

## York Museums Trust Performance Report: October 2008 – March 2009

### Analysis of Performance

1. The Partnership Delivery Plan (PDP) sets out a number of key targets relating to the Council's core objectives. The following paragraphs summarise the progress towards the 7 major targets outlined in the PDP.

#### a) Stabilising Visitor Figures

2. Visitor numbers held up very well across the Trust's sites in 2008-09.

**York Castle Museum** has performed particularly well since the opening of *The SIXTIES* gallery in March 2008. The museum welcomed 265,500 visitors in total, a 2% increase on 2007-08.

Yorkshire Museum and York Art Gallery numbers were practically identical to the previous year at 51,500 and 161,500 respectively.

Overall visitor numbers for the Trust were also very similar to the previous year at 503,000, in spite of the fact that Easter fell in March in 2008.

Detailed figures for the full year are given at the end of the report. The figures do not include any estimate of the thousands who saw *The Grand Tour* in York last summer.

#### b) Delivering New Income Streams

3. YMT has generated additional funds from a variety of sources. Details of all the successful fundraising applications made during the reporting period are attached. The main fundraising project has been securing funds for the *Letting in the Light* project for the refurbishment of the **Yorkshire Museum**. This is due to start in November 2009 with the reopening of the museum due in August 2010. Last time we reported that we had secured £200,000 from the DCMS/Wolfson Fund and since then we have been awarded the following grants:

Monument Trust £300,000

Foyle Foundation £75,000

Garfield Weston Foundation £200,000 (awarded 2009/10)

Renaissance in the Regions fund £315,000 (also awarded 2009/10)

Currently we still need to raise £177,000. To this end we have created a Development Board comprised of volunteers from the local community who are working on fundraising projects to help close the gap. We are continuing to raise money to reach our target of over £2 million from other sources too. However we will be setting the budget in a few weeks on the money we have secured making adjustments to it according to our resources.

4. **Conferecing and Venue hire** is an important part of our sustainability. Minimal in 2002/03, the turnover in 2006/07 was more than £85k, yielding a profit of more than £20k after all costs. In 2008-9, the first full year of business, turnover was £165k and profit was £40k. Bookings for 2009-10 are strong and we anticipate that profit will double again this year. The refurbished Hospitium has been a great success, especially in attracting weddings, and was awarded Best Conference venue at the 2009 Visit York Awards. In the future this income stream will help fund capital projects in the Museum Gardens, Yorkshire Museum, York Art Gallery and the Castle Museum and will be ploughed back to improve the services we offer to the public.
5. **YMT Enterprises Board** has met regularly to advise and plan the business activities of YMT. The Board comprises volunteers from the business community and includes three retail experts and one catering expert and is currently advising on improving the Castle Museum retail and catering business.
6. **Renaissance in the Regions** continues to be an important income stream from Central Government, administered by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). This funding is currently underpinning our Lifelong Learning and Collections Care, the growing Volunteers scheme as well as the Museum Gardens improvement project. During 2006/07 the funding from Renaissance was £229,000; in 2007/8 it totalled £606,200 and in 2008/9 it was £593,382. During this period of reporting we have been planning and applying for two funding streams covering 2009-2011 concentrating around economic sustainability. The projects we have secured funding for include investing in catering and retail at the Castle Museum and the **Letting in the Light** refurbishment at the Yorkshire Museum. The £315,000 previously referred to will help fund the refurbishment of the collection display and the immersive audio visual experience that will introduce all visitors to the history of York as well as Yorkshire Museum. We envisage this being a 'gateway' to other visitor attractions and experiences within the city.

### **c) New Exhibitions & Interpretative Service**

7. **York Art Gallery** has been undergoing a programme of refurbishment since 2004. This has included the ground floor galleries and entrance and we now have a lift giving disabled access to the first floor. Currently we are refurbishing the first floor gallery which will reopen in September 2009 as the **Gallery of Pots**. This project has removed the 1970's suspended ceiling and will introduce daylight into the gallery through sunpipes making it a welcoming and comfortable space to visit. The ceiling height will be lifted and there will be a new lighting scheme and wall coverings with a restored wooden parquet floor. The collection of British Studio Pottery in York is the largest outside London and represents around 3,500 pots

plus an important archive of 20<sup>th</sup> century potters collected together by W. A. Ismay. The Gallery of Pots is the culmination of five years of cataloguing and researching the W. A. Ismay collection which was bequeathed to the Yorkshire Museum in 2001. This will establish York as a centre for ceramics in the UK.

