York’s First Photographs
30th August to 4th November 2019

In Museum Gardens in 1844 the Scottish Photographers David Octavius Hill and Robert Adamson took photographs of participants at the second York Meeting of the British Association which was founded in York in 1831. These 1844 photographs (calotypes) are, we believe, the first photographs taken at a scientific conference.

With our partners, York Museums Trust and York Explore, we have created an outdoor Exhibition of some of these images. They form a trail to follow around Museum Gardens and Library Lawn. From the information board on the Lodge you will be able to see the image of Henry Baines, who was born in a “cottage” above St Leonard’s. He himself describes how he first stuck a spade in the ground here near the Roman Walls. These first steps led to a career as a distinguished gardener and botanist including becoming Sub-Curator of the Yorkshire Museum, and the first Gardens’ Manager.

On the YPS website there is further information about all the people represented by calotypes in the exhibition: https://www.ypsyork.org/groups/calotype-project-group/

Events List

To complement the photographic exhibition we have arranged a series of events from expert speakers on both the history of photography, curating historic collections of photographs and the latest developments in digital imaging.

Venue and booking details overleaf, marked *, **, ***,** ****

Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm ** “Café Scientifique”
10 Cameras that changed the World
Dr Jeff Craine

Tuesday 17th September at 7.30pm * “YPS Lecture”
The Challenges of a Photography Curator
Dr Geoff Belknap, Head Curator, Science and Media Museum

Wednesday 18th September at 10am & 2pm in Museum Gardens
Calotype Talk and Walk – Stories behind York’s First Photographs
Cost £6 (includes tea and biscuits) Booking forms from the Lodge.

Monday 30th September at 6.15pm *** “Mint Yard Lecture”
Archaeology and the Image
Dr Colleen Morgan, University of York

Tuesday 1st October at 7.30pm * “YPS Lecture”
A perfect Chemistry: Hill and Adamson’s use of the calotype process
Dr Anne M Lyden, Chief Curator, Photography, National Galleries of Scotland

Wednesday 2nd October at 7.30pm ** “Café Scientifique”
Wild York
Simon Roy, photographer
Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November; all day at the Yorkshire Museum

*Photo Fabulous - Children’s Activity*
Recreate some of the first portraits taken in York as you dress up and become one of the leading Victorian visionaries who attended the 1844 meeting of the British Science Association. https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/whats-on/events/

Saturday 19th October; 9:30 am - 11:30 am; **** York Explore
*Caring for old photographs*
Do you have family photographs, negatives or slides? Are you concerned about their condition? Join Explore’s Archivist Laura Yeoman, to learn more about what causes photographic materials to deteriorate, and the best ways to care for them at home.

Tuesday 29th October at 12.30pm to 1pm in the Yorkshire Museum
*Curator’s Talk – York’s First Photography*
https://www.yorkmuseumstrust.org.uk/whats-on/events/

Wednesday 30th October at 6.15pm *** “Mint Yard Lecture”
*Photographers and postage stamps*
Geoff Blackwell

Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm ** “Café Scientifique”
*Augmented Reality*
Sharon Reid, Symbolism Studios, in conversation

York Explore will also be providing family learning activities.

Image Credit: Dr Colleen Morgan

Venues:
- *Tempest Anderson Lecture Theatre, Yorkshire Museum*
  Free but donations welcome from non-members, no pre-booking necessary
- **Café Scientifique at City Screen Basement, Coney Street, York*
  Free but limited to 70 tickets per session; tickets available from City Screen in person, online or by phone
- ***Mint Yard Lectures held at the Marriott Room, York Explore*
  Book in person or online with York Explore, small fee
- **** Workshop held at York Explore*
  Book in person or online with York Explore, fee £18

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