annual *Blakesley Hall ale & cider festival* generated significant income for the site as well as attracting new audiences and creating new partnerships.
- The Arts Council Collection exhibition *Nature's presence* was exhibited at Blakesley Hall from April to September 2018, with contemporary artwork installed in both the Hall and Visitor Centre.
- Our successful volunteer programme continued to grow, including development of the community garden area that had been created with The Prince's Trust.
- The new Family Room opened in the Hall in February 2019, providing learning resources and fun activities for family visitors.

FAMILY ROOM

The new Family Room opened in the Hall, building on audience research undertaken by the Blakesley Hall team to better understand how the visitor experience could be improved for our family visitors. The result of the research is a dedicated area full of fun activities designed to support families in learning together about the history of Blakesley Hall and the people who have lived there over the centuries. Visitor feedback has been very positive.

This project was kindly funded by City of Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery Development Trust.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **855,508 visitors.**
- **£1,633,140 in income** via schools, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- In May 2018, we welcomed *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*. This exhibition in partnership with the Natural History Museum received over a quarter of a million visitors, a record-breaking number for a temporary exhibition at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- We exhibited four Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme exhibitions this year: *Coming out: sexuality, gender and identity*, *The everyday and extraordinary*, *Women power protest* and *Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister*, curated by artist Rachel Maclean.
- *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing* opened in February 2019, attracting 55,381 visitors in the first two months of opening.
- Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery scored 91% in VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme. For the fifth year running, we were awarded their Quality Food and Drink Accolade for the Edwardian Tearooms.
- We won the Family Favourites Award (2018): Best event at an attraction, Midlands for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*, Day Out With The Kids, as well as three Birmingham What's On Readers' Awards (2019) for: Best Birmingham Visitor Attraction, Best Exhibition in the Midlands for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*, and Best Birmingham Art Gallery/Exhibition Venue.

DIPPY ON TOUR: A NATURAL HISTORY ADVENTURE

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure had a phenomenal impact on Birmingham Museums Trust and the city. Over a quarter of a million people (255,548) visited the exhibition, spending £4.2m in Birmingham during its 107-day run. The popularity of the exhibition helped to boost Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's overall visitor figures during that time to 387,619 – well over double the attendance for the same period the previous year.

Our educational programming enabled us to try out new events such as Bio Blitzes, and our retail offering expanded with a pop-up shop inside the exhibition. There was an extremely positive commercial impact for both Conference and Banqueting and the Edwardian Tearooms, with August 2018 breaking all records as the highest month of income in the five years since the Edwardian Tearooms were refurbished.





HIGHLIGHTS

- **2,006 visitors.**
- **£1,226 in income** from admissions, activities and open day.
- In addition to the successful, free entry Heritage Open Day, the Museum Collection Centre hosted the sold-out evening event *Casks and curiosity*, when 100 visitors purchased tickets to visit the store during the evening and enjoy a complimentary cocktail while listening to a roving brass band.
- Following the completion of the Arts Council England-funded Birmingham Manufactures project, focus on the collections stored at the Museum Collection Centre continued with the start of the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) funded Science & Industry project, which is cataloguing 25,000 items held in storage.
- A rolling programme of storage improvements saw replacement picture racking, new cabinets for the topographical views collection, and re-boxing of social history material stored in unsuitable wooden cabinets.
- Dialogue continued with HS2 over the potential impact of construction and other operations on the Museum Collection Centre building and collection.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

In 2018 the Museum Collection Centre participated in Heritage Open Days for the first time since 2015. Supported by excellent coverage in the Birmingham Mail before the event, the theme for the Open Day was *Explore the store*. Family activities, meet-the-experts, street food stalls and free vintage bus rides to and from the city centre made the day an outstanding success, attracting 1,063 visitors (80% of whom were first-time visitors), and proved to be our most popular Heritage Open Day in 10 years.





MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QTR

HIGHLIGHTS

- **20,906 visitors.**
- **£134,343 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- We refreshed the events programme at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter this year. In addition to our popular jewellery workshops, the site hosted well-received winter cinema screenings, evening *Whisky & twilight* evening tours in partnership with Birmingham Whisky Club and we rolled out a new *Women's work* tour.
- In November 2018, we added our jeweller in residence's range of jewellery to Birmingham Museums

Trust's online shop and launched our promotional Instagram account @jewelleryquarterdesigns to showcase the wide range of locally designed products available.

- The commercial gallery continued to host a range of selling shows, including Tom Parry's *Made on the canal* and *Illuminate* by Centrepiece.
- The Museum of the Jewellery Quarter retained its score of 90% in VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme.