8. **York Art Gallery** also launched the very first writer in residence with Tracy Chevalier at the beginning of 2008. Chevalier is famous for her novel *The Girl with a Pearl Earring*. The year culminated in an exhibition selected from the permanent collection, ***A Thousand Words***, which opened in September 2008. This exhibition was very innovative in that it encouraged the visitor to write about the paintings and pots on display as apart of an ongoing interpretation of the exhibition. Visitors responded energetically to this invitation.

In January 2009 we opened the exhibition ***Stanley Spencer*** which was organised by Tate Liverpool and was largely selected from the national collection but included York's own painting by Stanley Spencer, a key artist in 20th century British art. The exhibition was very popular with audience attendance of 45,799.

9. *Chinese Reflections, the Story of Chinese Trade and Design* as reflected in the collections of York Museums Trust, was also published. This is a 32 page colour illustrated booklet and is available in the Museum shops. Research and publication was funded as part of the HLF funded China in Yorkshire project.
10. A large number of images from our geology collections are featured in the newly published '*Yorkshire Geology*' by Paul Ensom, previously Curator of Geology at the Yorkshire Museum.
11. Plans for the refurbishment of the **Yorkshire Museum** continue to be a major element in the work of the Archaeology and Science teams. Great progress has been made in developing the content and concepts for the new Medieval and Roman galleries, and the plans for the Extinct galleries are nearly complete.
12. The Children's Gallery at the **Castle Museum** has been re-displayed with ***Toy Stories***, an exhibition exploring toys across the generations, comparing items played with today alongside those used by parents and grandparents (and beyond). The exhibition has been led by the Learning team with the curators providing the collections and installing the displays. This has made it possible to bring out more objects from our stores, but has also identified significant gaps in the toy collections from more recent periods. As a result of this we hope to make a few acquisitions from selected items that have been loaned/found for the exhibition.
13. In York Art Gallery's Little Gallery we have shown two exhibitions drawn from the collection mainly selected from the works on paper collection: ***Out of the Shadows*** from September 2008 to January 2009 and then ***A Different View - the changing landscape of York*** which finished in May 2009. This exhibition was of great interest to people who know York well as it showed scenes of York that no longer exist.

14. **York St Mary's** was closed over the winter whilst the new commission ***Five Sisters*** was being prepared. This new project involved creating a new work out of boxes of catalogued and uncatalogued sherds mainly dating from the medieval period and excavated from sites in York and North Yorkshire. The resulting mosaic is on display at York St Mary's. The artists Matthew Collings and Emma Biggs were inspired by the Minster's ***Five Sisters*** window. The preparation of the sherds involving extensive cleaning and sorting which was done by volunteers. We worked in partnership with the Institute of the Understanding of the Past (IPUP) which is based at the University of York. They also helped us with the making of a film of the whole process. An excerpt of this can be found on You Tube.
15. **Castle Museum** has undergone some changes over the winter including the installation of a new ramp to enable everyone, including wheelchair users, to have full access to Kirkgate. This has been a complicated project requiring planning permission from the DCMS due to the building's listed and scheduled monument status. The project is currently nearing completion. The new ramp has caused some disruption in visitor flow and will require further permanent changes to the layout of the concourse which we are considering in the light of the improvements to the retail and catering offer.
16. The three **Studios** – Military, Kitchen and Costume and Textiles continue to be very effective in engaging visitors. We have an ongoing programme of activities across all three where there is at least one operational at any one time and at holiday periods all will be operating. Guiding staff now take an active part in the interpretation of the collections and are supported by volunteers. Themes over the last six months have included: Pirates, Pace Eggs, Honey in the Home, Dining with James I, Tudor Swords and Daggers, and Victorians Getting Dressed.
17. Other changes have been made to the cells area with all the craft displays being catalogued and moved to storage in preparation for the new display which is opening in July 2009. ***York Castle Prison*** will interpret for the first time the history of the Debtors Prison. To date the fact that the Castle Museum was originally two prisons has been ignored and many visitors are completely unaware of the buildings' original use. The interpretation has been done by BrightWhite, a York based company and involves short films of real life people from the 18<sup>th</sup> Century who were in the prison and whose lives have been researched from archives.
18. **Yorkshire Museum** continued with ***Fingerprints of Time*** as its main offer, plus the displays on the Romans and Medieval periods. These displays are continually refreshed to add interest for the visitor. The Dating Bar where visitors can look at items from the collections informed by guiding staff continues to be a great success with the visitor.
19. **The Museum Gardens** now have a permanent Garden Manager who has begun to transform the horticultural content of the gardens with the help of the gardeners. With the appropriate planning permission we have started to develop the planting schemes in the gardens including the beds around the Museum Street entrance and the fern garden near Manor Lane. One of the aims is to bring more light into certain areas through the reduction of tree cover. New composting arrangements

