

**Case Study Title:** Dambusters – education sessions at Grantham Museum

**Organisation name:** Grantham Museum

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### **Starting position for the museum:**

Grantham Museum has recently undergone a lot of changes, since leaving the local authority and becoming a Community Museum in 2011; it's hoped that education and learning will be at the heart of the museum's development in the years ahead.

The museum benefits from a dedicated group of volunteers and trustees who were keen to get started on work with young people, but who needed some help from MDEM to develop learning ideas, based on the museum's collection.

### **Problems, overcoming issues & lessons learnt**

The museum worked closely with MDEM's programme facilitator to develop a learning session - in order to find a topic that would engage primary-aged pupils, the museum decided to play to its strength and utilise the Dambusters collection. This also allowed the museum to capitalise on the recent Dambusters anniversary, as well as to link up with other museums celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raid, commanded from Grantham.

The Dambusters session acted as a trial, with the museum manager working hard to chase up school contacts, organise resources and mobilise volunteers. The learning session re-created a 'flight briefing session' with museum volunteers taking the role of flight officers and school students making up the flight crew. The objects and displays were used to brief the 'flight crew' about the importance of the mission, the risks involved and impact on people and the Second World War as a whole. Following the briefing, the young people had the chance to take part in creative art activities based on the Dambusters and Grantham's role in the raid.

The museum learned that successful and rewarding learning sessions with young people take quite a lot of organising, but that the effort can be rewarded with good feedback from students and teachers. Volunteers have many skills and are often keen to share their knowledge and experience with young people; learning sessions and work with young people need not be expensive.

**What's changed / what difference has been made?:**

Grantham Museum is well on their way to establishing good relationships with schools in the town and surrounding villages; the museum manager can use the evaluation with students and teachers to help them plan future activities, keeping learning and young people at the heart of their development.

**Best bits and inspirations:**

The moment the 'penny dropped' about how we might use the collection with primary-aged children; seeing the volunteers work together for the success of the session.

**EVIDENCE: PROJECT CASE STUDY IMAGES**

*Images that have been taken before, during and after the project was completed*