

Museums n'That S2E1 Transcript

Sara: I still can't hear anything, and my volume's on 100.

Meg: Ok I can hear this annoying beep, but there is such a strong chance that it's just in my own mind.

Sara: Potentially yes.

Meg: Right. Do you want to do the intro, or shall I?

Sara: I think you should, let's be honest.

Meg: Yeah I'm the best one aren't I.

Sara: Yeah.

Meg: Welcome to the Museums n'That podcast, where each episode, we have a chinwag and serve you the steaming hot tea on the things that museum people love the most. We're your hosts Meg and Sara from Leeds Museums and Galleries, and we get to know the people behind the objects, by asking them the questions that you really want to know.

(theme music)

Sara: Series 2!

Meg: Series flippin' 2, can you even believe it?

Sara: We're in it!

Meg: Can you even believe that people want another series of this.

Sara: No, they have got nothing better to do, potentially, and we've forced their hand. I don't know.

Meg: Firstly, full disclaimer to everyone is that we are doing - I guess most of this series, we can safely say - is going to be done remotely right?

Sara: Yep.

Meg: So we're relying on the quality of Zoom and if it sounds terrible in your ears, it's either Zoom, or Sara. So just keep that in mind.

(Tannoy sound effect - Meg: This is a public service announcement. I was joking then, but actually listening back to this as I was editing it, I realised that Sara's microphone wasn't really working throughout this entire episode. So her sound is a little bit off. Sorry about that. But stick with it, because the moth content is worth it I promise. Sorry Sara, Sorry about that.)

Meg: Smez how are you? What's been going on?

Sara: Yeah I'm good. Not a lot's been going on, if I'm perfectly honest. I've been trying to cut down on my tea intake, and replace it with water.

Meg: How many litres. How many L's are you on.

Sara: Per day? Not even one.

Meg: Mate!

Sara: It's Friday!

Meg: I'm on like, 1.75.

Sara: I know, but I kind of don't go in for numbers. I'm kind of like if I'm thirsty I'll drink, and if I'm not, I don't.

Meg: I'm going to get my drink now, you've made me thirsty. Go on, how are you, give me something good.

Sara: I've just been enjoying, like - as much as this situation is not great - I'm very lucky because I get to carry on working and things, and I've been kind of enjoying Spring a bit more because we don't usually get to see it that much with working in the city.

Meg: Oh my god I know. Spring has literally sprung.

Sara: Yeah, it's nice to look at all the things. I've been learning - I know there's wisteria across the road, I've been looking at clematis for my garden. I mean, I'm in a bit of a pickle because I've had to do loads of RHS googling to find out which one I like but yeah, that's it really.

Meg: This is the thing that I've been thinking of like how do you even know how to garden? How do people learn how to do gardens? It's so hard.

Sara: I was thinking about this, and then at some stage in my last 20s it kind of snapped in my brain and now I like gardening.

Meg: No I like it, I want to do it, I just don't know how. I don't know how you do it. I've been watching a lot of Monty Don.

Sara: Monty is very good. How are you?

Meg: Yeah I'm good. So I've actually - I've been thinking really hard about a couple of things that are good to tell you, and obviously when you're in lockdown it's the little things you know? It's the little things you've got to save up. Yesterday on Twitter, Bill Nighy was trending, because everyone was talking about celebrities that they've bumped into, and it turns out that literally so many people have bumped into Bill Nighy in London. And the most wonderful thing happened where I also had that experience when I was at the British Museum - Bill Nighy walks past me, and like, it's so busy that no one really notices he's there. I turn and I look at him and the, like, glory on my face and the shock, literally my eyes widened, and he looked at me and sort of raised his eyebrows and nodded as if to say yes correct it is me Bill Nighy, and you're surprised and I'm enjoying it. Anyway, so I tweeted this, and SO many people have replied having had the exact same beautiful experience of Bill Nighy. And that's just been my absolute best thing maybe ever that's ever happened on twitter, where so many people are in this little club of having experienced the same look, and like, amused Bill Nighy in the exact same way.

