

Grosvenor Museum, Chester

Cheshire West & Chester Council

Discover a Medieval City: Places, Voices, Journeys

4 May – 22 September 2013



DISCOVER A
Medieval City
PLACES · VOICES · JOURNEYS



Cheshire West
and Chester



**DISCOVER a
Medieval City**
PLACES · VOICES · JOURNEYS

THE EXHIBITION

The city of Chester has a rich medieval heritage. It survives in the city's townscape, its medieval collections and in a remarkable body of medieval literature; in Latin, in Welsh, in English. The documents reflect the experiences of diverse cultural and ethnic communities within a dynamic city on the border of England and Wales.

This exhibition explores life in a medieval city, in this case Chester, but reflective of life in general during this period. It investigates the role of religion and in particular the significance of pilgrimage to Chester. It looks at identity, those personal

The exhibition is part of a larger project 'Discover Medieval Chester' focusing on the city and the identities that its inhabitants formed between c.1200 and 1500. It has been developed in partnership with Southampton University, King's College, London, Queen's University, Belfast and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. It draws together material, textual and visual culture to forge connections between the medieval past and the modern urban environment.

For more information visit <http://discover.medievalchester.ac.uk>.

everyday items, such as buckles and brooches, cooking pots and cauldrons, needles and net weights. It uncovers the role of the guilds in trade, along with ornaments of the wealthy, with examples of their jewellery and tableware. Most importantly it displays an array of magnificent documents, which more than anything paint a picture of Chester, its visitors and citizens; from the manuscripts produced and kept at the Abbey of St Werburgh and the scripts of the Mystery Plays maintained by the guilds, to the poems of the Welsh, who reflect on the men of Chester, weak beer and their love of St John's Church and its Holy Rood.



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Medieval City**
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EVENTS

**Saturday 4 May
Exhibition Tour,
Discover a Medieval
City
Grosvenor Museum,
Gallery 1
2-3pm**

Free
Join the curator of the exhibition to discover more about its background, the objects displayed and medieval Chester.



**Tuesday 14 May
Pots, Pins, Rattles
and Rings: The
Medieval Collections
of Cheshire West
Museums
Grosvenor Museum,
Lecture Theatre
2-3pm**

Free
Join our Collections and Interpretation Officer to discover more about the fantastic medieval collection cared for by the museum service.

**Saturday 18 May and
Sunday 19 May, Saturday
22 and Sunday 23 June,
Saturday 13 and Sunday
14 July, Saturday 10 and
Sunday 11 August
Discover the
Medieval Towers
Water Tower and King
Charles Tower, City
Walls
11am- 4pm**

Free drop in
Discover these hidden treasures of Chester and find out more about their medieval past. Children's activities will help bring these buildings to life for the younger visitor.



**Monday 27 May
Make a Medieval
Pilgrim Badge
Grosvenor Museum,
Newstead Gallery
2-4pm**
Free drop in
Create your own pilgrim badge as a souvenir of your visit to the medieval Chester exhibition.



**Tuesday 28 May
Make a Medieval
Pouch
Grosvenor Museum,
Newstead Gallery
2-4pm**

Free drop in
Create your own medieval pouch or purse to keep your pennies safe and secure.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton

**KING'S
College
LONDON**

Digital Humanities

**Cheshire West
and Chester**

**Queen's University
Belfast**

**grosvenor
museum
chester**

**DISCOVER
MIDWINTER CHESTER**

**Arts & Humanities
Research Council**

Wednesday 29 May
Discover Medieval Chester

Grosvenor Museum
11am-4pm

Free drop in

Meet some colourful characters and learn more about life in medieval Chester.

Thursday 30 May
Try some Medieval writing

Grosvenor Museum, Newstead Gallery
2-4pm

Free drop in

Use a quill pen and ink and try your hand at a calligraphy letter.



Friday 31 May
Decorate a tile Medieval style!

Grosvenor Museum, Newstead Gallery
2-4pm

Free drop in

Decorate a tile with medieval designs.

