

Grantham Museum

By Lucy Williams

Grantham Museum can be regarded as a hidden treasure, often unknown to most residents of Grantham. It shouldn't come as a surprise, however, as Grantham's memorable historical figures and even lesser-known historical town itself, is one of the town's main selling factors, with tourists even coming to visit it now and then primarily for its historical countenance. Therefore, Grantham having its very own museum shouldn't be as such a surprise as it is. It's not necessarily a hidden location either, rather hidden in plain sight in the heart of the town by the **Guildhall Arts Centre, and open from Thursday to Friday between 10am and 4pm, and free (donations welcome) and no need to book.**

Within the museum itself, amongst various of smaller displays, it contains three main exhibits depicting Grantham's most memorable figures; Sir Isaac Newton, Edith Smith, and of course, Margaret Thatcher. Curated around a one-way system - although really, you can walk around as you like - it's designed to be able to guide guests around information and tell stories, with the exhibits depicting scenes of their related figure's life and their relations to the town.

The Isaac Newton exhibit, for example, is designed for children, built with interactive stations and touch screens to make it easier and more entertaining to gain information, alongside a colouring station. The Isaac Newton and Margaret Thatcher sections even include re-enactment displays relating to how they lived, including Margaret Thatcher's entire childhood bedroom. This reflects a great effort into making sure that the exhibits are easy to understand and interesting to visitors, as well demonstrating dedication to the figures and preserving their humanity.

Grantham Museum's range of interactive and touchable artifacts and exhibits are an aspect that I think other museums may lack in due to the



need to keep things priceless. However, this does not denote the authenticity of the museum's artifacts, as its most valuable pieces (for example, a dress from Margaret Thatcher's Soviet Union wardrobe) are kept clean and protected, and fully

viewable to visitors. The interactive ability of the museum makes it a prime location for children, with a child's need to touch and feel to understand not being something Museum shies away from, but rather encourages. From this aspect of the museum alone it creates a more welcoming feeling to visitors, not treating the place as something that must be viewed, but can rather be experienced and cherished by the Grantham community. Like many of these buildings that specifically cater to the public, Grantham Museum, a registered charity, is known to hold many events and activities throughout the year to enjoy alongside a visit, with full lectures surrounding Grantham and Lincolnshire's history being held monthly, as well as Gordan's talk club held every week. These of course, are also able to be experienced and there's also the Friend to Grantham Museum membership (£25 individual, £40 joint).

Although possibly a little less known to most, Grantham Museum proves to have open arms to the Grantham community, and to the best of its ability preserves the town's historical interest for anyone to enjoy.