

SCRUTINY BULLETIN

The papers attached are primarily for Councillors' information but will be made publicly available on the internet, with the exception of Part 2 items. They may relate to work in progress or updates on reports which have already been considered by the Scrutiny Committees.

The provision of this information does not override the authority of the Standing Orders as set out in the Council's Constitution. For example, Councillors remain entitled to ask for a specific item to be placed on a Scrutiny agenda, request a call-in or to ask questions of a Portfolio Holder.

If require further information please contact Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer on 01392 265197 or alternatively email committee.services@exeter.gov.uk

1	Treasury Management Quarterly Report	3 - 8
2	Scrutiny Programme Board minutes	9 - 12
3	RAMM Annual Review 2022-23	13 - 38

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Bulletin: 30 October 2023

Title of Update: Treasury Management Quarterly Report

Relevant Officers: David Hodgson, Director Finance & s151 Officer
Claire Hodgson, Finance Manager - Corporate

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

The CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) Code of Practice for treasury Management 2021 recommends that members be updated on treasury management activities at least quarterly. The Treasury Management Strategy for the coming year, the annual Treasury Management outturn, and the mid-year review are presented to Executive and Council. The new requirement from 2023/24 to update Members on a quarterly basis does not require reports to be formally presented to Council. This report provides an update on the first quarter of 2023/24 in compliance with the Code.

2. Report Details:

2.1 Interest Rate Forecasts

The Council has adopted Link Group as its treasury advisors and part of their service is to assist the Council to formulate a view on interest rates. The PWLB rate forecasts below are based on the Certainty Rate as at the end of June. Forecasts have steadily increased during the quarter and Link Group's view is that interest rates will continue to be elevated and the Bank Rate will increase to at least 5.5% while the Bank of England seeks to reduce inflation.

Link Group Interest Rate View 26.06.23													
	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	Jun-26
BANK RATE	5.00	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75	3.25	2.75	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	5.30	5.60	5.50	5.30	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.70	2.60	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	5.80	5.90	5.70	5.50	5.10	4.60	4.00	3.50	3.00	2.70	2.60	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	6.30	6.20	6.00	5.70	5.30	4.80	4.10	3.60	3.10	2.80	2.70	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.50	5.60	5.30	5.10	4.80	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20
10 yr PWLB	5.10	5.20	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.40	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.40
25 yr PWLB	5.30	5.40	5.20	5.10	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.80	3.70
50 yr PWLB	5.00	5.10	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.50

2.2. Treasury Management Strategy

The Council approved the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy Statement, including the Annual Investment Strategy, at its meeting on 21 February 2023. In accordance with the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice it sets out the Council's investment priorities as being; Security of capital, Liquidity, and Yield. Officers review the creditworthiness of counterparties when making investment decisions, and Link provide updates of changes to credit ratings.

The Council's investment strategy was to continue to hold small surplus funds and to seek to utilise its Call Accounts, Money Market Funds, use the Government's Debt Management Office and use short dated deposits which would be placed with Local Authorities, Banks or Building Societies in-line with the Council's counterparty list.

The Council's stated borrowing strategy was to defer borrowing until later years, where possible, and to reduce the size of the Council's investment balance instead, however some targeted long term borrowing may be undertaken where the costs will be offset against future income streams.

3. Investments

- 3.1 Investment rates have improved during the first quarter of 2023/24 and are expected to improve further as the Bank Rate continues to increase over the next few months. The Council's fixed term deposits held at 30 June 2023 were:

Amount	Investment	Interest rate	Date Invested	Maturity Date	No. of Days
£5,000,000	London Borough of Newham	5%	21/06/23	21/11/23	153
£4,000,000	Cheltenham Borough Council	2.7%	13/09/22	13/07/23	303
£3,000,000	Standard Chartered – Sustainable deposit	4.94%	16/06/23	15/09/23	91
£3,000,000	Goldman Sachs	5.4%	15/06/23	15/12/23	183
£2,000,000	Barclays Green notice account	5%	19/07/22	65 day notice	Min: 65
£1,000,000	Barclays Standard notice account	5%	19/07/22	65 day notice	Min: 65
£18,000,000					

- 3.1 The Council had access to four Money Market Funds during the period. The money market funds allow immediate access to our funds and spreads risk as it is pooled with investments by other organisations and invested across a wide range of financial institutions.

Amount	Investment	Interest rate*
£8,000,000	Federated Investors	4.34%
£10,000,000	CCLA - The Public Sector Deposit Fund	4.37%
£4,000,000	Black Rock Asset Management	4.33%
£10,000,000	Aberdeen Standard Investments	4.35%
£32,000,000		

* Interest rate is variable (therefore rates quoted are an average to 30 June 2023)

- 3.2 The Council made investments in the CCLA's LAMIT Property Fund in 2016. It should be noted that investments in property funds are a long term commitment which means that there can be fluctuations on the return from the investment.

Amount	Investment	Dividend Yield 22/23
£5,000,000	CCLA – LAMIT Property Fund	4.65%

- 3.3 The Council can utilise the Government's Debt Management Office (DMO) account and a reserve account with Barclays. These accounts have not been utilised during the period.

4 Borrowing

- 4.1 When the 2023/24 budget was set the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) at 31st March 2023 was expected to be £250.75m, rising by £3.58m to £254.33m by 31st March 2024 to fund the capital programme. The Council is in an under-borrowed position, meaning that the CFR has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as borrowing costs continue to rise.
- 4.2 The Council's long term borrowing is currently £165.962m (£93.718m General Fund and £72.244m HRA) and there is no short-term borrowing. No further external borrowing has been undertaken during the quarter.
- 4.3 Details of loans are set out below:

Principal Amount outstanding as at 30 June 2023	Lender	Interest rate	Loan type	Date of repayment
£56,884,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	3.48%	Maturity	28/03/2062
£1,928,038	PWLB 25 year annuity	2.34%	Annuity	11/01/2044
£1,876,164	PWLB 25 year annuity	2.08%	Annuity	04/04/2044
£4,215,488	PWLB 30 year annuity	1.61%	Annuity	26/09/2049
£8,136,761	PWLB 35 year annuity	1.71%	Annuity	26/09/2054
£34,392,682	PWLB 50 year annuity	1.80%	Annuity	26/09/2069
£15,360,000	PWLB maturity (HRA)	1.31%	Maturity	14/04/2070
£43,168,547	PWLB 50 year annuity	1.78%	Annuity	24/12/2071

- 4.4 The ongoing borrowing requirement will be monitored and a decision of whether to take further borrowing will be made in light of need and current and forecast interest rates. If additional borrowing is required advice will be sought from the treasury management advisors in order that the most cost effective form of borrowing can be secured. The decision of whether to take external long-term borrowing is delegated to the Section 151 Officer and Leader of the Council.

5 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

The Council sets in February each year prudential indicators for Treasury Management to ensure that proper control of borrowing and investing is maintained. These indicators can be found in the Council's budget book. For 2023/24 the Treasury Management Strategy included the new liability benchmark indicator which compares the CFR with actual borrowing to 2031. At Quarter 1 2023/24 there is no projected significant deviation from these indicators.

During the quarter ended 30 June 2023, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2023/24. No difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.

All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. The approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the quarter.

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Bulletin: 30 October 2023

Title of Update: Summary Notes from Scrutiny Programme Board meeting held on 13 September 2023.

Relevant Members and Officers: Councillor Allcock (Chair) Councillors Atkinson, Vizard, M Mitchell and Rees, and Director Corporate Services, Democratic Services Manager and Democratic Services Officers (SLS and HB).

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

To advise of the outcome of the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board meeting held on 13 September to discuss the forthcoming Scrutiny business for the City Council.

In the absence of Councillor Allcock, the meeting was chaired by Councillor M. Mitchell.

2. Background

The Scrutiny Programme Board is made up of the two Chairs and Deputy Chair of the Scrutiny Committees. The Chair is not a Member of Scrutiny. The Board meet regularly to timetable business for future Scrutiny Committee meetings. These items of business can come from a variety of sources, including being referred from the Council or Executive and also Members can suggest a review of a suggested topic or area of work.

3. Current position

Proposed items for Forthcoming Scrutiny Meetings

Members noted the proposed items to be added to the Strategic Scrutiny Committee meetings of 21 September and 16 November 2023 and the Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee meetings of 5 October and 30 November 2023.

It was also the role of this Board to determine timetabling of items to the individual Scrutiny Committees.

Draft Work Plan

A recent Members' Briefing had been held on Devolution at which it had been suggested that, following the forthcoming Government announcement for Devon, the topic could be discussed at a Joint Scrutiny Committee meeting.

Members noted the draft work plan to be attached to the agenda for these meetings.

List of Scrutiny Requests

The Chair referred to:-

- his conversation with the Chief Executive on proforma being submitted first to the Strategic Management Board for comment rather than to this Board, SMB comments then to be put to this Board - this was agreed for future requests with SMB to evaluate the requests in terms of cost, available resources, other priorities etc;
- a meeting he and Councillor Moore had held with George Marshall on a previously submitted proforma on Healthy Homes to clarify the issues behind the request and how best to address them - this had been agreed as an item for the next Customer Focus Scrutiny Committee;
- whether a timetable of reviewing individual Council services could be drawn up for a rota of services to be considered at future Scrutiny Committees;
- review of the commercial portfolio;
- City Centre vision; and
- Digital Switch over/on line contacts as part of One Exeter.