JEWELLER IN RESIDENCE

In October 2018, the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter welcomed its first jeweller in residence, Fiona Harris. The competition was open to graduates of Birmingham City University School of Jewellery, with applicants asked to design a two-piece jewellery range inspired by the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter and the catalogue of the historic Smith & Pepper jewellery firm. Fiona's winning design for a pendant necklace and earrings was inspired by one of Smith & Pepper's best known designs, whose snake-like loop features on the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter logo. The range was produced using the historic machinery at the museum and the outstanding facilities provided by our partners in the scheme, Birmingham City University's School of Jewellery. The pieces are now on sale online and in the museum gift shop.

The jeweller in residence programme was made possible by a Birmingham Museums Patron who wishes to remain anonymous.



**SAREHOLE
MILL**

HIGHLIGHTS

- **16,922 visitors.**
- **£58,827 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- May 2018 saw major flooding at the site which prevented the safe operation of the mill wheel for the whole year. This didn't dampen the spirits of the staff and volunteers, who still delivered a series of fantastic events throughout 2018/19.
- The *May Day folk event* was a tremendous success and in July 2018 we welcomed back our popular *Victorian day*.
- We developed our own in-house craft markets, launched over summer 2018, which now continue throughout the seasons.
- The *Middle Earth festival* and *Pumpkin flotilla* were well received, the latter selling out once again as this popular event entered its fifth year.
- Work began on resolving the issues created by the flooding thanks to overwhelming public support for our first crowdfunding campaign.

CROWDFUNDING APPEAL

"I grew up on Sarehole Road. Such a lovely place to visit and a great addition to the local community and economy." – CROWDFUNDING DONOR

"Sarehole Mill is a special place for every Tolkien fan. There is where Tolkien's imagination originated. It must live." – CROWDFUNDING DONOR

In January 2019, Birmingham Museums Trust launched its first ever crowdfunding campaign *Get Sarehole milling again*. Months of preparation proved worthwhile, because within the first nine days of going live we reached our target of £6,500. The campaign received widespread publicity from the general public and the media including the BBC. By the end of the five-week campaign, we had successfully raised over £10,000 in donations. The additional funds will be used to support the improvement of the flour store, which is crucial to ensuring the freshly ground flour is kept dry.



HIGHLIGHTS

- **8,187 visitors.**
- **£31,880 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- We achieved improvements to operations at Soho House. Work was completed on the Goodison Education Room, a dedicated schools space within Soho House. Further development of the Soho Coffee Shop in the reception area continued to deliver commercial benefit and improvements to the visitor experience.
- Soho House hosted a series of community exhibitions including *The legacy of industrial textiles enterprise*

(LITE) project organised by Community Education Academy of Leadership (CEAL), which centred on the local post-war textile industry from the perspective of workers from African, Caribbean and South Asian communities.

- As part of a varied events programme, Soho House presented *Women of excellence and understanding*, a talk about the women of Soho House by Dr Kate Croft; the first in a series of events marking the bicentenary of James Watt's death, in 2019.

BOULTON GOES TO BOLLYWOOD

The *Boulton goes to Bollywood* Festival returned to Soho House in 2018. The main event was a performance by the all-female Bhangra group Eternal Taal, who wowed visitors with three powerful routines. Alongside this we ran activities in the event space which celebrated varied aspects of South Asian culture. Visitors were treated to themed craft activities, dance workshops, music, henna and face painting as well as Indian-inspired street food.





thinktank
Birmingham science museum

HIGHLIGHTS

- **230,770 visitors.**
- **47,957 school children** visited.
- **10,945 people** engaged in our STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning outreach programme.
- **£2,325,771 in income** via admissions, events, retail, catering and venue hire.
- Thinktank hosted two *Women in engineering* displays highlighting prominent female contributors to large-scale engineering projects within the Midlands.
- The production phase of the £2.2m MiniBrum project was successfully completed. A creative co-production between museum staff and young people was central to the final interpretation and design of the exhibits.
- We expanded our hugely successful Career Ladder programme. We recruited 21 young people to our annual summer traineeship, each spending six weeks delivering activities and learning about museum careers across Birmingham Museums Trust.
- Thinktank scored 86% in VisitEngland's Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme, up 4% from 2017/18, and was awarded the Welcome Accolade for our visitor services team's excellent performance.

SMETHWICK ENGINE RESTORATION

The Smethwick Engine, designed by James Watt and built in 1778–1779, is the world's oldest working steam engine. Three years ago, we discovered that the internal hemp rope packing on the piston had degraded and the engine could not be run on steam. After a successful campaign which raised over £42,000, we undertook restoration work. In November 2018 we held the first public steaming of the Smethwick Engine for over three years. Local councillors and members of the media attended, and we used the weekend to promote the restoration work alongside planned citywide events in 2019, which will mark the bicentenary of the death of James Watt.





