

Nick Bell Design

**Exhibition
design,
wayfinding
and graphic
interiors.**



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We are visual communicators. We design for three-dimensional interactive environments.

We provide the following services:
interpretation design, wayfinding and signage, graphic interior design, interaction design and design for audio/visual media.

We work with architects or interior designers or 3D designers to help design museums, galleries, exhibitions, visitor centres, cultural attractions, wayfinding systems, graphic installations.

We have specialised in this field for over 15 years. During that time, awards include a DBA Design Effectiveness Gold Award, three D&AD Yellow Pencils and three Design Week Winners.

We have collaborated with the following
interior design and architecture practices:

Casson Mann

Hassell

Abell Nepp

John McAslan + Partners

Nord Architecture

Terry Farrell and Partners

Nissen Richards Studio

Metaphor

Nick Coombe Architecture

Tony Fretton Architects

ZMMA

Gustafson Porter

Jo White Design Consultants

Urban Mesh

muf architecture/art

Azman Architects

We would like to work with more.

We have collaborated on projects for the following institutions:

Barbican Centre
British Council
British Nuclear Fuels
English Heritage
Horus, Moscow
Imperial War Museum
Manchester Museum
Museum of Islamic Art, Doha
National Park Service, USA
National Maritime Museum
National Portrait Gallery
National Trust
Natural History Museum
Newcastle University
Science Museum
Tate Britain
Tyne & Wear Museums
Victoria & Albert Museum
Wellcome Trust
Wellcome Trust Genome Campus

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Recent work



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**Exhibition
design**

—

Recent work

First World War Galleries Imperial War Museum

Graphic interpretation design that determines the graphic look and feel for the entire gallery. The exhibition tries to tell the story of the First World War through the testimonies of those that experienced it. The typographic shaping of these important voices, investing them with a physical status to compete with attention grabbing objects and images, was the crux of the challenge.

Part of IWM's regeneration plan. Opened on the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. A collaboration with Casson Mann.




It was not only
a slaughter. It
was a dastardly
slaughter.

On the morning of September 17, 1862, the Union Army of the Potomac fought the Battle of Antietam against the Confederate Army of the North. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a turning point in the war. It was the first time that the Confederates were stopped from invading the North. The battle was also the bloodiest in American history, with over 22,000 soldiers killed or wounded.

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Total war

A gas cylinder with red and white bands and a gas mask with a yellow filter and blue body are visible on the left side of the image.

A dozen men—all
gassed
—their colours were
black, green and blue,
tongues hanging
out and eyes staring.

Lance Sergeant
Elmer Cotton
5th Northumberland
Fusiliers, 1915

To break the trench deadlock,
the armies on the Western Front
tried a new weapon, poison gas.

In April 1915 the Germans released a cloud
of chlorine gas on Allied troops at Ypres.
The Allies were horrified.
Yet in September, at Loos,
the British launched their own gas attack.

As the war went on, the use of gas intensified.
Was poison gas effective?

Soldiers feared gas.
Chlorine and phos-
mustard gas.
But

They are here!

Pitiful crowds...

frightened looks,
depressed posture...

One woman is holding
a child in her arms —
it died on the way.

Virginie Loveling
Belgian writer
19 August 1914

The man the nation wants...

a man who can
organise the country
for victory.

The Daily Mirror
on Lloyd George
8 December 1916

In 1916 both Britain and Germany
turned to new leaders
to break the deadlock.
These men were determined
to win at any cost.

Paul von Hindenburg and Erich Ludendorff,
heroes of the fighting on the Eastern Front,
became Germany's military leaders.

What happened in Britain?

David Lloyd George ousted
Prime Minister Herbert Asquith,
who was criticised for lacking
the dynamism to lead the country
to a decisive victory.

Lloyd George created a small, all-party
war cabinet to make major decisions.
He set up new ministries to control
the war effort and brought in
successful businessmen to run them.

This new system of government
meant a new determination
to defeat Germany once and for all.

At all costs

LLOYD GEORGE'S MESSAGE TO AUSTRALIA

ON TAKING UP THE HIGH OFFICE WITH WHICH
HIS MAJESTY HAS CHARGED ME I SEND TO YOU
ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF THE OLD COUNTRY
A MESSAGE TO OUR BROTHERS BEYOND THE
SEAS.