to recycle all the garden waste have been built. We have set up a garden security partnership with Safer York, the Police, National Railway Museum, University of York Kings Manor and CYC Children's and Young Peoples Services. This will enable partners to work together to address some of the security issues we all share. We are developing a number of opportunities to consult with residents and stakeholders on the garden development.

#### **d) Create an Education Strategy**

20. We are currently working on an education strategy to be completed by the end of the year. This quarter we have been working with City partners on the new Vocational Diplomas for secondary schools. In partnership with Creative York and NYBEP we set up and hosted a skills conference Create your future attended by 180 post-16 students and creative practitioners. Stands and workshops were provided by key networks and businesses in the cultural and creative sector. We collaborated with Science City York and Set Point North Yorkshire to put on a programme of events for the Festival of Science and Technology. We have also worked in partnership with The Archives and Libraries on celebrations for the anniversary of Henry VIII.
21. The Lifelong Learning Team are now delivering a comprehensive service to an increasing number of schoolchildren and have published a programme of school sessions which address the needs of the National Curriculum. Compared to this half year last year an extra 3,000 school children have come on school visits of which 800 are from York. A total of 14,463 school children have visited with their schools in the last 6 months. Early Years work has featured the characters William and Alfie introducing pre-school children to the museums. All 4 of our sites have the Learning outside the classroom Quality badge.

The team also organises informal activities for the general public and to visitors across the three main sites during the holiday periods. It is YMT policy to have special events at half terms and summer holidays to attract residents and visitors to the museums. The numbers of visitors to informal events has increased by over 7,000 to over 27,000 for this half year compared to the same time last year.

22. The following York Schools, Nurseries, Colleges & Universities have visited York Museums Trust between September 2008 to March 2009:

|                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Acomb Primary School               | Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary School |
| Archbishop High School             | Elvington Primary School              |
| Archbishop of York's Junior School | Gilamoor Primary School               |
| Badger Hill Primary School         | Gladstone Junior School               |
| Bootham Junior School x2           | Haxby Road Primary School             |
| Burnholme Community College        | Hempland Primary School x2            |
| Burton Green Primary School x3     | Joseph Rowntree School                |
| Canon Lee School                   | Kingsmill School                      |
| Carr Infant School x2              | Knavesmire School x2                  |
| Chapter House Prep School x4       | Lakeside Primary School               |

Long Marston Primary School  
 Lord Deramore's Primary School  
 x2  
 Minster School  
 Osbaldwick Primary School x2  
 Our Lady's RC Primary School x2  
 Parkgrove Primary School  
 Pocklington School  
 Rufforth Primary School x3  
 Scarcroft Primary School x2  
 St Georges RC Primary School x4  
 St Mary's Primary School  
 St Oswald's CoE Primary School  
 St Paul's Primary School x2  
 St Wilfrid's RC Primary School x3  
 Stockton on the Forest Primary  
 School  
 Tang Hall Primary School x2  
 The Mount School x6  
 Westfield Primary School x2  
 Wheldrake Primary School  
 Wigginton Primary School