Councillor Atkinson presented the following eight suggestions for scrutiny she had submitted via the agreed proforma and which would be referred on to SMB:-

- tackling violence against women and girls;
- social and affordable housing crises – already on the two forthcoming Customer Focus Committee agenda;
- review of the MRF and forthcoming Business Plan;
- review of the consultation policy;
- review of the grass cutting regime and re-wilding projects to support biodiversity;
- Local Government Devolution;
- how tenants of the Council's Passivhaus homes cope with internal operations; and
- review of fly-tipping and waste bin provision - already on the Customer Focus Committee agenda for 5 October 2023;

Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23

Members considered the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2022/23 for presentation to the October Council meeting. They referred to that part of the Scrutiny training on Annual Reports from Bethan Evans when she had suggested a greater focus on outcomes.

AGREED that:-

- (1) the Annual Report be approved
- (2) future reports emphasise outcomes achieved during the year by scrutiny.

Scrutiny Training

Members agreed that the Scrutiny Training session provided by Bethan Evans on 7 September 2023 had been outstanding and very useful.

5. Are there any other options?

The deliberations of the Board meetings as reported to the Scrutiny Bulletin enables the public to be aware of the matters potentially coming to Scrutiny

6. Conclusion

A further update would be made to the next Scrutiny Bulletin.

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Bulletin: 30 October 2023

Title of Update: RAMM Annual Review 2022-23 and Q2 2023-24 Quarterly Report

Relevant Officers: Camilla Hampshire, Helen Hartstein, Julien Parsons, Alison Hopper-Bishop

Contact for general enquiries:

Jo Quinnell, Assistant Democratic Services Officer, Democratic Services, Room 4.36

Email: jo.quinnell@exeter.gov.uk. Tel: 01392 265197

1. What is the update about?

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM) has recently produced its 2022-23 Annual Review, which is attached to this update.

The museum would also like to share its quarterly highlights report, which is below.

2. Background

Every year, RAMM produces an annual review which it shares with key stakeholders, funders etc. It is an opportunity to profile the work of the museum and the impact it has on the city's communities. It highlights work undertaken as a result of Arts Council investment in RAMM.

The quarterly highlights report is taken to RAMM's Oversight Panel and reported to Arts Council England as part of its National Portfolio Organisation funding agreement. The oversight panel consists of six councillors and two external representatives.

3. Current position

Highlights report – 2023-24 (Q2)

Activity plan

Visitor Experience (Activity 1)

- Q2 saw the successful completion of the DDF 'Ancestral Voices' project. Three large showcases in the Americas gallery, along with the adjacent wall space, have been completely refurbished and redisplayed with collections previously in store or new to RAMM following a programme of consultation, research and conservation.

Among the new star items is a regalia donated in 2022 by the Siksika Nation at the time of RAMM's repatriation of the Crowfoot Regalia.

- Volunteer tour guides hosted a homeless organisation visit. Collaboration with community connectors from Wellbeing Exeter/Age UK is thriving, launching a new monthly cultural offer to support people over 50 experiencing isolation and mental health issues. A first Friendly Friday group visited a contemporary art exhibition hosted by a curator.
- RAMM's age-friendly outreach continues to reach new care homes, day groups, social housing community centres and hospital wards, with multisensory object-handling to spark relaxed conversation.

Exhibitions and Events (Activity 2)

- RAMM's summer exhibition season concluded successfully with the ending of 'Gatekeepers to Heaven' featuring medieval manuscripts on 3 Sept and 'Sublime Symmetry: the mathematics behind De Morgan's ceramic designs' on 10 Sept. 'Gatekeepers' attracted over 30,000 visits and through IIT assessment showed a 99% rating of Excellent or Good. 'Sublime Symmetry', with charged for admission, welcomed over 2,000 individuals and 275 group visits and achieved its targets.
- To tie in with the famous Exeter Puzzle jug shown in 'Gatekeepers' RAMM invited a local enthusiast to display their collection of puzzle jugs in the 'What Do You Collect Case?' from 18 July.
- 'Hollow Earth: Art, Caves and the Subterranean Imaginary' opened over two galleries on 23 Sept. This critically acclaimed exhibition is toured by Hayward Gallery Touring and has shown only at Nottingham Contemporary, Glucksman (Cork) and RAMM. It features major works by an array of artists ranging from Joseph Wright of Derby to Magritte and Henry Moore.
- We had a fantastic summer of events this year, welcoming over 2,600 visitors across the 4 weeks of activities. All our activities took on a medieval theme, taking inspiration from Gatekeepers to Heaven. We were able to offer both free and paid for events for our audiences due to external project funding for the exhibition. The swoosh and clang of swords rang through the museum (and in the garden when the sun shone!) as young knights joined the Iron Door Collective to learn about medieval sword fighting and have a go themselves. Many families stayed for the whole session queuing over and over to have another go; several families came back more than once. The audiences that joined us for our Falconry display events in the garden enjoyed birds swooping over their heads and the chance to get up close to falcons, owls and vultures. Our craft activities featured illuminated letter drawing, trebuchet making and medieval moneybags. As ever the buzz in the courtyard and the smiles on children's faces when they created their own masterpiece was great to see! Visitors enjoyed our willow weaving workshops, making swords, medieval baskets and headwear. We saw children spending a

dedicated few hours on their pieces and taking a real joy in their creations. Finally, LEGO returned to RAMM in the form of catapults, castles and horses. One of our visitors commented *"7 year old Lego fanatic grandson and myself really enjoyed this. Lego expert was extremely helpful (Grandma not too good on cogs!) and all the children and carers had terrific fun. We love the RAMM children's' activities!"*

Digital (Activity 3)

- In the course of Q2 RAMM has implemented Microsoft 365. This has been driven by a team of M365 Champions who have been sharing best practice with their colleagues and implementing a new architecture for Teams to improve digital collaboration and productivity throughout the museum.
- Screen-based content and digital interactivity in the 'Gatekeepers to Heaven' exhibition was critical for engaging with our audiences. In an exhibition heavily reliant on the written word, this additional visual and audio content helped to encourage family groups into the gallery who may otherwise may not have entered.

Contemporary Art (Activity 4)

- M. H. Sarkis's RAMM commission 'Votive for the Next Earth' (disabled artist commission) continues to be displayed in the Finders Keepers? gallery and Michelle Williams Gamaker 'The Silver Wave' continues its very successful showing in the Americas Gallery.
- Developmental work for new commissions is now well underway for a Dartmoor exhibition next year. To complement the commission of Alex Hartley will be a new work by Ashish Ghadiali.
- Commissioning also continues with artists Ashanti Hare; Janet Sainsbury and Sarah Gillespie.
- Following the opening of Celine Condorelli's 'Pentimenti' at the National Gallery, RAMM is in negotiation with the Contemporary Art Society to select one of Condorelli's new works for acquisition by RAMM.

Children and Young people (Activity 5)

- New creative activity game cards called 'See Things Differently' were produced to encourage young participants to interact with the latest contemporary art exhibition at RAMM. These fun free resources were illustrated by local up-and-coming artist Molly Saunders and are available for visitors to pick up in the gallery under three categories: Draw, Write and Play. Over 200 visitors have engaged with the cards already in the first 2 weeks of the exhibition opening.
- The first pilot workshop at RAMM for home educated families took place in September around the theme of Ancient Egypt, run by the museum's volunteer

schools team. 20 children aged 7 – 11 took part with excellent feedback. RAMM now plans to run three different themed home education workshops per term going forward.

- Planning progressed for Dartmoor Frame of Mind project for children and young people linking to the Dartmoor Photography exhibition planned for RAMM in 2024. Partners Youth Arts & Health Trust and artist Jo Bradford have been involved in finalising the project parameters ready for the next phase which involves recruiting young participants via mental health organisation referrals ready for the delivery stage in February next year.

Individual Creativity (Activity 6)

- Age-friendly art activities delivered at older people's mental health wards in NHS hospital.
- Over the summer holidays RAMM welcomed 109 family visitors from lower income neighbourhoods in Bridgetown, Buckfastleigh, Princetown and Bovey Tracey to participate a series of free 'illuminated letter' craft workshops inspired by the medieval themed exhibition Gatekeepers to Heaven. These trips were organised by a Community Interest Company set up to tackle health, social, and economic inequalities in Buckfastleigh and other small rural towns. The sessions were funded by an external project grant.
- RAMM also visited the Wonford social housing summer festival and the Beacon Centre's 'Family Fun' days with medieval themed craft activities. Around 80 children and young people from lower socio-economic neighbourhoods in Exeter took part over the summer holiday period.
- Alongside the family event programme we ran an Illuminated Letter workshop for adults where participants were guided through creating their own medieval letter design. We also held an event inspired by Sublime Symmetry. RAMM's Youth Panel invited visitors to embrace their creative nature and explore their artistic visions by taking part in *Seize the Clay*, an intimate, interactive event, featuring an evening of pottery painting within the walls of the museum.

Skills Development (Activity 7)

- Skills Development Officer met with Cathedral staff in summer to provide advice on how to set-up their own Youth Panel. The Cathedral have now successfully set up their own Youth Panel (September) and we hope to continue to share learning through shared talks and visits to each other's organisation.
- Nine young people completed a one-week work experience for 15-17 year olds.

- Cat Easeman is completing a placement with the Development Team. 1 day a week.
- Laurel Brock is completing a 1022 hour placement with the Collections and Audience Development Team.
- Elle Norris is completing a placement with the Collections Team. 1 day a week.
- Uschi Lebersorger is completing a placement with the Audience Development Team (Engagement). 1 day a week. Uschi is a widening participation individual.
- Beatriz Barbosa Tourinho is completing a placement with the Collections Team, 1 day a week. Beatriz is a widening participation student.
- 15 young people have joined RAMM's new Youth Panel.
- Five people have joined RAMM's Future Skills Programme.

Dynamic Collections (Activity 8)

- The NLHF funded project at RAMM has required a number of staff changes. The necessary HR work was completed during Q2. RAMM's current Digital Media Officer has agreed to be seconded to the Dynamic Collections project and an Engagement Officer post is now under recruitment.

