

**Annual Conference
18 and 19 June 2015**

**Social History
Curators Group**



**The Silk Mill, Derby Museums (Derby)
and Millennium Galleries, Sheffield Museums (Sheffield)**

Call for contributions

The **Social History Curators Group** is a membership organisation dedicated to improving the status and provision of social history in museums and the standards of collections, research, display and interpretation. Our annual conference aims to facilitate the sharing of skills and experiences, and provoke debate around a current theme affecting our members through presentations, interactive workshops and tours.

This year's theme is:

A Toast to the Future! New ways of engaging

Social history practitioners have led the way in developing innovative methods to actively engage the public with our collections. Participatory practice, new methods of public engagement and innovating storytelling are key in an increasingly digital world where many museum collections are at our fingertips. How are practitioners responding to the need to provide new, fresh, innovative and exciting ways of engaging with museum collections?

SHCG believes there is a great deal to learn from the successes, failures and insights of each other's work and would like to invite proposals from across the museum and cultural sector that broadly reflect thinking around the conference theme.

The following questions are for guidance only, but proposals should deliver thought provoking insight, showcase innovative ideas, reveal 'how to' or share stories of what not to do.

1. What examples are there of museums pushing the boundaries through innovative public engagement, creating new and exciting work and widening the impact of social history collections?
2. Embracing the digital- what can we learn from current projects using collections in new ways online? Are we engaging with more people or alienating our traditional visitors?
3. The future of engagement- a brave new world or a huge challenge? What's next for social history collections?

4. Curating in partnership- Who are we curating with and for? Has this changed the role of the curator? What are the challenges?
5. Tumblr. Twitter. Instagram. Whatsapp. Facebook. Trello. How has the increased use of social media affected the practitioner's role and what innovative examples can we learn from.
6. How can practitioners communicate current challenges that society and museums face ethically and responsibly? In light of this, how can we advocate more effectively for the work we do?

Please fill in the proposal form and return it to Jemma Conway and Verity Smith, Conference Organisers **by Friday 30 January 2015.**