THERE IS NO FALTERING IN OUR DETERMINATION
THAT THE SACRIFICES WHICH WE AND YOU HAVE MADE
AND HAVE STILL TO MAKE SHALL NOT BE IN VAIN,
AND THAT THE FIGHT WHICH WE ARE WAGING TOGETHER
FOR HUMANITY AND CIVILISATION SHALL BE FOUGHT
TO A TRIUMPHANT ISSUE.

WE SHALL NEED EVERY MAN THAT WE CAN PUT
IN THE FIELD, EVERY PRISONER THAT PUBLIC AND
PRIVATE ECONOMY CAN PROVIDE, AND EVERY EFFORT
WHICH A UNITED PEOPLE CAN PUT FORTH TO HELP
IN THE HEAVY TASK OF OUR SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

THE SPECTACULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMON
CAUSE ALREADY MADE BY THE DOMINIONS GIVE US
SURE CONFIDENCE THAT THEIR DETERMINATION IS NO
LESS HIGH THAN OURS, AND THAT HEREWEVER LONG
THE PATH TO FINAL VICTORY WE SHALL TREAD IT
SIDE BY SIDE.

8000 Wordsworth, 1916

ENLIST! AND HELP YOUR AUSTRALIAN COMRADES

At all costs

As 1916 drew to a close,
there was still no sign of victory.
New leaders urged their weary citizens
to work even harder.
Total war on the battlefield
meant total war on the home front.

Nobody in Britain could escape the impact of war.
Women kept the country going, filling jobs
usually done by their fathers, brothers and sons.
Even children played their part in the war effort.

Britain itself was coming under attack.
German aircraft bombed people in their homes.
German submarines attacked ships
bringing food and supplies.
There was armed rebellion in Dublin.
But America's entry into the war
offered new hope for Britain and its allies.



This War
is not a soldier's
or a civilian's war,
but
the whole
nation's war.

By 1917 the British people were suffering
the heaviest burden of war,
but remained determined to win.

No more men were called away to the front,
women, men and children,
took their place in the war effort.

Behind the war effort women were employed
in factories, in shops, in offices,
in every branch of the war effort.

New men worked in war industries,
in farms and in offices,
helping to win the war.

People gave money to aid the war effort,
they donated to gas charities,
and saved funds for weapons.

During 1917 the spirit of war
was inspiring to all,
in every part of the war effort,
in every branch of the war effort.



If war was once
a chivalrous duel,
it is now

**a dastardly
slaughter.**

Artur von Bolfrás
Austrian general
September 1914

For the first time, soldiers were exposed
to the deadly power of modern weapons
in a war that reached across Europe.

The armies of 1914 counted on a quick
and glorious campaign.
Some still had colourful uniforms,
lances and swords.

But rifle and machine gun bullets and
shrapnel balls from massed, modern artillery
were into advancing troops.

How could they know how deadly
it could be?

...by their own strength alone,
they will not be able to maintain
their world-empire against
**so many
antagonists.**

Friedrich von Holstein
Head of the German Foreign Office
1901



I placed my soul and body
in God's keeping,
and I am
**going
into battle**
with His name on my lips.

Second Lieutenant
John Sherwin Engall
30 June 1916

7.30am on Saturday 1 July 1916.
British troops
emerged from their trenches
and advance across no man's land
towards the German lines.

The attack was a disaster.
Within a few hours,
many of them were killed and
many were listed as wounded or missing.

The British attack failed
in many sectors of their front.
The attack was a major success.

Why were the British losses so terrible?

The British bombardment
was the biggest yet, the shelling
was so intense that it battered over too wide an area.

Most of the front,
did not destroy German guns,
through dense barbed wire
to well-protected dugouts.
The 'duds' which did not explode.

Printed by the Victoria House Printing Co., Ltd., Tudor Street, London, E.C.

Everywhere
Lord Kitchener
sternly points
a monstrously big finger,
exclaiming
'I Want You'.

Michael MacDonagh
journalist
3 January 1915

Machines against men

In 1917 Britain's army
looked increasingly to machines to win the war.
Britain developed new weapons.
It found ways to make guns
even more destructive.

It taught closer teamwork between soldiers
and the crews of guns, tanks and planes.

Yet new ways of fighting
did not bring victory.
War on the Western Front
became even more costly and destructive.
Soldiers fought in landscapes
devastated by shellfire.
A massive British offensive around Ypres
became bogged down in mud.
It was called off with the capture
of a village called Passchendaele.

One
**murderous
instrument**

with which

we have the advantage
is the big trench mortar.

