

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Salford Museum and Art Gallery

April - September 2019



Enhancing the lives of people in Salford

Performance Report for the Salford Museum and Art Gallery April – September 2019

Key highlights include:

- In July the Museum launched 'Everything I Have Is Yours' premiering the latest artist film by Eileen Simpson and Ben White. The piece was commissioned by The Film and video Umbrella, The University of Salford Art Collection and Castlefield Gallery and the Museum were successful in being awarded Arts Council England funding for an engagement programme to run along side, resulting in a series of workshops and events
- The Museum hosted the EMTAS service's amazing Traveller Wagon which they built with local traveller communities and young people. The wagon was built by hand from scratch, and was funded by the National Lottery for Heritage. The wagon parked up outside the museum for a week and welcomed school children, visitors and passers by to explore inside!
- The Museum have been nominated as a finalist in the 'Day Out With The Kids' Family Favourite Awards and are awaiting the outcome of the public vote
- As part of a year long funded partnership with Historic England, the Museum will be working with Salford Schools to support embedding local history into the curriculum
- The A-Z exhibitions opened at the end of March 2019 and has proved a hit with all audiences
- Comfy reading chairs have been installed in the By Hand Gallery (thanks to the Friends of Salford Museums), new display units have been placed in the café and the meeting room has been painted as part of a programme of continual improvements
- The Museum has had a positive summer with a significant increase in venue hire and café sales
- School visits continued to be busy through the reporting period, including the delivery of several Local History sessions to local schools
- The first pilot of a film showing for families took place in one of the galleries
- In September the Salford Art Club exhibition opened showing works from the art club members
- The Vegetarian Society delivered a cookery demonstration in the museum café focused on plant based recipes
- Donations have seen a 33% increase as a result of the restored automata, donation shakers, online donations and the 'pay as you feel' shop table
- The Museum hosted year 6 pupils from The Friars School on 'Takeover Day' where the class took over the running of the museum! A great day was had by all and the children featured on Granada News
- A busy programme of holiday activities were delivered at Easter, Whit and Summer. During August over 10,000 visitors were welcomed to the museum

The return of the Automata!

The Museum's much loved Fire Fighters automata had to be removed from display some time ago as it had stopped working. After tracking down a local restorer, the Fire Fighters Automata and the Polyphon went for restoration, kindly paid for by the Friends of Salford Museum and Art Gallery. Returned to the museum this spring and put back in Lark Hill Place

they were welcomed back with great enthusiasm by visitors who had very much missed them! They have had a thorough clean and service, and have also had several original features restored including the bell for the Fire Engine. It's hoped they will continue to delight generations to come.

An A-Z of Salford's Collections

For the Museum's annual collections show this year the theme was A-Z, and the Museum showcased the weird and wonderful from the museum collection for every letter of the alphabet. The show brought together all the different disciplines at the museum and proved a real hit with visitors. Highlights included the Bhudda which has been returned on loan from Manchester Museum, the scary Ventriloquist Dummy, the frog in a chamber pot and some rather sturdy underwear! The show will be kept up into next year with more items added from the collection.



Customer Feedback:

"The staff once again so lovely and helpful"

"The baby sensory class in the Victorian Gallery is FANTASTIC! Really enjoyed it, thank you"

"I really like the wash day Wednesday and how you get to dress up like a Victorian"

"Came to visit during the holidays due to poor weather, it's changed so much for the better, I have not been for over five years last visit my granddaughter was 8 years old then and loved dressing up at Lark Hill Place, she's 13 now and still loved to wear the clothes. Bravo, it's brilliant"

"Has been a favourite with our family and the children my sister has fostered over the years. You are all a credit to Salford and deserve recognition for all the hard work you put into the museum and gallery and enthusiasm you all have"

Forthcoming events and activities:

- Hallowe'en film Screenings on Lark Hill Place
- 'A Tree Celebration' opens in November to mark National Tree week and highlighting paintings of trees and forestscapes from the collections
- 'Collier Street Baths' by Ian McKay opens in December
- Christmas programme including 'Breakfast with Father Christmas'

For more information please see:

<http://www.salfordcommunityleisure.co.uk>