University collaboration (Activity 9)

- Based on RAMM's learning in the Creative Arc pilot projects a new partnership guide is in production to aid staff working in collaborative ventures, especially with the HE sector.
- RAMM is working closely with University of Exeter academics from the data sciences department and Exeter Urban research network, on next year's transport-themed exhibition. A project initiation document has been produced, taking learning from the partnership working handbook mentioned above, and data projects are in planning process, with two research students recruited.

Investment principles plan

[More information on Arts Council England's Investment Principles here.](#)

Ambition & Quality

- On 19 Sept RAMM's second staff sounding board took place on the theme of ambition and quality. At this session all staff were invited to contribute to the museum's quality improvement process and were asked to signal new directions for future programming.

- An IIT assessment was completed for the 'Gatekeepers to Heaven' exhibition. The two key performance indicators of increasing core visits post Covid-19 and increasing overall satisfaction were achieved. The results of the IIT were discussed by staff at the exhibition debrief session held on 26 Sept.

Inclusivity & Relevance

- RAMM's Audience Development Lead met with the Collections and Access Manager at Barnstaple and North Devon Museum to share knowledge about RAMM's LGBTQ+ project, Out and About: Queering the Museum.
- Staff sounding board on I&R held on 17 Jul to gather feedback from staff on how we make RAMM a welcoming place for everyone. Ideas will feed into future plans.
- Online educational resources as a legacy of RAMM exhibition on the links between Devon and the transatlantic slave trade have been launched, after long collaboration with local diversity consultants. The resources, written in plain language, are intended for KS3 History. They also complement KS2 topics such as Chocolate, Explorers, Inspirational Figures, Tudors, and Victorians, and are suitable for homelearners of all ages. They include online information for teachers; a Kahoot quiz of top facts to remember; a glossary of terms to talk about race and history, for educators to catch up with current thinking and increase confidence to discuss past and present; a timeline – from the 1400s to the 1800s, highlighting Devon connections, uprisings in the Caribbean, and key moments on the path to abolition and a range of brief and interesting videos.
- Close partnership with Wellbeing Exeter social prescribing network is contributing valuable evidence and information about community needs, to inform cultural offers.
- RAMM's engagement team had various different meetings over the summer with Exeter Cathedral, Daisy (Arts inspired learning charity), Peterborough Museum and the Horniman Museum to share knowledge and best practice about running Arts Award programmes at RAMM and engaging with home education audiences.
- Demographics report and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion plan presented to Oversight Panel.
- RAMM's Skill Development Officer piloted a new inclusive hiring process for RAMM's Youth Panel and Future Skills Programme. This included sending a visual story of the room layout and the interview questions in advance. All applicants seemed more relaxed and their questions were well thought through. Two applicants were neurodiverse and they commented that this had helped relieve their anxiety.
- Created Visual Story for temporary exhibition 'Hollow Earth', as well as monthly relaxed sessions for people with neurodiversity or other associated conditions.

Environmental Responsibility

- Work on the MEND funded project to replace and insulate Victorian roofs across approx one quarter of the building and provide additional PV panelling commenced in September. The project will run for approximately 36 weeks; due to finish on 26th April 2024.
- ECC has been awarded significant funding from the government PSDS fund for the replacement of gas boilers with air source heat pumps at 2 properties, including RAMM. With the object of decarbonising RAMM's energy use. The contract for the first design stage was awarded in July to Cenergist. During Q2 Cenergist has been drafting the Design Brief and Outline Specification for the scheme, with the first progress meeting booked for 26th September.

Dynamism

- New model for age-friendly activities, providing some subsidised through social prescribers, others at full cost to care homes, and through partnerships with ECC social housing sector and NHS hospital.
- Repair work to roof is having an impact on income from venue hire and events in the museum, due to lack of spaces for events.

4. Future position

n/a

5. Are there any other options?

n/a

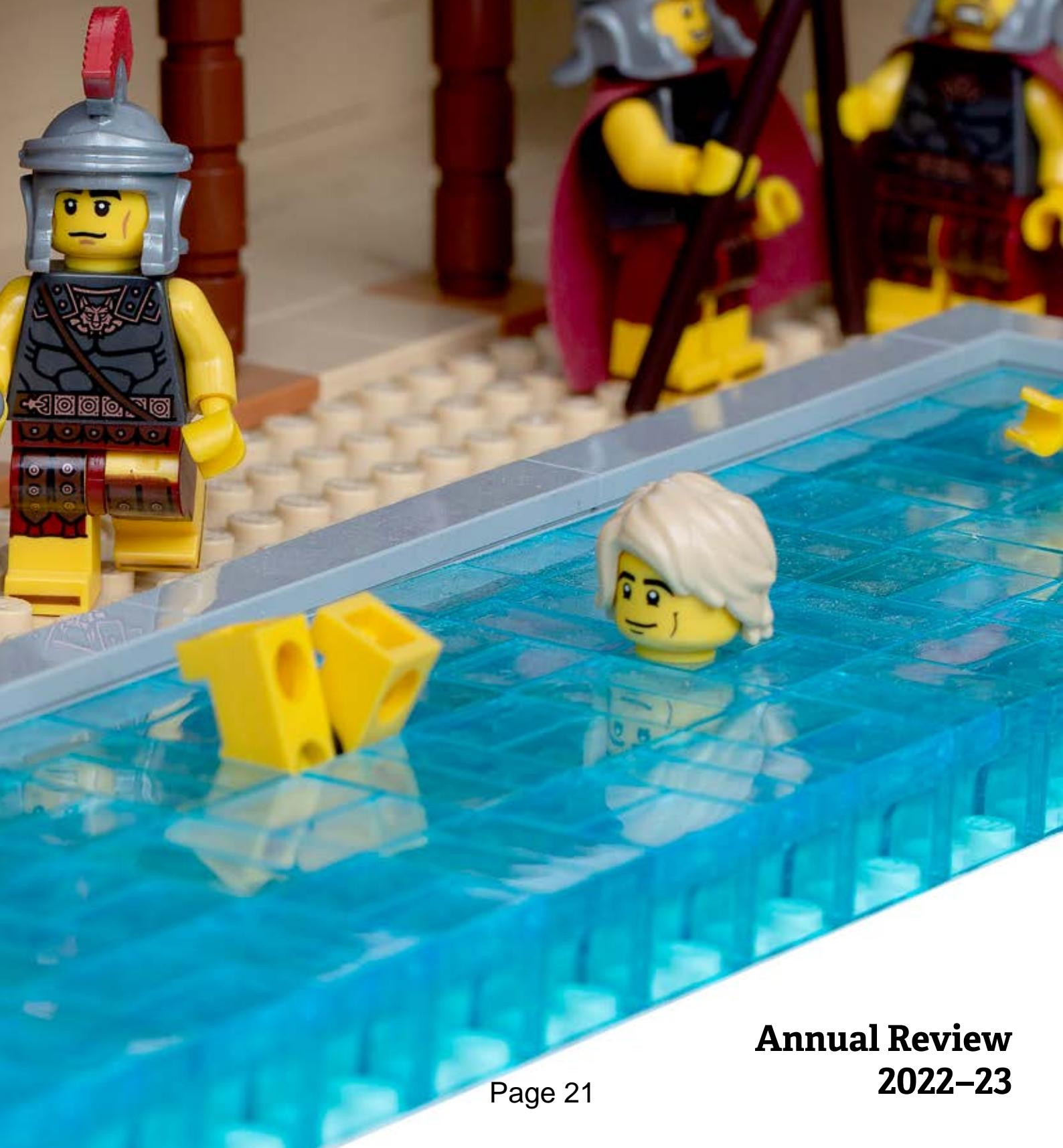
6. Conclusion

RAMM continues to deliver a varied, inclusive and ambitious programme of activities to its audiences in the city and further afield.

A recent study based on the Social Cost Benefit Analysis (SCBA) model methods in the UK HM Treasury Green Book Guidance (2020) and circulated by ACE in 2021 show RAMM's economic impact to be in the region of £3.1M per annum. A new study this year (South West Museums using AIM Economic Impact Toolkit) values the economic benefit of RAMM to the local economy as being £5.1M. This is due to increasing numbers post pandemic.

This page is intentionally left blank

ramm





**Cllr Laura Wright,
Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder
for Arts, Culture and Corporate Services**

From *Brick by Brick: a LEGO® brick history of Exeter* to the contemporary art exhibition *Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene*, this year has been one of great contrasts. A common thread, however, has been the gradually increasing visitor numbers as we build back almost to pre-Covid levels.

It was thrilling to see the history of the city come alive in an engaging and accessible way in colourful LEGO bricks. The museum was full of excited children (who ever thought we would see LEGO® Robot Wars in the museum?) whilst the relaxed early sessions were a big hit with families with additional needs. Such an exhibition is quite an undertaking, and we could not have done it without the support of several generous sponsors and a small army of volunteers. A massive thanks to you all!

In May 2022, the museum handed over the sacred regalia of an important 19th-century Blackfoot leader, Chief Crowfoot, to representatives of the Siksika Nation in Canada. I was honoured to attend the moving ceremony and it was a real surprise to be gifted regalia from a Siksika elder which is now a treasured part of the museum's collection. There was a real sense of history being made in Exeter that day.

The year culminated with *Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene*, the museum's latest contemporary art show which garnered national praise. It's clear there is a real audience for contemporary art in Exeter and this show, linking so closely to Dartmoor and the local area, was a fantastic chance to welcome some internationally renowned women artists to the city and showcase their exciting work.

There's so much excellent work highlighted in this annual review but it provides just a small glimpse into the life of this fascinating museum. I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, funders and partners for all the wonderful work they do to make this such an inspiring place for the people of Exeter, Devon and beyond.