Karl Josenhans
German soldier
9 November 1914

to take the places of men in the front line. Many of them were women who left their pre-war jobs to become 'munitionettes'.

All these additional quantities of shells factories. and this front line. Without this alliance between factory and front, worker and soldier, there could be no victory.

Feeding the Front



David Lloyd George proved a great success as the first Minister of Munitions. Energetic, determined, innovative, but also self-promoting and unpopulated in his figure and 'Punch' magazine cartoon. In his year in office, shell deliveries rose nearly five-fold. In June 1916 Lloyd George would succeed Kitchener as war minister following Kitchener's death when the ship in which he was travelling struck a mine.

Government munition production rose to war levels. Munition and shell production rose to war levels. In June 1916, 100,000 shells were produced in the year from June 1915. In December 1916, 100,000 shells were produced in the year from June 1915. Factories also had to produce munition from the year from June 1915.

In the first five months of the war, munition production had increased significantly, but not enough. In May 1915 BEF commander Sir John French blamed Lord Kitchener's War Office for a shell shortage which he insisted had led to the failure of an attack at Aubers Ridge. The press went into a frenzy over the 'shell scandal'. In the aftermath, Prime Minister Herbert Asquith dissolved his Liberal government. He formed an all-party coalition to oversee Britain's full mobilisation and organisation for war.

A dozen men - all gassed - their colours were black, green and blue, trousers hanging, ear and eyes staring.

DEFENCE OF THE REALM CONSOLIDATION REGULATIONS CARRIER PIGEONS.

WARNING. Defence of the Realm BE ON YOUR GUARD.

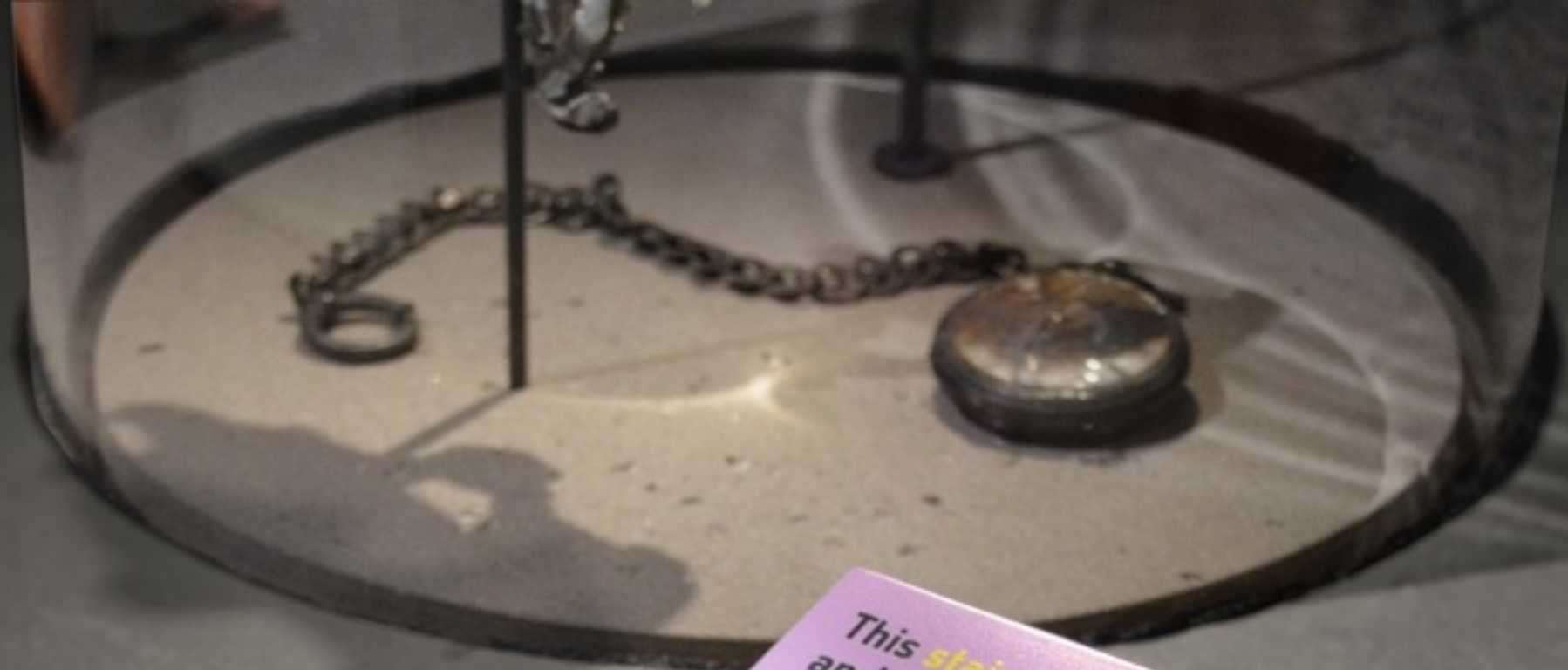
DEFENCE OF THE REALM ALLOTMENTS.

