



National
Museums
Scotland



National
Programme
2018/2019

National Programme 2018/2019

National Programme Across Scotland

Our National Strategy 2016-2020, *Across Scotland, Working to Engage and Inspire*, commits National Museums Scotland to work in partnership with museums across Scotland to bring our collections, expertise and programmes to people and communities in every part of the country. Our national priorities to share Scotland's collections, engage and inspire people and strengthen skills and expertise are met through national projects designed to build capacity at local level and through the provision of loans, touring exhibitions, support from the National Fund for Acquisitions, community engagement projects and our National Training Programme for staff and volunteers.

On 8 February 2019, we completed the 15-year transformation of the National Museum of Scotland with the opening of three new galleries, *Ancient Egypt Rediscovered*, *Exploring East Asia* and *Art of Ceramics*. With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, our Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme is supporting engagement with related collections in museums across Scotland through touring exhibitions, new displays, digital resources, skills development and enhanced interpretation and audience development.

Funding from the John Ellerman Foundation has enabled us to embark on a two-year project working with museums across Scotland to increase engagement with natural science collections with a specific focus on fossil collections. We will work with partner museums to produce a collections review, develop expertise and skills and improve collections care with the aim of making natural science collections more accessible to their community audiences throughout Scotland.

National Programme in numbers

In 2018/2019 our work across Scotland included:

- 97 museums supported through loans, acquisitions, touring and community engagement projects.
- 4,828 objects loaned to 72 organisations across Scotland, including loans to 4 new venues.
- 58 acquisitions supported by the National Fund for Acquisitions with a total purchase price of £520,282, helping to develop and enhance the collections of 26 organisations in 17 local authorities across Scotland.
- 9,093 people engaged through outreach programmes beyond our sites.
- 246 learning experiences delivered to 186 staff from 69 museums in 28 local authority areas.
- 4,899 pupils in 44 schools across 5 local authority areas participated in 55 renewable energy workshops and 65 science shows in our ScottishPower funded *Powering Up* programme.
- 27,953 people visited our touring exhibition *Scotland's Early Silver* with an average visitor increase of 5% across 3 venues.

Sharing Scotland's Collections

Touring Exhibitions

Scotland's Early Silver

Following three years of research supported by the Glenmorangie Company, in a partnership now entering its 11th year, *Scotland's Early Silver* displayed impressive objects made from silver which emerged as the dominant symbol of status and power during the first millennium AD. Scotland's earliest silver arrived with the Roman army. In the centuries that followed, Roman silver objects were hacked up, melted down and recycled to make early medieval treasures including massive silver chains and ornate brooches. The exhibition included the recently discovered Dairsie Hoard, dating from the late 3rd century AD, and the Gaulcross hoard which was discovered in Aberdeenshire in 2013. The exhibition toured to Museum nan Eilean, Lews Castle, Stornoway (3 May - 23 June 2018), Kirkcudbright Galleries (7 July - 30 September 2018) and Duff House, Banff (12 October 2018 - 17 March 2019), attracting a total of 27,953 visitors.

Galloway Hoard

In December 2018, the Scottish Government announced new funding to enable National Museums Scotland to tour an exhibition of the Galloway Hoard to museums across Scotland. Buried at the beginning of the tenth century and discovered in 2014, this is the richest collection of rare and unique Viking-age objects ever found in Britain or Ireland and will transform our understanding of this period of Scottish history. Following conservation and research at the National Museums Collection Centre, the hoard will be displayed at the National Museum of Scotland from May to November 2020 before touring to Kirkcudbright Galleries (December 2020 - September 2021), Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums (October 2021 - January 2022) and The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum (February - August 2022). Following the tour, part of the Galloway Hoard will go on display at the National Museum of Scotland while a significant and representative portion will be displayed long-term at Kirkcudbright Galleries. The Galloway Hoard was acquired in 2017 with funding from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Art Fund, National Museums Scotland Charitable Trust and Scottish Government as well as generous donations from members of the public.

Loans

In 2018/2019, 4,828 objects were lent from the national collection to 72 organisations in 26 local authorities, including loans to four new venues.