Introduction



**Camilla Hampshire,
Museum Manager & Cultural Lead**

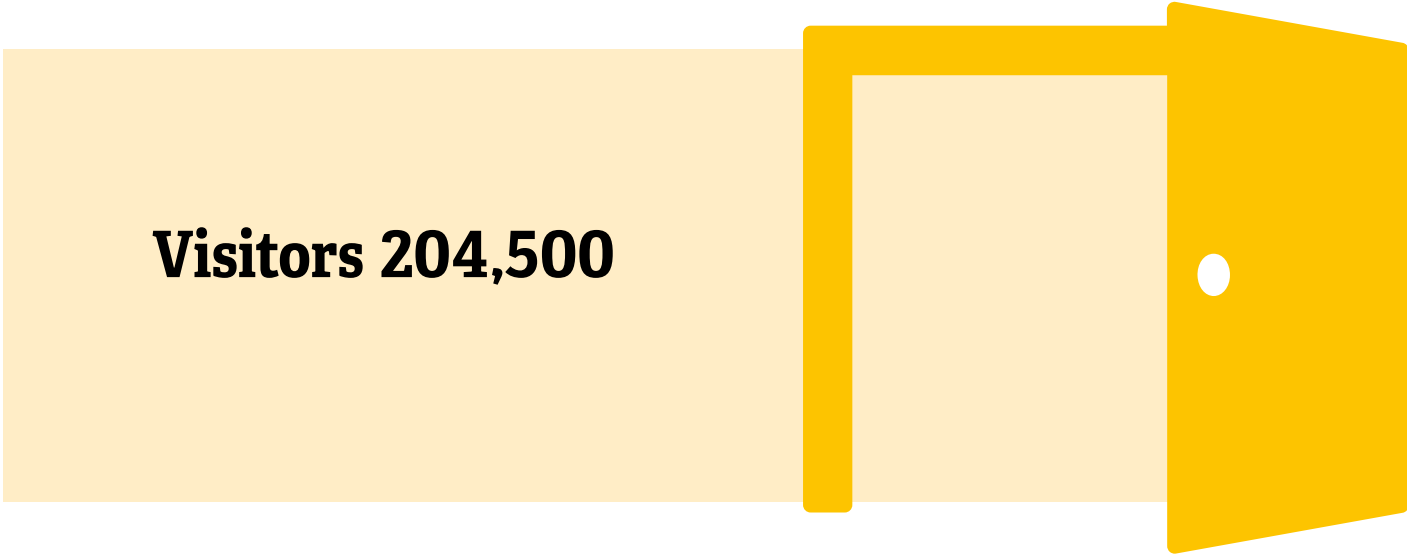
2023 saw the museum receive confirmation of continued Arts Council England funding as a National Portfolio Organisation. This, together with the support the museum receives from its main funder, Exeter City Council, gives us the confidence to invest in upcoming projects and feel confident we can continue to deliver an ambitious public programme.

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported the museum over the last year. Standstill funding and increasing costs make these difficult times for every organisation in receipt of public funding. At RAMM we are always keen to stretch ourselves and our resources and I am often amazed by the museum's achievements considering the size of the team. Nonetheless we need to be realistic about the ever-tightening constraints which makes the support of all those who know and love RAMM all the more important. Thank you for any help you are able to offer, from staying in touch by joining our mailing list or making a donation via the independent charity, RAMM Development Trust. Every gesture of support is appreciated.

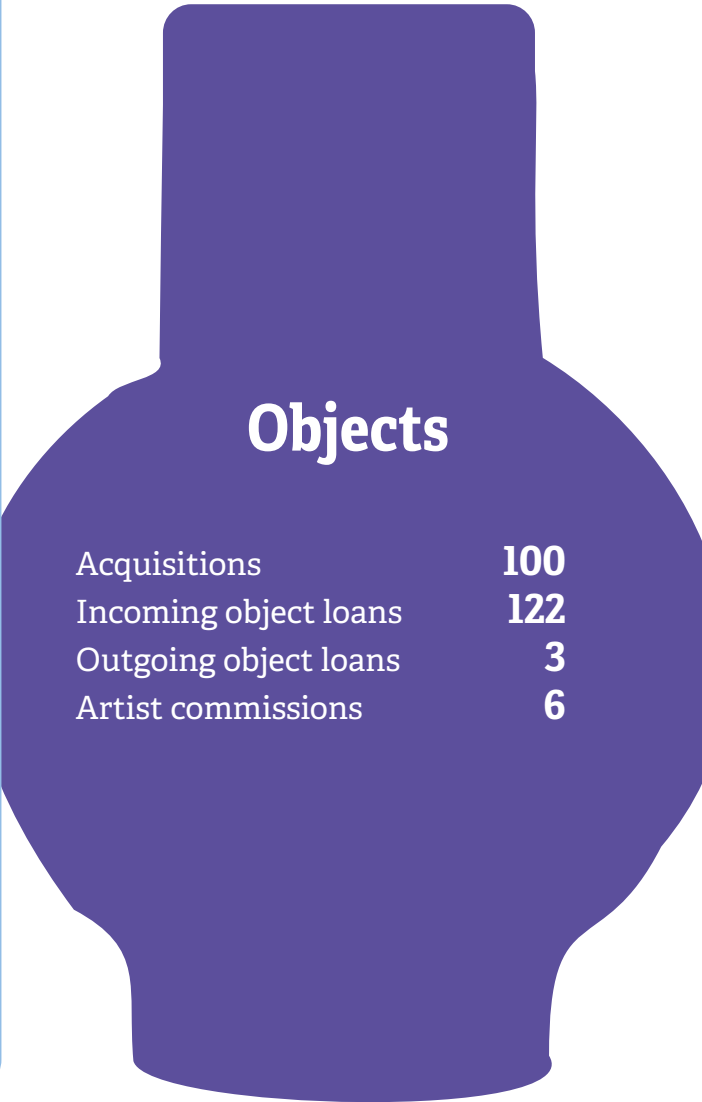
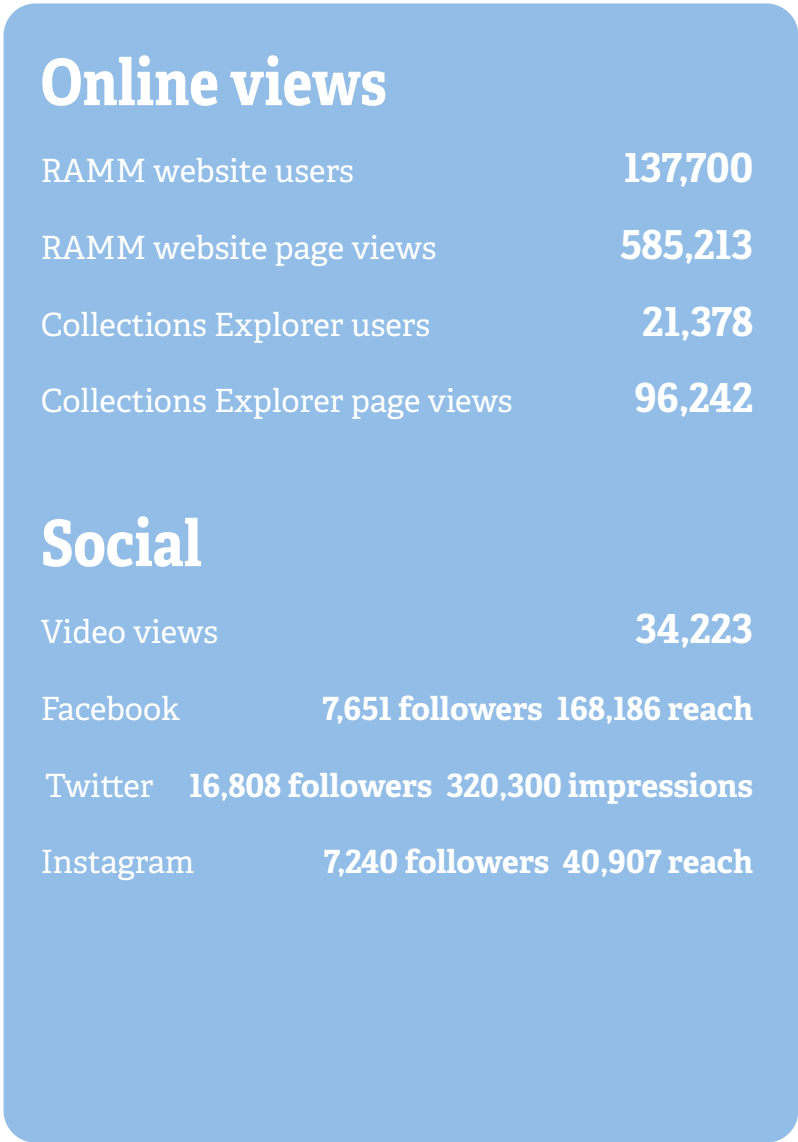
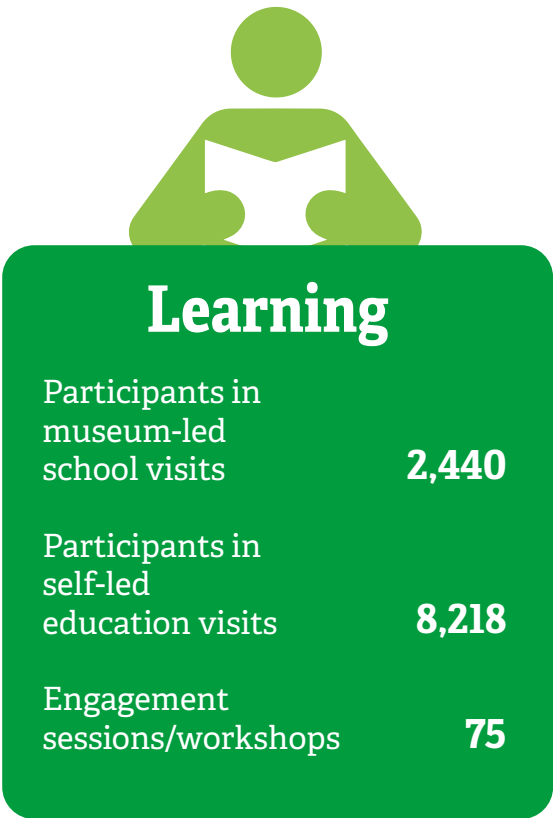
Several wellbeing projects have come to fruition this year: the *A Picture of Health* exhibition charted the history of healthcare in the city and we took the Gold award at the Devon Tourism Awards for accessible and inclusive tourism. We were delighted to launch two audio guides: the quirky Sound Journey, and our mindfulness audio guide, both the results of collaborative partnerships. We continue to build relationships with Wellbeing Exeter, recently welcoming two new community connectors into our team who are working with older people looking for more connection in their lives.

