

Making Leicestershire My Home

Reflecting the Histories, Interests and Aspirations of the People who
have made the County their Home



- This is a 2-year project April 2026 - March 2028 (Years 4 and 5 of our NPO Funding)
- It will run across the Service – In our venues, involving our teams, using our collections and happening in spaces and places in our communities
- It builds on our past work such as A Century of Stories and Community Curators in Market Town Museums and over 175 years of developing our Museum and Archive Collections
- We will learn from our recent experience of piloting new models of co-creation and understanding how our different service areas excel in their own contribution and come together as Culture Leicestershire

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It is based on these two policy statements:

- *The Record Office collects, maintains and makes available to all, any significant recorded material relating to the life and history of the diverse communities of the counties of Leicestershire and Rutland and the City of Leicester.*
- *The Museum Service's Policy is To collect and record the natural life of the County of Leicestershire and to reflect the histories, interests and aspirations of the people who have made it their home and place of work.*

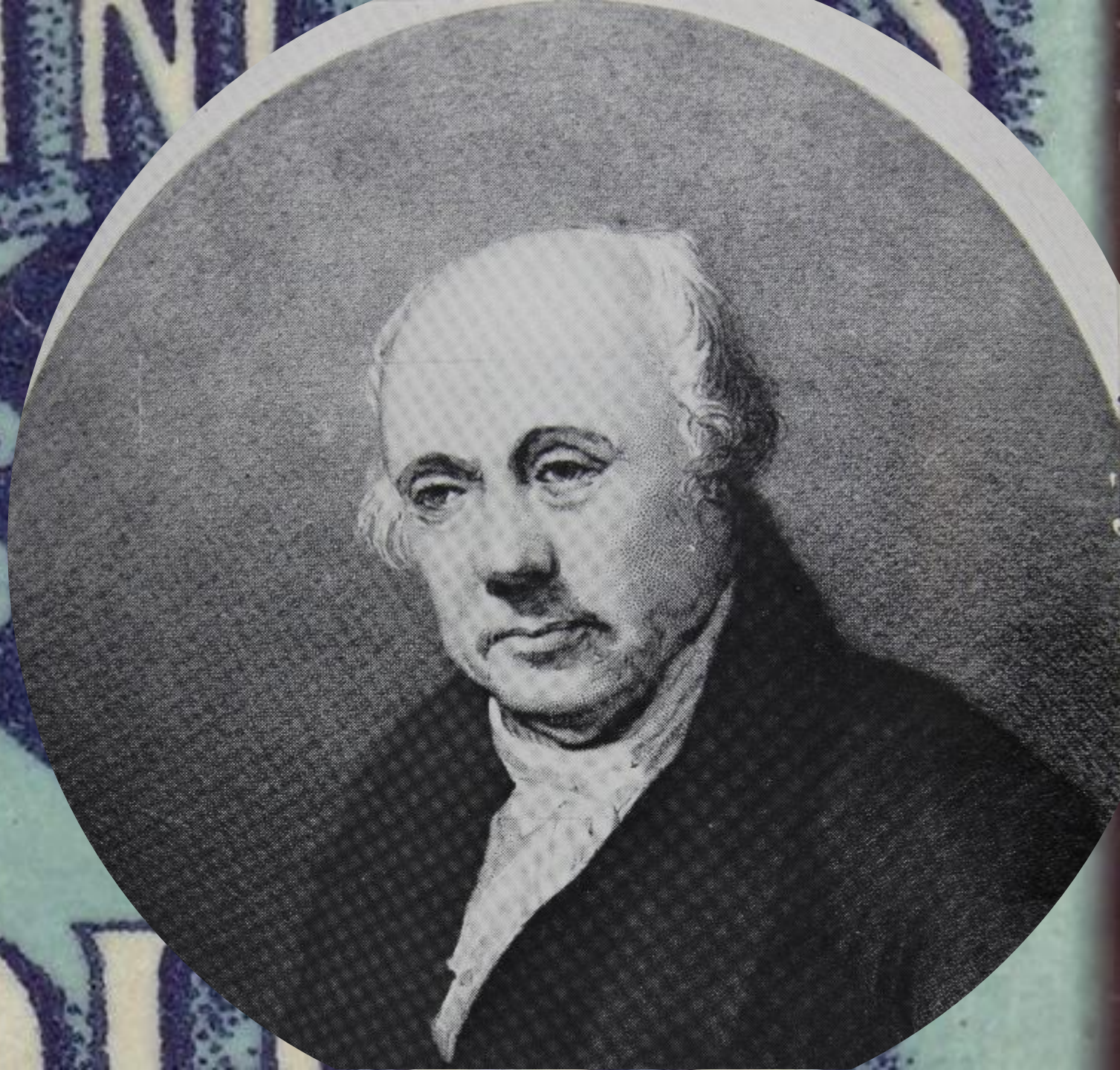
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SYMINGTON

THESE SOUPS ARE
READILY PREPARED.
VERY NOURISHING.
APPETIZING AND
EASILY DIGESTED.

SOUP



Who's involved?

