

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
Nov 3
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

REMEMBRANCE DISPLAY IN RECEPTION

Every month we change over the items on display in our front reception cabinet, kindly donated to use by the Ashmolean. Last month, we displayed some of our beautiful African collection. Work continues on our African collection as you will see later in the newsletter.

Our new front reception display for November includes artefacts from World War One and Two as we head towards Remembrance Day for the lives lost in these wars.

Inside the cabinet you can see a shell case which has been made into a vase. This is an example of something called Trench Art where soldiers made items such as vases and cigarette cases out of discarded ammunition items.

We have also put two "Mighty Midget" books on display. These were from a series of miniature books for children to read in the Air Raid Shelters to keep them occupied and calm in World War Two.

There are also two World War Two Identity Cards, one for an adult and one for a child.

There are three medals: the Star, British War and Victory medal. These three medals were always awarded together.

Finally there is a 1914 Princess Mary Tin on display. These would have contained one ounce of pipe tobacco, twenty cigarettes, a pipe, a tinder lighter, Christmas card and photograph.



OWLS AND OCTOPUSES WITH THE NHM

On our first Tuesday session back with Year Nine Museum Project students after half term, they arrived in the classroom to discover an array of unexpected specimens!

These items had been brought by education officer Sarah Lloyd to introduce everyone to the Natural History Museum, its stunning collections and its role in engaging the public and continuing research.

We were able to look at a taxidermy barn owl, and stroke its feathers. Sarah explained how the dodo in the museum itself was not taxidermy but actually a model and asked us to think about whether this mattered in terms of visitor experience. She explained how, also, the dinosaur bones for the tyrannosaurus rex on display were casts rather than actual bones, which meant they were able to drill holes in them to connect them. Later in the session, we looked at a skeleton of a birdlike creature, and it turned out to be a skeleton of a barn owl, which was quite a surprise to everyone, because so much of the shape of the skeleton is hidden by the owl's feathers.

Sarah also showed everyone a beautiful octopus from the 1800s and explained how they preserved these and similar creatures in ethanol. Finally, Sarah introduced some hissing cockroaches and gave everyone a chance to handle one. We finished by looking at some of the artwork on display at the museum – for example, two calves in formaldehyde by the well-known artist Damien Hirst, which form part of the museum's Meat the Future exhibition at the moment. There is also an image of a covid particle which Covid vaccine research leader Professor Sarah Gilbert now has on display in her workplace.



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YEAR SEVEN TALKS

Every term, we run a series of four breakfast talks for a different year group. This term it is the turn of Year Sevens, and we have talks ranging from "why is blue so rare in nature" to how music downloads spread in ways similar to viruses!

We are looking forward to seeing lots of Year Sevens on 9th November for the first talk.

AFRICAN ARTEFACT PROJECT CONTINUES

We will be continuing our work with the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Natty Mark Samuels this term, as we run more events and workshops around the collection, and also make available a number of resources about this fascinating collection.

We have released our second short video today on one of the objects: the Ethiopian Rug. You can watch the video online at <https://tinyurl.com/vcsnuu9s>

We are working on a 72 page booklet which introduces the whole collection, alongside the many poems which Natty has written about each one.

The booklet will be launched with a poetry, artefact handling and drumming event on Friday 10th December, 3.30 - 5pm, so do put that date into your diaries now!

Natty will also be running workshops for students of African heritage within the school, and meeting with a sixth form curator group

to work on display boards for the permanent display which will be ready in September.

We are working with local furniture maker and Cheney alumnus Lu Rahman to convert the cupboards on the Lane ground floor corridor to create three stunning new museum display cabinets, so students will be able to see some of our collections every day as they go through the corridor. More on this exciting project soon!

