

## York Museums Trust Performance Report: April 2011 – March 2012

### Executive Summary

1. The major news is that York Museums Trust has become one of only 16 museum services in England to become a Renaissance Major Partner Museum. This is government funding through Arts Council England, who have now taken on the role of museum funding after the demise of the Museums, Libraries and Archives council (MLA), who previously funded Renaissance in the Regions. This is very important news for York and shows how the museums and collections we look after on behalf of the people of York are recognised nationally as truly special. The funding, £3.6m over three years, will enable us to improve the quality of the museum visit by investing in the museums and their displays. Among the criteria for the funding, which 49 museum services applied for, sustainability was key, and without City of York Council's ongoing commitment to York Museums Trust, we would have been unlikely to have been successful.
2. Outside of this reporting period we have also recently become successful in a bid to Arts Council England for Museum Development Funding amounting to £850,000. This will see YMT leading on supporting and offering advice to smaller museums and galleries across the Yorkshire and Humber region until 2015. This work was previously carried out by the MLA. This is a major step change for YMT, broadening our role and raising our profile enormously, positioning YMT as a leading museum organisation regionally and nationally.
3. As reported previously York Museums Trust is currently progressing with two major capital developments, at York Art Gallery and at York Castle Museum. We have long recognised that the key to YMT's financial future is the continually popular York Castle Museum, and the reason this remains so popular is that we refresh the visitor offer so that it remains a 'must see' attraction. The highlight for most visitors to the Castle Museum is Kirkgate, the recreated Victorian street. We have refreshed this over the years, and we feel now is the time to extend the street, and introduce visitors to 'real' people who tell us more about life in the Victorian age. The £300,000 refurbishment will also feature authentic York businesses on the street, including Banks and Leak and Thorpe Drapers. The 'Rowntree snicket' will feature the poorer side of

Victorian life informed in part by Seebohm Rowntree's work on poverty. This work has involved public consultation and partnership working with the two universities, local interest groups and businesses and the Rowntree Society. This has been funded by Renaissance in the Regions and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and is due to open in May 2012.

4. The second Castle Museum project has been to open up the green and riverside areas behind the museum, comprising the medieval Castle, the River Foss and Raindale Mill. This includes a walkway along the river, a flexible event space, an area promoting wildlife conservation, and a suitable 19<sup>th</sup> century garden. Visitors now have the opportunity to see areas of York Castle that have been 'out of bounds' that will be fully interpreted for the first time. This project is also funded by Renaissance in the Regions and will be completed by April 2012. A lot of the work on this has been achieved with the Community Payback team.
5. The third and most ambitious part of the Castle Museum capital project is to create new gallery spaces across the whole of the first floor of the Debtors Prison. This will involve moving the current office, meeting and learning spaces to the second floor. The project is called Changing Spaces. The first exhibition in this new space will be **1914: When the World Changed Forever** and will look at how life changed during the period 1914 - 1918 due to the impact of the First World War. As well as new galleries with flexible display cases and spaces being created, we will also install a lift, which will be the first lift in the building, allowing a much more accessible museum. This project will cost more than £2m, and we are pleased that the Heritage Lottery Fund have accepted the bid for this project at round one stage, meaning that the money has been earmarked, though we do still need to clear round two. This project will open in spring 2014. We will also manage a regional marketing campaign to support Yorkshire's celebrations of the anniversary of WWI, as we did for the very successful **Art in Yorkshire, supported by Tate**.
6. At York Art Gallery we aim to expand the exhibition space of the Gallery as well as improving the public facilities such as learning studios, café, shop and toilets, all within the current footprint of the building. This will involve expanding into the part of the building occupied by York City Archives, by creating a new gallery above the Main Gallery, into the previously hidden roof space, and also above the South Gallery; we will also develop spaces within the 1952 extension

to the rear of the gallery. This will have the potential to position York Art Gallery as one of the top art galleries in the North. The additional gallery spaces will enable us to display the internationally important collection of 20th and 21st Century ceramic collections and the designated picture collections as well as having a suite of ground floor galleries to mount major exhibitions. This also gives us the opportunity to charge for major shows as appropriate. We have been very fortunate in being left a substantial private legacy of £2m to seed-corn this project along with £510,000 from City of York Council. We have also been awarded £3,500,000 capital funding from Arts Council England, £250,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation and £50,000 from the Feoffees of St Michael Spurriergate. This means we have secured £6.7m of the £8m project so far and we will be contacting other trusts for further funding. As it is a major project we expect that the gallery will close at the beginning of 2013 and reopen Easter 2015. Creating new gardens to the rear of the gallery with new access and connectivity across the whole of the St Mary's Abbey site are an integral part of the development, and the recent demolition of the unstable hutments to the rear of the gallery brings this one step further. We have also been talking to the University of York regarding the 'opening up' of Kings Manor, further integrating the St Mary's Abbey site.