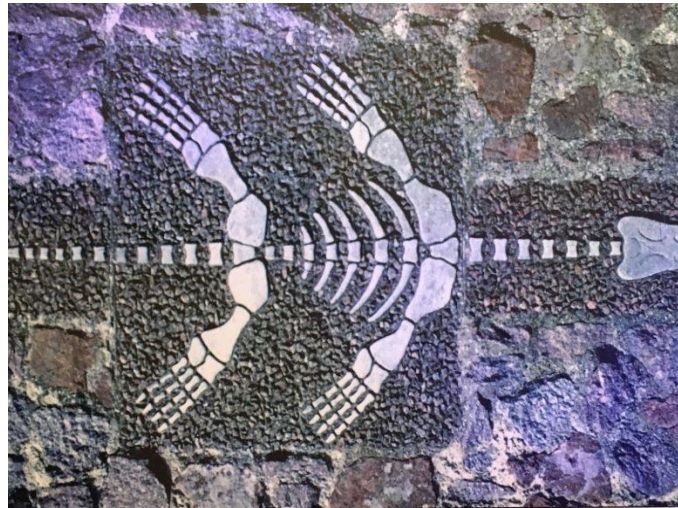
- Museum Collections Teams, ROLLR teams as the collections experts
- Heritage Teams for community welcomes, exhibitions and interpretation
- Heritage CPWS for outreach and engagement
- Creative Learning Services for engagement with schools and expertise on using objects
- Library teams as hosts for pop-up showcases and engagement venues
- Volunteering Teams
- Culture to You for their community outreach workshop model
- Community Participation Workers for targeted audience and project development
- Creative Practitioners in targeted audience projects, outreach and the final project sharing day
- NPO funded research role
- Community Connectors as champions, advisors and challengers

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“It was found in the village,
where I lived. There has always
been water at Barrow where
the Kipper lived and the river
still floods now.”

Esme





Mariia's Teddy

“This toy my daughter received at the Polish-Ukrainian border. It was in a box where people had collected some staple things for Ukrainian refugees and volunteers asked us to choose what we wanted. She was very happy even in spite of the circumstances and delighted to get this toy. She had no others with us. At that moment, I realised, that we are capable of creating our own thoughts and how we feel, regardless of the circumstances!”

Kate, Mariia's mother

Making Leicestershire My Home will result in:

- Up to 10 'seeded stories' based on the stories of Leicestershire people in our collections
- A minimum of 6 Targeted Audience projects
- 4 Museum exhibitions (Market Town Museums and Bosworth)
- Published Stories, Trails etc
- Minimum 4 capsule collections to be added to our permanent collections
- Final Project Sharing and Celebration Day

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Culture Leicestershire 2-year ambition 2026-2028

- Continue to develop the Culture Leicestershire offer recognising and building on the strengths of our Library, Heritage, Collections and Learning and Cultural Participation services.
- Ensure that our cultural offer reflects and responds to the needs of the of residents and visitors to Leicestershire.
- Use our place within the wider Leicestershire cultural offer to ensure our approach and work is co-produced where possible with staff, stakeholders, partners, volunteers and participants.
- Make the best use of data to guide our decision making and demonstrate our positive impact.

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Our eight priorities

1 Enhancing Wellbeing

Launch an audience data strategy which will ensure we are measuring and evaluating wellbeing impact. Invest in volunteering and actively increase flexible participation. Champion the Home Library Service and Culture to You offer.

2 Inviting communities

Support our Culture Leicestershire Board and Community Connectors network to champion, advocate, challenge and review our work. Continue to ensure that our network of community managed libraries remains effective and sustainable in delivering local library services.

3 Sparking Imagination

Deliver our events and exhibitions programmes in Libraries and Heritage sites. Launch Creative Learning Services SEN cultural offer to young people in schools. Review and rationalise our cultural collections (Art Works and Art in Schools).

4 Encouraging Reading

Provide modern, vibrant book collections in a variety of accessible formats to support reading for pleasure. Facilitate the Bookstart programme including universal book gifting at a baby's six-week health check. Invite all primary-aged children across Leicestershire to participate in the annual Summer Reading Challenge.



5 Celebrating our Heritage

Retaining our Museum and Archive Services Accredited status and improving our collections facilities.

6 Supporting the Local Economy

Continue to attract local visitors and tourists through Heritage and Library sites' displays and programming. Commission local creative practitioners to deliver high quality art and cultural activity.

7 Information and Digital

Review our current digital inclusion support to develop opportunities to address customer need. Build on the implementation of a new library management system to explore new avenues for digital engagement with our communities.

8 Play our part in cultural landscape

Retain our National Portfolio Organisation status and continue to fulfil our role as delivery partner for Museum Development Midlands.

The Strategic Context

Grounded in our Policies, Vision, Mission and Cultural Blueprint

Aligned with the ACE Investment Principles of Inclusivity and Relevance, Ambition and Quality and Dynamism (Understanding our Audiences)

Meets the Strategic Aims of the Council:

- Diversity is celebrated and people feel welcome and included
- Cultural and historical Heritage are enjoyed and conserved
- Sustain excellent customer satisfaction with our cultural, wellbeing... services; promoting and facilitating access to libraries, museums and learning centres to promote wellbeing
- Support communities to engage in cultural and heritage activities and develop their own bespoke programmes of cultural events and activities

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In a Nutshell:

Our project focusses on reflecting the histories, experiences and contributions of people who have made Leicestershire their home over thousands of years and how this continues to shape the culture of where we live today.

We will do this through a programme of:

- Showcasing our existing collections, working with targeted audiences, outreach with communities
- Using the skills of our staff, volunteers and creative practitioners to shine a light on modern Leicestershire in the context of its own history.

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Next steps:

Planning day for key/ lead staff –14 Jan 26

Team planning sessions for development of focussed/ themed work

March final outline of plans agreed

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The Record Office

Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland

