

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL

REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2019



Festival of Archaeology, July 2018

The SALISBURY
MUSEUM



Since 2011 Salisbury City Council has enabled the museum to successfully programme a range of exciting events across the year in a variety of media from living history to visual arts, drama and talks based on the changing exhibition programme and seasonal calendar.

The grant continues to enable the museum to plan events well ahead, enabling them to compliment and gain from existing calendar events and other activities organised by other cultural and community organisations. The events reach a wide audience and are aimed at families living in the local area.

The programme offers activities both at the King's House in the Cathedral Close and as outreach to community events and locations such as the Bemerton Heath Centre. It includes the following activities:



Under Fives Fridays every second Friday of the month

Discovery days every Tuesday during the school holidays

Festival of Archaeology every July

Seasonal events at Easter and Christmas

Community outreach events such as a series of free arts workshops working with the SCC Community Development Team based in Bemerton Heath.

Monthly 'Under Fives Friday'



Under Fives Fridays

The Under Fives' Fridays for pre-school children and mothers is an institution within the museum. They are not only aimed at the under-fives' themselves, but have also become a social event for mums and carers, bringing new generations of under-fives to the museum. A freelance artist or musician is taken on to deliver a morning workshop for the young people on the second Friday of the month. 2018 included

live music, artists, toy making, archaeology, Halloween, snow and World War One. An average of 52 people attended each session throughout the year.

Discovery Days



WWII 'Dorset regiment' May half term 2018

On Tuesdays of every holiday we have special events for families. This includes Easter, February half term, spring half term and Tuesdays across the summer. The theme and content are never the same. For example over the late May bank holiday we welcomed the Andover-based living history group 'Britain at its Best'. This group brings to life exactly what a field office of the 4th Battalion Dorsetshire regiment would have been like during World War II.

We held nine discovery days in 2018 with an average of 103 people coming along to each of them.

The Festival of Archaeology



Digging for finds at the Festival of Archaeology 2018

The Festival of Archaeology is a weekend in July when we fill the museum gardens with heritage and history and the lecture hall full of talks. This is promoted to local schools by book bag flyers and advertisements. There were eight talks over the weekend from archaeology experts and famous faces including Phil Harding, Alex Langlands, Richard Osgood and Lindsey Davis. Phil also undertook a live archaeological excavation in the museum grounds. For 2018 we worked with two universities and one local primary school whose work which was exhibited at the

event. There were over a dozen show stands, including the hire of Wiltshire Scrapstore who made hundreds of WWI tanks with children over the weekend. All stands are briefed to offer hands on experiences for visitors.

“I was encouraged to join an archaeological dig in August (WARG’s Barton Stacey Dig 2018), begin archaeology classes, shoot a longbow, cut a milk carton in half with a sword as long as my leg, hammer my very own Iron Age coin, build a tank, ‘go and find Phil’ (I had a question about flint arrowheads that, apparently, only Dr Phil Harding should answer), wear medieval armour, and dig for archaeological finds. On top of all this I discussed Cretan Archaeology, battle fronts in WWII, Norfolk flint mines, the Battle of Crécy, codes of medieval combat and even Russian Literature to name only a handful of topics” – a young visitor to the event

We had a total of 1,390 visitors over the weekend. With SCC funds we were able to pay for talented demonstrators and speakers to come to the city to share their passion for history.

Young Curator’s Club



The ‘Coo-Var Glow wall’ used at a YCC event

The Young Curators Club (YCC) is a monthly club for young people (aged 6-12) interested in history and museums, with parents in attendance. Freelancers are taken on to lead the sessions, to provide new topics every month and bring in outside skills to share. In 2018 this included an ancient crafts expert, a theatre set designer and a number of artists. There are a maximum of 30 young people in the club. Average attendance is 32 people including adults.

Christmas Event



Christmas cheer at the museum

This is a great opportunity to bring a new audience to the museum in the winter. We present a 'festive fun day' with freelance entertainers and crafts activities. For 2018 we put on local musicians, arts activities and a museum trail. A particularly cold and rainy day kept the whole city remarkably quiet, but we welcomed 137 intrepid Christmas fans.

Community Outreach



Preparing for a busy 'Picnic in the Park'

Working with the Salisbury City Council Community Development Team, the museum attends community events across the city including the summer 'Community on Tour' events in Bemerton, Bishopdown and Harnham as well as the County led events such as 'Picnic in the Park'. Freelance artists devise and lead the workshops which included gargoyle making, block printing and lantern making. In the summer of 2018 we made 605 craft objects with visitors at the five events we attended.

Promotion of Events

Events at the museum were promoted by a large print run and delivery of paper 'book bag flyers', but towards the end of the financial year 'after consultation with primary schools' we moved to electronic distribution of this material. We also advertise in family event magazines such as 'Raring To Go' that have a wide distribution in the local area.