Scottish Maritime Museum

Artist Sue Jane Taylor has spent over thirty years recording the lives of workers in the North Sea oil and gas industry in some of the most remote and challenging environments in Scotland. Her artwork was displayed in the *Age of Oil* exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland (21 July - 5 Nov 2017). Closely linked to themes in our *Energise* gallery, the exhibition explored the legacy of Scotland's offshore industry and considered its future, including the rise in renewable energy. When the exhibition opened at the Scottish Maritime Museum (8 March - 7 July 2019), National Museums Scotland lent a pipeline pig, used to clear debris from pipelines, a viscosity comparator, a telephone from the drilling floor of the Murchison Platform and a canister of the last crude oil extracted by the Murchison Platform on 28 February 2014.

Linlithgow Museum

Twelve objects went on long-term loan to the new Linlithgow Museum which opened in spring 2019 with three new galleries providing a fresh interpretation of the town's history. The loans include ceramics, a set of textile printing blocks and a set of French wooden bellows from Linlithgow Palace.

The Abbotsford Trust

An elaborate silver centrepiece made by Mackay, Cunningham and Co, Edinburgh in 1880-81 was lent for display at Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott. It is believed to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the publication in 1810 of Scott's *The Lady of the Lake*. The loan helps to tell the story of the extent to which Scott's poetry and novels continued to shape perceptions of the landscape and people of Scotland in the decades following his death.

Whithorn Trust

Two objects from a Late Iron Age hoard were lent to the Whithorn Trust for their seasonal display, 27 March – 31 October 2018. The bronze Balmaclellan mirror and a decorated mount, dating from AD 110–240, were found in the local area, carefully wrapped in cloth. Dr Adrián Maldonado, Glenmorangie Research Fellow, is working with the Trust on the Cold Case Whithorn project, funded by the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund, Dumfries & Galloway LEADER and Museums Galleries Scotland, which is helping to date the earliest burials from the monastery at Whithorn and revisit human remains found in excavations during the 1980s and 1990s using new scientific techniques.

Trimontium Heritage Centre

14 artefacts excavated from the Roman site at Newstead, including a wooden writing tablet and stylus dating from AD 80-180, were lent to the Trimontium Heritage Trust for the exhibition *Literacy and Literature*, 27 March - 31 October 2018. We have been working closely with the Trimontium Trust on the planned redevelopment of their museum in Melrose which has attracted funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Our partnership will enable the Trust to borrow more objects from the national collection for new displays which will bring to life the story of Trimontium and the Romans in Scotland.

Paxton House

A chest of drawers made in 1793 by William Young of Earlston was lent to Paxton House for an exhibition to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Thomas Chippendale's birth, *The Paxton Style 'Neat & Substantially Good'. Chippendale Furniture at Paxton House, Its Influence and Legacy*, 5 June - 28 August 2018.

East Lothian Council Museums

Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator of Prehistory and Roman Archaeology, has been working closely with East Lothian Council Museums on a programme of events to celebrate the centenary of the discovery of the Traprain Treasure found on Traprain Law in 1919. The largest hoard of late Roman 'hacksilver' found anywhere in Europe, the hoard was buried over 1,500 years ago, around AD 450, and consists of fragments from over 250 silver objects cut into set weights of bullion. Objects from the hoard were loaned to an exhibition at the John Gray Centre, Haddington, *Treasures from the Hoard*, 11 May – 27 October 2019, the first time they had been displayed in East Lothian since their discovery.

National Fund for Acquisitions

The National Fund for Acquisitions, an annual grant of £150,000 provided by Scottish Government to help museums throughout Scotland to acquire objects for their collections, is administered by National Museums Scotland. In 2018/2019 the Fund contributed 58 grants worth £141,781, helping to develop and enhance the collections of 26 organisations in 17 local authorities across Scotland. At 31 March 2019, a further 16 grants with a total value of £31,175 had been committed but not yet paid. The total purchase value of the objects to which the Fund contributed was £520,282. Among the acquisitions which the Fund supported were:

- £15,000 to the Hunterian for two charcoal drawings by Käthe Kollwitz (1867-1945) for their important collection of German Expressionist works on paper.
- £15,000 to the Scottish Maritime Museum for an oil painting, *The Boat Builders*, 1962, by John Bellany (1942-2013), part of their SMMart project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a nationally significant collection of fine art relating to Scotland's maritime heritage.
- £7,750 to City of Edinburgh Council Museums and Galleries for a silver ovoid coffee urn with cast serpent handles, chased decoration and burner, dating from c1745-55, an important addition to their Recognised Collection of Edinburgh silver.
- £1,110 to Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum towards the cost of transporting a Second World War Waco glider to their site in Dumfries.