Sara: Very well done. Most liked tweet.

Meg: Oh yeah. But aside from that, we've kind of sussed out Bill Nighy's thing which is just to be so slick.

Sara: And go to museums and galleries.

Meg: Loves a museum, loves a gallery that guy. Maybe he loves museums and gallery podcasts. I'm sure he's sat somewhere wearing a suit and some raybans and like, just swilling like an old fashioned and just being like, yep, correct.

Sara: What I'd recommend in order for us to find this out would be to tag him in nearly every single tweet that comes out of the Leeds Museums and Galleries account, per Harry Styles currently. How's that working out? Has he replied?

Meg: No not yet.

Sara: But we'll keep trying.

Meg: I think. With Harry - I'm going to call him Harry - I think there's a chance that we might one day get a retweet or something from him, because I'm the same... well, I'm a little tiny bit older than Harry but he doesn't mind older women does he...

(Sara laughing)

... and I think we're in with a shot, I really do.

Sara: Stick at it. Stick at it - I'm enjoying watching.

Meg: But do you know what actually to be fair - so basically we've been comparing everything to the age of Harry Styles. Tweeted something the other day and it was like a piece of grass that we'd collected, and it was 172 years older than Harry Styles. And I feel like that really does just help to put that into perspective for people.

Sara: Yeah I agree.

Meg: It's good to have a measure, and it's good for that measure to be Harry Styles.

Sara: Yeah I agree. And putting a piece of 172 year old grass on a pedestal is an excellent use of your time.

Meg: Literally. I've got a lot of it at the moment Smez, so you know. Ok, so who have we got on today?

Sara: We have Milo. Milo Phillips, and he is Assistant Curator of Entomology.

Meg: Um, I believe shortened it is ass curator.

Sara: Yes. So he looks after insects!

Meg: And it means that this episode is all about moths. Which we know is the one that you've always actually wanted. We all need a little pick me up don't we, we all need a little cuddle, a little kiss, and why not get a kiss from a moth. As that famous song by Seal goes.

Sara: Yep. I'm not singing it.

Meg: Go on.

Sara: Nope.

Meg: This is going to be a very fact filled pod, so basically just sit back, relax, and yeah - enjoy! This is Milo Phillips episode of Museums n'That.

(theme music)

Milo: I can't hear what you're saying, I don't know why I bothered asking the question.

(laughing)

Meg: Smez this is death.

Milo: What a mare.

Sara: It's fine. I've got cake and coffee.

Meg: Milo's just strangling himself.

Milo: I have only really looked and thought about moths, so if you spring other insects on me, I'll flounder.

Meg: Also not to be - not to really big this up and make you feel anxious but I feel like this is the one that everyone's been waiting for.

Milo: I didn't realise until I got to the end of the last episode and I was like, oh that's nice. And then you were like 'and next is the moths, and everyone's excited about it'.

(Sara laughing)

Milo: Moths are beautiful.

Meg: Milo, first of all, please for the benefit of our beautiful listeners can you tell them who you are. Who the flip are you. Who the moth are you.

(laughing)

Milo: I am Milo. I'm the new Assistant Curator of Entomology.

Meg: Do you just have one name, sort of like Seal.

Milo: That's it. No, my name is Milo Phillips.

Meg: What does being an Entomology curator mean? Also, entomology. What's that?

Milo: Entomology is the study of insects. So anything with 6 legs, that's a party, that's why I'm here. And as part of a bigger grant with the Esmee Fairburn Foundation, they've hired me as an assistant curator to deal with the entomology part of the natural science collection, to go through

and accession it so we know what we've got in our collection, make sure it's all recorded, and go through it to make sure that the things we have, we want, and the things that are there are stored properly and looked after properly and we've got rid of pests and broken bugs that have been there for years and no one's seen. And using it to engage young women and girls with science, which is very exciting. So the whole project itself that I'm on is Dead Inspiring.

Sara: So it's dead inspiring, and it's called Dead Inspiring.

Milo: Yeah.

Meg: I feel like we need to give people who don't follow us on Twitter a little bit of background about the moth thing.

