

Autumn Newsletter

14th September 2016

 The Infirmary & George Marshall Medical Museum quarterly newsletter

In an effort to try to reduce the use of paper, and therefore the wastage of paper, we will be discontinuing the printed version of the newsletter at the end of 2016. We strongly recommend you add your name to our e-mailing list, so as not to miss out on future newsletters! Please get in touch using the contact info provided at the back of the newsletter. Many thanks!

Exhibition changeover



**GEORGE MARSHALL
MEDICAL MUSEUM**

We recently removed the fabulous 'Joint Effort' display made with objects loaned to us by the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. In its place, Lauren Romijn our placement student from University of Leicester has installed 'The Struggle with Normalcy' with expert help from our Thursday collections volunteers.

The display includes a fascinating mixture of objects relating to sexual and mental health as well as objects used in early minor cosmetic surgery. Emily Cheetham, our recently-married Friday volunteer (congratulations Emily!) has also recently installed a brand new display showcasing our entire collection of medals. Both displays are well worth visiting.



TRIAL AND ERROR

This hospital was the scene of secret medical LSD trials in the 1960s. Sarah Dunn examines why the drug was given to psychiatric patients across Britain and why, 30 years later, they are still dealing with the aftermath



Can you identify this hospital?

Members of the Worcester Royal Infirmary Nurses' League recently asked if we could help to identify the location of these photographs. Unfortunately none of our own archive or photographic records can help, so do let us know if you recognise any of the faces or interiors.



Star Turn on Antiques Roadshow

Did you spot us on BBC's Antiques Roadshow? Louise took one of our handling objects to form part of the 'Mystery Object' spot on the popular programme in August this year. If you missed it, you can watch the programme on BBC iPlayer, here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b07tbsss>.

Summer Activities

With all the sunshine this summer the family events at The Infirmary were not as busy as last year. It was also the first year when all the activities were in the same week. Taking the theme of medical science in books, TV and movies there were hands on activities with clay modelling, tricorder building and origami of Baymax. There was a chance to have an ElectroCardioGram (ECG) taken and learn how everyone's body produces electricity! Thanks to the STEM Volunteers and the Museum's volunteers all who came were given lots of attention and hopefully left with a little more knowledge about their bodies and be glad to be alive today and not in the past.

There was also an invitation to run a workshop at The Hive for 5-12 year olds on George's Marvellous Medicines, it being 100 years since Roald Dahl was born. Using kitchen ingredients the children were shown how to blow up a balloon without blowing!!



Escape the Infirmary!



In the 1990s there was The Crystal Maze TV show where teams solved puzzles to win a prize. The Infirmary is going to become an escape room for one night in October. Groups will have one hour to solve the puzzles to find the key and be able to escape. It's a free trial and if the demand is high enough, it will be run again after Christmas, for a small charge. Thanks to the support of Museums at Night and the exceptionally cunning brain power of The ATE Trust there are three timed slots available on the 29th October; 6:00pm, 7:15pm and 8:30pm. Bookings are for groups of 4-8 people and a group slot can be booked at bit.ly/TheInfirmaryTickets along with other event tickets. To get your brain warmed up, can you work out what the puzzle in the picture says?

Partners

Not much would happen at The Infirmary if there wasn't support and experience from partners. This includes colleagues in the building, security, those from the Institutes and all the others who work on projects outside the University walls. They also run events and activities and you will find their posters and leaflets in the gallery, don't forget to follow them on Facebook and Twitter so you don't miss out on any exciting experiences. Two events which may be of interest and involve former speakers from events at The Infirmary: The Inaugural Professorial Lecture of Professor Darren Oldridge, Invisible Spirits in Tudor and Stuart England.

29th September at 5:30pm at the Arena, please email rsvp@worc.ac.uk for your free spot. Annual Women's History Network Conference, Volunteers and Voters: The First World War and its Legacy.

12th November, 10:30-4:00 at the University's St John's Campus, £15 for the day. Please contact Mark at the museum if interested.

A Late Introduction...