WEOLEY CASTLE

HIGHLIGHTS

- **7,663 visitors.**
- 2018/19 saw the return of a series of popular events at Weoley Castle. These included the *St George and the Dragon egg hunt* and numerous themed craft sessions for children in school holidays.
- The annual *Medieval open day* in July 2018 featured a battle arena and even more historic characters to meet and greet than in previous years. Our *Falconry day* in September welcomed record numbers to see birds of prey take to the sky over the ruins.
- The Castle Keepers and a series of corporate volunteer groups worked hard throughout the year to maintain this important Scheduled Ancient Monument and fascinating link to Birmingham's medieval past.

BIO BLITZ

Our first phase of Bio Blitzes at Sarehole Mill and Weoley Castle brought museum staff together with naturalists and scientists to encourage over 300 members of our local communities to discover and record the biodiversity of our venues. With the aid of specialists, visitors explored diverse flora and fauna, sought out beasties and evidenced a range of living species which helped capture biodiversity data for both regional and national research.

Through a partnership with the Natural History Museum, we will use Bio Blitz activities each year to increase biodiversity and heritage learning for our local communities and schools.

COLLECTIONS

ACQUISITIONS

Birmingham Museums Trust acquired 1,353 items for the city's collection this year, of which 334 were purchased and 1,027 donated or bequeathed. Acquisitions through the Collecting Birmingham project continued to dominate (totalling 1,108) but were supplemented by objects acquired through other routes. Acquisitions included:

- Collection of items relating to the development of gaming technology in Birmingham belonging to Andrew Wright, John Court and Zafar Qamar, late 20th century.
- Over 700 watercolours and drawings by the Birmingham artist Arthur Lockwood recording aspects of the city's industrial and urban environment.
- Xeedho used in Somali wedding ceremonies, late 20th century.
- *Expressive deviant phonology*, installation incorporating works on paper and a drum kit by Lucy McLauchlan, 2007.
- *Female figure in yellow*, painting by Nigerian artist Ben Enwonwu (1917–94), bequeathed by Jean Alero Thomas with Art Fund support.
- Collection of 22 photographic prints from the series *Muzik kinda sweet* plus other images of well-known artists, locations and events in Birmingham by Pogus Caesar, 1983–2011.
- Collection of 16 photographic prints from the series *I was born an Irish Catholic* (2007) and *Reasonable behaviour* (1994) by Stephen J Morgan.
- Collection of items from the Oriental Star Record Agency, formerly on Moseley Road, Birmingham, including a personal collection of 200 records of Indian, Pakistani and British music belonging to the shop owner Mr Ayub.
- Collection of 17 early 20th-century English pewter pieces and two drawings by Edward Poynter (1836–1919), bequeathed by Harley Hall Preston.
- Three watercolours and drawings by the Birmingham architect William Henry Bidlake (1861–1938), bequeathed by Sutton Donovan Webster.
- *Study of a fisherman* by Birmingham artist Walter Langley (1852–1922), presented by Mr and Mrs Robert Holmes in memory of Miss Rose Deakin.

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION AWARD:

**Collecting
Birmingham**

In November 2018, Collecting Birmingham, an HLF-funded engagement-led acquisition project, was named as the winner of the Museums Association's Museums Change Lives Best MCL Project Award. This national prize was awarded for the project's engagement with over 3,500 people in the Birmingham wards of Soho, Aston, Nechells and Ladywood, which include diverse communities in terms

of age, sexual orientation, socio-economic, faith and ethnic backgrounds. As a result of the project over 1,800 objects were acquired for the city's collection, from an installation by Birmingham street artist Lucy McLauchlan, to a collection of Indian and Pakistani records from the Oriental Star Agency music shop.





PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE OKLAHOMA MUSEUM OF ART

VICTORIAN RADICALS – OKLAHOMA

Birmingham Museums Trust's major international exhibition *Victorian radicals: from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts movement* began its US tour at Oklahoma City Museum of Art in October 2018. Organised in partnership with the American Federation of Arts, *Victorian radicals* is the largest and most complex touring exhibition ever staged from Birmingham's collection.

It showcases the city's outstanding holdings of Victorian and Edwardian fine and decorative art and celebrates its historic importance as a centre for progressive Arts and Crafts practice. *Victorian radicals* attracted over 14,000 visitors in Oklahoma and continues its tour to seven other US venues during 2019/21.

LOANS

Over 8.5m visitors have enjoyed seeing objects on long loan to museums around the world. 277 loans for exhibitions seen by 525,649 people; 471,895 visitors to national venues and 53,754 visitors to international venues.

