



Shropshire Museums' Collections Centre

Collection Centre Store Tours



Shropshire Museums' Centre was designed and built to allow for the long-term care of some of our most important collections. It provides secure long-term storage, as well as access to the collections through our education programmes and research opportunities.

A store tour is an ideal opportunity to find out about our collections and the vital 'behind the scenes' work of our staff and volunteers to preserve our heritage for future generations.

Archaeology

The Archaeology Collection reflects more than 10,000 years of human activity in the county, from the first stone tools to the relics of Shropshire's industrial past. Highlights include early finds from Wroxeter Roman City and Bromfield Bronze Age Cemetery. Many of our archaeological artefacts formed part the foundation of museum collections of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. These collections have been added to over the many decades. Most substantially so since planning policy was revised in 1997 making archaeological investigations a statutory requirement in areas of potential historic interest.

Fine Art and Archives

Shropshire has inspired and been home to generations of artists, craftsmen and writers. Their work gives us an insight into how they perceived the area, and both worked and interacted with it. Key collections include works by Randolph Caldecott and Louise Rayner. Many of the paintings within our collection have been civic donations which were later transferred to the care of Shropshire Museums. The current collection consists mainly of paintings including of oils, water-colours and prints, principally of local topographical interest.

Natural History

Our Natural History collections contain some 77,000 specimens of fungi, plants, invertebrates and vertebrates collected from both Shropshire and further afield by people associated with the County. This collection is a remarkable record of the flora and fauna of Shropshire both today and in years past. The collection includes several specimens which represent species now extinct within Shropshire, nationally or worldwide.



Many of the items within the biology collection formed part of the early collections of Ludlow Museum, Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery and Whitchurch Museum. These have been added to over the past 40 years mainly through the acquisition of private historic collections.

Geology

Shropshire has some of the most varied geology in the whole of Britain. Our Geology Collection's first acquisitions formed part of the historic collections of Ludlow's and Shrewsbury's Museums. These were actively added to in the 1970s and 1980s. The collection has been audited and extensively rationalised in the past ten years. Key collections include the Shropshire Mammoths and an extensive collection of Silurian fossil fish. We now care for some 41,500 specimens of fossils, minerals and rocks - a collection recognised as one of international importance.

Social History

The Social History collection includes everyday things used by local people, and some of their more treasured possessions. They form a valuable record of the way that people used to live, eat, dress, work and play. The majority of the Social History Collection has been amassed since the creation of the local authority museum services in 1974. Almost all the material has been donated by members of the public.

45 Minute Store Tour

£3 per person

(Max.20/Min.10 people per group £30)

A guided visit to the museum stores which will give you an opportunity to see the main collections held at the Museum Resource Centre.

Group Tour and Talk

£80 for 2 hours

(Maximum 20 people per group)

A guided visit to the museum stores followed by refreshments and an illustrated talk. This will cover the history of the collections and the work of the museum service.

Tour and Handling Session

£6 per person for 2 hours

(Max.15/Min.6 people per group)

A guided visit to a specific museum store followed by a chance to get up close with some key items from the collection. Ideal for special interest groups and, further or higher education groups.

To find out more about *Store Tours* please contact our Curatorial and Collections Team:

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