Bringing people together to share experiences, whether it is through collections-inspired projects and partnerships, exhibitions or events like Lates or A Song for Ukraine, ensures RAMM's continuing place at the heart of our community.

Year in numbers



Page 23



Exhibitions

Brick by brick: A LEGO® brick history of Exeter

This exhibition invited visitors to embark on a time travelling adventure, journeying from the deepest recesses of Devon's prehistoric past to Exeter's dreams of a greener future... all lovingly recreated in LEGO® bricks. Each miniaturised LEGO® brick model explored a different point in the city's vibrant history, from the Jurassic seas, to the Roman Empire, to the height of the famous woollen trade, and from the tragedy of the Second World War to Exeter's future transformation into a 'garden city'.

Filled with fun and humour, and accompanied by objects from RAMM's collection, children's playzones, trails and more, this LEGO® brick story of our city delighted children of all ages.

This exhibition was made possible thanks to the following sponsors and supporters: Liveable Exeter, Exeter Canal and Quay Trust, RAMM Development Trust, Kier, TClarke, Arup, UK Remediation, Massey Cladding Solutions, Drive Creative Studio, VINCI Construction UK, Princesshay, Stagecoach South West and Building Greater Exeter.

150 years of Exeter Rugby Club: from local heroes to European champions

Curated in partnership with Exeter Rugby Club to celebrate their 150th anniversary, the month-long showcase featured an array of memorabilia spanning the long history of the Exeter Chiefs. Shirts, photographs, trophies, and caps took visitors on a journey from the early days of rugby in the region, through to the recent successes at the top of European rugby.

Some of the objects donated to the exhibition came from fans, who sifted through years of memorabilia to find gems to exhibit. Visitors were treated to a display of impressive trophies from the club's recent successes, including the Heineken European Champions 2020 Cup, and the women's team's first trophy, the Allianz Cup.





A Picture of Health: Exeter's medical history

In 2019 RAMM acquired a series of portraits of influential early physicians, surgeons and benefactors of the Devon & Exeter Hospital, which opened in 1743 and later became the RD&E. These new acquisitions formed part of an exhibition examining health and wellbeing in Exeter from the 18th century to present day. Focusing on the stories and experiences of real people associated with the city's medical past and present, the exhibition included, for the first time, the display of some recently identified medical objects from RAMM's collections.

From body snatching surgeons, to pioneering use of inoculation and medical statistics and a revolutionary hip replacement, this exhibition engaged audiences of all ages with a lesser known aspect of Exeter's rich history, and highlighted parallels which had particular contemporary relevance in light of the Covid pandemic.



Exeter's Fine Art Collection: Funded with thanks

Since the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery was founded in the 1860s, it has benefitted from the support of donors, benefactors and funding bodies. Shining a light on the often overlooked topic of museum funding, this exhibition showcased the quality and diversity of Exeter's fine art collection, which is in large part thanks to the generosity and foresight of these supporters, past and present.

The changing tastes and priorities of collectors and benefactors could be tracked through this display – scenes of historical and classical subjects were especially popular among the museum's Victorian supporters, while some more recent acquisitions have focused on modern and contemporary art inspired by the Devon landscape.

Funders recognised in this exhibition include: Arts Council England, V&A Purchase Grant Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Art Fund, Friends of RAMM, RAMM Development Trust, the Sir Harry Veitch Bequest Trust Fund, the Reynolds Chard Bequest, Kent Kingdon Bequest and private donors.



The Fair Toxophilites, William Powell Frith, 1872
Purchased with support from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and the Sir Harry Veitch Bequest Trust Fund.

Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene

Artists: Caroline Achaintre, Emma Hart, Kris Lemsalu, Mercedes Mülheisen, Grace Ndiritu, Florence Peake, Kiki Smith, and Lucy Stein

This specially curated RAMM exhibition responded directly to the museum's collections through the work of eight internationally renowned artists in a variety of media. RAMM's Dartmoor Cauldron, once owned by the self-identified 'White Witch of Dartmoor' Elizabeth Webb, was the focus for ideas about the environment explored through paintings, video, textile and ceramics.



Contemporary art

Grace Ndiritu, *Labour Birth of a New Museum*, 2023, film still (*Earth Spells*, RAMM, Exeter, 2023)

This year we worked with critically acclaimed, internationally renowned, exciting contemporary artists in an eclectic range of styles and media that explored living through the dual ecological and climate emergencies. RAMM's inspiring collections provided the impetus for artists to create new artwork which included dance, sculpture, video and tapestry.

Our major contemporary art exhibition, co-curated by RAMM's contemporary art curator Lara Goodband with the independent curator Gemma Lloyd, *Earth Spells: Witches of the Anthropocene* explored emotional, spiritual and otherworldly connections to nature and our entanglement with it.

The Dartmoor Cauldron in RAMM's collection, was the central focus for this exhibition. It helped visitors reflect on supporting a symbiotic relationship with plants and was the site for five new commissions.

South West-based painter Lucy Stein worked with RAMM's collections team to select objects reflecting her interest in ancient female Celtic myths and mothering rituals. She said she wanted to 'satisfy my own inquisitive nature and to put together artefacts and animals, that cross epochs and millennia, that have some kind of pulsating resonance to me'. Having access to the stores, the expertise of the collections team as well as the objects inspired a productive time which she says transformed her practice in new and exciting ways.

Internationally renowned Grace Ndiritu created *Labour Birth of a New Museum* and a *Protest Carpet* at RAMM with local, pregnant women as an opportunity 'to think about lineage and the legacy of keeping indigenous ideas current as well as thinking about ecology'. London-based award-winning artists Florence Peake and Emma Hart also created new work especially for *Earth Spells*. Peake's installation of video, poetry, ceramics and textile hangings inspired by her visit to a Dartmoor Shaman, created an experiential installation

in the exhibition that was especially appealing to children and young people, while Hart's ceramic discs' lively, bright colours intrigued visitors. RAMM's early commissioning of these artists meant that their profile was high by the time the work was displayed so RAMM was able to benefit from great national press coverage for the exhibition.

South West Dance Hub Company, based at Exeter Phoenix, were commissioned to create a new performance inspired by the artwork in *Earth Spells* for a special RAMM Lates performance in April.

Exeter-based illustrator Molly Saunders worked with students from Exeter School of Art at Exeter College to create contemporary art activity cards which proved popular with young visitors to *Earth Spells* during the Easter holidays.

[My daughter] sat through the whole film, trying to get to grips with this strange and spiritual thing. Trying to understand what was meant in the words of the women as they described their experiences and vision. [She] made me pay attention... Then she did some gymnastics. I don't know how appropriate this was. I'm not going to justify it, but neither am I sure it was wrong.

RAMM visitor



3



4



6

Collections



2



5



7

This year RAMM's acquisitions included items of both historic interest and outstanding artistic quality. But it was a group of objects leaving the collection that grabbed the media's attention.

In spring 2022, as Britain emerged from the worst effects of the pandemic, artefacts related to health and medicine formed a focus for RAMM's collecting. Along with the Covid-associated artefacts were several examples of the Exeter hip. This artificial hip stem was pioneered in the city in the 1970s through a collaboration between an NHS surgeon and a University of Exeter engineer. The hip and surgical equipment needed to implant it took pride of place in *A Picture of Health* – an exhibition devoted to Exeter's medical history. Another piece of local innovation was welcomed into the collection too: samples produced by Heathcoats of Tiverton of a parachute fabric used in NASA's 2020 mission to Mars.

