



## Case Study 2

### Woodhorn Museum and Archive, Northumberland

#### WHO TOOK PART ?

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Ten young people aged 13-19 took part in the day. The museum's Creative Mentor wanted to make links with venues with young people, so visited the teen bar in a nearby town. She recruited the young people directly from her conversations with them at this drop-in space. Some were so keen to be involved they even lied about their age!

#### WHAT DID THEY DO ?

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The museum had no preconceptions of what they wanted the young people to do. Instead, the starting point was asking the young people what they would like to do. Coming up with all the ideas and working through the suggestions themselves, the group decided to hold their own exhibition and interactive event at the museum, inspired by time travel. Through the county's archive, the young people investigated themes about the past, present and future of Northumberland as well as exploring the links across the region and the world. The young people worked with museum staff to plan and prepare their event, either at the drop-in space or at the museum.

#### HOW DID THEY SPEND THEIR TIME ON THE DAY ?

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- Created artwork for the windows – acrylic overlay
- DJ'd with gramophones throughout the day
- Played a film with soundtrack that they had produced
- Interacted with museum visitors using a paper 'fortune teller' type activity with questions as a conversation prompt

#### WHAT HAPPENED NEXT ?

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The artwork was originally supposed to stay up for six weeks but has been so well received it's now permanently on display at the museum.

The museum has continued to work with the young people who took part; they have been involved in other project work and submitted the application for the Family Friendly Museum Award on behalf of the museum.

'It's made the young people realise that the museum is a friendly space. It's lovely to have them put their stamp on something. It's also raised the confidence of our staff in dealing with young people of this age.'

Takeover Day inspired further work with young people following the event. Seventeen youngsters organised an international fashion show including ten different countries, as well as Northumberland. 120 visitors came to watch the event and the cafe staff made food from all of the different places. In a Heritage Big Brother project, the young people lived in Victorian conditions and used recipes from the archive to cook their own food.