Sara: Yeah, I think that would be fair.

Meg: *(to Milo)* Do you not know about it?

Sara: What!

Milo: It started before I arrived.

Meg: Well this is part of it, because basically what happened was that one day we got tweeted by a man called Ed. And his daughter, she was called Emily, and she was aged 5, and she'd got a little corkboard and she'd pinned loads of dead moths that she'd found around the house onto this corkboard and she'd put a little label on that said Moth Museum by Emily aged 5.

Milo: Oh my goodness.

Meg: After she did that, I saw your job go out, and I thought it was a joke - I thought Clare Brown was having a joke because I was like there's no way that this has just happened and then we're also getting a moth curator in. And, turns out, it wasn't a joke and here you are.

Milo: We do have a lot of moths and a lot of butterflies.

Meg: What is the difference between a moth and a butterfly?

Milo: Oof. Largely, they're quite similar - they're both part of the group Lepidoptera, so they are similar insects, but the main difference if you're just looking at them to tell them apart is that you look at their antennae. So you'll see that butterflies have antennae that come out of their head and they end in sort of like a club. The antennae are there to sense the environment around the insect anyway.

Sara: Like whiskers?

Milo: Yeah like whiskers, exactly. Butterfly ones are clubbed at the end and moth ones look more like feathers. So some of them look really really feathery. Like actually just like feathers stuck to the head of a moth, and some of them only really look like feathers when you get them under a microscope. If you look at a moth next to a butterfly, they have hairier bodies and bigger bodies.

Sara: Do you think a moth would ever be described as stocky?

Milo: Absolutely. They are units. *(laughing)*

Meg: You know their bodies? And I've always wondered this...

Milo: Uh huh...

Meg: Is the body, like, the caterpillar. Is it like the bit of the caterpillar that's left.

Milo: Does the caterpillar sprout wings and fly away is what you're asking?

Meg: Basically. And also, right, how do you know whether the caterpillar is going to turn into a butterfly or if it's going to turn into a moth, and can you tell from it's cocoon?

Milo: Caterpillars that turn into moths and butterflies all look like the caterpillar of...

Sara: Yeah stop being mothist Meg.

Meg: What would happen if a moth caterpillar mated with a butterfly caterpillar, what would it have? What would it turn into? What would the baby turn into?

Milo: Caterpillars don't mate, they're the larvae. They are just eating machines, so they... they're layed as eggs...

Meg: Same.

Milo: *(laughing)* and then eventually once they've eaten enough, they cocoon themselves up which is how you see cocoons and chrysalis and things like that and then inside the cocoon is when they then metamorphose into a butterfly or a moth, and then come out. And when they're in the moth/butterfly form, that's when they mate with other moths and butterflies.

Sara: So, like, is it a bit like how, so we're in this lockdown situation and we're eating and eating and eating and then when we're allowed to go out properly we'll all be beautiful butterflies/moths? Is that kind of the same thing?

Milo: Exactly.

Sara: Brilliant. I am so excited.

Milo: But what's wild about the caterpillar into butterfly or moth, is that inside then cocoon or the chrysalis they basically turn into liquid almost entirely. And it's just like a sack of juice. And then inside they grow again as a butterfly. Which is mad, because they've found that I think, I'm pretty sure, they've found that caterpillars can carry memory into being a butterfly even though, in that stage where they're in a chrysalis, they're basically a bag of liquid. Somehow their like learned memories there are...

Sara: You've just answered one of my questions! Yeah.

Milo: Oh no...

Sara: No that's not a bad thing! That's amazing! I thought it was a really stupid question that I'd come up with.

Meg: Right hang on. Hang on sorry. We're going to have to... I've got a lot. There's a lot to unpick here isn't there. What's the liquid? Is it like, blended up caterpillar sort of consistency?

Milo: I'm not an expert here. I assume yeah, it's gooey, watery liquid. It is basically - the caterpillar itself doesn't break down, and it doesn't dissolve. These words aren't quite right. The process is called metamorphoses, and that's why it has to build itself a cocoon, to keep everything in the right place.

