

Call for Papers: Vikings on Display

The Richard Hall Symposium 2017

A one-day conference with York Archaeological Trust in York
Sunday 26th February 2017

On 27th December 2015 the flood waters of the River Foss broke into the JORVIK Viking Centre, bringing about the closure of a major tourist attraction and museum that had operated almost constantly for more than 30 years.

The efforts to rebuild JORVIK and to create a new home for the objects from the Coppergate excavation have been approached as a 'reimagining', a chance to revisit the dig and its collection and to rethink some of our assumptions around how the artefacts from Coppergate should be interpreted and displayed.

How have museum and heritage site approaches to the Vikings changed in recent years? What major challenges are faced by those tasked with interpreting the Viking Age through its artefacts? And how does a Viking Centre meet its responsibility to educate and inform in 2017, whilst remaining appealing to audiences of all kinds?

This one-day symposium brings together those working in a range of disciplines on the reconstruction, display and interpretation of Viking-era material culture.

Possible topics for exploration include:

- Narrative and authority in exhibitions on a Viking or early medieval theme.
- Innovation and interactivity.
- Gendered approaches to the Viking period in museum and heritage site settings.
- Access for all to Viking-era materials in museum collections.
- Vikings in the digital realm.

Plenary Speakers TBC

We welcome papers of 20 minutes addressing the issues outlined above for this interdisciplinary conference. Please send a 250 word abstract to earlymedieval@yorkat.co.uk by 4th November 2016.