My name is Lauren, I am from the Netherlands and on 25 July I started with a work placement in the Worcester Medical Museums. The placement lasts two months and it is a part of my MA Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. In The Infirmary museum I work on a temporary exhibition featuring six poems by Matthew Ould-Oram. One of the poems will be on display in the community case along with a brain! I am also interested in digital media and design so with Mark I will work on a new digital media strategy. I will give a tour through Mulberry House and The Infirmary on the Heritage Open Day on the 10th of September. On 24th August I hosted the book club meeting and we discussed Sylvia Plath and her work.

In the George Marshall Medical Museum, I am working on a new exhibit about the struggle with normalcy. It focuses on 'normal behaviour' and 'normal bodies' by featuring objects from the collection. That exhibition is now nearly finished. It needs some finishing touches with the interpretation. After that, I will help Louise by doing some research on the collection for educational activities.

I finish with my placement on the 16th of September and I will go back to the Netherlands on the 18th. It was a very interesting year for me in the UK and I am happy to go back home. I will miss everybody I got to meet whilst working at the Worcester Medical Museums! I want to continue working in museums and I will start with a new placement one week after I return, at the Museum Boijmans van Beuningen in Rotterdam. It is a marketing placement so I will get to use my creativity again, something which I enjoyed doing very much in Worcester.

~Lauren Romijn~

Pictured: Lauren standing proudly in front of her exhibition at the George Marshall!



All good things...

It's 11 months into my placement at The Infirmary and George Marshall Medical Museum, and very quickly nearing the end of what has been a fun and informative year in Worcester! I have visited 10 wonderful and fantastic museums across the country, learnt plenty of skills that will help me in my museum career, and met wonderful people who I hope to keep in touch with after all of this has finished.

From this year, I have taken away a greater respect and understanding for the work museums do. When I first started, I thought it was just 'Get object and put in display case with info about object next to it', but now I understand it is so much more than that! I've come away less naive, and with a deeper understanding of the sector as a whole.

From the year, I have come to the conclusion that I would like to pursue a career in documentation and collection work, as I feel most comfortable working with objects! However, I have enjoyed every aspect of my education and would be just as happy working with the public!

From the year, I have gained confidence in a lot of areas, but mostly in myself. Whilst I am sad to be leaving the museums, I feel that with the education I have received at The Infirmary and George Marshall Medical Museum, I can move forwards in my heritage career with confidence in my skills and knowledge.

~Lewis~

Pictured: Lewis at one of the Museum Open Days last year. He took great delight in trying on a straight jacket!



Upcoming Events

The Infirmary:

Infinite Possibility? Science and Medicine in the post-genomic age

20th October 7-8pm

Talk by Dr Mike Wheeler, Institute of Science and the Environment, University of Worcester.

What impact has been seen in medicine since 2001 when 90% of the human genome was sequenced? From the 'Blunderbuss' approach of early medicine to the possibilities of personalised medicine, this talk will share the current state of science and medicine using comparisons to previous advances of medicine and consider the ethics.

Hospitals at Halloween

29th October, 10am-2pm

Experience the gory side of hospital work with family activities about deadly diseases and have your own disease created on your face. Investigate the ghost stories of the building and create your own method of making haunting sounds.

Hospitals at Halloween: Guided Tours

29th October, tours take place at 11am and 1pm

Take a walk around the old Worcester royal infirmary original building. An experienced guide will take you round for a 40 minute tour and visit key rooms and learn more about Worcester's significance in the history of medicine.

Escape The Infirmary

29th October, 6-9:30pm

Booking required

The Infirmary exhibition is becoming an escape room for one night only! Bring up to 7 friends to solve the puzzles located across the gallery to crack the code and escape from the locked room. There's one hour to solve the puzzles working as a team or else you may be forgotten about and end up spending the weekend locked in the (allegedly) haunted building. Suitable for 18+ there are three time slots for each group:

- 18:00 to 19:00
- 19:15 to 20:15
- 20:30 to 21:30

We recommend groups of 4-8 people to secure a successful release.

The event is possible thanks to support from [Museums at Night](#) and the brains of [The ATE Trust](#).

All events at The Infirmary can be booked at www.bit.ly/TheInfirmaryTickets

George Marshall Medical Museum:

We don't currently have any events planned for the rest of the year. The George Marshall Medical Museum is open five days a week, 9am to 5pm, and is free to visit

Who we are

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