IMPORDER OF THE REALM ALTERED OF 7

THE SEN

HERBERT ASQUITH

The nation has let us down



This **stained glass fragment**
and **watch** are souvenirs of the
German bombardment of Reims
cathedral in France.

The cathedral, where France's
kings were once crowned,
was being used as a makeshift
hospital by the French Army.

The watch was taken from a
German soldier killed in the
shelling. He had been treated
for his wounds by French medics
at the cathedral.



**Fierce,
stabbing,
throttling fights
ended in
one or other being finished off**

in silence.

British war reporter, 1916

With cigarettes in their mouths
for the lighting of their
Jam-tin
bombs
they drove back over
thirty Huns.
British officer, 1915





Now I must confront man.
My fellow creature...

Eye for eye,
tooth for tooth.
Just the two of us now.

A punch, a stab.
Without mercy.

French soldier, 1918



A cogged circlet of iron,

guaranteed to

crush

the hardest of

Square-head skulls.

British war reporter, 1916

You've got a future now...
And so have I.
I wonder what we will do with it,
and what it will be like...
**things are
not going to be
the same
as they were before.**

Lieutenant Richard Nixon
reporting comments made
by his commanding officer
1918

Claude Friese-Greene's
'The Open Road', a series of
short films, took cinema-goers
on a journey through Britain.

This edit lasts for seven minutes.
'The Open Road' was completed
in 1926. That year a nine-day
General Strike gripped Britain.
Cabinet minister Winston
Churchill proposed using troops
if 'the situation threatens to go
out of control'.

But the revolutionary fervour
the government so feared after
the war never materialised.

Nelson, Navy, Nation

National Maritime Museum

The gallery tells the story, from 1688-1815, of how the Royal Navy, with Nelson centre stage, shaped everyday lives, became a central part of society and cemented Britain's place in the world.

Period references, (port bottle label typography, maritime map illustration), given a modern graphic re-drafting, provide the graphic interpretation with a visual identity very much all its own born directly from its content. A look and feel that is a refreshing break from NMM's institutional voice that dominates the rest of the Museum – a visual specificity that adds to the sense of immersion in the gallery.

The graphic interpretation design sets a new standard in quality and accessible engagement at the Museum. A collaboration with Casson Mann.

The story of the Royal Navy
and the British people, 1688–1815

Nelson Navy Nation





The story of the Royal Navy
and the British people, 1688–1815

Nelson Navy Nation

Supplying the dockyards

9,500

tonnes of meat a year
from across Britain
to feed the fleet

4,500

tonnes of wood to build
a 74-gun warship

11,100

tonnes of bread a year
from across Britain
to feed the Navy

Wood from the Baltic

- Royal dockyards
- Food for the Navy
- Weapons manufacture
- Wood for shipbuilding

Wood from North America

Materials for gunpowder

Figures shown are a wartime average from 1689-1800

Routes into the Navy

People who joined the Royal Navy during the 18th century were usually volunteers. Most came from around the British coast but there were also men from many different countries.

For some a naval career promised adventure. For others the benefits were more clear-cut: wages, food, shelter and the prospect of a pension if injured.

There was also the attraction of prize money, which was paid to crews who captured enemy vessels.

In wartime, large numbers of men were also forced into the Navy against their will by impressment ('the press gang').

VOLUNTEERS
God Save the King.
ROYAL TARS
OF OLD ENGLAND
Lieut. W. J. Stephens
At his Residence, SHOREHAM



Try Dock with worksheets

Try Dock with worksheets
This Dock with worksheets
includes a map of the Dock
and a list of the Dock's
features. The map shows the
Dock's location in the city
and the list of features
includes the Dock's history,
its architecture, and its
current use.

Map

The map shows the Dock's location in the city and the list of features includes the Dock's history, its architecture, and its current use.

History

The Dock was built in the 17th century and was used for the storage of goods. It was later used as a shipyard and is now a museum.