Tuesday 4 June
Pilgrimage in Medieval Cheshire

Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
2-3pm

Free

Chester was a centre of pilgrimage, with the shrine of St Werburgh and the Holy Rood of Chester. This illustrated presentation explores these medieval journeys through images, costume, music and artefacts.



Saturday 15 June
Minstrels' Court
St John's Church, Chester (next to the amphitheatre)

10.30am-5pm

Free drop in

Discover an ancient tradition, where the minstrels of Cheshire were given their licenses to play for the year ahead; with music, dance, storytelling and lots of characters bringing medieval Chester to life.

Saturday 15 June
Merrie Musicke with the Minstrels

St John's Church, Chester (next to the amphitheatre)
7.30-9.30pm

Tickets £5, available on the door, or reserve a place by e-mailing grosvenor.museum@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Join renowned Tudor musicians Piva, and Chester's own 'Time Bandits' along with many other minstrels for lively music from medieval times performed on a range of period instruments in the atmospheric setting of Chester's oldest church.



Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 June
Midsummer Watch Parade

Starting from Town Hall Square
2pm

Free event, www.midsummerwatch.co.uk

First performed in 1498, the Midsummer Watch Parade is one of Britain's oldest and most colourful street parades. It includes a cast of up to 500 with pride of place going to Chester's unique 'Family of Giants' the Father, Mother and two daughters; towering 4 metre figures.



26 June - 13 July
Chester Mystery Plays

Chester Cathedral
Monday - Saturday at 7.30pm, Saturday matinee at 1pm

Tickets from £12 from www.chestermysteryplays.com or 01244 500959

A rare and treasured part of Britain's cultural heritage, the Chester Mystery Plays are performed every five years by a community cast of hundreds! Guaranteed to enrapture, astound and delight, iconic Bible stories are transformed into a truly spectacular, dynamic theatrical experience through tales of ambition, intrigue, betrayal and passion.



Tuesday 2 July
Life in Medieval Chester

Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
2-3pm

Free

Join Jane Laughton, author of 'Life in a Late Medieval City', and be introduced to some townsmen and women who lived in Chester in the 15th century. Learn where they lived, how they made their living, what they ate, what they wore and how they did (or didn't) get on.



Monday 22 July
Calligraphy Workshop for Adults

Chester Library
10am-1pm

£5, materials included, book your place at the museum shop or ring 01244 972112 and pay on the day

Based on writing from the medieval manuscripts displayed as part of the exhibition, you will have the opportunity to have a go at calligraphy and illumination using gold leaf.

Monday 22 & Friday 26
July
Mystery Play City Tour
**Meet at the Grosvenor
Museum**
11am-12.30pm

£6, £5 concession, book
your place at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112
and pay on the day

Discover the city of the
Mystery plays with a
member of the Guild of
Chester Tour Guides.



Monday 22 July
**Welsh Poetry
Reading**
**St John's Church (next
to the amphitheatre)**
2-3.30pm

Free
Welsh poet Aled Lewis
Evans has worked on the
Discover Medieval Chester
project, exploring the
theme of borders with the
Hoole Creative Writing
group and Chester stories
with children from St
Anthony's RC Primary
School, Saltney, whilst
also creating his own work
for the exhibition.
Come to this atmospheric
setting to hear him read
some of the medieval
works and his own poetry
in Welsh and English.



Tuesday 23 July
**Medieval Chester
City Tour**
**Meet at the Grosvenor
Museum**
11am-12.30pm

£6, £5 concession, book
your place at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112
and pay on the day

We think of Chester as
being a Roman city, but
much of its medieval past
remains. Discover this
history with a member of
the Guild of Chester Tour
Guides.



Tuesday 23 July
**Deciphering the
Cityscape**
**Cheshire Record Office,
Duke Street, Chester**
2-4pm

£5, book in person at the
Record Office (Tuesdays to
Fridays) or telephone
01244 972559 to book and
pay by card

Journey through Chester's
medieval streets, learning
to read the 16th century
handwriting of the city's
first Assembly Book.

Wednesday 24 July
Cathedral Tour
**Meet at Chester
Cathedral Visitor
Entrance**
11am-12.30pm

£6.50, book your place at
the museum shop or ring
01244 972112 and pay on
the day

Chester Cathedral has an
extraordinary story to tell
and this tour will look at
how it has developed over
the centuries, resulting in
the amazing structure that
we see today. You will
also see the grave slab of
Ranulf Higden, author of
the Polychronicon, which
features in the exhibition at
the museum.