7. ***Art in Yorkshire, supported by Tate*** continued through the summer and proved to be very popular. This was an YMT initiative and involved a marketing campaign for 18 partner galleries across Yorkshire. In essence, over 100 works from Tate's historic and contemporary collections were displayed in galleries throughout Yorkshire. These included Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Leeds Art Gallery, Hull's Feren's Art Gallery and Hepworth Wakefield, and most galleries saw a rise in visitor figures. Featured artists included Damian Hirst, Barbara Hepworth, John Atkinson Grimshaw and John Martin. York Art Gallery visitor figures exceeded all expectations, largely due to the extreme popularity of David Hockney's ***Bigger Trees near Warter***. The project was funded by MLA, Arts Council England and supported by Welcome to Yorkshire. We are continuing the project in 2012 with 27 galleries as ***Art in Yorkshire goes Modern***.
8. Through 2011 YMT continued its staff reorganisation due to the funding cuts. We have reduced the staff numbers by 17 posts, 6 of these by not filling vacant posts, 6 voluntary redundancies and 5 compulsory redundancies. These posts included Curator of Social History, 2 Assistant Curators of Social History, Curator of Costume and

Textiles and an Enabler. We are pleased to confirm that we have been able to retain the post of Display Care and Storage Assistant.

9. As ever, our partnership work remains vital to delivering our objectives. The major partnership work over this period and through 2012 will be our work on the **York Mystery Plays 2012**, working with York Theatre Royal and Riding Lights Theatre Company to bring the Mystery Plays back to the Museum Gardens for the first time since 1988, for what promises to be a spectacular event. This will form our part of the **York 800** celebrations as well as **1212: the Making of the City** exhibition at the Yorkshire Museum. We have also continued to work with the University of York, City of York Council, York St John and Science City York on the **Science and Innovation Grand Tour**, a celebration of York's achievements in science and innovation, just launched, that features images and information displayed across the city during summer 2012. We were again also involved in Illuminating York and once again the main strand of the event was based at one of our sites, with '*Envisions*' being projected onto York Castle Museum. Over the summer we also helped set up the Tansy Beetle Action Group with the University of York and City of York Council to introduce this iconic species to the Museum Gardens. The beautiful, iridescent green, flightless Tansy Beetle is a flagship for species conservation; formerly more widespread in the UK, it is now only found along the banks of the river Ouse around York. The science, gardens and learning team will be working with volunteers to create habitats that add to the beetle's range, and to enable visitors to learn about, and help protect, this species.
10. The transformed Yorkshire Museum has been nominated for several awards. At the Visit York Tourism Awards in April, the museum won Visitor Attraction of the Year; the museum was also longlisted for the major Art Fund Museum Prize and among the judges who visited were Michael Portillo, artist Jeremy Deller and the journalist Charlotte Higgins. Unfortunately we did not make it on the shortlist and the British Museum eventually won it for its *A History of the World in a Hundred Objects*. In October we were nominated for the Large Visitor Attraction of the Year award at the Welcome to Yorkshire White Rose Awards. The museum was also nominated for the prestigious European Museum of the Year award 2012.
11. As mentioned above **1212: the Making of the City** is the Yorkshire Museum's contribution to **York 800**, a transformed medieval exhibition celebrating the people, places and events that have contributed to the

city's medieval heritage. The exhibition features items from our own collections and important works from York Minster. We were delighted to welcome the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Beatrice to a tour of the exhibition on 5 April and city Councillors were also invited to a private view.

12. The BBC's Antiques Roadshow was hosted in the Museum Gardens on 28 July 2011 and attracted over 3,000 people. So many exciting items were brought by members of the public that the BBC screened two programmes worth of material, in March and April 2012.
13. In December we began fundraising for two important Iron Age gold torcs that were recently found in Yorkshire. They are significant in that they are the first Iron Age gold jewellery to be found in the north of England. After an appeal and a very successful fundraising event held in the Hospitium, where people were able to handle the torcs and some other items from the collection, we successfully raised the full amount for the first torc in February. We will aim to acquire the second torc when it is officially declared treasure.
14. We were delighted that Anthony Shaw, a major collector of contemporary ceramics, has agreed to lend to us on long term loan his outstanding collection. This complements and expands our collection of British Studio Ceramics, which is undoubtedly the finest collection in the UK. Items from the Shaw collection are on display as part of ***Gordon Baldwin: Objects for a Landscape*** that opened in February.

## **Analysis of Performance**

15. 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*

16. Overall visitor figures have continued to grow, increasing to 659,893 for 2011/12 from 641,160 last year, an increase of 3%. As there was no new offer at the Castle Museum over this period visitors did drop slightly, emphasising the need for the new offers at the museum as highlighted above. Entering YMT's 10<sup>th</sup> year it is worth noting that over

that time total visitors across the sites have increased by a massive 67%. (Total visitor figures for 2002/3: 394,602; 2011/12: 659, 893).