368 objects were lent to Birmingham Museums Trust for seven exhibitions. These included:

- 103 works lent for *Coming out: sexuality, gender and identity*, a touring exhibition conceived in partnership with National Museums Liverpool, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 58 works lent for *The everyday and extraordinary*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 29 artworks lent for *New Art West Midlands*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 18 artworks lent for *Walls have ears: 400 years of change*, held at Aston Hall.
- 12 artworks lent for *Nature's presence*, held at Blakesley Hall.
- One item lent for *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 86 artworks lent for *Women power protest*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 49 artworks lent for *Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.
- 12 artworks lent for *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing*, held at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery.

Outward loans to 10 UK venues

The British Library, Royal Academy of Arts, Tate Britain, Tate St Ives, The Fitzwilliam Museum, Pallant House, 10 Downing Street, Herbert Museum and Art Gallery, Museum of Cannock Chase, Midlands Arts Centre.

Outward loans to four international venues

Museum of Fine Arts Budapest, Gropius Bau Berlin, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Vero Beach Museum of Art.

COLLECTIONS CARE

- We condition checked and conserved objects as part of exhibitions, loans and displays, and managed the movement, storage and documentation of collections across our venues.
- We supported collection documentation for the Science & Industry project, and undertook an asbestos survey of the museum collection, to support a programme of collections rationalisation.
- We improved EMu, the collection management system, by undertaking programmes of data-tidying.
- We developed the events and narratives module to support the use of the collection management system as a central tool for storyline development for major capital projects.
- We hosted a number of interns and students, including a PhD researcher.
- We established a new workflow and digitisation workspace and commenced a four-year Arts Council England NPO-funded project digitising and inventorying 36,000 works from the designated works on paper collection.
- Our conservation volunteers undertook conservation housekeeping at our venues, cleaned the silver collection at the Museum Collection Centre and transferred historic paper records to our collection management system.
- We supported the external *Parabola of Pre-Raphaelitism* touring exhibition in Japan, securing income of £20,000 to support the appointment of a dedicated Assistant Loans Registrar, and preparation of 36 works, shipped in March 2019.
- We supported the care and management of the city's Public Art collection including the conservation of the Queen Victoria statue in Victoria Square, with funding of £5,000 from Birmingham Civic Society.
- Total departmental income was almost £15,000, including conservation studio rental income of £5,000, contracting services income of just over £7,000, loans income of £2,000 and £495 from Conservation Studio tours.

CONSERVATION OF BIRD COLLECTION

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure provided an opportunity to conserve, remount and display a large number of our natural history specimens which are usually in storage, and some of which were showing signs of age, such as our king penguin with a damaged flipper. With help from a natural history conservation expert, we were able to reattach

the flipper and place him on a new permanent wooden mount.

At the end of the temporary exhibition, around 40 of the objects were redisplayed in Thinktank's natural history display as part of the Dippy Legacy project.





COMPLETION OF ARTS COUNCIL COLLECTION NATIONAL PARTNERS PROGRAMME

The Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme culminated with a celebration event at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery including live music, pop-up photography, a film documenting the programme and a chance to see the final exhibitions. *Women power protest* showcased work by female artists to celebrate the centenary of the Representation of the People Act. It generated an audience of 34,000

and engagement with organisations including Shelter and the Precious Trust. International artist and filmmaker Rachel Maclean curated *Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister*. Displaying aspects from Birmingham's collection alongside contemporary sculpture from the Arts Council Collection, this exhibition attracted an audience of over 64,000 up to the end of March 2019.

CURATORIAL

In the final year of the Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, we delivered three new exhibitions, displaying artworks from Birmingham alongside items from the Arts Council Collection. The exhibitions were *The everyday and extraordinary*, which subsequently toured to the Towner Gallery, Eastbourne, *Women power protest*, and *Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister*. Exhibitions at Aston Hall and Blakesley Hall, *Walls have ears* and *Nature's presence*, which opened the previous year, continued into autumn 2018.

To mark the 500th anniversary of the death of Leonardo da Vinci, 12 of the Renaissance

master's drawings from the Royal Collection went on display at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery in the exhibition *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing*. One of 12 simultaneous exhibitions taking place across the UK, the selection of drawings on view in Birmingham reflected the full range of Leonardo's interests: painting, sculpture, architecture, music, anatomy, engineering, cartography, geology and botany.

Within and without: body image and the self opened as the second exhibition in Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery's Story LAB gallery, a space inviting visitors to help shape the future of the

museum. *Within and without* examined how social, historical and cultural factors affect body image and how this is expressed through objects and artworks. A team of volunteer collaborators worked with museum staff to select and shape the exhibition and interpretation.

New permanent displays on the evolution of birds from dinosaurs and the adaptations of bird species opened at Thinktank. These objects from the city's collection originally formed part of the exhibition accompanying *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* in summer 2018. The new displays comprise taxidermy, eight fossil replicas, one bird skeleton and two bird skulls.