Yearsley Grove School  
  
 Acorn Kaleidoscope Nursery  
 Bright Beginnings Nursery  
 Chapterhouse Pre Prep x3  
 Clifton Pre School  
 Pocklington Montessori x2  
 Rufforth Pre School  
 Smartypants Nursery  
 Straylands Nursery  
 York College Day Nursery x3  
  
 York Tutors x2  
 English in York x4  
 Melton College  
 York Sixth Form College  
  
 University of York x 11  
     History Department x2  
     History of Art Department x4

23. YMT has dedicated learning spaces at each of the three main venues funded through Renaissance. Each of the learning spaces has its own special qualities and resources that are suitable for the varied programme that we offer to schools. The Lab is the e-learning space in the Yorkshire Museum which is fully equipped with new technology including white board, computers, digital cameras, sound recorders and microscopes. It is proving very popular and is an effective way to promote science learning and develop our outreach and e-learning offers. We have seen a 70% increase in science learning in the period December to march. The Studio at York Art Gallery offers opportunities for practical work relating to the National Curriculum whilst the Victorian Schoolroom at the Castle Museum offers a chance to experience Victorian teaching techniques. A new flexible learning space has been created in the Mill at the Castle Museum and two more are planned as part of the Prison project. We have also set up a Teachers Advisory Panel that meets regularly to work with us on improving the range and quality of our formal learning programme. The members of the panel are from York schools and colleges.
24. Curators have continued to build links with the University of York, and have hosted sessions for the Department of Archaeology Artefacts Module MA, and for the Department of Medieval Studies on the Middleham Jewel. We are working in partnership with the University of York using our medieval stained glass collection for conservation students and as part of an AHRC research

project into medieval lead canes. We hosted a total of 23 research visits to the archaeology store.

The Art Team presented a lecture on 'Art Gallery Exhibitions' to around 100 first year Art History students at the University of York on Monday 24 November. First year students (15) from the University of York came to view works on paper by Rembrandt and several students from the University of York have undertaken research in the gallery library on Richard Jack, O' Connor and Etty.

25. Researchers at the Art Gallery have included a number of students/ members of the public looking at information/ works by William Etty; Japanese curators looking at our ceramics collections for a forthcoming exhibition on Hans Coper; and an enquiry from a curator at the Ashmolean Museum asking for help identifying a Yorkshire slipware dish. A group of students from York St John came to view works by St Ives artists with tutor Dr Francesca Wilde (Lecturer in English and Creative Writing). They will be using paintings from our collection as the inspiration for poetry/ creative writing and the finished product *Poem in a Box* will be a DVD which will be shown at York Art Gallery in the summer.

University of York history students had two sessions at the Castle Museum on 17<sup>th</sup> century life. Newcastle Museum and Heritage Studies course had a familiarisation session on SHIC classification and storage.

#### **e) Increase Use & Involvement by Residents**

26. The **Development Board** has been meeting regularly. There are 15 people from the city who have contributed to the thinking and planning of this new group who are aiming to raise funds for the trusts activities. The planning of the first event is well underway and will be announced shortly. It was agreed that efforts would be concentrated around the ***Letting in the Light*** project.
27. York Art Gallery is central to our developing relationships with local communities. The ***Territories*** project is a community involvement project seeking to work with hard to reach groups. This is an audience development project and is in its fourth year of funding from the Arts Council Yorkshire. We work with diverse groups of local people including: the Traveller Education Service, Songbox, Henshaws Art and Craft Centre, Youth Inclusion Support Panel, Walmgate Residents Association, Western Front Association, Soldiers Sailors Airmen and Families Association (SAFFA) the Children's Centres, Applefields School, Peasholme Resettlement Centre and Clifton House. Our work with Travellers Education was chosen by MLA as an example of national best practice. We have also hosted a workshop for local partners on sustainability funding for community art work
28. **Studio Saturdays** take place in the Studio at York Art Gallery and over the autumn and winter have been themed around Tracy Chevalier's exhibition

and Stanley Spencer. The creative writing workshops and competition were selected to be a flag ship project by the National Year of Reading