Meg: How long does it take. Once the caterpillar is like, right, I'm in a cocoon now. What's a cocoon made of?

Milo: Very good question. So things like silk moths weave - like spiders create web and silk, so do caterpillars, and they will weave it out of that.

Meg: Does it come out of their bums?

Milo: It does come out of their bums. They weave bum silk nests. *(laughing)* And that's what we then take to weave into silk and stuff, we take the outside of that cocoon.

Meg: If you were to wear something out of silk it would be made out of a moth cocoon?

Milo: Yeah, part of the moth cocoon. So what they have, they have silk worms, and silk worms are the caterpillars of silk moths. And once those caterpillars start weaving themselves into cocoons, it's like a white ball, they would throw those cocoons into boiling water to kill the pupae inside, and then they take the silk off the outside, and then spin it into silk and dye it and things like that.

Meg: That is wild.

Sara: Wow.

Milo: Mad, yeah. And they've been doing that for a long time.

Sara: So, I wanted to find out what moths eat, because I didn't know whether they could eat solids, or pollen, or just dust, I don't know. I've never seen a moth eat, so I just didn't know what they ate.

Milo: Yeah so it changes moth-to-moth. Some moths like butterflies will drink nectar from plants. Some moths will eat more solid food so er, things like Plodia - their larvae will just eat their way through cereal grains.

Meg: In my head they're just eating through a bag of cheerios.

Sara: Lucky charms...

Meg: Oh, what are you doing?

Sara: *(from a distance)* it fell, my laptop fell over.

Meg: For god's sake, this is proof that you're the weak link in this chain. You know when you like, catch a moth? And you hold it in your hands?

Milo: Every day.

Meg: Every day. Do they like, bite you? Because I feel like I've done it, and I feel like it hurts.

Milo: I don't know. I don't think you've been bitten by a moth. You're just grabbing the sharp ones. You might be feeling their feet hooking on to you. They don't have particularly sharp feet, but I don't doubt that there are some with more hooky feet than others. I really don't think you've been bitten by one...

Sara: Or it could be in Meg's imagination. Because there are various ailments that Meg has been through in her life that would kill or at least seriously harm another human being. But she's just stayed at work and been fine. Been fine for the rest of the day.

Meg: *(laughing)* Like what, when has that ever happened?

Sara: Um, that time you thought you had a brain tumour because you had a small headache in one place. More recently, which may or may not be true, because you stood in bleach in your

shower and your foot went purple and then suddenly there was this thing about covid toe and maybe you had it but...

Meg: Right I think I genuinely did have covid toe. I was talking about this - sorry this is not to do with moths - but basically, I had - Milo, I showed you my foot right?

Sara: How many people have you shown that picture? It's disgusting.

Meg: Listen, I've shown anyone with an interest and it's been a lot of people Smez.

Sara: I don't think they were interested, I think it was forced upon them.

Meg: No but hear me out ok - so, at the time, this symptom hadn't come out yet. And Dan had put drain unblocker down the shower, I went in the shower, and that day I had really sore blistered toes and it lasted for like a week and still now when I go in the sun it's really bad. My foot looked like a dead person's foot. Brilliant. Took a picture, sent a picture to all my mates, haha great. Anyway, like 2 weeks later, covid toe becomes a symptom that they've discovered, and it literally fits my feet and toes.

Sara: And it could have been the fact that you stood in drain unblocker, essentially bleach, and then decided the best thing to clear it up with was steroid cream. It might have been to do with that.

(Milo laughing)

Meg: At the same time coronavirus is a very serious thing, we're not taking the mick. Um, anyway, what else do we have. So they don't have teeth?

(laughing)

Milo: No they don't have teeth. There aren't moths flying around with teeth. *(laughing)*

Meg: Is it that they've got that long nose.

Sara: The pointy one.

Milo: Some of them like butterflies have got proboscis. Like a long, coiled up - not a nose - mouth, which they use to drink nectar. You might have caught something that wasn't a moth, because lots of insects can fly. So if you caught something like a beetle, or some kind of bug, I doubt it. In England. Most things are pretty small.