The West Midlands Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) team recorded 5,181 finds in 2,327 records, managed 75 treasure cases, and regularly visited metal detecting club meetings to liaise with finders and give lectures. The team reached a total of 775 metal detector users and engaged with 2,113 people through outreach activities across the region including lectures, school sessions, finds recording at a metal detecting rally, delivering training for PAS colleagues and finds handling sessions. Among these last was a handling session held in a field on the Winter Solstice at the foot of a Roman burial.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Training and development continued to be a focus, upskilling our employees to ensure we have a highly trained workforce.

Highlights in 2018/19 included:

- Following the launch of our new online learning platform in April 2018, 171 staff completed 855 online courses on topics including; safeguarding, manual handling, food safety, food allergies, payment card industry awareness, fire safety and fire warden training.
- A new training matrix was introduced to support our safeguarding policies and processes, ensuring relevant staff roles are fully trained in how to respond to safeguarding concerns. 121 staff accessed the Level 1 safeguarding online training courses and our designated safeguarding officers completed the designated safeguarding officer (Level 3) training.
- An in-house training course on retail loss and prevention was created and rolled out to retail teams to aid them in recognising suspicious behaviour, how to deal with theft and how to prevent it.

- A new visitor welcome induction was created, with training delivered to nominated Senior Museum Enablers to ensure a more consistent approach across our venues.

- A student on the supported learning programme at South and City College Birmingham, designed to support individuals on the autistic spectrum, completed a work placement in the HR department, with the aim of supporting their transition into employment at the end of their training.

- 22 young local people from diverse backgrounds gained knowledge and experience of museums, by working on our Science and Heritage Career Ladder initiative.

Training undertaken in 2018/19 included:

- Lift entrapment
- First aid at work
- Microsoft Project and Excel
- IOSH
- Permit to work
- Designated safeguarding officer
- Recruitment and selection
- ACT document awareness

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

In 2018/19, our first cohort of staff achieved an Apprenticeship in Management and Leadership (Level 5), as well as our first cohort of staff on the Apprenticeship in Management (Level 3) continuing to work towards their end assessment. As a result of a needs analysis completed in 2017, and in line with the organisation's values and strategic aims, this training was designed to support employees new to managerial roles and to strengthen succession planning. The programmes were designed to equip the managers with the skills,

knowledge and experience to drive excellence within their areas, as well as creating a talent pool of leaders for the future.

To further support the development of our managers, a training programme of bite-size sessions was introduced aimed at improving the understanding of staff management processes as well as boosting confidence when handling difficult situations and enabling staff to manage their teams more effectively.



LEONARDO DA VINCI

A Life in Drawing



DEVELOPMENT

Birmingham Museums Trust has the ambition to diversify its income and increase sustainability by building relationships with new and existing supporters. Our fundraising strategy seeks to realise this ambition by sharing our charitable message and raising the profile of Birmingham Museums Trust regionally, nationally and internationally.

Fundraising income at Birmingham Museums Trust includes project-specific and unrestricted income, and this has a direct impact on total funds raised from year to year. In 2018/19, Birmingham Museums Trust generated fundraising income of over £1.5m from a range of supporters, donors and grant makers. Notable highlights included:

- *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery was sponsored by Paradise Birmingham. As our neighbour, a partnership with Paradise

was a natural fit and the sponsorship income enabled us to exhibit Dippy to 255,548 visitors during the summer of 2018. The exhibition was also funded by the Friends of Birmingham Museums.

- The James Watt Smethwick Engine was restored to working condition in time for the Watt Bicentenary in 2019. We were very lucky to have two generous donors who funded the restoration of the engine. IMI plc's objective of strengthening their link to industrial heritage in the city provided the perfect opportunity for them to donate towards the Smethwick Engine. We also received a donation from an anonymous donor. Our inaugural steaming of the Smethwick Engine took place in November 2018. It was wonderful for our visitors to witness this legendary engine working as it should after three long years out of action.

COUTTS SPONSORSHIP OF LEONARDO DA VINCI: A LIFE IN DRAWING

Coutts Bank first became supporters of Birmingham Museums Trust when they donated towards the acquisition of the Staffordshire Hoard in 2009 via their Charitable Trust. Since then Coutts has supported Birmingham Museums Trust through our Patrons programme and by sponsoring both of our Leonardo da Vinci exhibitions, the latest of which was the *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing* at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery. The impact of such a longstanding relationship, and the benefits it brings, is huge for a charity like ours. It also demonstrates that businesses enjoy working with Birmingham Museums Trust and have significant benefits to gain themselves.

"We enjoyed working with Birmingham Museums Trust hosting our guests to not only enjoy a special preview of the Leonardo collection but to also acknowledge 25 years since Coutts established our Birmingham office. Working with Birmingham Museums Trust offers our clients a unique experience whilst at the same time demonstrating our commitment to our city and our ongoing patronage of the arts. We felt that the team at Birmingham Museums Trust understood our requirements well and did everything required to make our events a success."

MILES PLUMB
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COUTTS BANK

TRADING

RETAIL

In 2018/19 we continued to bring new bespoke products to the market and worked to improve our retail spaces across the business. The refurbishment of the Aston Hall shop has increased conversion and we expect to see the sales success of its first months of operation continue into the new financial year.

We developed our online presence, adding hundreds of new products to our online shop. We also created a new brand and associated Instagram account for our jewellery range in a bid to access new customers. This platform allows us to showcase the local designer-makers that we collaborate with as well as the exceptional work of our own jeweller in residence.

The arrival of *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery presented an opportunity to develop and deliver a pop-up exhibition shop over summer 2019, which exceeded all targets. Successes at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery continued with well-received ranges relating to our exhibitions *Women power protest*, *Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister* and *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing*.

ASTON HALL SHOP

To increase sales, the gift shop at Aston Hall was relocated from a small corner of the café to a bright and airy space in the historic mansion. Product ranges were expanded, bespoke merchandise inspired by the site and the collection were developed, and new furniture purchased to best display the significantly improved product. The beautiful mother of pearl model of Aston Hall returned to display in the shop, making the gift shop part of the wider museum experience. The project was a success, with Aston Hall achieving its monthly retail target within the first week and drawing exceptionally positive feedback from visitors.





FOOD AND BEVERAGE

2018/19 saw yet more sales records being broken as we continued to grow our food and beverage income across our nine venues.

We rolled out the new ET Kitchen product range, which now allows us to deliver delicious sandwiches, handcrafted by our team of excellent chefs, to all our museum cafés across the business.

For the fifth year running, the Edwardian Tearooms was awarded VisitEngland's Quality Food & Drink Accolade, demonstrating our continued commitment to excellence.

We continued to develop our menus, trialling new products such as Vegan Afternoon Tea. This year also saw our first exhibition-themed menus, with our Dippy the Dinosaur children's menu being particularly well received by customers over the summer period.

The roll-out of unique identities for our cafés across the business continued. 2018/19 saw the refurbishment of the Stable Yard Café at Aston Hall. We also began brand development work on our new food and beverage concept for Thinktank, the Signal Box Café, which launches in early 2019/20.

SUNDAY LUNCH

We identified the promotion of the Edwardian Tearooms' traditional Sunday lunch as a potential area for sales growth. A selection of journalists and bloggers were invited to sample our three-course Sunday menu in a bid to raise the profile of dishes such as ham hock terrine with salad and piccalilli, homemade soup, roast beef and Yorkshire puddings, roast loin of pork and our popular sticky toffee pudding. This influencers' event was accompanied by further press engagement, refreshed food photography and social media promotion. Weekly sales have now tripled, and our Sunday lunch has featured in a number of 'Best in Brum' online lists.



CONFERENCE AND BANQUETING

In 2018, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery won Venue of the Year in the Birmingham What's On Reader Awards. We grew our wedding business significantly as news of Waterhall Weddings continued to spread, supported by fantastic feedback from our clients.

A series of themed packages were introduced to complement the programme of temporary exhibitions, from Jurassic dining packages during *Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure* to the Maestro dining package during *Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing*. Opportunities such as these allow us to host something unique for our clients in a very crowded marketplace.

At Thinktank we produced improved wayfinding and literature, giving us better tools to promote our spaces. In addition to driving sales, efficiency remained a critical part of our work. A new event management system has allowed us to begin to streamline processes and we are looking forward to realising further benefits of this new system in the coming year.