29. **Adult Learning** is a growing initiative for YMT and we now produce a leaflet that highlights all our activities across all of the sites. The adult learning programme for the six months September to April proved very popular with some sessions being delivered three times to meet demand. This has led to a more active partnership with the University of York Adult Learning Centre, and the Learning Festival. We are planning a major increase in adult learning opportunities for the coming 12 months
30. We currently have 142 active **Volunteers** across all sites. The number of active volunteers continues to rise steadily; we currently have 142 active volunteers across all sites, with 181 inactive and 127 on our database waiting for a suitable project.

The Studios is our largest volunteer project, with over 20 volunteers attached to each individual Studio. The recent Pirates activity in the Military Studio has been enormously popular with visitors, staff and volunteers alike, and the contribution made by the volunteers during the exceptionally busy half term and holiday periods has been invaluable. We continue to recruit to enable us to increase the range of volunteer-led activities available in each Studio. We are working very closely with the Yorkshire Museum Library volunteers and the local U3A group as plans for the refurbishment project are developed. In the last six months we have hosted a number of placements including work with CYC Travellers Education Service and Universities.

31. The **History of York** website continues to develop through the efforts of all the partners. YMT invited experts and enthusiasts across the city to form an Expert Panel who have advised on the content of the website to inform and guide visitors and residents to a better understanding of the history of the city. These include: Bar Convent, Barley Hall, British Waterways, Centre for Lifelong Learning, City Archaeology, City Archives, CORE, DIG, English Heritage, Fairfax House, Goddards House and Garden, IPUP- University of York, Jorvik, Local History Library, Mansion House, Merchant Adventurers, NRM, National Trust, York Minster, York St John University, Yorkshire Film Archive, Yorwalk Ltd. See [www.historyofyork.org.uk](http://www.historyofyork.org.uk)
32. Curatorial staff also engage in a range of outreach activities and this period has been no exception. Perhaps one of the most unusual uses of collections was the supply of images for the successful Illuminate York presentation of *Accendo* in Museum Gardens.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme has continued to build better relations with Metal Detecting clubs in the region and the backlog of finds on the national database has now been cleared. The archaeology team has the most demand for visits to the stores, and we hosted a number of behind the scenes visits including for the CYC Cultural Scrutiny Board, the YMT Development Board, Dringhouses Local History Society Event, Bradford University



Conservation Students, Haxby History Group and the University of York Department of Archaeology Post Graduate Students. A small group from the Friends of York Art Gallery visited our decorative arts stores at Birch Park. The History of Science Section of the Yorkshire Naturalists Union held their meeting in the library at the Yorkshire Museum. Members of the Science team also hosted geology walks and behind the scenes tours for YPS members

The Curator of Military History acts as Curatorial Adviser to the Kohima Museum, the Prince of Wales Own Regiment of Yorkshire Museum and the Museum of the Royal Dragoon Guards assisting them with working towards Museum Accreditation. The two former have been notified that they have achieved the required standard, the latter has a deadline later in the year

33. The China in Yorkshire project enabled us to work closely with York residents of Chinese descent, to acquire collections which represent their lives in York. In addition, we undertook a photography project to provide a context for the items chosen with the Chinese community for the collections. The photographs include examples of the objects showing them as they would be found or used normally. The photographs will form part of the permanent collection, creating a much richer context for the objects we have and providing a glimpse of life in 2009, with a view to their being displayed in the near future but also kept as a permanent record.
34. The Castle Museum was represented at the York Wargames Society annual show "Vapnartak" at York Racecourse in early February. Together, a guide, a volunteer and a curator presented a display of eighteenth century weaponry to nearly two thousand attendees, many of them taking the opportunity to dress as a pirate.

#### **f) Achieve High Visitor Satisfaction**

35. We are participating in the **Visitor Quality Assured Standard** again for 2009 and are currently awaiting the process to take place. We anticipate a positive response and have taken steps to tackle the specific issues identified in the 2008 survey with new signage and the appointment of extra staff to address display, maintenance and presentation issues.
36. We have introduced visitor comments books and sheets across our 3 main sites to ensure the ongoing monitoring of our performance.

