



**OUR SALISBURY MUSEUM**  
**A NEW LEARNING OFFER FOR KS3-KS5.**



## **Introduction.**

The opening of the new **Devenish Bradshaw History of Salisbury galleries, Natural History and Ceramics galleries** is the culmination of a number of years National Lottery funded work, to both create amazing new displays but also to put community at the heart of what we create and offer at The Salisbury Museum. This has included the development of our new learning offer, where staff have worked with our learning community to research and create new ways of working with you, to enrich and support your classroom learning, with an offer that includes both exciting school trips and continuing outreach work, stand-alone sessions, enrichment work and long-term projects.

## **Not just the history curriculum – how can the museum support you as a creative learning partner?**

Our work with secondary schools has been collaborative and cross-curricular, with a real focus on the museum as creative resource. We have developed projects with Art and English departments, as well as looking at the history curriculum. We have also developed a number of enrichment projects and a programme of bookable talks. We are committed to long term support as well as bookable one-off sessions, to really grow partnerships and meaningful engagement. Our staff are experts in local history so if there is a particular theme you are interested in, let us know!

## **Why local and natural history?**

Local history is unique in its ability to bring history to life by locating it in places we know. It can also improve the depth with which we know those places, by telling us the stories of people who lived in the area before we did. Imagine a dramatic historical event not happening miles away in a place your students can't picture, but on a street or the site of a place you now know as a park, that they might walk through every day. It is a lot easier to picture history and relate it to your life when it is somewhere you know.

By enriching our knowledge of the places around us, of their stories and past lives, local history can also help build a sense of pride and belonging in our communities. Recent studies have shown how important this sense can be for aspiration building, confidence and greater wellbeing for young people. If you feel you are part of the story of where you live, then you feel more agency and ownership of your life within it. We want The Salisbury Museum to also be a place where your students feel they belong, where they are part of its story going forward with real agency in their learning.

The new Salisbury galleries tell the story of the city and surrounding area from 1220 to the present day. Visitors are taken on a time-travelling adventure, starting with finds from our medieval waterways and Clarendon Palace, right up to Novichok and a dramatic concluding display of our beloved Salisbury Giant. The Natural History galleries also tell a local story,

exploring our amazing local landscapes and habitats from grass downland to our rare chalk streams and the animals that live and have lived there from prehistory to now. The gallery explores issues that really matter to young people today such as biodiversity and climate change.

We also have an extensive ceramics gallery, newly curated to tell the story of ceramics from prehistory to the present day and great inspiration for creative projects.



## What we can offer:

### Research based creative practice – a supported art project

How are contemporary artists inspired by history and how do they use research in their art? What can museums offer to aid your creative practice, and can the creation of a museum be an artwork in itself?

Over the past two years we have worked with art teachers and students to develop and run as a pilot, a project exploring how we can use the museum and local history to inspire our work. The pilot ran twice as a term-long weekly project with year ten, culminating in a portfolio of work, assessable for their GCSE, however it is adaptable to KS3 and 5 as well. Museum and school staff collaborated and co-designed the project, adapting as it evolved with the students' ideas. A member of the museum team, herself an artist and published writer, worked with a class for one lesson a week, with the project being continued in the other lessons. This is a project designed to be bespoke to best expand your students experience both of history and contemporary art, as well as working to build pride in community and a sense of belonging. With this in mind, the first stage is to contact us to arrange a free initial consultation meeting to discuss ideas and what we could offer.

Testimonial: *“Working with Alice has given our students a unique opportunity to develop their understanding of their own environment. The project was led in an open and collaborative way which meant we have been able to meet the needs of our students and ensure we are delivering a dynamic and challenging curriculum. The project centered around Bemerton Heath and with*

*the introduction of various artists and access to artefacts from the museum, this alongside Alice's unwavering enthusiasm and excellent subject knowledge ensured our students had an amazing experience. They were able to interpret the work of artists and create personal responses using media they had not previously experimented with. This collaboration has been invaluable and Alice has been an amazing ambassador for how the museum can work successfully and collaboratively with schools. I am certainly looking forward to being able to work with Alice and the Salisbury Museum again". Art teacher*



### **Curate your life!**

What does a curator do? How is an exhibition or a museum gallery created? Do we use curation skills in our life all the time without realising it?