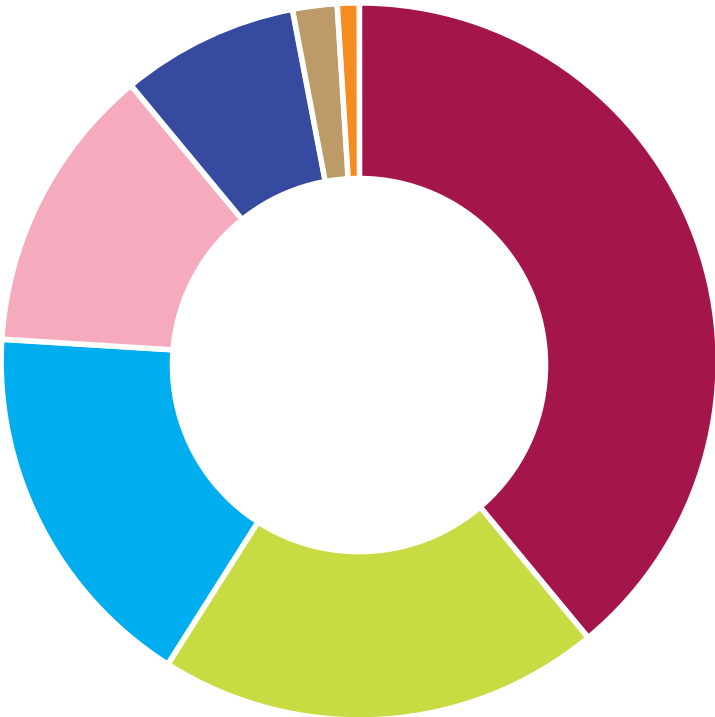
DINE WITH DIPPY

As part of *Dippy on Tour* we offered the unique opportunity for either drinks and canapés, or dinner with Dippy in order to give guests the chance to experience Dippy at close quarters out of hours.

Two packages were created – Jurassic and Cretaceous – each with bespoke canapé and dinner menus. A Prehistoric Punch recipe was developed as part of the packages and service included platters dressed with banana leaves and dry ice to give a smoke effect.

Tables for dinner had a jungle-themed floral display and each guest received a dinosaur pin badge as a gift to take home.

FINANCES



TOTAL INCOME

11,929,444

<div></div>	BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL	39%
<div></div>	TRADING	20%
<div></div>	ADMISSION INCOME	17%
<div></div>	FUNDRAISING	13%
<div></div>	ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND NPO	8%
<div></div>	MILLENNIUM POINT TRUST	2%
<div></div>	OTHER	1%



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

12,219,237

<div></div>	STAFF COSTS	46%
<div></div>	OTHER OPERATING EXPENDITURE	40%
<div></div>	MAINTENANCE AND RUNNING COSTS	10%
<div></div>	MARKETING	3%
<div></div>	FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION	1%

TRUSTEES AND MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Professor Ian Grosvenor
Chair

Mohammed Ali MBE (*appointed July 2018*)

Councillor Muhammad Afzal

Dr Louise Brooke-Smith OBE (*appointed January 2019*)

Alderman Randall Brew OBE, JP, FCA

Deborah de Haes (*to May 2018*)

John Diviney (*appointed July 2018*)

David Lewis (*to May 2018*)

Eamon Mooney

Mohammed Rahman

Luke Southall (*appointed July 2018*)

Tracey Stephenson

Jan Teo (*to May 2018*)

Jonnie Turpie MBE

Chrissie Twigg

Claire Williamson (*appointed July 2018*)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

Dr Ellen McAdam
Director

Rachel Cockett
Director of Development

Janine Eason
Director of Engagement

Alex Nicholson-Evans
Commercial Director

Toby Watley
Director of Collections

Arif Kaji (*to June 2018*)

Nicholas Briggs (*interim*)

Richard Paterson (*appointed January 2019*)
Director of Finance

EXHIBITIONS, TALKS AND LECTURES

EXHIBITIONS AND DISPLAY CHANGES

MUSEUM & ART GALLERY

Gas Hall

Coming out: sexuality, gender and identity
2 December 2017 – 15 April 2018

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure
26 May – 9 September 2018

Women power protest
10 November 2018 – 31 March 2019

Community Gallery

Asian youth culture: exploring the heritage & history of young British Asians in Birmingham
4 May – 29 July 2018

Fighting for our heritage
25 August 2018 – 3 February 2019

Other Galleries

Collecting Birmingham: who is Birmingham?
From 18 April 2018

The everyday and extraordinary
9 June – 9 September 2018

Re-hang of Pre-Raphaelite galleries
From June 2018

Inspire 18
22 July – 6 November 2018

Within and without: body image and the self
From 22 July 2018

Hidden perspectives: Whitworth Wallis artists in residence
29 Sept – 25 Nov 2018

Staffordshire Hoard helmet reconstruction
From 23 November 2018

Too cute! Sweet is about to get sinister
26 January – 12 May 2019

Leonardo da Vinci: a life in drawing
1 February – 6 May 2019

ASTON HALL

Walls have ears: 400 years of change
30 March – 30 September 2018

BLAKESLEY HALL

Nature's presence
30 March – 30 September 2018

MUSEUM OF THE JEWELLERY QUARTER

Made on the canal – the Jewellery Quarter and a little beyond
15 June – 10 November 2018

Illuminate by Centrepiece
16 November 2018 – 31 March 2019

SOHO HOUSE

The legacy of industrial textiles enterprise (LITE) project
21 June – 15 October 2018

THINKTANK

Operation build Thinktank summer exhibit
21 July – 9 September

How did birds evolve from dinosaurs?
From 7 January 2019

Diversity of birds
From 7 January 2019

TOURING

The everyday and extraordinary
Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne
29 September 2018 – 6 January 2019