Architecture

The Dock is a fine example of 17th-century architecture. It features a large central hall with a high ceiling and a series of smaller rooms on the sides.

Current Use

The Dock is now a museum and is open to the public. It houses a collection of historical artifacts and is a popular destination for visitors to the city.

Dockyard

Life on board

Conditions below decks for the Navy's lower ranks were always crowded. Men from Britain and around the world ate, slept and relaxed in the same cramped space, alongside rows of ship's guns and lines of hammocks.

Life on board was also ordered. At its heart was the 'mess', a group of six or eight men who shared a table at mealtimes and socialized together when off duty. The loyalties formed within these small communities were an important part of naval life.

Rank and responsibility

100-gun
ship of the line:
837 men

1%

Commissioned
Officers

Admiral
Captain
Lieutenants



1%

Warrant
Officers

Master
Purser
Surgeon
Boatswain
Gunner
Carpenter



14%

Inferior and
Petty Officers

Including:
Armourer
Cook
Gunsmith
Sailmaker
Schoolmaster
Master-at-Arms
Midshipmen
Coxswain
Quartermasters
Gunners mates



20%

Royal
Marines

Officers
and men



64%

'The
People'

Able seamen
Ordinary seamen
Landrumen
Servants
Boys



Over 9,500 men

ing



nk and
ponsibility

100-gun
ship of the line:
837 men

196

19%

14%

Indirect and
Petty Claims

20%

Flanagan
M.A., Ph.D.

64%

The
Penguin

'The crew of a man of war
is divided into little communities...
These eat and drink together,
and are, as it were, so many families.'

Sampson Leach, sailor,
published 1843

Sargent Leach, sailor,
published 1843



An age of conflict



1801-1815

Aglobal force



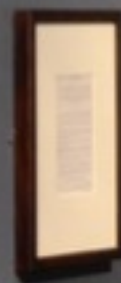
Aglobal force
The age with France's naval power was over. The Royal Navy was now the dominant force in the world, and it was the only one that could project its power across the globe.

Beyond Trafalgar
Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar did not end the war with France. Although Britain extended its command of the oceans, the French were still expanding their empire in Europe.
Ten more years of bitter conflict followed on land and sea. The Navy played a vital role in defeating France and its warships protected British interests around the world.

- Royal Naval ships
- Major trade routes
- Key trading regions

- To continue the story of trade and empire...
- Traders: the East India Company and Asia
Floor one
- The Atlantic: Slavery, Trade, Empire
Floor one

A hero mourned



"The moment the car appear'd
which bore the body,
you might have heard a pin fall."

Lady Dunsborough,
9 January 1888

Model of a frigate

about 1805
wood, cotton, brass, copper, paint, varnish

Frigates were the workhorses of the Navy. They escorted convoys, acted as scouts for the main fleet, carried information and attacked enemy trade. Although they were too small to take part in great set-piece battles, their speed and durability made them ideal for the Navy's day-to-day work around the world.

'Show your true colours'

Naval ships sometimes used foreign flags to disguise their identity at sea. Just before a battle ships would hoist their own flag and 'show their true colours'.

SLR0346



Benjamin Franklin Museum, Philadelphia, PA, USA National Park Service

Graphic interpretation for the Benjamin Franklin Museum in Philadelphia. The creation of a brand new biographical museum of one of the most significant figureheads in American history.

The subterranean museum, beneath Venturi, Scott Brown's 'ghost house' in Franklin Court, is divided into five themes, each one presenting a different side of his character: family man; printer; citizen; scientist; and diplomat. The graphic interpretation design is a modern take on eighteenth century book and editorial design layouts, using bright colour highlights and a modern serif typeface that references historical printing types like Plantin. A collaboration with Casson Mann.



ARDENT & DUTIFUL



**"Man is
a sociable
being"**



being, naturally sociable, witty, Franklin drew to him whomever he life was dull and lonely toward his family, was to close friends that he often expressed his devotion. During the 30 of his long life, he wrote words of letters to family friends, maintaining that his health in America since the Atlantic.

**"A thirst
for
knowledge"**



MOTIVATED
TO IMPROVE



"What good have I done today?"



Franklin believed in
improving both himself
and the world around him.
His sharp eye perceived
opportunities for improvement
everywhere. He contributed
many useful innovations such as
the lightning rod, the bifocal
spectacle, the Franklin stove,
and the fire insurance company.
He also prepared a
detailed plan for a society
to promote useful knowledge
which became the American
Philosophical Society.
He fostered the creation
of public institutions such
as libraries, universities,
firefighting companies,
and schools for
enslaved children.