17. The Yorkshire Museum continues its success after its major development, showing a 20% increase in visitors year on year. The new exhibition mentioned above and the Mystery Plays bringing people to the Museum Gardens should help increase visitor figures further. York Art Gallery visitor numbers continue to grow, with both the Hockney and Ety exhibitions far exceeding expectations. One of our main areas of concern is how to hold on to the awareness of the gallery whilst it is closed for development. We will be developing an interim programme to keep awareness in the city through loans to Fairfax House and galleries throughout the region, and an extended contemporary art programme at York St Mary's.
18. What is clear is that continued investment and effective marketing are crucial to increasing visitors and encouraging repeat visits, hence the plans for improving the displays and buildings described above. One area that we do not count visitors on a regular basis is the number of people enjoying the Museum Gardens which at the last count we believe are somewhere in the region of over 1.3million per annum.  
  
b) Delivering new income streams
19. The most significant news is clearly the achievement of the Arts Council Major Partner Museum award of £3.6m over the next three years which will benefit York residents through improvements in the museums and additional learning and public programmes.
20. Beyond that, other income sources have also seen growth. Admissions income is currently 7% higher than last year and YMT's Trading Subsidiary Company has shown a particularly strong performance through the year. We are forecasting that Retail, Catering and Venue Hire will deliver a profit of £219,000, up from £130,000 in the same period last year. This income feeds back in to support the Charity under a tax-free Gift Aid arrangement.
21. Our Development Group has continued to meet and the group are currently working on long term plans for events and initiatives to support the York Art Gallery development. This follows their first major fundraising event, the Yorkshire Dinner that saw four top Yorkshire chefs produce a unique dinner raising £17,526.67 for the Yorkshire Museum development.

c) New exhibitions and interpretative service

## **York Art Gallery**

### 22. ***Honest Pots***

9 October 2010 – 9 October 2011

This exhibition, the third to be held in the Gallery of Pots, was a display of handmade, functional pots, from the medieval period till the present.

### 23. ***Games People Play***

8 October 2011 – 15 April 2012

This small exhibition, curated by members of the community, shows the games people have played over the years and the way these have been depicted by artists.

### 24. ***Excitations***

15 October 2011 -

***Excitations*** is an exhibition of ceramics from York Museums Trust's collections chosen by Gordon Baldwin. It features a range of works from across the ceramics collections of York Museums Trust, all chosen by Baldwin to show the type of pottery that influenced him when he was a student, bringing about the moment he gave up painting in favour of working in clay.

### 25. ***David Hockney: Bigger Trees Near Warter***

12 February 2011 – 12 June 2011

David Hockney's ***Bigger Trees Near Warter*** comprised fifty canvasses which created the largest work Hockney has ever produced, measuring 40 x 15 feet. This was the first time that the work, owned by Tate, was seen outside of London. This quickly became the most popular exhibition we have shown at the gallery since YMT was created, and created a lot of media coverage. We were thrilled that Hockney himself visited the gallery for the launch of the exhibition and ***Art in Yorkshire, supported by Tate***, along with Tate Director Sir Nicholas Serota.

Total visitors – 143,365

26. ***Austin Wright: Sculpture and Drawings***

16 April 2011 – 2 October 2011

This Little Gallery exhibition celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wright's birth and featured small scale sculptures and drawings.

27. ***William Etty: Art and Controversy***

25 June 2011 – 22 January 2012

This, our first major researched exhibition in partnership with the History of Art department at the University of York, was the first since 1955 to focus on this neglected York-born artist. The exhibition, including works lent from the Tate, the Royal Academy, Manchester Art Gallery and the Royal Collection, filled the whole ground floor of the gallery and proved to be very popular, becoming the second most popular exhibition we have staged. A scholarly catalogue was produced that sold well, and for the first time Friends of York Art Gallery gave Saturday tours which also proved to be popular. This was also part of ***Art in Yorkshire, supported by Tate***. We also held a symposium 'Unpacking Etty', which was attended by 22 academics and many museum and gallery professionals.

Total visitors – 115,620

28. ***Gordon Baldwin: Objects for a Landscape***

11 February 2012 – 10 June 2012

Gordon Baldwin is a sculptural potter who has been very influential in moving ceramics towards sculptural forms and away from traditional functional pots. This major touring exhibition, the first major exhibition of Baldwin's work, showcases more than 100 works by one of the world's most distinguished ceramic artists, and is accompanied by a new full-colour book detailing his career.

**York St Mary's**

29. ***Thirty Pieces of Silver***

28 May 2011 – 30 October 2011

Since 2004 we have used York St Mary's as a contemporary art venue, and this year we displayed Cornelia Parker's work made from



crushed silver objects suspended from the ceiling. The work was lent from Tate as part of ***Art in Yorkshire, supported by Tate***. The installation proved very popular with a 71% increase in visitors from last year's exhibition.

Total visitors: 39,932

## **Museum Gardens**

30. The public have been responding very well to the horticultural improvements in the Museum Gardens; the Garden Guides often get praise for how the gardens look. Summer bedding plants have been planted in June and we have placed a number of specimen plants in pots near Museum Street and Marygate entrances to add to the sense of entering a garden. This summer has also saw new plant labels sited in the gardens, and we plan to keep momentum and add more labels to plants. We have cleared out the remains of St Leonard's Hospital and interpretation panels have been installed so that visitors can understand the history of what was a rather neglected place. The Gardeners have also planted thousands of new bulbs in November for a colourful display in the spring. Emphasis this year is on colour through tulips and bulbs to naturalise through daffodils. The weekend garden tours delivered by the Garden Guides continue and have proven to be well attended. We have also now produced a leaflet for the gardens, a positive contribution to their being positioned as our fifth site. On a busy summer day we have over 10,000 people visit the gardens. We have also recruited a new Garden Manager, who previously was Head Gardener at the National Trust property Craggside.
31. The **Learning Team** has seen an increase in York and non York school audiences through this period (see complete figures below). Links with York schools are very important and 5,305 York school children came to all our sites through the year, an increase of 13% over last year.
32. **Formal Learning:** Total numbers have kept up well and improved on last year; they link very well to renewed public interest in homemade crafts which has featured in the media; for instance, the two day course traditional Christmas decoration making by willow weaving was fully booked.  
Other highlights have included: a special session for Scarcroft School arranged with us by the Friends of Rowntree Park, focusing on drawing

