

RUMBLE MUSEUM

Newsletter
March 12
2022

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

SHARING STORIES SIXTH FORM CONFERENCE

We were delighted to welcome twelve different organisations or individuals and two highly acclaimed speakers to the Rumble Museum's Sharing Stories Conference on Wednesday 9th March. About 160 Year Elevens and Twelves took part in the event which was themed on the transformative power of sharing stories, and the role empathy and compassion can play in building a stronger and more inclusive society.

The event started with a fascinating, informative, evidence-based view on empathy by Roman Krznaric, author of books like the Good Ancestor, and public philosopher. Everyone was together for this opening talk, including staff and workshop leaders, which set up the themes for the whole day.



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After the talk, students split into four different streams, which they had chosen a week beforehand. In the Science and Stories stream, students were able to step inside Science Oxford's Planetarium and think about the importance of stories in a scientific setting, such as the stories humankind has told about the night sky for millenia. Dr Callum Ross, consultant psychiatrist from Broadmoor Hospital spoke to students on issues of consent surrounding patient treatment. Paul Cann OBE ran workshops about the Campaign to End Loneliness, and the importance of connections in a society where many people, and especially those who are elderly.



In the Historical Stories stream, Professor Robert Gildea introduced oral stories from the Miners' Strike, and students explored how to do a Life Story interview. Roz Currie and Lottie Tempest-Mountford from Echoes of Holloway Project introduced some of the stories and objects collected as part of this project exploring the stories of people who had spent time in Holloway Prison. Stephen Barker told the fascinating story of Hardit Malik Singh who fought in World War One and became known as the "flying Sikh".



In the Creating Stories stream, storyteller Ben Haggarty used his storytelling expertise to encourage students to think about telling their own stories. Rana Ibrahim, founder of the Iraqi Women: Art and War project, got students to create artwork based on stories of healing. James Silk from the Story Museum explored stories and introduced the Story Museum's exciting models of storytelling.

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Finally in the Objects and Stories stream, Clare Cory and Jane Cockcroft explored the stories behind objects in the Ashmolean. Natty Mark Samuels used objects from the Rumble Museum's collection to tell stories from African folklore. The Empathy Museum brought their incredible Mile in My Shoes shoe shop, where students could try on a pair of shoes, and walk around in them while listening to the story of their owner.

Mile in My Shoes also stayed for a Drop-in session after the conference had finished, so that students from lower school could also visit the shoe stop and try on the shoes.

After this busy and engaging day of workshops, everyone returned to the hall for a closing talk delivered by Jennifer Nadel on compassion. Jennifer is an author, campaigner and journalist, has practised as a barrister, and co-founded Compassion in Politics. She spoke about how showing compassion can have a transformation effect both in our own and everyone else's lives, and showed examples of how compassionate action had had a really powerful effect on particular people.

We are enormously grateful to both our speakers, our workshop leaders, staff facilitators, and every student who took part in the day. If you have a story to share, you can do so on the website for the event there. If you have an object to share for our Living Museum Wall, please contact us on lorna@irisproject.org.uk



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CLASSICS CENTRE TALKS: ANCIENT GREEK MUSIC AND RELIGIOUS ARTEFACTS

It's been a busy week at the Classics Centre with two different talks! On Tuesday, Professor Amy Smith from the Ure Museum and University of Reading spoke in person to Year Eights through to Thirteens about ancient Greek religious artefacts. Amy talked about the role of libation in ancient Greek life, and showed us examples of libation vessels such as lekythoi (such as the one we have in our collection here) and an oinochoe (wine-pourer). Amy explained how, for the ancient Greeks, festivals were celebrations with the gods, and food and drink would be given to the gods before anyone got to eat and drink.

Then on Friday, Professor Armand D'Angour ran two virtual workshops for students from Year Eight to Thirteen, introducing what we know about ancient Greek music.

Armand explained that we have evidence of Greek music from texts such as the fragment from the chorus of the ancient Greek play *Orestes* by Aeschylus, where notes are written above the words. We have ancient Greek vases which depict musicians playing instruments such as the "aulos" (double pipe) and the lyre. He explained how the way in which the Greeks pronounced syllables as short or long was reflected in the music. Also, the music went up or down depending on whether the lyrics were happy or sad, just as our music often does. Armand told us how the word "lyric" itself derives from the ancient Greek practice of singing words along to the playing of a lyre!





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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TALKS FOR YEAR EIGHTS BEGIN

March Breakfast Talks kicked off on 3rd with Professor David Hogg (Director) and PhD students Mary Paterson, Jack Breen, Samuel Llanwarne, Sian Carey, from the Centre for Doctoral Training in AI for Medical Diagnosis and Care at Leeds. Year Eights heard about the work of the different researchers in using A.I. in medicine, whether using voice to diagnose cancer, spotting cells which may be dividing a lot, and also exploring whether A.I. is biased in unhelpful ways.

The following week, Professor Michael Wooldridge from the University of Oxford visited in person to show Year Eights what machines can't currently do. He showed us how computers became very good at teaching themselves how to complete old games like 'break out', simply by playing them over and over and learning the weak points. However, he explained that computers were no good at being able to do well at games where longer term planning was required to get rewards.

He explained that the world is incredibly complex, and while we have been evolved over millenia to navigate it, machines have only just started to explore it and learn from it, and this means even very simple-seeming tasks, like opening a door using a handle, are very difficult for machines to do.

The talks continue for the whole of March!