Victorian radicals: from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Arts and Crafts movement
Oklahoma City Museum of Art,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
13 October 2018 – 6 January 2019
Vero Beach Museum of Art, Vero Beach, Florida
9 February – 5 May 2019

Parabola of Pre-Raphaelitism
Tokyo Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo
14 March – 9 June 2019

TALKS AND LECTURES

Arcus, J

8 November 2018, Optical illusions, for 240 psychology students, University of Birmingham

27 November 2018, Engagement and interpretation, for medical students, University of Birmingham

Barker, R

21 November 2018, North-west museum development training day on age-friendly museums network and activities, Liverpool

Beddoes-Davies, E

12 June 2018, Careers talk, for postgraduate students, University of Birmingham College of Arts & Law

13 June 2018, *What do we want?* Talk about this Museums Worcestershire exhibition, Art Fund Committee Annual Lunch, London

1 August 2018, Careers talk for aspiring arts professionals, at *There is no script for this event*, Eastside Projects, Birmingham

2 February 2019, Panel contributor in discussion exploring the value of artist-led research in the context of heritage sites, National Trust/New Art West Midlands conference

2 February 2019, Panel contributor in discussion exploring the value of artist-led research in the context of heritage sites, National Trust/New Art West Midlands conference

11 March 2019, *Queer art* and *Women power protest* exhibition tours, for politics and sociology students, Aston University, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

28 March 2019, *Women power protest* exhibition tour, for Arts Council Collection curators' day, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Bridgman, R

25 April 2018, *The past is now: Birmingham and the British Empire* talk about the exhibition, for Glasgow Life staff as part of an interpretation development exercise in relation to the Burrell Collection redevelopment

9 May 2018, Developing the *Faith in Birmingham* Gallery, delivered with Mr Makhdoom Chishti (Birmingham Central Mosque), Subject Specialist Network for Islamic Art and Material Culture study day entitled Faith in museums: practical approaches to using your collections in collaboration with Bradford Museums, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

29 March 2019, Engaging audiences through Islamic art and material culture, Islamic Law and Islamic Humanities network, University of Birmingham, funded through Midlands Innovation Research

May 2019, *The past is now: Birmingham and the British Empire*, round table event on race, heritage and museums, part of a seminar series run by TORCH: The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities, University of Oxford

Bridgman, R & Rutter, L

18 December 2018, CAKE: beauty demands – exploring body image, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Chan, A & Turton, Z,

26 September 2018, *Dippy on Tour*, National Trust marketing sharing day, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Cockett, R

3 May 2018, By the gains of industry, seminar on commercial and private sector relationships, Touring Exhibitions Group, Bristol

17 June 2018, Rethinking legacy strategies to meet future challenges panel, Legacy Strategy Summit, Wilmington Charities, London

Deere, L

9 October 2018, STEMteens: creating a diverse and inclusive workforce, Association of Science and Discovery Centres pre-conference, Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester

11 October 2018, Science and heritage career ladder, for museum studies masters students, University of Leicester

Eason, J

14 November 2018, Strategic planning for formal education, Arts Connect West Midlands programme, Midlands Arts Centre

Fletcher, R

25 October 2018, *Dippy on Tour* – working with dinosaurs, inspirational careers event for young people in care, Birmingham Careers Service

18 December 2018, Volunteering for all at Birmingham Museums, Theoretical Archaeology Group conference, Chester

11 February 2019, Getting involved at Birmingham Museums, University of Birmingham work experience in the arts, Birmingham

Graham, H, Minott, R & Rutter, L

11 October 2018, Story LAB sharing day, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Iqbal, Z

17 December 2018, Embedding change within organisations – Thinktank's Science Heritage Career Ladder, Association for Science and Discovery Centres charrette, We the Curious, Bristol

6 March 2019, Working in a science museum, career focussed speed networking, RSA Academy, Tipton

McAdam, E

4 April 2018, The history of Birmingham Museums, Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society

4 July 2018, Birmingham Museums, Making museums in the Midlands conference, University of Nottingham

27 September 2018, Temporary exhibitions: sacred cow or dead duck? National Trust exhibitions think tank, London

5 November 2018, Birmingham: rediscovering archaeology for a super-diverse city, Society of Museum Archaeologists conference, UCL

24 November 2018, The history of Birmingham Museums, Birmingham History Day, University of Birmingham

22 January 2019, The history of Birmingham Museums, Friends of Birmingham Museums

Morton, K

16 January 2019, Exhibition planning and programming, University of Birmingham cultural intern scheme, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery

Roberts, P

14 September 2018, Workshop manufacture and the ground of invention: understanding the science and industry collections at Birmingham Museums, Science Museum Group research conference

Unsworth, R

16 November 2018, Every man well apparelled: men's fashion and networks of news in early modern practice and print, Pasold Research Fund conference Fifty years of textile history, Museum of London

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