woodland animals from specimens from the Yorkshire Museum's natural history collection, and included seeing ***Bigger Trees Near Warter***. The children's drawings will be used as inspiration in a project being run by the Friends of Rowntree Park to create new signage in the park; we collaborated with the Yorkshire Air Museum and North Yorkshire Business and Education Partnership to run workshops for primary school children on World War II as part of their 'Flightpath' day; the popular Early Years Week – 'Bull in a China Shop!' using Joshua Turner's China shop on Kirkgate as inspiration was also successful. We also delivered our re-worked WWII schools workshop featuring the actor Chris Cade as an air aid warden with pupils using and making bomb shelters, bomb scoops, and gas masks. We also piloted the new workshop on Victorian life; 'Earth & Beyond' has proved to be the most popular workshop during September and October, which may reflect the additional information that has been sent out to schools recently regarding our forthcoming astronomy training day for teachers. A new popular session at the Yorkshire Museum has been 'Who Were You', a forensic science session.

33. The Friends of York Art Gallery have kindly agreed to co-sponsor an MA studentship in History of Art from the University of York. The student will spend one day a week at the Gallery researching the collections, leading to a dissertation and possibly informing a future display at the Gallery. A representative from the Friends and Laura Turner have selected the student, Emma Double, who started work at the Gallery in September.
34. We have hosted the second week of the Settings Other Than Schools placement (SOTS). 3 trainee teachers from York St John's University worked with us for the week, and we signed off their 'competencies' in order for them to pass the module. They observed workshops, helped with visitor consultation, prepared learning resources and completed various tasks for their course. There was very positive feedback from York St John's and the students. York College brought a group of 8 Creative & Media Diploma students for a tour of the gallery, in preparation for a module involving working with the community.
35. **Informal Learning:** we have held Family Saturdays at York Art Gallery, as well as Easter and half term activities in the Studio looking at stained glass, ceramics and landscapes. Other activities at York Art Gallery included making collages and mobiles from silver papers and foils inspired by Cornelia Parker's ***Thirty Pieces of Silver***; Territories sessions have included sessions for Adults with Moderate Learning

Difficulties led by artist Griselda Goldsborough; a session for members of York Carers' Forum, sessions for pre-school children and their carers led by Thea Jacob of Song Box, looking at the Hockney exhibition; 12 days of drop-in art workshops for families in the Studio over the summer holidays focussing on William Etty where visitors created 6 statues out of junk materials inspired by the statue of Etty outside the gallery. Christmas at the Castle featured an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, as well as staff in period costume and a look at the development of mince pies and mincemeat through the ages. We also celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Carols in Kirkgate.

36. At the Yorkshire Museum Easter holiday activities focussed on astronomy, with a 'star trail' around the museum, families drew cartoons of the gods they found on the star trail, made little models of planets with Super Clay and drew starry pictures with coloured chalks on black paper. Tours of the geology behind York's buildings have proved very popular, with several more sessions now booked on request. Curator's talks were also been well attended. Half term holiday activities focussed on prehistoric marine reptiles. Two Wild Wednesdays were held in August with the themes *Heaven* and *Earth*. These proved as popular as ever with well over 500 people attending each event. Vikings were the theme for February half term events.

37. At York Castle Museum, the highlight was *Knights at the Castle* which ran everyday for the whole of the summer holidays. Young children could practice archery, make a replica helmet, meet the armourer demonstrating how armour is made and have a go on the quintain. This took place in the exercise yard that was decorated with swathes of coloured fabric and heraldic shields and was very well received by the public. A play area for small children was set up in the costume gallery. Three medieval swords showing the development of sword design were also made available for visitors to handle in the military studio.

Around 300 visitors to the YMT Learning Team stand at the Great Yorkshire Show contributed to 2 large acrylic paintings on canvas based on 2 paintings from the fine art collection. These were on display in the Studio throughout the summer.

38. Talks have been given to, amongst others, the Bilton Local History Society, Arup Archaeology of York conference, Radio York, Keynote Speech at the Rare Book and Special Collection Libraries conference, Dringhouses Historical Society, All Saints School and the Pocklington Art Society.