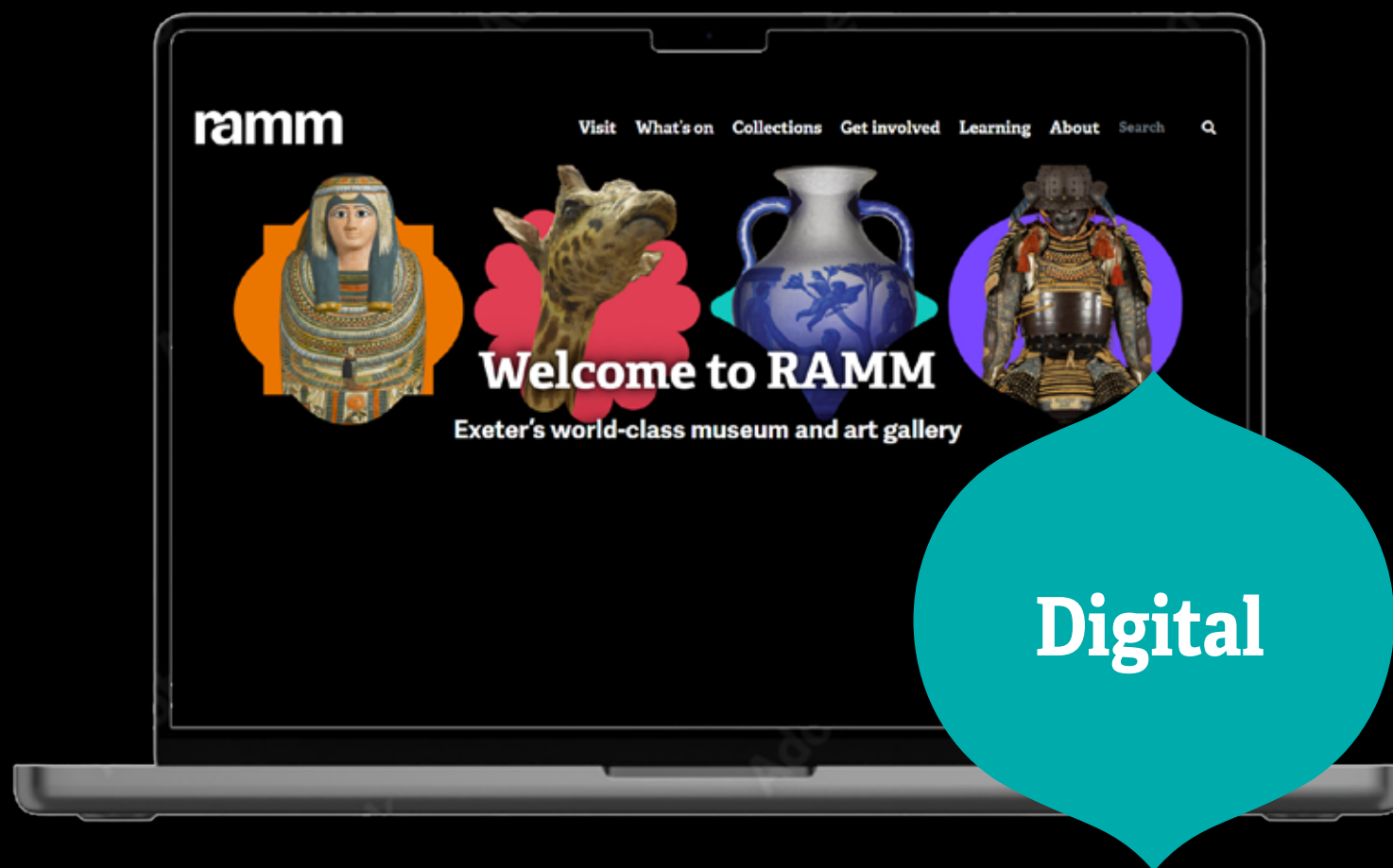
In the autumn, RAMM was delighted to receive two engravings of moths by the artist Sarah Gillespie, who worked from specimens in RAMM's collections to help make these works which reflect the ecological crisis and the dramatic decline in numbers of species, as well as a significant group of drawings and paintings from the estate of the Devon-born artist Wilfred Avery, showing Avery's love of coastal landscapes.

As for the departing artefacts, these are the 19th-century regalia of Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfoot, including a buckskin shirt, leggings, bow, bow case, knife and feather bundle. They arrived at RAMM in 1878 in the wake of the signing of Treaty 7 in Alberta, Canada. The decision to return the regalia to the Siksika Nation was made by Exeter City Council in April 2020, but Covid meant it had been impossible for a delegation to travel to collect the sacred items. It was not until 19 May 2022 that Chief Ouray Crowfoot, a direct descendant of the 19th-century chief, could lead a group of Siksika elders and family members to accept the objects on behalf of their nation. An emotional and memorable day of ceremony at the museum, watched by press from both sides of the Atlantic, was concluded by a mayoral banquet at the Guildhall. At the end of proceedings, the Siksika presented RAMM with the regalia of Herman Yellow Old Woman to be kept in Exeter in perpetuity. It is now displayed in the Americas Gallery.



1

- 1 *King and Queen*. Brain Rice, oil and mixed media on board, 1961
- 2 *V40 Exeter Hip Stem*. Designed by Professors Robin Ling and Clive Lee, manufactured by Stryker, 2022
- 3 *Love the NHS*. Carol McFadzean, quilt, 2020
- 4 *Peppered Moth*. Sarah Gillespie, mezzotint engraving on paper, 2019
- 5 *W. Woods Toothpaste Pot*. Ceramic, about 1900
- 6 *Coastline*. Wilfred Avery, oil on calico and board, 1998
Presented by the executor of the Estate of Wilfred Avery with Art Fund support, 2022
- 7 *Ceremonial regalia made and worn by Herman Yellow Old Woman*, about 1990



This year was bookended by launches of the new versions of RAMM's two main websites: the main museum website and Collections Explorer, RAMM's home for all things collections-related. Both sites had a complete rebuild and redesign to deliver a much-improved visitor experience.

RAMM's main website

The main website was completely redesigned following user surveys and an audit of the old site. RAMM's new visual identity has given the site a distinctive and memorable look and feel, and the site navigation was streamlined and simplified so visitors can more easily find the content they are looking for. Additional accessibility features were added so visitors can easily adjust the colour contrast, increase text size, and switch to a more readable font if they need to.

We worked with our web developers Surface Impression to integrate Spektrix, RAMM's ticketing and customer relationship management system, across the website. This means that for the first time visitors can use RAMM's website to:

- ▶ Purchase exhibition and events tickets
- ▶ Join the Friends of RAMM
- ▶ Make one-off or recurring donations to the RAMM Development Trust

Collections Explorer

Collections Explorer moved to a new WordPress site provided by The Museum Platform. The process included a thorough review of the collections data that was exported. Some new and improved pieces of information were added to what RAMM publishes online, including:

- ▶ Topic and project tags so users can search for areas they are interested in or look up RAMM objects from a favourite past exhibition
- ▶ Latitude and longitude, meaning we can show where RAMM's objects were produced and collected on a map
- ▶ 3D scans and RTI files for selected objects, created by the University of Exeter's Digital Humanities Lab as part of the GLAM-E Lab project

There are over 17,000 object records on Collections Explorer, with more being added each month. The new site also supports deep image zooms, embedded audio and video content, 360° photos, and timelines. Staff have used these features to create engaging narrative content about RAMM's collections. There are currently 10 of these 'collections stories' on the site, including the online legacy of the *In Plain Sight* exhibition.

Conservation & technical

Our year in conservation was driven by preparations for RAMM's busy exhibition programme. 370 objects were installed and de-installed during five temporary exhibitions and two smaller display changes. The objects passing through the conservation labs for these displays were diverse and often unusual, including an Exeter hip stem, an early 20th century maternity mourning dress and trophies from Exeter Chiefs Rugby Club.

The team was also heavily involved in the next phase of display improvements for our Designated world cultures collection. Having successfully updated the large World Cultures Gallery in recent years, 2022-23 saw the team move into the Americas Gallery. Here the first two cases have been given a colourful makeover and a completely new theme for the Ancestral Voices project funded by the Arts Council England Designated Collections Development Fund. A real highlight during this project was the display of the ceremonial regalia donated to RAMM by Herman Yellow Old Woman from the Siksika Nation.

We conserved 100 objects for these and future exhibitions, while also continuing with less urgent object treatments, such as dealing with new acquisitions or stored objects in need of attention. In total we spent 2,132 hours on practical conservation work. Alongside this busy schedule preparing for exhibitions, preventive conservation projects were still high on the conservation agenda. For example, our student conservator this year has been looking into the appropriate storage of objects which include plastic materials. We condition checked and prepared nine loans, coming in and going out from RAMM. A special treat was the preparation of six Chinese objects for the big blockbuster exhibition *China's Hidden Century* at the British Museum.

We are building our conservation outreach work by giving talks and taking part in the now fixed annual Twitter feature #AskAConservator day. We also continue to offer skills development opportunities, this year hosting four conservation student placements.

We were delighted during 2022-23 to secure a substantial Costume Society Elizabeth Hammond Grant for the conservation and mounting of a fragile 18th-century man's silk coat and breeches. It will be ready for its display in RAMM's Making History Gallery in late 2023.





Events

This was another exciting year with RAMM welcoming existing and new visitors to the museum for a variety of engaging experiences.

The family events programme was again very popular. The first part of the year saw workshops focusing on mosaics, beading, weaving and crown making. Later in the year the school holidays took on the theme of medicine, to tie in with the *A Picture of Health* exhibition, and folklore, inspired by *Earth Spells*. Events included making your own stethoscopes and microscopes, magical den creating and Operation Earth, an exciting family show exploring the fascinating stories and science of the environment, told by a giant globe, Earthy.

We held two larger family events this year, the first being our Skeleton Crew night which saw the museum turning the lights off, and children exploring with torches, alongside creative workshops and musical lessons playing the bones. November saw the return of Exeter's Carnival and we held a 'Carnival of the Animals' day in the museum with live orchestral music, dance workshops, storytelling and games to be played. This fantastic day attracted over 850 people.

With LEGO® building being the theme of the summer, our workshops sold out quickly. Children learnt to make different mechanical models, such as trains and catapults, and took part in a series of Robot Wars battles. We also introduced a LEGO® trail throughout the city for families to follow and held an adult-only LEGO® building evening. Outside activities took place in our garden and included storytelling, rugby skills sessions and a chance to meet some of the Exeter Chiefs players.



Some highlights of our adult-focused events included engaging talks around the subjects covered in our *In Plain Sight* exhibition, including an 'in conversation' event with the contemporary artist, Joy Gregory, and a poetry event together with the Museum of Colour. We also held a number of expert workshops on couture and fine art.

