

Our favourite objects

See what some of our favourite museum objects are at Melton Carnegie Museum, chosen by members of staff.

'Fox' by Sally Matthews, chosen by Jackie and Jenny



Why Jackie and Jenny chose this object

"It's a beautiful piece, synonymous with Melton and made from recycled materials."

"Because he's beautiful, a one off, and proudly guards the Museum and the more you look at him the more you see."

About the object

This fox, created in 2007, is made entirely of recycled materials including chains, tools, nuts and bolts. Matthews studied at the Loughborough College of Art and Design and has created commissioned works and exhibited throughout the UK as well as Italy, Poland, and Norway.

"Everyone has their own reasons for using animals in art, but for me I always go back to the animals themselves for inspiration. My love of them for their different form, movement, smell and nature are the reasons for my making them. Their nature even of a domesticated or trained animal is unpredictable and wild, their presence is always enlivening. I want my work to remind people of our need for animals and the example their nature provides us with."

14th century stained glass roundels, chosen by Katie



Why Katie chose this object

“My favourite museum object is the 14th Century glass roundels from Garthorpe church. It is amazing how such intricate designs and beautiful colours were created such a long time ago and they are still here for us to admire. The detail and the elegance of them strikes me every time I look at them and I love the serenity of the figures.”

About the object

14th Century, stained glass roundels from St Mary's at Garthorpe, on loan from the Churches Conservation Trust.

Part of the church of St Mary's at Garthorpe dates from the 13th century, with additions in the 14th and 15th centuries, followed by extensive restoration in the 19th century.

These roundels were originally in the East and West windows of the North Aisle in the church, and the figures represent St Mary the Virgin carrying a lily, and St John the Evangelist carrying a book.

Two-headed calf, chosen by Kirsty



Why Kirsty chose this object

“Have you still got that two-headed calf?” is probably the question we get asked the most working in the museum. But I love it when people do because it shows that the calf is so much more than just an object in our collection. It’s a memory from someone’s childhood, it’s something Melton Mowbray residents have embraced as their own and they feel protective of, it is part of many unique stories from Melton’s past and is something that can make a visit to our museum an unforgettable experience - something that all museums strive for. Who’d have thought that plucky little calf could do so much for a whole town?!”

About the object

Known as the "two headed calf" these calves are conjoined twins. Born in about 1900 at Braunston they lived for only a few hours. Delivered by vet Justus Littler, Mr Littler preserved them and displayed the calves at his practice at Elgin Lodge, Melton.

During World War One and World War Two Mr Littler displayed the calves to raise money for the war effort. When the veterinary practice closed the calves were offered to the Museum Collections and have been on display in Melton Carnegie Museum since 1981.

Civil War helmet, chosen by Bethany

Why Bethany chose this object

One of my favourite objects on display at Melton Carnegie Museum is the Civil War helmet worn by a soldier in 1645 at the battle of Ankle Hill in Melton Mowbray. The helmet exemplifies an integral part of Melton Mowbray's history during the 17th century when the town was a Roundhead strong-holding. The battle saw 1,500 Royalist soldiers charge without warning the Roundheads garrison; some 300 men were killed, yet the town remained a Roundheads holding until the end of the war.

The helmet also links to the museums Young Researchers current film project, which focuses on life during the 1640s for upper and lower-class families in Melton Mowbray.