Wednesday 24 July
**Chester Cathedral
Library Tour**
**Chester Cathedral
Library (near the
Abbey Gateway)**
2-4pm

£5, £4 concession, book
your place at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112
and pay on the day

Discover this hidden gem
at the cathedral-take a
tour of the library and a
look at its displays.

Thursday 25 July
Mapping Workshop
**Grosvenor Museum,
Education Workroom**
10am-12noon

£5, £4 concession, book
and pay at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112
What do maps tell us
about the past?

This workshop, led by
Dr Keith Lilley from
Queen's University,
Belfast, will reveal how
maps contain many hidden
histories of medieval
Chester.

Thursday 25 July
**Discover Medieval
Chester City Tour**
**Meet at the Grosvenor
Museum**
2-4pm

£5, £4 concession, book
and pay at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112

Meet the academic team
who have worked on the
Discover Medieval Chester
project and join them for a
tour of the city.



Thursday 25 July
**Discover Medieval
Chester: Lecture**
**Grosvenor Museum,
Lecture Theatre**
7-9pm

£5, £4 concession, book
and pay at the museum
shop or ring 01244 972112

Join Professor Catherine
Clarke from the University
of Southampton to explore
fascinating historic
sources from medieval
Chester, as well as the
modern tools used by the
'Discover Medieval
Chester' research team to
analyse and publish them.
How do we turn a medieval
manuscript into an
interactive online text?
What technology allows
you to stand at St John's
and hear the church
described in the words of a
twelfth-century monk?
And how did the project
team go about creating a
computer game out of the
medieval sources? Come
and discover more about
medieval Chester – and
what happens when the
medieval goes digital...



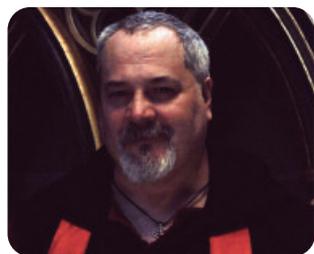
Friday 26 July
Medieval Chester at the Water Tower
Water Tower, City Walls
11am-4pm

Free
Discover some medieval characters and the history of this tower at a time when it sat beside the port of Chester.



Saturday 27 July
Discover Medieval Chester
Grosvenor Museum
11am-4pm

Free
Discover some medieval characters and learn more about life as it would have been in the city, with activities at the museum and in the castle.



Saturday 27 July
Piggery Jokery by Hand to Mouth Theatre
Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
11-11.30am, 12.30-1pm, 2-2.30pm

Free, but please collect your ticket from reception for each performance as places are limited

Full of history and fun, this unique puppet theatre will entertain and amuse you.

Saturday 27 July
Medieval Chester City Tour
Meet at the Grosvenor Museum
2-3.30pm

£6, £5 concession, book your place at the museum shop or ring 01244 972112 and pay on the day

We think of Chester as being a Roman city, but much of its medieval past remains. Discover this history with a member of the Guild of Chester Tour Guides.

Saturday 27 July
Walls Tour
Meet at the Town Hall
2-3.30pm
£6, £5 concession, book at Visitor Information Centre or online at www.visitchester.com

Take a tour of the impressive city walls with a member of the Guild of Chester Tour Guides.



Friday 2 August
Cheshire Myths and Legends
Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
2-3pm

Free
Join our medieval storyteller as he tells you mysterious tales and folklore from Cheshire.



Tuesday 6, 13, 20 & 27 and Wednesday 7, 14, 21 & 28 August
Family Activities @ What's the Story?
Chester Cathedral, South Transept
10am-12noon, 1-3pm

No entrance charge to the Cathedral for families taking part in this free activity

In the colourful surroundings of the Community Art Project, make puppets and explore storytelling just like the Mystery Players of medieval Chester made the stories of the Bible come to life.

Wednesday 7 August
Defending a Medieval City
Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
11am-4pm

Free
Join some colourful medieval characters and discover more about unrest and defence in medieval Chester.



