

# Charmed Learning Package

*Supporting the 'Fears, Foes & Faeries'  
exhibition*

23 March—30 September 2012

Dear Teachers

Scarborough Art Gallery will be opening its doors and asking pupils to face their fears and understand the power of belief and superstition in the 'Fears, Foes & Faeries' exhibition. The exhibition is the culmination of a three year project that is part of Stories of the World—one of the projects at the heart of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad.

The new 'Charmed' Learning Package offers teachers the opportunity to engage their pupils in the collection of charms and amulets collected by William James Clarke, a Scarborough natural historian and curator of the Rotunda Museum during the First World War. The collection of tiny objects featured were used as tools to protect and to cure their owner—moles feet for the cure of toothache; a fox's tongue to avert witchcraft and a caul to protect fishermen from drowning, are amongst the fascinating collection of over 500 charms and amulets.

The new learning package contains pre-exhibition workshops (20 Feb—16 Mar) and allows you to invite the Learning Team into your school for pupils to create charms and to bestow modern-day meanings to our current collection. **To engage your pupils further, we are also offering schools a free 20—30 minute interactive assembly during this period (20 Feb—16 Mar, 9—11am / Booking essential). We'll be bringing charms and stories to life and asking your pupils to think about their own beliefs and those of people in the past.**

Our cross-curricular workshops on offer during the exhibition are available to book every Tuesday—Thursday. Drawing upon the success of last year's 'Shakespeare in Scarborough' workshop, we will be offering a new drama workshop based on *Macbeth* allowing pupils to rewrite the words of the three 'weird sisters'. Our other witch workshop offers pupils the chance to determine what makes a good witch using characters from popular children's stories. There will also be the chance for pupils to develop illustrations using our collection of natural history specimens and to understand how charms were used alongside medicine as cures for a multitude of illnesses in our 'Charmacy'.

As well as our new workshops, self guided visits are also available for schools to explore the exhibition further. A free printed trail is available for schools who have pre-booked a workshop.

The Learning Team are hosting a preview on **Wednesday 21 March, 4.30—5.30pm** at Scarborough Art Gallery. On the night there will be a chance to take an introductory tour of the galleries; hear about the new 'Charmed' Learning Package and take a sneaky look at the new exhibition..

Please RSVP by Friday 16 March to confirm your

If you would like to book your class onto one of the workshops or to discuss the Learning Package further, please contact the Learning Team on 01723 384511 or [learning@smtrust.uk.com](mailto:learning@smtrust.uk.com).

Regards

*La read*

Image: *William James Clarke with a Squid at Scalby Mills*



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