

The Tickenhill Collection
Registered Charity, 527509
Annual Report 2020-21

Charitable Purpose and Activities

The collection was established as a charitable trust in 1958 and updated in 1970 with the following purpose:

The maintenance and administration of the Tickenhill Collection which shall be placed or kept in such one or more public rooms, halls, museums or other places for exhibition in Worcestershire or elsewhere and that it shall be kept open for inspection by the public. Also to lend the said collection or any part thereof for public exhibition or for educational purposes.

The Charitable Activities of the Tickenhill Collection are:

The care and conservation of the objects, records and associated information from the Tickenhill Collection, and the use of that collection for public benefit through display and educational activities.

Trustee

Worcestershire County Council.

The Tickenhill Collection is managed by Worcestershire County Council's Joint Museum Service, Museums Worcestershire, and the responsibility of Principal Curator of the Tickenhill Collection is within Museum Worcestershire's Social History Curator's role.

The Tickenhill Collection is overseen by the two Worcestershire County Councillors serving on the Council's Joint Museums Committee.

2020-21 Achievements

Collection Care and Conservation

At the end of the 2020 – 2021 financial year, 1708 items from the following categories in the Tickenhill Collection have been catalogued, wrapped and cleaned or conserved where appropriate:

- Decorative furniture
- Taxidermy
- Timepieces
- Decorative boxes including puzzle boxes
- Agricultural hooks
- Stamps and brands
- Leatherworking tools
- Pot cranes
- Horse Tack and bits
- Wall clocks
- Twine bailers

- Nautical lamps
- Scythes
- Apple hooks
- Shepherds Crooks
- Billhooks
- Leather stamps
- Shears
- Pairing knives
- Sewing Machines
- Whetstones
- Globes
- Toys and games



Collection objects before and after conservation



Collection documentation in progress

Use of the Collection for Public Benefit

Three news articles featuring the Tickenhill Collection have been researched and published in the *Worcester Evening News* and online. The collection featured in digital exhibitions and behind-the-scenes virtual tours, curated by Museums Worcestershire to provide access during museum closures in lockdown.

All galleries in Worcestershire County Museum include objects from the Tickenhill Collection, making up between 10 and 20% of the displays. In 2020-21, textiles and shoes from the Tickenhill collection have been newly added to the costume displays at Hartlebury Castle. Despite national closures for large parts of the year, social distancing and limited access, Hartlebury Castle's visitors totalled 5,790 in 20-21.

Use of the Tickenhill Collection in wider partnership

In partnership with Worcestershire Children First's workshops for looked-after children, the Tickenhill collection was accessed via three Zoom workshops, where new visitors were provided with remote access to collections, despite the pandemic.

Continuity during Covid lockdowns

Prior to 2020, management of the Tickenhill Collection was assisted by a team of two Volunteer Collections Assistants, a Volunteer Conservation Assistant and a Volunteer Archivist. A weekly workshop provided development of the collection and improved accessibility via updated collections information, published research and conservation cleaning of objects ready for display. The sessions also provided valuable wellbeing opportunities for volunteers involved as a means of socialising and being part of something worthwhile and meaningful.

The 2020 Covid19 pandemic saw the unavoidable cancellation of this volunteer programme and all positive outputs due to a national lockdown. Even as restrictions were lifted, many volunteers also fell into high risk categories, making group activities too high a risk to entertain.

To support our volunteers supporting both the Tickenhill Collection and the wider City and County collections, Museums Worcestershire applied to the Esmee Fairbairn – Sustaining Engagement with Collections Fund, facilitated by the Museums Association. A successful bid saw the creation of the *Volunteers at Home – Access not Isolation* project. This was a pioneering pilot for the benefit of the entire museums sector. It saw volunteers equipped and trained to digital technology in order to maintain regular communication, and a complete reinvention of museum documentation procedures, insurance and loans procedures, training and volunteering policy, so as to allow museum volunteers to work on real museum objects, in their own homes.

The Tickenhill Collection volunteers formed the pilot group in this incredibly successful exercise that now allows individuals to work with a museum remotely, regardless of their circumstances and has created hugely enhanced accessibility between museums and the people who benefit from the collections they safeguard. Enhanced access whilst maintaining a duty of care, provided huge well-being benefits for our isolated volunteers, and can now be applied to any individuals finding themselves isolated or lonely.

The *Volunteers at Home* project was showcased at the 2020 national Museums Association Conference and will be covered again in 2021. The project has been used twice as a case study for London Museums and Archives Museum Development programme as a model of the enhanced of museum's collection engagement.