Some typical comments received were "I loved the little interactives in some of the rooms – I did them while my grandparents looked at pictures"; "very friendly staff, resulting in a lovely atmosphere"; "thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Castle Museum. Loved the exercise yard (skipped and used the hula hoop). The 60s room was fantastic"; "Interesting but the Lambretta has wrong tyres and that year/model did not have shock absorbers"

#### **g) Ensure The Cataloguing of the Collection**

37. The Adlib documentation system in use at the Trust had not been upgraded since its installation as part of a Designation Challenge Fund project in 1999. Prior to the establishment of the Trust, this documentation project encountered difficulties with its IT infrastructure at CYC and much of the data was either corrupted or rendered inaccessible. This meant that the software could not be upgraded until those problems were resolved and consequently the documentation database became out of date with limited functionality.

In 2008, sufficient problems had been addressed so that we could enable the migration of the data contained in our 138,127 records to a newer version of the software. Consequently, the Collections Team has concentrated on the preparation for this upgrade and from late September we integrated work on retrospective documentation with improving data management overall. This has meant that almost every subject curator has had to check, edit or move data in certain fields of their records so that it transfers into the correct location on records in the new version.

We have engaged two consultant curators to assist the teams in checking records for geology and for numismatics which are two areas where we have significant collections but lack expertise on staff at present. Details of the work undertaken are presented by subject teams.

38. As the curatorial team are engaged in a range of activities across the Trust, there is always a balance to be struck between efforts on documentation and other responsibilities such as exhibitions, research, storage improvements and public programmes. The team is actively managed to ensure that overall targets are met while balancing their overall work programme. We have a target for completion of our retrospective documentation programme of 2010 as part of our Accreditation by MLA.
39. Collections Management team prepared records across all datasets for transfer and put defined lists of terminology in place in order to prevent incorrect data being created and to make the records easier to search:
- 2,650 retro records added to Adlib, using paper records previously created by the cataloguers on the 2,000 Designated Challenge Fund project.
  - 25,528 place name records were checked and edited and
  - 9,800 incorrect place terms were deleted
  - 75,000 records were edited
  - 32,130 records were cleaned, working on the older and most untidy/unreliable records which were transferred from an earlier mainframe system and which need extensive re-writing to make sure they have data in the correct fields to map across into the new Adlib.

The erratic/unreliable nature of the computer network at the Castle has been particularly problematic for this work which has involved manipulating blocks of data and doing searches and edits across several thousand records at a time.

**The Archaeology Team** have been working between developing content for the refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum and the documentation project. 269 new records entered onto Adlib and 16, 381 records edited and cleaned by tidying up terminology and eliminating inconsistencies.

**The Art Team** have had difficulty in meeting targets for documentation in light of the concentration of effort on the ambitious exhibition programme at York Art Gallery. Nevertheless, the team have achieved 365 records entered onto Adlib for works on paper, 65 glass items added, 1,111 from the Ismay collection of Studio pottery added, 861 records for Ismay archives and 330 decorative arts records edited for the upgrade.

**The Science Team** have been working between developing content for the refurbishment of the Yorkshire Museum and the documentation project. 13,706 records edited for the upgrade and 108 records added.

**Social History team** documented all the craft workshops in the Castle Museum before removal to store in advance of the York Castle Prison exhibition. 4,034 records were added and 435 records checked and edited.

**Costume and textile** - 125 retro records added to Adlib and 448 manual retro records created by volunteers and 780 records checked and edited.

**Military** - 372 records added and 200 records checked and edited.

40. **Storage & Conservation** - Documentation is the first stage in responsible stewardship of our collections which also require appropriate storage and conservation. Where possible, we link work on documentation with improvements to the storage of collections and to the identification of conservation priorities.