Engaging and Inspiring People

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Engagement Strategy

In September 2018, National Museums Scotland's Board of Trustees approved a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Engagement Strategy 2018-2023 which sets out our vision to be a leader in STEM engagement with initiatives which inspire curiosity, build knowledge, encourage debate and support national STEM strategies.

Powering Up

Our innovative science engagement programme *Powering Up*, funded by the ScottishPower Foundation and now in its second year, is focusing on renewable energy and working with partner museums in communities across Scotland to engage young people in STEM learning. We have continued our partnerships with the National Mining Museum Scotland, the Scottish Maritime Museum (at Denny Tank Museum, Dumbarton) and New Lanark World Heritage Site which host renewable energy workshops for local primary schools in Midlothian, West Dunbartonshire and South Lanarkshire. We have also forged a new partnership with Historic Environment Scotland which has provided Stanley Mills as a venue to host primary schools in Perth & Kinross. Through these partnerships we provide free transport, activities and resources which remove the barriers that would normally prevent primary schools from visiting local museums as well as increasing schools' overall engagement with STEM subjects. An interactive science show full of

experiments based on renewable energy for upper primary classes is delivered at each participating school, allowing more pupils to engage in the programme and learn about renewable energy in Scotland. Between June 2018 and June 2019, 55 workshops and 65 science shows were delivered to 4,899 pupils from 44 schools across 5 local authority areas. In addition, 1,661 members of the public took part in science activities at festivals around Scotland including the Denny Science Weekend on 25 and 26 May 2019 at the Scottish Maritime Museum's Denny Tank in Dumbarton.

Maths Week Scotland

Maths Week Scotland, delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, aims to raise the profile of maths across Scotland with a focal week of events and activities for schools, adults and families, as well as additional events throughout the year, which celebrate the importance of maths in our everyday lives. National Museums Scotland co-ordinates Maths Week Scotland's communications and programme of year-round events delivered by partners across Scotland, including science centres, universities, mathematical associations and community groups. Events range from interactive exhibitions to evening talks covering a wide range of mathematical topics. Maths Week Scotland works closely with Education Scotland to support schools with resources, funding, school trips, speakers and inspiration for classroom activities. During Maths Week Scotland 2018, 10-16 September, over 5,000 pupils across Scotland took part in delivered Maths Week Scotland activities, with thousands more taking part in school-led activities and online. In the first year of partnership a new website and branding together with an increase in the number of partners has grown Maths Week Scotland to reach new audiences in a wider geographical area.

Community Engagement

Scotland 365

In the Year of Young People 2018, National Museums Scotland was awarded £776,000 by the National Lottery Heritage Fund to lead *Scotland 365* which aims to inspire young people to engage with their heritage through the national collections. Working in partnership with Young Scot, Project Scotland and Impact Arts, this ambitious three-year project will transform the way we work and engage with young people, encouraging them to explore contemporary Scottish heritage and develop youth project ideas. The first programme in summer 2018, *CashBack to the Future*, run by Impact Arts, was delivered simultaneously across Edinburgh, Glasgow, Renfrewshire and North Ayrshire, engaging over 200 young people from diverse backgrounds. The four-week residency offered targeted young people the opportunity to work with professional artists, musicians, filmmakers and actors on youth-led creative projects, culminating in a showcase event. The project will help National Museums Scotland to develop new approaches to contemporary collecting and heritage presentation as we explore and trial with young people a range of alternative approaches to interpreting the national collections, both at the National Museum of Scotland and at the National Museums Collection Centre. In 2018 and 2019 Impact Arts ran weekly aftercare sessions in the four geographical areas for over 150 young people, continuing their creative arts skills development and providing them with a local support network.

Curiosity! BBC Children in Need/Wellcome Trust

In Spring 2018, we delivered a series of science engagement activities in partnership with Fife Young Carers, a charity which supports children and young people aged 8-25 years caring for someone in their family who is ill or has a disability. Over 50

young people investigated our Science and Technology collections, created their own science experiments and challenges, and ran an 'escape room' style event at the National Museum of Scotland. The project outcomes were to improve young peoples' enjoyment and engagement with science, generate curiosity and the exploration of science topics, and increase confidence and skills. The project was funded by the BBC Children In Need and Wellcome Trust Curiosity Fund.