Sara: I think the worst thing that happens is when ladybirds wee on you. Stinks. It's really yellow. That's a pretty good trick that they have. But that's fair, I mean like if a massive hand was picking me up I'd probably do a wee.

Milo: Yeah exactly, it's because they're used to fighting off things that are bigger than us.

Meg: Um, are all moths men or women.

Milo: They are both. As in, you get both, not that they are both at the same time.

Sara: Like seahorses.

Milo: What do you mean?

Sara: Aren't seahorses both?

Meg: Do you know what, I'm so embarrassed for you because already I know that that's wrong because of the way that Milo said it.

Milo: No I was trying to work it out, I wasn't trying to mock you!

Sara: No I can't - I know that there is one. The males have babies don't they?

Milo: Yes, they do, but they're still males, and you still get females it's just that they don't get pregnant.

Sara: Yeah, cool.

Milo: I think there are hermaphrodite animals. I want to say snails?

Sara: Yeah I was going to say snails. Oh my gosh imagine, all this stuff in my head that I knew but I didn't know.

Meg: You're just like wow oh my god I could literally be an entomology curator and you're not.

Sara: No I think I'm embarrassed that you're so jealous about this situation currently Meg. But we'll just brush over it as normal.

Meg: Do you know why it is? It's because literally right, so this happened 6 months ago when we recorded with Adam Jaffer for series 1 and I told you about the Peruvian mummies, and I've been riding on that ever since because he didn't know about it.

Sara: I know, yeah.

Meg: Um, back to them eating. So what's the deal with them eating clothes?

Milo: They like the fibres in your clothes.

Meg: So they like wool?

Milo: They'll eat all sorts I imagine.

Meg: Would they chew on a sheep.

Milo: Chew on a sheep? Probably not. I'm not 100% sure but I doubt it.

Meg: Can you guys hear a beeping by the way? I've got a beeping going on in my house.

Sara: No.

Meg: It's probably some sort of, like, smoke alarm or something and I'll just leave it, it'll be fine.

Milo: I have never heard of moths eating the wool off a sheep's back.

(laughing)

Sara: Very good. So what about, when we look at moths off of museums, what do we do with them? Because we learnt from Rebecca Machin that you can't really taxidermy a moth because they're really small and stuff, but what do we do with them, how do we preserve them? How? What do we do?

Milo: You have to lay them down on a pinning block, and you take tracing paper over its wings, and you put lots of pins around it to hold it in the position that you want it to be in and then you put a pin through its Thorax to hold it in place, and then you leave it for a bit and it'll set, because when insects die, they're still kind of soft and malleable, and then they harden over time and they dry out a bit. So you get them into the position you want, wait for them to harden, and then you can transfer them and put them in a case.

Meg: So you just let them go naturally crispy?

Milo: Yeah they go... So if you found a dead moth or if you find dead moths on your window sills and stuff, their wings will be closed in, and their legs might be curled up, because that's just sort of naturally the way a lot of insects will go when they die.

Meg: Wow. Once they're in their museum case, that's just it, they're fine?

Milo: They're largely fine. But a part of the job is checking the cases for pests, so other moths that might have got in and want to eat things. Or other insects.

Meg: (*gasping*) Betrayed by their own.

Milo: Exactly. So it's checking for things like that. But as long as there are no pests in there, then they'll be fine. Some of the moths in our collection have been there for well over 100 years, and they're doing great.

Meg: So what's your favourite moth that we've got in our collection.

Milo: Ooooh. Favourite moth. There's a nice one which is always fun to show to people which is Sloane's *Urania*, which is one of the rarer moths we have. There are only maybe 6 or 7 samples, or specimens that we know of. So it went extinct in the 40s I think, and is a really beautiful moth that looks like it could be a butterfly in that people generally think that moths are drab and butterflies are bright and colourful, and this has got big iridescent stripes on it's wings and it's like, sort of dark black and green and bits of red on it I think, and it's really really lovely. But then, all moths are pretty nice, so.

