

Helen Brown

Museums and heritage consultant

Helen Brown is a freelance curator and consultant. She worked for many years as a senior manager for Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum including for a period jointly managing the service. She has been responsible for learning, exhibitions and audience development and latterly held the post of Collections Manager with overall responsibility for the collections including the Designated Arts and Crafts Movement collection.

Between 2000 and 2006 she developed a successful museum consultancy in the South West specialising in access and audience development projects working with a range of different museums and for the regional agency, this included working as a freelance Museum Development Officer in Gloucestershire.

She has strong curatorial interests in fine and decorative art, craft and Chinese collections.

She has been a board member of the South West Federation of Museums and Art Galleries and is currently a museum mentor and also a Trustee for the Gordon Russell Museum, Broadway. She has recently become a Fellow of the Museums Association.

Clare Gee

Cultural Service Manager, Orkney Islands Council

Clare has been Cultural Services Manager for Orkney Islands Council since 2017, and previous to this worked in local authority museums, heritage and arts development in Orkney and the North East of England from 2002, with arts development in both local authorities sitting within museums services. Her career prior to joining the public sector was within community visual arts and specifically arts in mental health, working up from being a volunteer at South Tyneside Arts Studio in 1995, to Director, before moving to Hartlepool Borough Council as Arts Officer, responsible for Arts and Events.

Orkney Islands Council's Cultural Services section manages four accredited museums and its Archaeology Collection is a Recognised Collection for its national significance as part of the Scottish Government's Recognition Scheme, managed by Museums Galleries Scotland. The Service also manages St Magnus Cathedral on behalf of the people of Orkney, which is a wonderful 12th century cathedral built of pink sandstone in Kirkwall, and the inspiration behind the annual St Magnus International Festival. Orkney's Library and Archive service, Arts Development and Heritage Development make up the rest of this large service, which sit within the United Kingdom's smallest local authority. The Archive Service recently gained Archives Accreditation. The service has recently delivered large projects including the refurbishment of several galleries in the Orkney Museum, and Clare is currently delivering a

major project to improve and expand the Scapa Flow Visitor Centre and Museum at Lyness, Hoy, which tells the story of Orkney and Scapa Flow's role in the two world wars.

Clare trained in Fine Art at Falmouth School of Art and Design in the late 1980's/early 1990's and has continued to practice as an artist since then, working most recently in painting and site specific installation using primarily traditional craft techniques such as knitting and felt. Clare was part of Museums Galleries Scotland's Emerging Leaders programme.

Dr David Gelsthorpe
Curator of Earth Sciences Collections, Manchester
Museum

Dr David Gelsthorpe is Curator of Earth Sciences Collections at Manchester Museum. David has been a Curator at Manchester Museum since 2006 and is passionate about using collections to make a difference to people's lives.

He leads on exhibitions, teaching, public activities and citizen science, alongside making the collection widely used. David has led on exhibitions including the *Object Lessons* (showcasing scientific models and illustrations) and *Nature's Library* a permanent gallery highlighting the richness and use of the natural science collections.

In 2014, David led a team of curators on a research trip to Iceland to develop partnerships and collect new objects. He is on the committee of the Natural Science Collections Association and recently travelled to Russia with the British Council. He has a PhD in Palaeontology and has previously worked at York Museums Trust, Scarborough Museums Trust, and Sheffield Galleries and Museums Trust.

Yasmin Khan
Director of Covalent Creative Partnerships Ltd

Yasmin Khan is a cultural consultant and director of Covalent Creative Partnerships. She has over 16 years of experience conceiving and delivering major projects across the museums and heritage sector. Her past remits in national museums span across exhibitions and programme development; previously she was Interpretation Manager at the British Library and the Curator Team Manager at the Science Museum. Yasmin was awarded the 2011/12 Wellcome Trust Creative Fellowship on the Clore Cultural Leadership Programme which included a four-month secondment to the Mayor of London's culture team as an associate for Big Dance, a central feature of the London 2012 Festival.