Attendee numbers for our ever-popular RAMM Lates built back up to pre-pandemic levels. The first event in April was curated by our Youth Panel and focused on the human face, expression and portrait, including experiences such as a performance from drag queen Arina Fox, portrait drawing workshops with an urban sketcher, talks around early representations of human faces in the archaeological record plus much more. Our second Lates in October took on the theme of medicine, the body and wellbeing. Experiences included a hip hop dance workshop, gong and sound bath and a talk by a global cadaver expert.

Our new evening event, Ancient Riddles, Virtual Adventure: Games Night, saw visitors embarking on nail-biting adventures that took them from the mysteries of the ancient past to the virtual-reality world of the future.



RAMM focused on listening to different voices, nurturing the city's wellbeing, and giving older and younger residents opportunities to be creative and curious.

Museum objects – from swarming insects to details in textiles – inspired mindful photography for young people and creative arts for children, showcased in an online exhibition and a buzzing café display. Through Project Buzz, 315 children and young people met local artists, connected with the natural world and chatted with experts from Devon Wildlife Trust.

A new series of activity game cards – co-curated by A-Level Fine Art students from Exeter College – prompts interaction with contemporary art using pencil or smartphone. RAMM revamped a colourful Discover Arts Award activity booklet for young people with funky illustrations by local up-and-coming artist Molly Saunders.

The summer LEGO® exhibition welcomed neurodivergent visitors with ear defenders, relaxed sessions and a quiet space. A visual photographic story was also produced. Staff were so enthusiastic at its success they decided to create a visual story for each new temporary exhibition and further relaxed openings are being introduced.

For those who like to listen through headphones, RAMM launched the Sound Journey audio guide, co-produced with disabled sound artist Gemma Nash and local disability groups, designed to take visitors on a playful journey around the museum. This project was made possible with support from the Clare Milne Trust, the Elmgrant Trust and a private donation. RAMM bingo cards co-created with young people with disabilities went into circulation for the general public, enabling a no-right-answers approach to exploring and sparking conversations.

The audio guide was generously supported by the Art Fund and RAMM Development Trust.

I felt incredibly empowered by the experience, it has completely boosted their confidence. DLRC choir participant.

The museum listened and learnt about wellbeing with a variety of partners, creating a mindfulness audio guide alongside Devon Recovery Learning Community (part of Devon Partnership NHS Trust), running dance workshops inspired by contemporary art, and welcoming a choir who now use the museum every few months as a safe public space to build members' self-esteem.

The engagement team initiated a listening exercise with local community-focused organisations to feed into programming and reflect Exeter's neighbourhoods. RAMM provided around 200 free café vouchers to encourage museum visits as a mental health action. These were distributed through GP surgeries, the local council and the citywide Wellbeing Exeter social prescribing network. Hospital workers were also offered free coffee and cake, in thanks for their part in a film to celebrate workforce humour and diversity.

RAMM revived a relationship with local authority social housing for older people, taking age-friendly, multi-sensory activities to communal spaces to tackle loneliness. The team refreshed and restarted its longstanding dementia-friendly programme, with 22 visits around Exeter and Devon, reaching 294 older people in care homes, hospital mental health wards, older people's support and social groups, and a secure hospital. RAMM contributed to local warm spaces in response to rising cost of living challenges, and started hosting two community connectors at the museum, in partnership with Age UK Exeter.

Great to see some of the patients' creative side come out. Very innovative and straightforward, which ruled out confusion. Great fun for our patients. Staff at hospital.

RAMM's engagement team has impacted the lives of many in 2022-23: from an anxious teenager following his special interest in LEGO® on a rare day out, to a brave visitor playing an African board game in the museum courtyard after months of isolation due to caring responsibilities and Covid lockdowns, to an older gentleman laughing at a magic lantern slide in a social housing communal room near the River Exe.



Working with the University of Exeter



For the second pilot project, local artists Tidelines curated a *Salmon Run*. This community relay run from sea to moor through the heart of Exeter was designed to highlight the plight of the river Exe salmon in their perilous journey downstream. A band of human runners set off on Sunday 25 September, making their way along the Exe and through public information stalls at Miller's Crossing before heading inland. The run was supported by social media coverage that emphasised the role of salmon as barometers of the river's health.

2022 also saw the start of a major collaboration between the museum and university called the GLAM-E Lab. Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Lab works with UK and US cultural institutions and community organisations to help build open access capacity and expertise. In the first year a GLAM-E Lab Research Assistant, Dr Francesca Farmer, was integrated into RAMM's collections team. Francesca is working on a pilot project to release about 60 of RAMM's digital images on Wikimedia Commons and Wikipedia; already these images have been viewed over a million times around the world.

The concluding project, SoundTracks, teamed up sound artist Emma Welton with RAMM's archaeology expert Tom Cadbury. They created a series of free, family friendly guided walks using sound to lead people along the Mincinglake and Exwick sections of Exeter's Green Circle. Two of the walks were for adults with pre-schoolers along paths suitable for pushchairs. The walks were intended to connect people with their local environments and improve wellbeing.



In 2022–23 RAMM continued to build on its close working relationship with the University of Exeter. Staff from both organisations have collaborated and innovated to deliver ground-breaking public outputs.

Three pilot projects, created as part of an Exeter City Council-RAMM-University of Exeter initiative called Creative Arc, occurred throughout the year. RAMM about Town took place in an empty shop on Exeter High Street in May and June. Shoppers and passers-by dropped in to find out about the history of the High Street, try their hand at building a high street of the future in LEGO® with Art Work Exeter, listen to talks and chat to staff and volunteers. The results will help academics and town planners create a high street that meets the needs of our future.





Skills development

RAMM's Youth Panel successfully curated two cafe exhibitions this year. For their first exhibition, *Picked and pressed: the appeal of edible plants*, they worked alongside Amy Shelton, artistic director of Honeyscribe and invited RAMM's audiences to reconsider their relationship with the plant world.

During the process, members of the Youth Panel identified themselves as writers, researchers and artists, in a bid to expressively call to attention our damaging habits of food consumption in a society of increased global food insecurity. This Youth Panel cohort was kindly funded by Art Fund.

In their second exhibition, *Making Sense*, the Youth Panel were supported by photographer Joe Blatherwick and Youth Arts for Health Trust to create a series of

photos which promoted everyday mindfulness in the museum. In a world that is increasingly fast-paced, *Making Sense* invited the audience to slow down and use the five senses to ground themselves within the museum's collection.

In January 2023, RAMM launched its new Future Skills programme, recruiting 13 members. The Future Skills programme has been designed to allow individuals of any age to explore the various roles within the museum sector. The scheme provides participants with meaningful experiences working on research, exhibitions, community engagement, marketing and events.

RAMM has hosted numerous student work placements this year from the University of Exeter, University of Plymouth, Arts University Plymouth, Bath Spa University, Exeter College, Bicton College and Ellen Tinkham School. These students have helped in all areas of RAMM's work, from helping with exhibitions to marketing events.



Working with the University of Exeter, RAMM hosted one paid (12 month fixed-term) Graduate Business Partnership placement this year who worked in RAMM's marketing team. We also provide students who meet the university's Widening Participation criteria with secure paid internships of 140 hours. This year, RAMM hosted four such students.

In partnership with Exeter College, RAMM hosted two T-Level Digital Production and Design students who have been working on the transfer of the new Collections Explorer website. The long-term placement (one day a week over a thirty week period), aims to give college students the opportunity to develop real-life work experience, alongside their taught college courses.

RAMM has continued to offer supported internships for young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, to allow them the opportunity to explore meaningful work experience in the cultural sector. This year, RAMM has worked with a student from Bicton College and another from Ellen Tinkham School.

Another highlight was the Youth Panel's Lates event which saw the group plan and deliver a programme of live music, performances, workshops and talks exploring the human face, expression and portraits.



Volunteering

Volunteers are an important part of life at RAMM. They add value to many aspects of museum life, contributing to a range of activities and projects that would not otherwise be possible due to time and financial constraints.

Volunteering enables people's deeper engagement with culture, providing health and wellbeing benefits, connection, and social interaction for people. It also offers valuable skills development opportunities. As such, the programme is mutually beneficial.

In 2022–23, 268 people volunteered, or engaged in non-paid placements/work experience, across the organisation, contributing 10,690 hours. This is a 40% increase on last year as we continue to rebuild the team and volunteer activity from the 2020 closure during the nationwide Covid lockdowns.

Our aim is for our volunteer workforce to reflect the diversity of our local community. This year, we have continued to engage a high level of people from ethnically diverse communities, compared to the local population: 12%. 15% of team members have declared a disability, 3% more than the previous year.

56% of the 268 people who engaged with the museum in 2022–23 are under 25 years of age. 29 of them were under 18 years of age, representing a successful introduction of younger volunteers at RAMM through our summer 2022 LEGO® exhibition and programme of events. Our engagement with individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ has increased significantly to 25% at year end. We believe this reflects the inclusivity and diversity of the younger generation.

We continue to work with a number of partners to offer volunteer opportunities to their clients and students including the University of Exeter, Exeter College, Bicton College and the Down's Syndrome Association.

Schools programme



This year, 2,440 Key Stage 2 pupils in 64 primary school/home education groups undertook formal learning at RAMM. A further 8,218 pupils from all age-ranges, in 383 groups, visited RAMM on self-led visits accompanied by their learning organisations' educational professionals.

RAMM's formal learning programme includes Ancient Egypt, Roman Devon, and Second World War and the Exeter Blitz. This year, eight students joined us from the University of Exeter Aspiring Educators programme, contributing 197 volunteer hours. This is a great symbiotic relationship, enabling skills transfer for the students in preparation for their PGCE course by teaching the Key Stage 2 children who visit RAMM.

The schools programme at RAMM is self-funded and is only possible through the generous support of the 30-strong schools volunteer team who give their time, many of whom are retired educational professionals.