Meg: All moths are pretty good eh.

Milo: Yeah. I've got a cool fact about why moths are hairy, if you want that at any point.

Sara: Ok go!

Milo: So they think part of it is to do with defending themselves from bats that are hunting them at night. So bats use echolocation, so it bounces off the moth, to tell the bat where the moth is at night. And the hairs on these moths make it harder for that echolocation to be accurate, it sort of soaks up the sound almost. And to test this they had moths in a lab, and they were firing echolocation at them, and then to check the difference between a moth that's covered in hair and a moth that is bald, they had to shave the moth with tiny paint brushes and little scissors

(*gasping*)

And then they do it again, and they realise that the hairier the moth is, the easier it is for them to avoid detection by bats.

Meg: Oh, my god. Can you literally imagine just shaving a moth.

Sara: So they'd be able to find you know like, if it was a person, I'd be much harder to find because I have a lot of hair.

Milo: Yeah, exactly. Maybe.

Meg: Smez, have you got any more moth based questions? Other than literally every question in the world which you could probably link back to moths.

Sara: No, because my big one was going to be do they remember being caterpillars in the metamorphoses phase, but you answered that because apparently they do, and that is incredible. That is my favourite thing.

Milo: I think they can remember bits of it.

Meg: Wait, sorry. How do they even know that?

Milo: Yeah well. So what the experiment involves is, is scaring moths and butterflies. So you get the caterpillar to associate, I think it's a certain smell, with something like being attacked by a bird, where you'd maybe poke them with a pencil or something. So in their little caterpillar brain, they're like, 'if I smell this smell' or 'I sense this chemical' then danger's on the way. And then they see if the butterfly or the moth that it develops into has that reaction to that chemical without them having to teach it again. So if it moves away from the chemical or if it reacts to it in a similar way to the caterpillar did, they can see that it has retained that knowledge through that metamorphoses.

Meg: Science is literally so smart.

Sara: Yeah and I mean, nothing bad has ever come from negative conditioning has it. It's always been good. All good.

Milo: Exactly, yeah.

(laughing)

Meg: I realise we've just talked about moths but have you got any other insects you want to give a shoutout to Milo?

Milo: Ah, social insects all the way. Bees and ants, just fantastic. There's not time to talk about how fantastic they are.

Meg: What would, ok, so just one question then: what would win in a fight, a bee or an ant?

Milo: On it's own? One on one?

Meg: Yep.

Milo: Depends on the ant.

Meg: Like, the best ant vs the best bee.

Milo: The strongest ant and the strongest bee. Maybe, probably, the ant! Yeah I think the ant. Because if you get something like an army ant, I reckon the ant would stand a good chance because bees aren't aggressive in the same way, they don't hunt other insects.

Meg: If I was a bee, I'd just go in like ass-first and just like stick it anywhere, just jab it.

Milo: Yeah, it's hard to tell.

Sara: I know but ants are skinny aren't they.

Milo: Hard to land a hit. I think I've changed my mind about my favourite moth just to make your life complicated. Currently, my favourite moth is something called the Venezuelan Poodle Moth, and I cannot believe I forgot it existed until just now.

Meg: Criminal.

Milo: They're not fully sure if it's its own species or if it's just a strange one that someone got a picture of in Venezuela. But it is the most adorable moth you will ever lay eyes on, and I'll have to send you a picture of it after this because it's just too cute to handle.

Meg: Cute. Ok Milo I think we've reached the point in the podcast where we ask everyone the same 2 questions to finish up. So the first question is: what has been your favourite day at work?

Milo: Yeah I mean, the day I got to record this podcast is ranking up there if I wasn't locked indoors.

(laughing)

Sara: That's very sweet but we know it's a lie.

Milo: I feel like we had a day in February half term where we had a load of workshops, where we got family groups in and different groups from all over Leeds to learn about insects, and get to look at our collection and get shown around our stores and then build bug hotels with us that they could then take home to put in their gardens to make their gardens more bug friendly. And that was fantastic seeing everyone get very very excited about insects which is why I do this job. So that was probably one of the best days.

