

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
Oct 20
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

AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND NANKASA DRUM

Our Black History Month programme of events continued last week with a fascinating talk about African languages by Dr Seraphin Kamdem from the School of Oriental and African Studies, which was attended by a number of Year Twelve and Thirteen students.

Seraphin told us about the enormous number and diversity of languages in Africa. He explained how in Nigeria, for example, almost 500 different languages were spoken.

This week, we have our last speaker for the talk series, Pamela Roberts. Pamela has done lots of research exploring black students and academics at the University of Oxford.

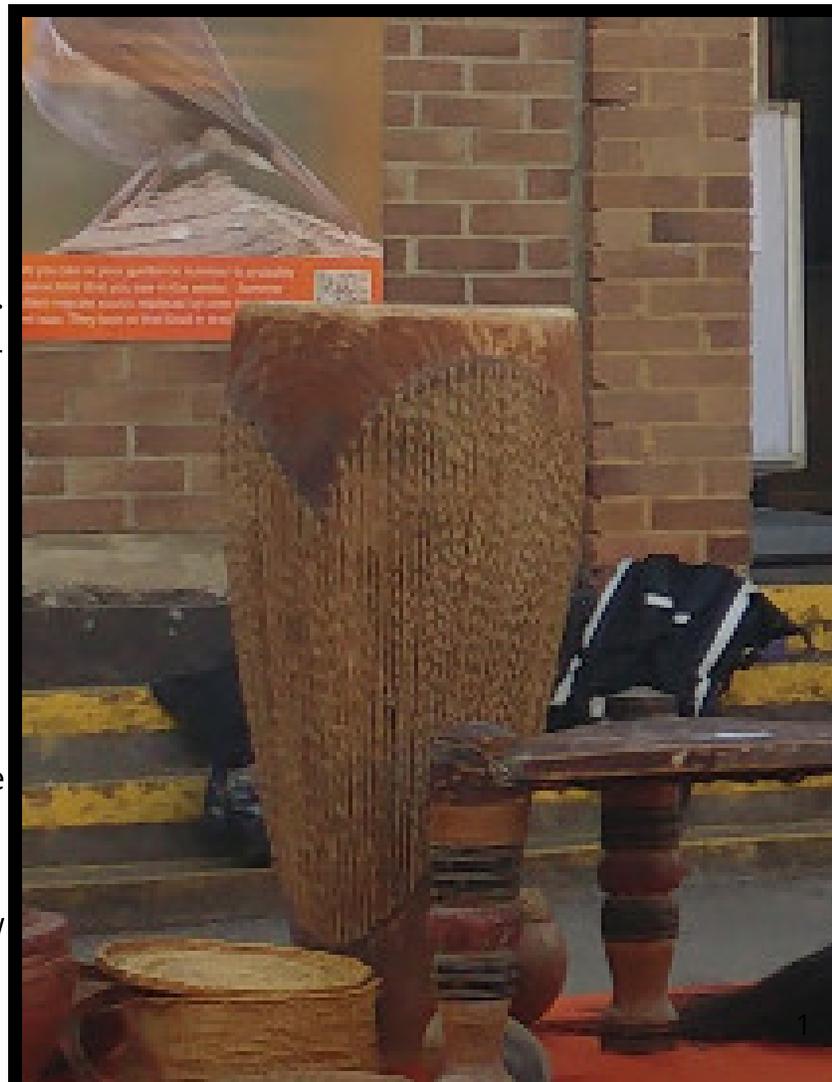
Alongside, this, we have been working with Film Oxford and Natty Mark Samuels to create a series of videos based on of the objects in our African collection

You can find the first one here. It explains how the drum was part of an ensemble, used by the King in a region of Uganda, and how it

was used for festivals and also for war signals. Natty has filmed a number of other videos which we will be making available soon.

Natty has also been working with the Creative Writing Club, and will be working with a team of sixth form curators early next term to design display boards together for the African collection.

Keep an eye out for further updates on our website!



DANTE AND A ROBOT

On Thursday 7th October, Year Eight Museum Council students visited the Ashmolean to explore the Dante and Celebrity exhibition. The students will be devising activities and displays themed on the Greek Underworld as presented in Dante's *Inferno* for the Ashmolean Late Night Opening on 26th November, and the trip was an opportunity to meet the curator of the Dante and Celebrity exhibition and take inspiration for their own plans.

We were met outside the museum by Professor Gervase Rosser, curator of the exhibition, and Liz Green, TORCH programmes director. Gervase took us straight into the museum. He started by talking about the role of celebrities in our lives today, and how we have people we look up to, and those we don't! He pointed out that this idea of celebrity is an ancient one, and what the Italian poet Dante was doing in his most famous poem, the *Divine Comedy*, was to turn people into celebrities of sorts through his poem.

The artwork of an AI called Ai-da also features in the exhibition, which raised lots of questions about whether a robot has feelings and experiences that are like a human's. The students will have the opportunity to meet Ai-da at the Late Night Opening, and pose some of their questions to her!