Wednesday 14 August
Trouvère – The Instrumentarium
Grosvenor Museum, Lecture Theatre
Free, but please collect your ticket from reception for each performance as places are limited

Roll up for a musical history tour with the Trouvère Medieval Minstrels! Try out an amazing array of musical instruments and discover some wonderful sounds of the Middle Ages:

11am - A tour through time from Saxon to Tudor music
12.30pm – Attention please! Fanfares and noisy music making

2pm – Stepping Out, music and dance in the Middle Ages
3.30pm – Sweet Harmony, the gentler side of medieval music



Wednesday 21 August
The Journey Man – 'Lord, have Mercia!'
Grosvenor Museum, Gallery 1
11am-12noon, 1-2pm, 2.30-3.30pm

Free
Ever wondered what those saints did to be remembered by the churches in Cheshire? Join the Journey Man as he shares, with reverent humour, the tales gathered from his story hunting pilgrimage. Listen to the incredible, but inspiring stories of those saints who touched the mysterious lands of Mercia.



**Wednesday 28 August
Richard and Elizabeth
York – Medieval
Music**

**Grosvenor Museum,
Lecture Theatre
11am-12noon, 1-2 pm,
2.30-3.30pm**

Free, but please collect your ticket from reception for each performance as places are limited

Meet and hear a huge collection of instruments, from portative organ, to pipe and tabor, to bagpipes, from harps to hurdy gurdy, to hautbois, and many more, and play some too, to experience some of the rich medieval variety of sounds. Elizabeth and Richard mix performance, entertaining explanations and chances to participate. There may even be chances to dance too!



**Friday 30 August
Herbs and Remedies
in a Medieval City**

**Grosvenor Museum,
Lecture Theatre
2-3pm**

Free

Learn more about the doctrine of signatures, the properties of herbs and some of the folklore associated with these plants.



**Monday 9 September
Turrets and
Battlements: The
Fortifications of
North Wales and
Cheshire in Art**

**Grosvenor Museum,
Lecture Theatre
2-3pm**

Free

The great medieval castles of North Wales and Chester's city walls are among the finest in the British Isles, while Cheshire can boast some fine Gothic Revival castles and Chester Castle is one of the masterpieces of the Greek Revival. This lecture explores the region's fortifications as depicted by artists over the past three centuries.

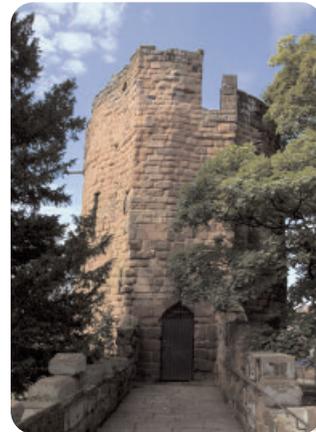
**Saturday 14 and Sunday
15 September**

**Heritage Open Days
The Water Tower and
King Charles Tower,
City Walls**

11am-4pm

Free

Discover some medieval characters and learn more about these magnificent towers set on Chester's historic walls.



**Every Sunday, Monday &
Tuesday, May – October
Secret Chester Tour**

**Meet at Visitor
Information Centre,
Town Hall Square
2-3.30pm**

£6, £5 concession, book at Visitor Information Centre, online at www.visitchester.com or pay the guide on the day.

Discover some of the hidden glories of the city with a member of the Guild of Chester Tour Guides. Sunday Tour: North Wall, King Charles Tower, Water Tower, Port and Shropshire Union Canal. Monday Tour: Chester Castle, Bridgegate, River Dee, Grosvenor Park and St John's Church. Tuesday Tour: West Wall, Watergate, Racecourse, Chester Castle and St Michael's Church.





Grosvenor Museum Grosvenor Street Chester CH1 2DD

Admission free Monday-Saturday 10.30am-5pm, Sunday 1-4pm

01244 972197 www.grosvenormuseum.co.uk

Access Issues, Grosvenor Museum

Full independent access to the ground floor including the Discover Medieval Chester exhibition, Lecture Theatre, Newstead Gallery and accessible toilet.