Tackling Loneliness and Isolation

With funding from the People's Postcode Lottery, National Museums Scotland is working with Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums, Glasgow Museums and West Lothian Council Museum Service from May to December 2019 to deliver local programmes for individuals with dementia and their carers and families. Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museums is working with Alzheimer's Scotland to build on their dementia friendly programme, *Our Aberdeen*, to create a new programme, *Our Gallery*, for the reopening of Aberdeen Art Gallery in autumn 2019. Glasgow Museums is creating a new dementia friendly programme based on their ancient Egyptian and East Asian collections, working with an artist to pilot the use of art for wellbeing and developing reminiscence and handling collections workshops. West Lothian Council Museum Service is producing a programme of events to support the development of their new community museum at Whitburn, with the aim of creating a museum which is dementia friendly by design. Bringing people together is a key outcome for this project, enhancing participants' well-being, offering opportunities for social interaction and encouraging skills development. As a result we are running a number of new initiatives including autism friendly sessions for targeted families at the National Museum of Scotland and local venues to explore our collections through art, music and science; outreach sessions at Edinburgh care homes for people living with dementia using collections inspired storytelling and dance workshops; and the creation of an accessible sensory map of the National Museum of Scotland.

Discover Summer programme in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council

As part of the City of Edinburgh Council's city-wide initiative to tackle the lack of affordable activities and the 'holiday hunger' experienced by some families in areas of multiple deprivation over the school summer holiday period, we ran summer outreach sessions for targeted children and families. In 2018 and 2019 these included our *Powering Up* renewable energy science show and ancient Egypt and Viking handling workshops, engaging over 400 children with handling artefacts, craft activities and science experiments.

Strengthening Skills and Expertise

Our popular National Training Programme offers free collections knowledge and skills training for staff and volunteers in museums across Scotland. In 2018/19 we delivered 22 workshops and other events, providing 246 learning experiences for 186 staff from 69 museums in 28 local authority areas. Our workshops explored a wide range of subjects including medieval archaeology, dress and textiles, the Government Indemnity Scheme and photographing collections.

Photographing Collections

On 24 April 2018, participants from a wide range of organisations received a master class in photographing museum collections at the National Museum Collections Centre as part of the Ancient Egypt and East Asia national programme. The workshop shared National Museums Scotland's approach to digital photography,

planning a shoot and demonstrating lighting and camera techniques to get the most from the equipment and resources available. The workshops received positive feedback from attendees:

The team at NMS were friendly, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about their area of expertise.

VITAL to our organisation and me personally to be able to attend these courses, thank you. They are practical and easy to put into practice in most instances. I like that the courses are specifically tailored to the needs of those in attendance.

Introduction to Dress and Textile Collections

Participants were encouraged to develop the knowledge and practical skills required to handle, store and care for dress and textile collections at this workshop on 29 May 2018. The course covered identification of textile collections, condition checking, measuring and object numbering as well as how to pack dress and textiles, with practical tips on storage solutions, pest prevention and how to deal with challenging objects. One participant wrote:

The training course was excellent and has provided me with valuable skills that I will be able to use to look after our collection.

The Government Indemnity Scheme: Lending and Borrowing Collections

The UK Government Indemnity Scheme (GIS) offers an alternative to the cost of commercial insurance, providing cost-free indemnity cover to borrowing institutions for loss or damage to art or cultural objects on short or long-term loan. This workshop, in partnership with Arts Council England, helped participants to develop their knowledge of the scheme and understand the standards required and how to meet them. The workshop was delivered at the National Museum of Scotland on 12 June and at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery on 13 June 2018. One participant at the Inverness event wrote:

Really nice to see that smaller organisations can benefit from the knowledge of the nationals. The team are very enthusiastic about delivering the programme and I hope it's something that continues. Certainly feel that it benefits both museums and professionals.

Introduction to Medieval Archaeology

The fifth and final workshop in our archaeology series, *Introduction to Medieval Archaeology*, took place on 24 September 2018. In recent years the increased volume of medieval artefacts recovered through metal detecting and offered to museums via the Treasure Trove process has brought challenges in identifying and interpreting a wide variety of object types. Exploring key themes, including religion and belief and economy and trade, this workshop sought to develop participants' confidence in identifying typical medieval finds, how they might be interpreted and where to go for further information and advice. One participant wrote:

The Training Programme is a very welcome opportunity for us to see other collections, better understand what we have, and make connections with the specialist curators at National Museums Scotland. We appreciate the refreshments and fee-free aspect, and the opportunity to network and learn from others.

