

# RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter  
May 12  
2021

## ABOUT US

The Rumble Museum at Cheney is run by educational charity The Iris Project and spread throughout corridors and rooms. We run regular projects, talks and events, and have two active student Museum Councils.

We have been awarded full Museum Accreditation by the Arts Council. Find out more at [www.rumblemuseum.org.uk](http://www.rumblemuseum.org.uk)

## MUSEUM COUNCIL VISIT TO WYTHAM WOODS

On Tuesday 11th May, the Year Eight Museum Council were fortunate enough to be able to visit beautiful Wytham Woods and see nesting boxes with Sam and Keith from the Edward Grey Institute team.

We heard how birds' eggshells are made of calcium which the birds get from eating snail shells, and that at a particular point, the birds are able to release the calcium they have stored to coat the egg. We saw some blue tit eggs which had been abandoned by the mother. Sometimes the mother gets the timings a bit out, and doesn't have the energy to devote to the eggs, which is why they get abandoned. We were told how climate change has caused a gradual shift in the intricately timed ecological systems which enable birds to be ready to lay their eggs, and this process now occurs two weeks earlier than before. We also found out that blue tits grew more yellow on their breasts if they had eaten more caterpillars.

We saw a baby chick, which was recently hatched, and didn't look much like a bird at all! We also saw some blue tits flying from the boxes. We saw some mechanised feeders, which used infrared technology to ensure that only certain birds could feed from particular feeders, and heard all about the various other projects being explored and developed.

Most of this took place during an atmospheric thunderstorm, which made us all a bit soggy, but created a very special experience!



## WORKING WITH NATTY MARK SAMUELS

We are delighted to be working with Natty Mark Samuels, founder of African School on our African collection. As mentioned in previous newsletters, we were recently donated a beautiful and wide-ranging collection of artefacts from Africa, ranging from musical instruments, to every day objects, baskets and an exquisitely carved door frame.

Natty founded African School in 2009 to introduce African Studies to the general public. African studies involves The Carribean, African America as well as Africa. The African School Mobile Library began in May 2020 during COVID 19. He is creating a booklet of narratives about the items, and will also be meeting students at Cheney to explore the items together, and share knowledge about them.

Our Museum Council students will be working with Naima Mokhtar, a researcher, to create entries for the items on the Earth Museum website, and we are planning some exhibition events later in the school year, so watch this space!