The Social History team moved out of our storage unit at Riccall and into a larger unit. Conservation work has been undertaken on the sword collection at the Yorkshire museum, Roman Ironwork, the Ballymoney Hoard in the archaeology collection; *Haymaking* by Tristram Hillier (painting and frame), *Under Mars* by Bryan Wynter and the frame for Carracci's *Monsignor Agucchi* in the Fine Art Collection. Works on paper were mounted in advance of the small exhibition on **Lost Buildings of York**. Active programmes of environmental monitoring are in place for York Art Gallery and the Yorkshire Museum, and the Social History team has begun planning a programme of monitoring for the Castle Museum.

41. **Developing the Collection** - We have continued to develop the collections across the Trust. A Roman Military Diploma was purchased with help from the V&A Purchase Fund and the Headley Museum Archaeology Fund. *'Temperance Toby'* by Richard Slee was purchased for the Decorative Art Collection with help from the Friends of York Art Gallery and the W.A. Ismay Bequest. And for a seasonal flavour, a Christmas tree decoration depicting Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, was purchased for the Social History

collection. Accession numbers were allocated to 30 archaeological sites in York and North Yorkshire.

## Detailed Visitor Numbers

### Visitor Numbers

12 months from April 2008 to March 2009

*(excluding conference visitors)*

|                    | Actual         | Last year      | % Change  |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| Castle Museum      | 265,505        | 260,725        | +2%       |
| York Art Gallery   | 160,545        | 160,483        | 0%        |
| York St Mary's     | 25,242         | 30,715         | -18%      |
| Yorkshire Museum   | 51,503         | 51,311         | 0%        |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>502,795</b> | <b>503,134</b> | <b>0%</b> |

### Notes:

No estimates of visitors to The Grand Tour in York have been made.  
Easter fell in April in 2007 and in March 2008  
Memory of Place at York St Mary's was in its second year.

## Financial Stability

38. Draft accounts show that YMT made a small surplus in 2008-09 and continues to be financially stable, but it has always been recognised that in an increasingly competitive and demanding market it would require further investment funding and capital investment to prosper.
39. The investment in the Hospitium facilities is delivering profits and bookings are holding up well under the economic pressure. Plans are in place to improve the café and retail facilities at the Castle Museum this year with a view to increasing secondary spend.
40. Core funding for 2008-2013 has been agreed at the current level, plus an inflationary uplift.
41. It has not been possible for the Council to commit to any additional investment funding. However, the Council is holding £1.163m of capital funding for YMT (of the original £1.898m). £100k of this has been used towards the cost of the

new exhibition 'York Castle Prison' which is due to open 17 July 2009. The remainder will be used as matching funding for the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens project.

## Educational Visits

| October 2008 -March 2009  | Castle Museum | Yorkshire Museum | York Art Gallery | Observatory | York St Mary's | Total numbers across all sites |
|---|---------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Visiting children in York school groups (Ages 0-16)   |               |                  |                  |             |                |                                |
| • Nursery   | 180           | 92               | 94               | 0           | 0              | 366                            |
| • Primary   | 1,273         | 703              | 415              | 328         | 0              | 2,719                          |
| • Secondary   | 0             | 64               | 175              | 0           | 0              | 239                            |
| • Other   | 0             | 0                | 0                | 0           | 0              | 0                              |
| Total   | 1,453         | 859              | 684              | 328         | 0              | 3,324                          |
| Visiting children in non-York school groups (Ages 0-16)                                       |               |                  |                  |             |                |                                |
| • Nursery   | 160           | 31               | 13               | 0           | 0              | 204                            |
| • Primary   | 4,574         | 1,657            | 756              | 157         | 215            | 7,359                          |
| • Secondary   | 1,297         | 243              | 382              | 0           | 0              | 1,922                          |
| • Other   | 0             | 10               | 0                | 0           | 0              | 10                             |
| Total   | 6,031         | 1,941            | 1,151            | 157         | 215            | 9,495                          |
| Student Educational visits HE + FE (Ages 17+)   | 50            | 45               | 193              | 15          | 0              | 303                            |
| Students on a general visit HE + FE (Ages 17+)  | 1,167         | 49               | 511              | 0           | 12             | 1,739                          |
| Events (Extra activities taking place on site for the general visitor)                        | 7             | 33               | 25               | 50          | 0              | 115                            |
| Number of visitors to events  | 14,031        | 11,520           | 1,764            | 3,138       | 0              | 30,453                         |
| Outreach events   | 5             | 13               | 6                | 2           | 0              | 26                             |
| Number users of outreach events   | 2,040         | 840              | 1,260            | 49          | 0              | 4,189                          |
| Educational Activities (Workshops)  | 192           | 88               | 64               | 16          | 0              | 360                            |
| Informal Learning Groups on site (For example Territories etc...)                             | 3             | 15               | 50               | 1           | 0              | 69                             |
| Users of informal Learning on site  | 33            | 246              | 672              | 4           | 0              | 955                            |
| Number of instances of teachers in contact with museums, excluding visits with school parties | 100           | 43               | 25               | 0           | 0              | 168                            |