39. **Adult Learning:** highlights have included *Easter Icons*, a 2 day workshop during which participants created their own small egg tempera icon painting using medieval materials and techniques. It included tours of the York Art Gallery's medieval hang and the Yorkshire Museum's medieval galleries. 2 adult learning sessions were delivered by the Open College of the Arts and a talk on David Hockney was given to the University of the 3rd Age. To complement the William Etty exhibition we hosted a weekend of life drawing sessions which were led by artist Jo Pullar of Space 109. These proved popular, with 32 adults attending sessions and producing some excellent drawings. The delivery of term-long, supported learning courses for adults with additional needs has continued throughout spring and summer, led by City of York Council's Adult & Community Education Team. Ofsted inspectors visited one of the sessions in June, when the sessions finished.

During Illuminate York we held our annual Adult Learning Evening. This year, in addition to a carousel of talks, including one given by the Friends of York Art Gallery, Jo Pullar of Space 109 came with sculptor Brian Coleman to promote the artists' workshops which they are now running, allowing us to support this vital and creative, community centre.

October half term saw the first of our astronomy events funded by a grant from the Science & Technologies Facilities Council. Astronomer, Martin Lunn delivered a lunch time talk and spent the afternoon in the Observatory showing visitors the telescope. He then trained a group of students from the University of York, Department of Physics, to host an evening opening of the Observatory. Despite the overcast conditions, 182 adults and 50 children visited the Observatory that evening.

#### e) *Increase use and involvement by residents*

40. The YMT monthly book club has discussed *The Coral Thief*, *Wolf Hall*, *I Claudius*, *Vinland*, *How to Paint a Dead Man* and *As Meat Loves Salt*; around 10 people attend each month. The sessions are led by Vicky Hoyle from City of York Archives and incorporate a handling session.

41. After the success of ***Celebrating Severus***, Precious Cargo, our project to involve young people in the work of the museum includes the making of a film exploring the medieval world involving over 25

young people and over 30 Adults. The Media students taking part spent an intensive week over half term filming numerous people and locations in York to help capture York's medieval heritage. In addition to the film crew, a cast of young actors performed specially written short dramatised scenes about the life of monk's at St Mary's Abbey for the film. The project has made the shortlist for the prestigious Art Fund Clore Award, the winner will be announced at an awards ceremony at the British Museum in June.

42. This project has strengthened existing partnerships with York College, by using their Media students for the project, with York Theatre Royal, by working with the Mystery Plays producer to help cast the actors and put forward community writers, and also with York Minster, whose vergers have loaned us their robes as part of the wardrobe for the dramatised scenes. Many other local people, organisations, and businesses have given up their time to be involved in this film. York College 3rd year BA Fashion Design students designed contemporary catwalk outfits inspired by our medieval collections. The students have also been participating in the accompanying documentary film about their work. The degree module this project is for is titled Precious Cargo

The partnership with York Theatre Royal and Riding Lights Theatre Company is a major collaboration for YMT which will result in York Mystery Plays returning to Museum Gardens in August 2012. Central to the success is the involvement with York residents who are volunteering in all aspects of back stage and performance. To date we have recruited over 1,025 volunteers.

43. Other current projects include *Pocket Money*, a film and exhibition involving local people's thoughts on money, linking to the Yorkshire Museum's coin collections, and also *Coins*, a photography and image manipulation project with service users of a mental health charity, also relating to our coins collection.
44. The impact of Precious Cargo is evidenced by Mr Barry Foster, Head of Media at All Saints RC Secondary School in York contacted us to say that "the students and I really enjoyed the project last year and the enhanced real world element of filming on location etc has really benefited them, this has also been reflected in the grades for certain assessment criteria".
45. The following York Schools, Nurseries, Colleges & Universities have visited YMT through the reporting period:

### **Nurseries**

Daisy Chain Day Nursery  
Ducklings Nursery  
Elvington Pre-School  
Happy Jays Nursery  
Huntington Pre-School  
Joseph's Day Nursery  
Little Green Rascals Day Nursery  
Smartypants Nursery  
The Crescent Nursery

### **Primary students**

Acomb Primary School x 2  
Archbishop of York's Junior School  
Badger Hill Primary School  
Burton Green Primary School x3  
Carr Infant & Junior School  
Clifton Green Primary School  
Clifton with Rawcliffe Primary x2  
Copmanthorpe Primary School x2  
Fishergate Primary School  
Haxby Road Primary School x4  
Headlands Primary School x2  
Hempland Primary School x2  
Hob Moor Community Primary School  
Huntington Primary School x4  
Knavesmire Primary School x4  
Lakeside Primary School x2  
New Earswick Primary School x2  
Osbalwick Primary School  
Our Lady's RC Primary School  
Park Grove Primary School  
Poppleton Ousebank Primary School x2  
Poppleton Road Primary School x2  
Robert Wilkinson Primary School

Scarcroft Primary School  
St Barnabas Primary School  
St George's Roman Catholic Primary School x6  
St Oswald's CE Primary School  
St Lawrence's Primary School x2  
St Paul's C of E Primary School x4  
St Wilfrid's RC Primary School x4  
Tang Hall Primary School  
Warthill Primary School  
Westfield Community School  
Wigginton Primary School  
Woodthorpe Primary School  
Yearsley Grove Primary School x2

### **Secondary and A-level students**

All Saints RC School x2  
Archbishop Holgate School x2  
Huntington School x2  
Millthorpe School x2  
Joseph Rowntree School x4  
York College x10  
Askham Bryan College x

