



# About the Museum

First opened over a shop in Baxtergate, it moved in 1827 to the top floor of the building now known as Quayside Fish Restaurant, on the fashionable waterfront promenade of the Victorian resort.

The present building was opened in 1931, with the Chapman wing and Kendall library added in the 1950s. In 2005, after local fundraising and with a Heritage Lottery grant, the New Wing - comprising a lecture room, workrooms, costume and exhibition galleries and cafe - increased our capacity to meet modern needs, whilst preserving the valued 'Victorian/ Edwardian' atmosphere of the main hall. In 2009 Whitby Museum achieved Accreditation under a national scheme.

## Our collections include

- Exhibits representing Whitby's history, daily life and worldwide connections
- World class Jurassic fossils, including many type fossils (those first identified which gave their name to the classification type)
- Important items of maritime science, including items from Cook's surveying expeditions, Scoresby the Elder's Crow's nest and the scientific instruments and reports from Scoresby the Younger's Arctic voyages
- A major collection of jet artefacts demonstrating the versatility of Whitby's craftsmen

- A noted collection of ethnography
- More than 200 garments from over two centuries of fashion
- Over 90,000 objects including an extensive photographic collection.

**The Societies Library and Archive** contains a rich collection of manuscript and printed material connected with the Museum's collections, and with the area's past.



[www.whitbymuseum.org.uk](http://www.whitbymuseum.org.uk)

## About the 'Lit & Phil'

This was founded in January 1823 to form and run a museum with some pleasing subjects for study, a source of amusement and an object of attraction for strangers.

Today we have an international membership who support the work of the Museum and its associated Library & Archives, through the annual subscription, one of our main sources of income.

Whitby Town Council owns the building and receives a proportion of visitors' entrance fees towards maintenance. The society owns the contents of the Museum and Library and is responsible for conserving and presenting the collections.

## Why volunteer?

- Support the museum and the preservation of its collection
- Be part of an enthusiastic and forward-thinking team
- Join in with volunteer events and share your experiences with like-minded people

## TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER

**Whitby Museum is run almost entirely by unpaid volunteers from all walks of life and with a wide range of skills and knowledge.**

Some help with reception, displays, carpentry, assistance to curators and librarians. Others help to organise our lecture programmes or assist wherever needed according to their particular skills and interests.

To volunteer please either contact our manager by phone **01947 602908** or email: [manager@whitbymuseum.org.uk](mailto:manager@whitbymuseum.org.uk)

To ensure the well-being of our volunteer team all applications to become a volunteer follow this process below:

1. Application received.
2. Informal interview arranged
3. Interview and suggested roles completed.
4. Two references for each applicant will be applied for.
5. On receipt of acceptable references an induction date will be arranged.
6. Induction completed and start date arranged.