

nh m NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE museum



CONNECTING COLLECTIONS

EXPLORING OUR SHARED HISTORIES

Be part of a new community-led project exploring
hidden histories in the museum's collection

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EXPLORING OUR SHARED HISTORIES

ABOUT THIS PROJECT

Would you like to be part of this exciting project to explore hidden histories in the museum's collection?

North Hertfordshire Museum holds historic collections of items that are connected to countries, regions, and cultural groups around the world. Some of these items are not fully or sensitively described or understood. There are items in our collections that have limited backstories, with a lack of information about how they were brought to this country. It is possible that some of these may have been acquired by unethical means. Without full descriptions or investigation, some items may reinforce a colonial record of events.

The museum collection is also missing stories and objects that show the lives and histories of people of Global Majority backgrounds connected to and living in North Hertfordshire. This centres a white view of history, and as part of this district's community, the museum wants to represent everyone living here. By Global Majority we mean people who identify as Black, African, Asian, Brown, mixed-heritage, are indigenous to the global south, or, from communities often described as ethnic-minorities.

Recognising that the museum aims to work on these areas, a new project funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, called **Connecting Collections**, plans to investigate parts of the historic collection, working with people and communities with underrepresented histories.

HOW WILL THE MUSEUM DO THIS?

The museum is keen to work with people in our local community who are from Global Majority backgrounds, and, or have heritage from countries with a colonial history, to help steer this project and to investigate our world collections. With support from the museum, the group will work together through a series of workshops to:

- talk about what is missing from the museum collection and displays, and be listened to by the museum team
- share ideas about how we can work together to make positive changes at the museum
- discover more about how some of the museum collection came to be here, and work out if any objects require repatriation to countries of origin
- give a more informed picture of museum objects
- document the project and develop an exhibition

Participants will be reimbursed for their time with a choice of vouchers equivalent to £25 per person per session attended. There will be ten sessions in total for participants to join.

The museum team recognises that this project may be emotionally challenging, and will make sure support is available for anyone taking part.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The museum is looking for ten people to participate in this project that meet the following criteria:

Essential

- Community members of Global Majority backgrounds, and, or those who have heritage from countries with a colonial history
- Live, work or study in North Hertfordshire
- Aged eighteen and over
- Interest in building a more inclusive museum
- Can commit to attending ten sessions between November 2025 and March 2026 (dates to be finalised depending on participant availability)
- Sessions will last approximately 90 minutes including a break.

Desirable

- Experience of being in, or working in a team
- Interest in history
- Interest in museums
- Interest in exhibition making



WHAT TO EXPECT

There are ten participant spaces on the project. Participants can expect the following from the project sessions:

- An informal, friendly atmosphere
- Space for questions, discussions, and feedback
- The chance to get hands-on with museum objects
- Creative activities to share your ideas
- Sharing of research findings
- Chance to meet new people
- Option for emotional support
- Refreshments
- Choice of voucher for £25 per person per session attended

PROJECT TIMEFRAME

The project sessions will run between November 2025 and March 2026, the exact dates will be confirmed. The Museum aims to open an exhibition about the project findings towards the end of summer 2026, with the aim of touring it to multiple venues.



HOW TO APPLY

You can apply to join this project by choosing one of the following options:

2. Requesting a paper form by calling 01462 474 272 or emailing northhertsmuseum@north-herts.gov.uk

Please return paper application forms by post or in person to:

Connecting Collections Project

North Hertfordshire Museum

14 Brand St

Hitchin

SG5 1JE

3. If you'd like to use an alternative method of applying, e.g. by video, please contact us by calling 01462 474 272 or emailing northhertsmuseum@north-herts.gov.uk

Closing dates for applications is **Sunday 26 October 2025** at midnight, applications may close early in the event of high numbers.

We will be in touch by phone or email after this date.



PROJECT FUNDING

This project is funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund.

The Fund is run by the Museums Association, funding projects that develop collections to achieve social impact. Since its launch in 2011, it has awarded 178 grants totaling over £12.9 million.



ABOUT NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE MUSEUM

North Hertfordshire Museum aims to increase the understanding and enjoyment of the culture, heritage and environment of North Hertfordshire, using the museum collections to tell the stories of the people who have lived and worked here. Our vision is to create a welcoming museum that plays an active role in the life of the District.

We do this through:

- Permanent museum displays
- Temporary exhibitions
- Events and activities for all ages
- Outreach work throughout the District
- Community archaeology
- Education work and Loans Scheme
- The Local Studies Centre
- Support for other local museums and cultural activities

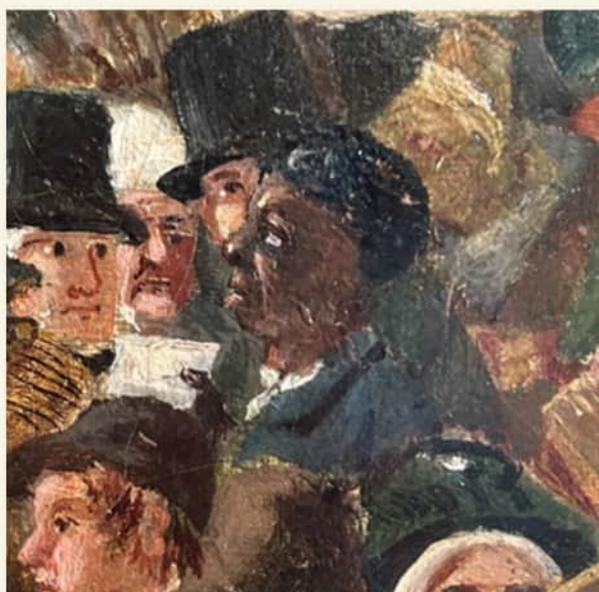


IMAGE CREDITS

Family Portrait, T. B. Latchmore, courtesy NHM

Portrait of Amanda Berry Smith, T. B. Latchmore, courtesy Smithsonian

Sarah Goodchild at The Saracen's Head, courtesy NHM

Vaisakhi Procession, Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, courtesy NHM

Royal High FP team 1871-72, courtesy Ashwell Museum

Uganda FA Badge, courtesy NHM

Coffee pot, courtesy NHM

Colonial and Indian Exhibition medal, courtesy NHM

Drawing, Samuel Lucas, courtesy NHM

Overseas Club Empire Day Certificate, courtesy NHM

Hitchin Market Place, Samuel Lucas, courtesy NHM