

# 2021– 2022: A Year in View

Leeds Museums  
& Galleries



# Adjusting to the path ahead

As society and the service readjusted to life alongside Covid-19, during the year we made a good deal of progress reflecting on how far we'd come, restarting our work and planning ahead.

One key achievement in 2021 was the creation of a new strategy, *Deepening Connections, Widening Impact*. Our new strategy sets out our priorities over the next five years and helps restate the service's purpose and focus. Our planning continued in commissioning conservation management plans for both Temple Newsam and Lotherton, as well as shifting our approach in marketing through a new relationship marketing strategy.

We successfully concluded a National Lottery Heritage Fund Resilient Heritage project at Temple Newsam which will light the way for the future of how this significant site is managed and sustained. We worked towards submitting our application to Arts Council England to continue funding as a National portfolio Organisation and secured MEND funding for essential maintenance at Leeds Industrial Museum for the Locomotive Shed and iconic chimney.

We delivered some truly amazing exhibitions including *Eileen Agar: Angel of Anarchy* at Leeds Art Gallery, *Money Talks* at Leeds City Museum, as well as *Curious Creatures: Victorian attitudes to animals* at Abbey House Museum. In 2021, Kirkstall Abbey also took part in the annual Light Night festival for the first time ever, and there was lots of work behind the scenes to plan for Leeds 2023, a year where Leeds will 'Let Culture Loose'.

With generous support from multiple partners we were able to continue to grow the collection with new acquisitions, including John Atkinson Grimshaw's painting *Reflections on the Aire – on strike*, and returning home after going 'missing' more than 40 years ago we were able to welcome back a group of exquisite antique gold snuff boxes to Temple Newsam.



Dr David Hopes  
Head of Service

Our work on becoming more environmentally responsible continued as we embarked upon a knowledge exchange on sustainability with colleagues from the city of Lille and we completed public sector decarbonisation fund projects at both Leeds City Museum and Leeds Art Gallery.

I'd like to say an enormous thank you to the many colleagues, volunteers, partners, elected members and of course our visitors and users for supporting the service throughout an important year.

David



Our museums support schools through inspiring work with young people

In 2021/22, we were visited by **26,747** pupils, supported by **2,853** teachers. **41,088** children and adults participated in family activities at our venues and in our communities. We provided in service training for **708** teachers.

Our museums are popular

In 2021/22, our museums were visited by **740,506** people.





# Our museum visits contribute millions to the economy

In 2021/22, our museums contributed **£18,741,740** to the local economy.



## We have a great staff team

We employ **196** staff (FTE), researching, preserving and celebrating our collections, providing great experiences for visitors and working with all our communities.



Our museums  
contribute to  
community health  
and wellbeing

Our **132** volunteers contributed **6,288**  
hours. **9,288** people took part in our  
programme of community activities.



**£9.015m** gross budget, including income and grants. **£5.015m** net budget.

Our museums cost relatively little to run



Our museums bring in significant external funding

Attracting **£10.029m** between 2017/18 and 2021/22 (averaging £2.005m per year).



Our shops and commercial services are proving ever more popular with customers

Our museums are working actively with virtual visitors and audiences

Our 7 shops and 3 cafes generated an income of **£592,970** in 2021/22. Fees from room hire at our 7 venues brought in **£134,792.**

Our websites attracted **2,562,729** page views, our podcast reached **14,270** listens, and we have over **312, 000** followers on social media.





# Our museums are successful

The Preservative Party were awarded **joint winners** of the Marsh Award for Volunteering for the Yorkshire Region. At the Museum & Heritage Awards 2022, our work building and maintaining community relationships was **Highly Commended**, so too our ground-breaking work on teacher training.



# Our museums co-produce

We worked with members of our local communities to co-curate **25** displays and events.