## Collections

October 2008 - March 2009

|                      | Transactions | Objects | Notes   |
|----------------------|--------------|---------|---|
| Acquisitions         | 16           | 17      | Including: a Medieval reliquary pendant was purchased for the Archaeology collection.<br>A pair of salt-glazed stoneware vases by George Tinworth were bequeathed to the Art Gallery.<br>The Social History team acquired an early 20th century vase made at Strensall Pottery.   |
| Archaeological sites | 30           |         |   |
| Disposals            | 0            | 0       | No items were disposed of in this period.   |
| Image Use Requests   | 0            | 0       |   |
| Loans In             | 4            | 29      | Including: two loans were received by the Art Gallery for the Stanley Spencer exhibition; 25 works from the Tate and two from the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle upon Tyne.<br>A work by Austin Wright was lent by his widow for inclusion in the exhibition A Different View: the Changing Landscape in York.  |
| Loans Out            | 10           | 64      | Including: a number of Roman knives have been loaned to the University of Bradford for research.<br>Portrait of Monsignor Agucchi by Annibale Carracci is currently on loan to the Museo Nazionale del Bargello in Florence.<br>Two loans have been made from the Military collection; one for Vapnartak, York Wargames Society Show and one to South Milford School in conjunction with an archaeology outreach event. |
| Conservation         | 5            | 34      | Including: 11 archaeological objects have been to a conservation lab for cleaning.<br>15 works on paper have been to a conservator for preparation and mounting.  |

## Fundraising

We have been successful in securing funds for the following:

| Funding Body   | Reason for Application/funds  | Amount      |
|--|---|-------------|
| V&A Purchase Fund                                      | Roman military diploma  | £350        |
| Headley Museums<br>Archaeological<br>Acquisitions Fund | Roman military diploma  | £350        |
| Noel G Terry<br>Charitable Fund                        | Vale of York Viking Hoard   | £3,000      |
| Paul Mellon Centre for<br>Studies in British Art       | William Etty research to culminate in<br>exhibition   | £33,500     |
| The Monument Trust                                     | Yorkshire Museum 'Letting in the Light'   | £300,000    |
| Foyle Foundation                                       | Yorkshire Museum 'Letting in the Light'   | £75,000     |
| Friends of York Art<br>Gallery                         | Purchase of toby jug by Richard Slee  | £2,225      |
| Yorkshire<br>Philosophical Society                     | Museum Gardens  | £1,000      |
| Renaissance in the<br>Regions                          | New Gallery of Pots at York Art Gallery   | £50,000     |
| Arts Council England                                   | New Gallery of Pots at York Art Gallery   | £60,000     |
| Private Donation                                       | New Gallery of Pots at York Art Gallery   | £630        |
| Friends of York Art<br>Gallery                         | <i>Equanimity</i> portrait of the Queen by Chris<br>Levine  | £1,250      |
| V&A Purchase Fund                                      | <i>Equanimity</i> portrait of the Queen by Chris<br>Levine  | £1,250      |
| MLA  | Reflections on War exhibition for York Art<br>Gallery   | £8,260      |
| Arts Council   | Meeting the Challenge – cultural leadership<br>programme in partnership with York City<br>Libraries and Archives, York Theatre Royal<br>and Pilot Theatre | £51,000     |
|  | Total Funding   | £587,815.00 |