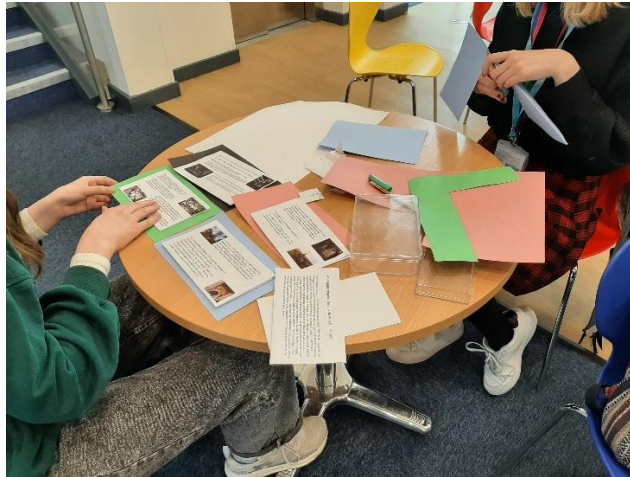
This project ran as a weekly pilot as part of a KS5 enrichment group, but is adaptable to other age ranges. Students worked with museum staff to look at all aspects of curation, from museum displays, interpretation writing, design and themes to social media and how we curate our lives. This led to an exhibition curated by the students inspired by local history, their community and their lives in Salisbury today.

This course gives students a real insight into what it is like to work in a museum or gallery. They will learn new skills and ways of thinking, as well as engaging creatively with local history and their lives.

Available both as an enrichment course, or as an intensive one day enrichment session.

*Testimonial: I found working with Alice very enjoyable, it encouraged a deeper interest in local history and engagement with the local community (specifically the museum) and enabled*

*space for creativity while looking into serious topics. It helped me consider what I want to do with my career, as various different jobs linking to history, curation and many other topic areas were covered, as well as it being a genuinely fun yet still educational break from the more stressful side of college. - Student*



### **Research and independent study support**

Do your students need some support with their A-level Art independent study? We are here to support them, both with advice and research pointers as well as the museum being available for visits and booking behind the scenes appointments if there is something of interest in our stores that is not on display. This includes our large fashion and textile collection, as well as archaeological finds, art and much more. Our brand new **Ceramics Gallery** might also provide inspiration – telling the story of ceramics from pre-history to the modern day there are many amazing examples on display in our beautiful Tudor King’s Room, itself a design inspiration!

### **Creative writing workshops**

Need inspiration for your creative writing? The museum collections and the local history stories they contain are rich inspiration. Our project learning officer is a published writer and has taught creative writing to young people for twenty years. Why not book a bespoke enrichment or English Language support session or project using real museum objects and history as the starting point? This is a bespoke offer, so please contact us to discuss your needs.

### **Talks:**

Our staff are expert on a number of fascinating local takes on international history topics. Current talks available include ones on **Local Women in World War One** and **Early Modern Witchcraft and the Salisbury Witch Trial**. Other talks are in development, so do let us know if there is an area of particular interest to you.

**Other themes in the gallery:**

- The Drainage Collection – Salisbury’s medieval waterways and what was found in them
- Clarendon Palace – medieval interior design and life around a Royal Hunting Forest
- Health – from plague to cholera, the common cold unit to Novichok
- The picturesque and women’s changing identity and fashion
- The Civil War
- The Swing Riots – the change in rural life and rebellion in the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Local neighbourhood change – the building of Bemerton Heath
- Magic and superstition
- The Scout Car – made in Salisbury
- The Salisbury Giant and pageantry in the city
- Manufacturing and industry, including famous woollen textiles and cutlery



**For more information, an initial discussion or to book a session please contact Project Learning Officer Alice Maddicott [alicemaddicott@salisburymuseum.org.uk](mailto:alicemaddicott@salisburymuseum.org.uk)**