



PRESS RELEASE

5th February 2019

‘Stolen Things’ to open Ripon Museums 2019 Season

The three Ripon Museums – The Workhouse Museum & Garden; Courthouse Museum and Prison & Police Museum - re-open this weekend (9th February) after a few weeks of behind the scenes activity and planning of events.

The season starts with ‘Stolen Things’ by Paul Rooney in The Courthouse Museum. Stolen Things focuses on the ‘voice’ of 14 year old Ann Lupton, a former defendant accused of shoplifting in 1853. The artwork’s spoken and sung words and sounds are created using a variety of sources including the childhood memories of Ripon Museum volunteers, the chords of a Taylor Swift song and a Victorian children’s hymn. The sound composition invokes the shouts of the courtroom public and Victorian church singing to build to a rowdy evocation of some liberatory mischief.

Paul Rooney is a Liverpool-based artist who creates music using words, often exploring the themes of music, myth, memory and place.

Leah Mellors, Curator, said “We are delighted to have been able to work with Paul Rooney on this exciting new art commission for Ripon Courthouse Museum. Paul’s sound installation is an immersive and evocative experience, based on a real trial at Ripon Courthouse, and we hope it will offer visitors a fresh perspective on the history of the Courthouse and a new and innovative way to engage with our stories. We’ll be working with other contemporary artists over the next three years, to keep building on the successful work we do with contemporary art.”

Our museums are packed full of stories and hands-on learning experiences for all ages. In 2019 we are looking forward to engaging more people than ever in new and different ways, with a stop motion animation course, making preserves for the pantry, taking your place in the dock for a Victorian courthouse experience or listening to an expert in our adult talks series. We’ll be revealing more stories of the people who spent time within its walls and visitors will get the chance to explore behind the scenes and see how we care for and preserve centuries of law and order history.

Our theme for the year will be *Home & Homelessness* as we explore what home means to us and what it meant to those who lived in the Workhouse, were incarcerated in our Prison, and who were transported away from home in our Courthouse.

Our main summer exhibition, *Rogues & Vagabonds*, will focus on homelessness from the Victorian period until the present day, uncovering how homelessness has been viewed and tackled by the workhouse, prison and court systems, as well as charities and the authorities today.

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Notes:

Paul Rooney has been commissioned by Tate Liverpool and The Drawing Room, and residencies at DCA, Dundee and University of Oxford/Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. He has exhibited internationally including in Mexico City and Shanghai. Paul was the winner of the Northern Prize in 2008 and his work is in the Arts Council Collection.

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The Workhouse Museum, Sharow View, Allhallowgate, Ripon HG4 1LE

Courthouse Museum, Minster Road, Ripon HG4 1QS

Prison and Police Museum, St. Marygate, Ripon HG4 1LX

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