### **Independent Schools**

Bootham School x5  
Clifton Preparatory x2  
Minster School  
The Mount School x6  
Queen Ethelberga's College x3

### **Universities**

York St Johns University x11  
University of York x14

### **SEN Schools**

Applefields School x3

46. As at the end of this reporting period we had 202 active volunteers across all of our sites. We have expanded volunteer teams in our public facing projects (Castle Museum Studios, Raindale Mill and York Observatory), to enable us to open on more weekday occasions through the summer in line with rising weekday visitor numbers.
47. We replaced the axle in Raindale Mill which enabled us to get the mechanism working again after a break of several years. This was a landmark occasion for Mill volunteers who have supported the project since 2009, always working towards this point when we would be able to operate the mechanism and waterwheel for visitors.
48. We had a small team of volunteers working with us on the installation and de-installation of ***Thirty Pieces of Silver*** at York St Mary's. These roles are always very sought after as there are few opportunities in the city for volunteers to get hands on with such prestigious works, so it is always particularly pleasing to be able to work with volunteers at York St Mary's.
49. The Yorkshire Museum Library project continued to enjoy the support of NADFAS who train and work alongside the volunteers as they work on books in need of refurbishment.
50. We have hosted 10 placements in total during the reporting period with the archaeology, natural sciences, social history and learning teams as well as with the Museums Development officer.
51. Some of our Castle Studios volunteers helped to clear scientific instruments from their store in the Castle Museum in preparation for the work starting on extending Kirkgate. Under the guidance of the Curator of History, the volunteers helped to check, record and repackage objects before they went to the Riccall store. We hope that there will be many other ad-hoc volunteer roles arising from this project as it gets underway.
52. The Observatory team continued to grow, enabling us to plan for a varied programme of evening activities through the winter months. Volunteers also helped with the BBC's Stargazing Live event held in January.
53. The photography volunteers established themselves as part of the visitor offer at the Castle Museum, opening up the Collections Studio

every Wednesday, chatting to visitors about their work with the social history photographic collection.

f) *Achieve high visitor satisfaction*

54. We have recently successfully retained the Visitor Quality Assurance Standard at York Art Gallery, York Castle Museum and the Yorkshire Museum. All three sites have also been inspected for and awarded the Sandford Award for Heritage Education and the Learning Outside the Classroom Award. The LOTC assessor summarised as follows:

*“This is an outstanding organisation offering high quality experiences for its users - every aspect of the requirements for the Learning outside the classroom quality award is in place and evidence is readily available to support all statements. Staff are totally committed to their work and show a comprehensive understanding of how to provide learning experiences of the highest quality in a superb location“*

55. Visitor surveys carried out in September 2011 by Spirul Research showed that at York Castle Museum:

- 100% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit
- 99% would recommend the museum to others
- 89% would visit again

At Yorkshire Museum:

- 97% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit
- 96% would recommend the museum to others
- 84% would visit again

At York Art Gallery:

- 99% of visitors were either satisfied or very satisfied with their visit



- 96% would recommend the museum to others
- 91% would visit again

56. Some recent visitor comments have included:

### ***William Etty: Art and Controversy***

“The Etty exhibition was fabulous. The gallery is much better since the refurbishment.”

“Truly lovely paintings hung and displayed very well. The way the exhibition not only shows the paintings but the controversy that surrounds them, and includes reactions from the press and quotes adds further interest to the whole thing. I sort of feel I am rooting for Etty- the poor guy!”

“I didn’t know much of William Etty but I do now! A wonderful collection.”

“Truly an enriching experience. I heard about this exhibition and flew all the way from Ohio to see it! It is beautiful. Thank you York. It’s been an exquisite visit and I will be back again soon!”

### ***Thirty Pieces of Silver***

“I am most impressed with this exhibition. It is probably the cleverest piece of modern art I have seen.”

“One of my favourite art venues in the North – always fantastic installations here. A wonderful use of the space.”

### ***Honest Pots***

“I came with low expectations and am utterly smitten! What a fine powerful unforgettable exhibition! I shall never overlook a pot again”

“Brilliant exhibition I liked that the old and functional pots were included with the artists pots”

*g) Ensure the cataloguing of the collection*

57. After some discussion with Arts Council England, who have now taken on responsibility for Museum Accreditation, all YMT sites be taken through the re-accreditation procedure in April 2014. York Art Gallery is likely to be closed at the time and so could be awarded only provisional Accreditation. However the length of the gallery refurbishment means this is unavoidable.
58. At York Art Gallery, there was a push to complete documentation of the works on paper as the documentation assistants contract came to an end and she added images to 432 records in this period, with the assistant curator creating an additional 10 retrospective records,
59. At the Castle Museum, 25 records for female accessories, and 310 retrospective records for objects going on display were added.
60. At the Yorkshire Museum, the request to borrow material for research on the Teesdale cave material prompted a review to check and refine records for this important collection with 473 records having images added, while a further 1,377 geology records were added retrospectively.
61. The collections management team was expanded by the addition of the two collections technicians working on archaeology collections and in this 6 month period they added records or updated locations for 1,321 objects, including those moved from the Marygate hutments. They then switched in September to working on the Kirkgate project and created a further 97 records for Social History objects being retrospectively recorded as they were taken out of stores in advance of building work.
62. The Registrar continued to check and edit records in preparation for printing accession registers, checking the validity and consistency of terminology and she cleaned and edited 34,862 pieces of data, including scientific names, object names, locations and acquisition sources.
63. The collections management co-ordinator continued to work on clarifying data connected to images so that copyright information is accurate; she edited 1,542 records to ensure their images were named correctly and checked the work of the volunteers working on photo recording at the Castle Museum.

**Janet Barnes  
Chief Executive  
York Museums Trust  
June 2012**

## Detailed Visitor Numbers

### Visitor Numbers

12 months from April 2011 to March 2012  
(excluding conference visitors)

	Actual	Last year	% Change
Castle Museum	295,661	307,241	-4%
York Art Gallery	229,513	231,351	-1%
York St Mary's	39,932	23,292	+71%
Yorkshire Museum	94,787	79,276	+20%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>659,893</b>	<b>641,160</b>	<b>+3%</b>

#### Notes:

64. Yorkshire Museum reopened in August 2010. York St Mary's was open from June in 2010, and from May in 2011.

### Financial Stability

65. YMT broke even in 2011-12
66. The Major Partner funding from ACE, plus anticipated growth in admissions income mean that a surplus is forecast for 2012-13. This will allow YMT to deal with the proposed 20% cut in revenue funding from CYC from 2013 to 2018.



<b>April 2011 – March 2012</b>	<b>Castle Museum</b>	<b>Yorkshire Museum *</b>	<b>York Art Gallery</b>	<b>Observatory</b>	<b>York St Mary's</b>	<b>Total all sites</b>	Figures from same period last year
<b>Outreach events</b> (does not include outreach workshops)	3	6	8	0	0	<b>17</b>	25
<b>Number users of outreach events</b>	430	612	430	0	0	<b>1,472</b>	5,627
<b>Educational Activities (Workshops)</b>	238	128	56	0	0	<b>422</b>	416
<b>Informal Learning Groups on site (For example Territories etc...)</b>	17	26	38	1	0	<b>82</b>	189
<b>Users of informal Learning on site</b>	1,060	1,871	447	384	0	<b>3,762</b>	6,697
<b>Number of instances of teachers in contact with museums, excluding visits with school parties</b>	59	13	0	0	0	<b>72</b>	49

\* Includes Great Yorkshire Show.

## Collections

### April 2011 – February 2012

	Transactions	Objects	Notes
Acquisitions	23	155	<p><b>Art</b> – A print ‘Minster and Magpies’ by York artist Mark Hearld was presented by the Friends of York Art Gallery. ‘Portrait of Anna Wilmersdoerffer’ by Alfred Wolmark, circa 1905. The Art Fund, Friends of York Art Gallery and the MLA/V&amp;A Purchase Grant Fund also provided grants for the purchase of ‘Yellow Open Form’ by Merete Rasmussen, a stoneware sculpture. A number of other ceramic and 2D pieces were acquired as gifts, and three studio pottery pieces by the potters Gordon Baldwin, Eric Mellon and Doug Fitch were donated. Two watercolours by Keith Vaughan were gifted through the Contemporary Art Society.</p> <p><b>History</b> - A range of objects was acquired including a silk theatre poster dating from 1850, a newspaper handcart for use in Kirkgate and two contemporary rag rugs. A 1920s seal embossing press was donated by Sessions printing company following the closure of their business.</p> <p><b>Science</b> – Two gifts of wasps totalling 101 were donated to the science collection.</p> <p><b>Archaeology</b> - A gold finger ring set with a blue sapphire and red glass cloisonné dating from the 10th - 11th centuries was purchased with the aid of grants from the Art Fund, MLA/V&amp;A Purchase Grant Fund, Headley Museums Archaeological Acquisitions</p>

			Fund and the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.
Archaeological sites	2	2	One accession number was issued to the University of York Department of Archaeology Excavations for work on the University campus and another to Pre Construct Archaeology a site at Northallerton.
Disposals	6	173	<p><b>Archaeology</b> – 160 pieces of archaeological stonework were de-accessioned; these were from the Marygate store which has been cleared. They were incomplete, duplicates and from unknown sources; the objects have been transferred for use in Museum Gardens.</p> <p><b>History</b> – Two duplicate pistols were transferred to North Yorkshire Police Firearms &amp; Explosives Licensing Department for safe disposal. Three items of military kit were transferred to the Kent and Sharpshooters Yeomanry Museum as they are outside the YMT Collecting Policy. A KitKat that could not be located following display was formally de-accessioned.</p> <p><b>Science</b> - Seven animal skins that are outside the collecting policy were transferred to National Museums Scotland.</p>
Loans In	42	1,212	<p><b>Archaeology</b> – An animal mummy has been borrowed from Manchester Museum for the Learning Level at the Yorkshire Museum. Two Iron Age gold torcs discovered near Towton have been borrowed for fundraising to enable them to be purchased.</p> <p><b>Art</b> – 51 objects have been borrowed</p>