Sara: That's a good answer.

Meg: That's a very good day.

Sara: It's very honest. And humble.

Meg: I'm just going to sit on the edge of my sofa, it looks like I'm sat on the edge of my seat but I'm just waiting for my delivery.

Sara: So this is the thing, so Meg asked you a question, and you had a genuinely really nice answer for it and she's distracted, she's looking for her delivery person instead.

Meg: Smez, take it away with the next couple.

Sara: Take it away with the take away and the takeaway? So the last question is two fold. We want to find out from what we've spoken about today, what your takeaway would be for our listeners. So like a 10 second snippet of why stuff is so good that you do. Sort of.

Milo: Ooft. There are so many things about insects that are so fascinating, and everyone can find something in them that they're interested in. Insects are absolutely something that everyone can get involved with in some way or another. We've had artists come in, we've had researchers come in, so you know. Bugs are for everyone so just get stuck in.

Meg: Get stuck into bugs. But also, don't get stuck, in two bugs.

Milo: Observe them nicely from a distance and be very polite because they're small.

Meg: Next question then, naturally, is what is your favourite takeaway?

Milo: Of course.

Meg: Also, you have the benefit of having listened to...

Milo: No that is true, I have had the benefit of everyone else's answers to these so I did have an idea of what was coming. But I think my favourite takeaway has to be Kuala Lumpur cafe in Headingley, which is a little Malaysian restaurant just around the corner which is just fantastic.

Meg: I nearly got a takeaway from them the other day but I didn't know if they were still doing it.

Milo: They are amazing, and just the sweetest people.

Meg: What should I get?

Milo: Err if you haven't gone there before, always get the roti janai. Always. It's one of the starters. But yeah, they're great and they're still doing deliveries, even whilst all of this is happening and mad. And they deliver it themselves, the owner walked over to my house. IT was very lovely.

Sara: That's amazing.

Meg: That's really sweet.

Milo: Kuala Lumpur cafe is top of the list.

Meg: Brilliant, that's a good one actually, I like that. He's not gone with a cuisine then, he's being really specific.

Sara: Shout out to a local independent.

Meg: Very good, yeah. 10/10. Support your local independents.

Milo: Absolutely.

Meg: In which case Smez, I think this is it. I think we're done.

Sara: I think actually, considering how awful my part was, we've done alright.

Meg: I know, to be fair, for the first proper zoom podcast that we've done, this, it's actually not gone too terribly.

Milo: It started off pretty ok, it's just that the internet started having a cry didn't it.

Meg: The internet did a little poop which is actually really demonstrative of my experience during lockdown. Started off fine, and now I'm just like a crumbling mess.

Sara: Yeah. In and out of sanity and consciousness.

Meg: Yeah. Milo if anyone wants to ask you any more questions about moths, what's your twitter, where can they find you?

Milo: I think my twitter is @miloedwardzeus.

Meg: As per your name.

Milo: As per my name. I'm pretty sure it's that.

Sara: See? He's not the only one.

Meg: Brilliant. This is Smez's bit.

Sara: I know what it is now. It's fine.

Meg: Ok, Milo thank you very much for coming on the pod. See you literally I don't know when, but you've been great.

(theme music)

Meg: Flippin' heck that was good wasn't it?

Sara: It was amazing, and despit..

Meg: No no no. Sorry. It was a-moth-zing.

Sara: A-moth-zing. Sorry. Despite a few technical difficulties on my end because I'm apparently inept, so, but otherwise brilliant. I mean, content wise, great.

Meg: Yeah, um, I mean I think it sounded alright for our first one. I mean there's people at home listening to this now going like oh my god I can't believe how terrible that was I'm never listening to this again. But also I feel like that's alright. And ultimately, the facts I've learnt. Phenomenal.

Sara: Outweighs it, yeah.

Meg: Fluffy moths?

Sara: I can't wait for everyone else to see the poodle moth. I can't remember the whole name of it. The poodle moth. That is incredible. I think we should do a comparison.