She is a specialist assessor for the British Council's Cultural Protection Fund, a committee member for Arts Council England's Accreditation Scheme and is also a museums quality assessor for Arts Council England. Yasmin currently works as an accredited coach, facilitator and freelance writer.

Kirsty Lingstadt

Head of Digital Library and Depute Director of Library and University Collections, University of Edinburgh

Kirsty Lingstadt is Head of Digital Library and Depute Director of Library and University Collections at the University of Edinburgh. She is responsible for the online discovery and accessibility of the university collections including digitisation and digital preservation activities and is exploring how the University library supports digital scholarship activities and new technologies.

She formerly worked at Historic Environment Scotland (previously the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland) where she was responsible for collections and data. This involved the development of data standards, the database - Canmore and data projects as well as cataloguing systems and programmes, management of stores, conservation, access to the collections and the public service.

She previously worked for South Lanarkshire Council Museums, Scottish Mining Museum and Fife Council Museums Service. Within all these organisations she undertook a wide range of tasks managing collections, researching and arranging exhibition programmes and associated activities across a wide range of venues as well as running community outreach programmes.

Prior to this Kirsty completed a MA (Hons) in Scottish Historical Studies at the University of Edinburgh followed by a Masters in Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. She is an Associate member of the Museums Association and mentor on this scheme. In addition, she is a Board member of the Scottish Mining Museum Collections Trust and Recognition Scheme for Museums Galleries Scotland as well as chairing a working group for the Liber Digital Humanities Working Group.

Heather McGuicken

Museum Manager, Arts and North Down Museum

Heather McGuicken is Museum Manager at Arts and North Down Museum, Northern Ireland.

Dr Sarah Posey

Director, River & Rowing Museum, Henley on Thames

Sarah is a museum and heritage professional with over 30 years experience, spanning posts in national and regional museums, and the independent sector. Her 17 years as a curator at the British Museum was largely based at the Museum of Mankind (the BM's then Department of Ethnography) where she curated numerous displays and exhibitions, and took a senior role in the development of the Living & Dying Gallery in Bloomsbury. Sarah gained a doctorate in 2004, based on her fieldwork for the BM. At Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove for 13 years, Sarah developed senior managerial and leadership experience, heading up Collections, Interpretation & Learning and sitting on the Service's Leadership Team. During this time, she helped broker several innovative partnership projects with universities and cultural organisations regionally, nationally and internationally, oversaw the creation of new galleries, and was part of the cross-partner team which developed *The Keep*, a state-of-the-art collections and archive storage and access facility which opened in Falmer in 2013. In June 2018 Sarah joined the River & Rowing Museum in Henley on Thames as Director.

Maria Ragan

Museum Manager, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL

Maria has worked in the Museum sector since 1984. Starting in the British Museum in the Press and PR Department and as Head of Information Service, eventually working on the provision of public services for the Great Court.

She moved to the Horniman Museum in 1999 as Exhibitions Officer and became Head of Exhibitions and Design on 2002. Working on many permanent gallery projects such as the Music and textile galleries and on exciting temporary exhibitions including *'Amazon to Caribbean'*, *'Bali-Dancing for the Gods'* and the Cultural Olympiad exhibition *'The Body Adorned'*.

In December 2014, she became the manager of the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, UCL. The Museum houses 80,600 objects, it is one of the greatest collections of Egyptian and Sudanese archaeology in the world. It illustrates life in the Nile Valley from prehistory through the time of the pharaohs, the Ptolemaic, Roman and Coptic periods to the Islamic period.

Maria is especially interested in museum interpretation, exhibition and interactive development and establishing facilities for visitors from all

backgrounds and abilities and working with communities on engaging and sustainable projects.

Maria is on the Executive committee of ICOM UK, a trainer and mentor for the Touring Exhibitions Group and a trustee of the National Jazz Archive.