		<p>for 'Austin Wright: Sculpture and Drawings'. As part of Art in Yorkshire, 'Thirty Pieces of Silver' by Cornelia Parker has opened at York Saint Mary's. A total of 31 works have been borrowed from 12 lenders for the William Etty exhibition. 1,018 items have been packed and collected from the Anthony Shaw British studio ceramic art collection which has just begun a 15 year loan to YMT. Sculptures by William Turnbull and Eduardo Paolozzi were among the incoming loans for the exhibition 'Gordon Baldwin: Excitations'. Other loans were made for the Burton Gallery, re-display of the South Gallery and 'Gordon Baldwin: Objects for a Landscape'.</p>
Loans Out	20 114	<p><b>Art</b> – Works have been loaned to the following venues and exhibitions: Wallace Collection, 'Esprit et Vérité: Watteau in the Wallace Collection'; Wellcome Collection, 'Dirt: The Filthy Reality of Everyday Life'; Victoria &amp; Albert Museum, 'The Cult of Beauty: The Aesthetic Movement 1860-1900' (the first of a three venue tour); Penlee House Museum and Gallery, 'The Talented Garstins'; Shizuoka Art Gallery, Japan, 'Hans Coper Retrospective: Innovation in 20th Century Ceramics' (the last of six venue tour); Bowes Museum 'Henri Fantin-Latour and the Impressionists: Still Life Paintings in the 19th Century'; the Millennium Galleries, Sheffield, 'John Martin' (the second of three venues); Djanogly Art Gallery, Nottingham 'L.S. Lowry 1920–1950'.</p>

		<p>Other works were on display in the following exhibitions: 'Autumn: The Waning Year' by David Murray in 'The London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company's Royal Academy Poster Campaign of 1924' and 'Silver Dollar Bar' by Edward Burra in 'Edward Burra' at Pallant House Gallery and Djanogly Art Gallery, Nottingham. 'The New Terrace Walk' by Nathan Drake was loaned to the Mansion House. A portrait of Sir Herbert Read by Bryan Kneale was loaned for the exhibition 'Herbert Read: Yorkshire Modern'.</p> <p><b>Archaeology</b> - The Vale of York Hoard was loaned to the Mercer Art Gallery.</p> <p><b>History</b> - Objects were loaned to Fairfax House for 'Revolutionary Fashion' and The Captain Cook Memorial Museum, Whitby for 'Eating the Exotic: A Voyage to Polynesia with Captain Cook'.</p> <p><b>Science</b> - 53 hawkweed specimens were loaned for research.</p>
Conservation	19                      100	<p><b>Art</b> – Works went for conservation in preparation for the exhibitions 'William Etty: Art and Controversy' and 'Austin Wright: Sculpture and Drawings'. Works on paper were conserved ready for display in the Burton Gallery Community Chest: 'The Art of Appearance' and 'Games People Play'. One work on paper, an oil painting and sun dial went for conservation prior to display; Four frames went for conservation prior to exhibition in the new South Gallery display and two frames were sent for woodworm treatment. Works have</p>

been sent for conservation and mounting in preparation for the exhibitions '1212: Making of the City' and 'Art and Music'.

**History** – A clock has gone for conservation before being placed on display in Terry's sweetshop, Kirkgate. Other objects have been sent for preparation for the new displays in Kirkgate.

## Fundraising

We have been successful in securing funds between April 2011 and March 2012 for the following:

<b>Funding Body</b>	<b>Reason for Application/funds</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Arts Council England	Renaissance Major Grants Programme	£3.6m
Arts Council England Grants for the Arts	Thirty Pieces of Silver installation at York St Mary's	£9,950
The Headley Trust	contribution towards the purchase of a C10th-11th gold finger-ring	£10,000
V&A Purchase Grant Fund	contribution towards the purchase of a C10th-11th gold finger-ring	£10,000
The Art Fund	contribution towards the purchase of a C10th-11th gold finger-ring	£10,000
Yorkshire Philosophical Society	contribution towards the purchase of a C10th-11th gold finger-ring	£1,000
Arts Council England	funding towards the Gordon Baldwin exhibition	£113,900
Noel G Terry Charitable Trust	contribution to the William Etty exhibition	£1,000
The Art Fund	Renew funding for the purchase of works of contemporary fine art focussing on flesh and the human body	£100,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	Stage One approved funding for Castle Museum	£1.3m
Arts Council England	funding for Mystery Plays	£100,000
Patricia & Donald Shepherd Charitable	funding for Mystery Plays	£500

Trust		
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	funding for Mystery Plays	£5,000
York Common Good Trust	funding for Mystery Plays	£500
Patricia & Donald Shepherd Charitable Trust	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£12,500
Noel G Terry Charitable Trust	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£2,000
York Common Good Trust	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£250
Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£500
Yorkshire Architectural and Archaeological Society	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£300
Yorkshire Philosophical Society	Funding towards the purchase of an Iron Age gold torc	£1,000
Various	Individual Donations towards the purchase of two Iron Age torcs	£850
Joseph Rowntree Foundation	Funding for Kirkgate development	£10,000
	<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£5,289,250</b>