Meg: Between poodles and moths?

Sara: Yep. Dogs and moths.

Meg: To be fair, two of the best things in the world. Snog marry avoid: dogs, moths, Harry Styles.

(laughing)

Sara: ummmm

Meg: It's got weird. It's got weird now. This is what happens when you've been locked down for 6 weeks or whatever it is now..

Sara: ALso, worrying that I even considered answering that. I was like, do you know what, I will think about this. But I won't. We'll just skip over it.

(laughing)

Meg: Right, Smez, what was your best learn?

Sara: Absolutely the bit that I thought was a really stupid question, which was about whether moths remember being caterpillars or anything really, whether they have memory, but then on the flip side also learning that it's effectively negative conditioning that they know that. Still. I still find it fascinating. But yeah. What was your best learn?

Meg: Mine was actually that when the caterpillar makes a cocoon, he then goes in it..

Sara: ..or she.

Meg: ... he goes in it and he turns into water or like liquid. That's mad.

Sara: That is mad.

Meg: So now, every time I see a cocoon - I say every time, I've literally never seen a cocoon - like, I'm gonna want to sort of squeeze it. By the way please don't go around squeezing cocoons.

Sara: No. Leave them alone.

Meg: Leave cocoons alone.

Sara: Just know what they're doing, and just leave them be.

Meg: That was my favourite one. That was my best one that. Right, so, who have we got on next Smezzers? In this glorious, zoomy remote way that we're doing?

Sara: Coming up next, we have a South-Yorkshire museum person.

Meg: Did you just hear that dog then? Can you hear that dog?

Sara: Yeah I heard that dog.

Meg: That's sonny from next door. I really like him but it makes me upset because I don't have one.

Sara: So yeah, coming up next episode, we have Conor from the National Videogame Museum down in Sheff. So that's exciting.

Meg: Sheffers.

Sara: Yeah. We really wanted to have him on, and I've not met him before, so that's going to be really good. But yeah I'm excited. My knowledge of videogames is limited, but I'm willing to learn.

Meg: Yeah, I literally know Crash Bandicoot and that's essentially it. But I do have a lot of questions. And also, this is a little titbit, I don't know whether he's going to talk about this, but Conor actually used to work as a costume actor at Disneyland Paris.

Sara: But which one? Let's leave that as a teaser.

Meg: Is it time for thanks.

Sara: Yes. Always.

Meg: Big thank you to Tim Bentley, who did our theme music for us. Shoutout to Timmy. And also to Al Finney who did our lovely cover artwork. You're a ledge, thanks mate.

Sara: Yeah to everyone that's listening and to everyone that got involved and reached out to us and we sent a badge, and I panicked over being really cheap and sending them second class post and had to actually measure the width of the envelope with the badge in it because I was scared that they were going to have to pay extra postage, but thank you to those people!

Meg: Yep, brilliant. So if you liked it and you want us to keep doing it - actually no, we're going to keep doing it whether you like it or not, sorry about that - yeah so if you liked it, if you liked the episode, if you liked the series, then please can you subscribe and leave us a lovely review, and then we've actually had some badges printed, so you can get a badge, if you show us, if you tweet us to show us your review we'll literally send you a badge in real life, IRL. All transcripts for the episodes are on our website, which is in the episode description. And also, do you know what, if you want to ask us a question in the meantime, you can. If you follow us on social media.

Sara: We aren't doing anything that tears us away from our computers for any length of time, so...

Meg: Honest to god, we are literally sat on our arses in front of our computers all the time, so if you want to talk to us, we're lonely and bored. Please talk to us. Basically.

Sara: We like hanging out on Twitter. I'm @saralmerritt.

Meg: I'm @MuseumMeg. Tweeting about Bill Nighy forever. And also you're welcome to tweet us @LeedsMuseums, and we'll give you a little twitter kiss if you do. Cool, well, stay safe everyone, and we'll be in your ears next week? Maybe next couple of weeks smez?

Sara: Yeah?

Meg: We'll be in your ears soon basically. Bye!

Sara: Bye!
(*theme music*)