Visitor services

Page 34

The year got off to an energetic start for front of house as we welcomed visitors to the extremely popular LEGO® brick history of Exeter exhibition. Our team grew as we welcomed new exhibition visitor guides, and we had a mighty stream of visitors booking tickets and enjoying the multifaceted exhibition.

We saw numbers starting to reach pre-Covid levels during the summer holidays which was encouraging. The team did a fantastic job as we cruised through summer supporting a full complement of activities and bustling galleries. In addition to LEGO®, we were also excited to welcome many new visitors to RAMM as they came to see the Exeter Chiefs exhibition and get a good look at the new logo and kit.

We welcomed a new member to the visitor services team who has been with RAMM for several years, first for school work experience, then as a volunteer,

moving to a casual assistant and now a visitor service assistant – a great example of career progression!

Through the winter into early 2023 we were on hand to help other areas of the museum. We made trips around Devon and to London and Cornwall, picking up artwork for exhibitions and delivering objects for loan. We assisted the conservation and tech team in preparing display sundries for the new Ancestral Voices displays. One member of the team signed up for several sessions over a few months with conservation to help restore some of the extensive snail shell collection.

Finally, we have completed lots of training in health and safety, disability awareness and exhibition guidelines and we currently have more staff first aid trained than ever before. The variety of exhibitions and growing visitor numbers have kept us busy in 2022–23 but as always, the team have thrived and supported others where possible.



The Shop at RAMM

In 2022–23, the Shop at RAMM was pleased to have almost reached pre-pandemic income levels and to have re-established itself with ranges reflecting the year's exhibitions and new local artist-maker connections. This year's exhibition hits included LEGO® earrings and ice-cube trays (it was a hot summer!), Covid microbe toys and human skeleton posters, and mini witch's cauldrons. The top five best-selling books had a representative from each major exhibition alongside the works of two local authors.

The shop strives to offer something for everyone, from pocket money toys to unique artist-maker craft. This year we welcomed new work from local artists including Claire Armitage textiles, Philippa de Burlet ceramics, Helyne Jennings jewellery and Danielle Barlow illustration.

I write to let you know how impressed I am by the way RAMM has re-established the shop post-Covid shutdown. It is always a delight to visit – so attractively designed with a great range of merchandise, including RAMM exclusives.

Visitor, Sept 22

Top sellers by quantity:

Mayan beaded bracelets
Exeter fridge magnets
Roman gladiator figurines

Top sellers by income:

Ray Balkwill prints
Erin Cox silver jewellery
LEGO® earrings

Top 5 book sales:

Brick History
Geology of Dartmoor
Unwell Women
Mary the Pigeon who never gave up
Witchcraft in Exeter

Have you been inspired by this Annual Review? So much of RAMM's work relies on support from partners, grant funders and individuals.



As an individual you can make a big difference. For example, a gift popped into a donation box, or a Friends membership all help to raise crucial funds that support the museum's work. Where possible we try to use these funds as match funding against larger fundraising campaigns. This means the vital support we receive from people like you shows the local support RAMM has. This in turn helps the museum to unlock larger sources of income, helping make that local support go even further.

How will you Support RAMM today?

Connect ramm.uk/connect

Keep in touch by signing up online. It's free and only takes a couple of minutes. Hear about the things you love and never miss out.

Volunteer ramm.uk/volunteer

RAMM depends on a family of dedicated volunteers. We'd love to welcome you to the team.

Make a donation today ramm.uk/donate

Online you can make a one-off donation or set up a regular monthly or annual gift. At the museum you can use our cash or contactless donation boxes. If you can, do remember to Gift Aid your donation and increase its value by 25% at no extra cost to you.

Play the Exeter Community Lottery ramm.uk/ExeterLottery

Choose the RAMM Development Trust as your local good cause. Do good whilst being in the running to win big. Good luck!

Join the Friends of RAMM ramm.uk/friends

Meet like-minded people with a passion for heritage and culture and enjoy a programme of special events and benefits. Did you know you can buy a Friends membership as a gift for a loved one?

Become a Patron ramm.uk/patrons

In 2023 we will be launching a refreshed Patron offer.

Gifts in wills ramm.uk/wills

Leave a gift in your will and support RAMM's future. Request a free RAMM gifts in wills pack for more information, including a useful question and answer section.

Sponsorship ramm.uk/sponsorship

Do you work for an organisation who might be interested in sponsoring RAMM? Do get in touch.

Your kind support helps to keep Exeter's heritage and history alive. Be a part of next year's inspirational Annual Review stories.

Thank you for making incredible things happen

Donors

Thank you to everyone who donated this year, from those who dropped a few coins into a donation box, to our major donors. All gifts have a big impact on what RAMM can achieve.

Gifts in wills

Thank you to those who gave the gift of a lifetime and chose to support RAMM with a gift in their will. Thank you also to those who have pledged a gift in their will for when the time comes. We are always so moved when people choose to support RAMM's work in this very personal way.

Grant givers

- Art Fund
- Arts Council England
- Arts Council England/V&A Purchase Grant Fund
- Arts and Humanities Research Council
- Aurelius Charitable Trust
- C James Cadbury Charitable Trust
- The Clare Milne Trust
- Contemporary Art Society
- The Costume Society
- Exeter Canal and Quay Trust
- Exeter Literary Society
- Elmgrant Trust
- Exe Decorative and Fine Arts Society
- Exeter City Council
- The Finnis Scott Foundation
- Friends of RAMM
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Kent Kingdon Bequest
- The Leche Trust
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Norman Family Trust
- Northbrook Foundation
- The Pilgrim Trust
- RAMM Development Trust
- Viridor Credits Environmental Company
- Waitrose & Partners
- Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund

Patrons

- Adrian Sassoon
- Andrew Gould
- Chris & Jenny Rolfe
- David Fursdon HM's Lord Lieutenant of Devon (Hon.)
- Edmund Burke
- General Sir John Waters GCB CBE (Hon.)
- Heleen Lindsay-Fynn DL (Hon.)
- John Lloyd Maunder (Hon.)
- Julia Tremlett (Hon.)
- Julian Steer-Fowler
- Lord Devon Charles Courtenay (Hon.)
- Maddy Jevon
- Nick Baker (Hon.)
- Steve Knightley (Hon.)

Thank you to all our Patrons who wish to remain anonymous.

Sponsors

- Arup
- Bonhams
- Building Greater Exeter
- Drive Creative Studio
- Kier Group
- Liveable Exeter
- Massey Cladding Solutions Ltd
- Ove Arup and Partners International Ltd
- Princesshay
- Stagecoach Devon
- TClarke
- UK Remediation
- Vinci Construction

Special thanks

We would also like to give special thanks to all of our Friends of RAMM members and the Trustees of RAMM's independent supporting charities.

RAMM and its parent body, Exeter City Council, would like to thank all of the museum's partners. They enable the public collection of over one million objects, to be used in innovative and creative ways with the communities we serve. RAMM would like to give special thanks to the University of Exeter and Arts Council England, for the ongoing supportive partnerships we hold with them.

Partners

- Age UK Exeter
- Art Work Exeter
- Arts University Plymouth
- Balloons
- Bath Spa University
- Beacon Centre
- Bicton College
- The Bodleian Libraries
- Bookbag bookshop, Exeter
- Brick Ideas
- Bristol Museums
- The British Museum
- Canada Council of the Arts
- CEDA
- Culture Health & Wellbeing Alliance (CHWA)
- Cygnat Theatre
- Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- The Devon and Exeter Institution
- Devon Carers
- Devon Development Education
- Devon Recovery Learning Community
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Diversity Trust
- Double Elephant Print Workshop
- Ellen Tinkham College
- Exeter Chiefs Foundation
- Exeter City Council older persons housing
- Exeter City of Literature
- Exeter College
- Exeter Community Trust
- Exeter Culture
- Exeter Live Better
- Exeter Living
- Exeter Phoenix
- Exeter Pride
- Exeter Respect
- Exeter Rugby Club
- Exeter School of Art
- The Foyer
- Franklyn NHS Hospital
- Gemma Lloyd
- Girlguiding (Brownies)
- Gray's Devon Cider
- Guildhall Shopping Centre
- Honeyscribe
- HM Government
- Intercom Trust
- Joe Blatherwick Photography
- Jurassic Coast Trust
- Kaleider
- Learn to Live: 19-25

- Libraries Unlimited
- Literature Works
- Magic Carpet
- Mary Schwarz
- Meridian Raw
- The Museum Platform
- Northcott Theatre
- Participate Arts
- Pelican Project
- Pete's Dragons
- Quay Words
- Quirk Theatre
- Refugee Support Devon
- Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia
- Surface Impression
- University of Derby
- University of Exeter
- University of Plymouth
- Warren Elsmore
- WayMakers
- Wellbeing Exeter
- The Westcountry Study Centre
- X-Plore Youth
- YAY! Cornwall
- YMCA
- Youth Arts & Health Trust

Artists

- Alistair Lambert
- Amanda McCormack
- Amy Shelton
- Caroline Achaintre
- Edgardo Ayala
- Emma Hart
- Emma Welton
- Florence Peake
- Gemma Nash
- Grace Ndiritu
- Kay Walsh
- Kiki Smith
- Kris Lemsalu
- Lucy Stein
- Mercedes Mülheisen
- Michelle Williams Gamaker
- Molly Saunders
- Naomi Vincent
- Rosie Stiling
- Ruth Bell
- Sarah Gillespie
- Simon Pope
- South West Dance Hub Company
- Tidelines

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery
Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX

Open Tues 10.30am to 5pm
Wed to Sun 10am to 5pm
Closed Mon and most bank holidays

ramm@exeter.gov.uk
rammuseum.org.uk



This page is intentionally left blank