Collaboration and Capacity Building

Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme

The transformation of the National Museum of Scotland was completed in February 2019 with the opening of three new galleries, *Ancient Egypt Rediscovered*, *Exploring East Asia* and *Art of Ceramics*. With funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund our Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme is supporting engagement with related collections in museums across Scotland through touring exhibitions, new displays, digital resources, skills development and enhanced interpretation and audience development. Our national touring exhibition, *Discovering Ancient Egypt*, travelled to Hawick Museum (8 March-2 June 2019) and Montrose Museum & Art Gallery (8 June-8 September 2019) with a further visit to the Baird Institute, Cumnock (14 September-14 December 2019).

An important aspect of the partnership has been the opportunity to build long-term capacity at local level. Both Hawick Museum and Montrose Museum & Art Gallery secured funding from the Weston Loans Fund to purchase new high specification cases for the display which will enable them to take high value loans in future.

The National Programme is complemented by *Revealing Stories*, a programme of activity supported by the Museums Association's Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. This is building on the National Programme, increasing opportunities to engage with ancient Egypt and East Asian collections across Scotland's museums, with a particular focus on breaking down barriers to access and inclusion. We worked with Perth Museum and Art Gallery to develop *Dress to Impress* (26 May-27 October 2018) which revealed rarely seen examples from their collection of traditional dress and accessories from China, Japan and Korea. At the University of Aberdeen *Substance to Style: Traditional Arts of East Asia* (18 March-22 August 2019) showcased objects from China and Japan. *Japan: Art and Inspiration* at the Kirkcudbright Galleries (30 March-9 June 2019) included Japanese prints from National Museums Scotland and objects from the collection of Dumfries Museum. *From East to West* at Dunfermline Carnegie Library & Galleries (24 August-17 November 2019) explores trade and export and the influence of East Asia on Western tastes and fashion, featuring objects from China and Japan from the collections of Fife Cultural Trust and National Museums Scotland. These *Reveal* displays were supported with learning resources to enable museums to engage with new audiences. They include craft activities, an exhibition trail and guidance notes for teachers. We also developed communication cards to support engagement with ancient Egypt for children and young people with autism.

Revealing Stories has also enabled two collections reviews to be undertaken across Scottish museums. This project aims to reveal more detailed insights into ancient Egypt collections held in museums around Scotland, identifying significant objects and connections between the collections of local museums. For East Asia, where less is known about collections held around the country, a specialist review is being undertaken by National Museums Scotland's East Asia curatorial team and a comprehensive listing of collections held across Scotland will be created.

Natural Science Collections Across Scotland

With a grant of £107,000 from the John Ellerman Foundation, we embarked on a two-year project working with museums across Scotland to advance curatorial expertise and improve collections care with the aim of enhancing the impact of locally held natural science collections for audiences throughout the country, with a specific focus on fossil collections. This resulted from a detailed consultation in 2017 which highlighted these collections as a national priority with significant underuse of

collections and lack of expertise at local level leading to limited audience engagement. Dr Sue Beardmore took up the post of John Ellerman Project Curator in March 2019, undertaking an extensive programme of site visits which will result in a *Review of Fossil Collections in Scottish Museums*. The review will describe the dispersal of fossil collections around the country, including their size, stratigraphical and geographical spread and taxonomic diversity, identify items of scientific or historical significance and make recommendations on priorities for future research and public engagement. A second report will cover priorities for support and development of natural science collections more broadly. The project will be supported by advice on collections care and a training programme for staff working with natural science collections.

Measuring Social Impact Symposium

Museums in Scotland: Measuring Social Impact at the National Museum of Scotland on 22 September 2018 explored what is meant by social impact and how it can be captured, measured and articulated. Participants heard from keynote speakers from the Museums Association, Museums Galleries Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland while Perth Museum and Art Gallery shared their experience of measuring the social impact of their audience engagement work as a partner in the Ancient Egypt and East Asia National Programme. Practical discussion and feedback from participants is being used to inform our model for measuring the overall social impact of the programme. Partner museums are piloting a new evaluation toolkit over the course of 2019.