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STRATEGIC
AND PERSUASIVE



**"Life
is a kind
of chess"**



Proposed by the Peace, Chosen
Assembly of the Colonies to treat with Indians
the Colonies. At Albany. Plan of Union
and how to carry it out. Part of the
part in the...
My Committee...
from Maryland. Poston Munders. Sent out to
Insurgents—Turn them back. Little Thanks
Proprietary Government. Pamphlet.
Thoughts. Sent again to England. Petition
negotiation there. Georgia, Massachusetts
to it. Acquaintance with the Russian
Intimation. My Character. Costs nothing to
be civil to inferiors, a good deal to be submissive
to superiors &c &c. Writing for Jersey Assembly.
Congress, Assembly. Committee of Safety. To
France. Treaty, &c.

STRATEGIC AND PERSUASIVE
"Life is a kind of chess"

Franklin realized that his
passion for playing chess
helped him be an effective
colonial representative
and later diplomat for
the United States. Chess
cultivated important traits
in the mind. Strategic
thinking in the game
helped him anticipate
moves during negotiations
and checked him from
making rash decisions.
Chess led him to listen
better, be patient and
hope for positive change,
especially called for during
the debates on creating
the Constitution of the
United States. He so
appreciated the skills
from chess, he wrote an
essay on the topic.



Choosing a Trade

Franklin pursued several different trades before he decided on printing. Match the trade with the product.

Mariner





AMBITIOUS &
REBELLIOUS

**“Be frugal
and
industrious,
and you
will be free”**



AMBITIOUS & REBELLIOUS
“Be frugal and industrious,
and you will be free”

Although Franklin's ambition and rebelliousness were judged as negative traits, he rose through the social and political ranks of 18th century society with extraordinary ease. His natural intelligence, hard work, diligence and restless energy won him many friends in high places. He never hesitated, however, to counter powerful figures when he witnessed injustice and arbitrary authority.

CURIOUS AND
FULL OF WONDER

"A thirst for knowledge"

And I got to England, Our Voyage, and
trival, I hope to be a philosophical
Society. I received a great knowledge of it.
success of my Electrical Experiments. Medal
me per Royal Society, and I was elected President.
torate from Edinburgh, and I was elected Doctorate
in Oxford. Entertainment there at the Academy.
Introduced to the King, and the Marquis.
ad. I was a great favorite, and I was elected
Nonnet. Reprint my papers and add to them.
Books presented to me <by> from many
Authors. My Book translated into French.
Lightning Kite. various Discoveries.
My Manner of prosecuting that Study.



CURIOUS AND FULL OF WONDER
"A thirst for knowledge"

From the time he was a
y to his very last days,
Franklin delighted in
learning new things.
He attracted many friends
to read, experimented,
and debated the big
scientific questions of the
day. He closely observed
the natural world, frequently
sharing his findings and
the sheer wonders of
discovery with others. His
curiosity and wonderment
inspired the ideals of the
Enlightenment.

Britain: One Million Years of the Human Story

Natural History Museum

Graphic interpretation design for a temporary exhibition that told the epic story of the humans that occupied Britain for the past million years. Including artefacts drawn from the entire history of early humans in Britain brought together for the first time. Part of a research project that pushed back the known date of the earliest humans in Britain from around 500,000 years ago to 950,000 years ago.

Giant landscape images covering the zonal walls helped visitors comprehend the enormity of the scale of geological deep time by having a physical sense of how conditions varied for early human species during each different climactic stage. With the focal point set at head height these images appeared to invite visitors to step into them. A collaboration with Nissen Richards Studio.

Thousands of human lives,
tens of thousands of years have come and gone
as people come to take a journey to meet them.

often-told history of
architecture and culture.
The story of its past.
How people came to be
they discovered an
in, which periodically
years from cold and
warm and wooded
of at least four human
to colonise the land
Over
iped out

Many have investigated the lives of the
earliest people in Britain, including
the researchers of the Ancient Human
Occupation of Britain project,
a multidisciplinary collaboration between
several research institutions, led by the
Natural History Museum. This exhibition
celebrates their work, and displays the
most significant finds together, for the
first time. This is the story they tell, and
it begins almost one million years ago.

Enjoy your journey.



The changing
shape of Britain

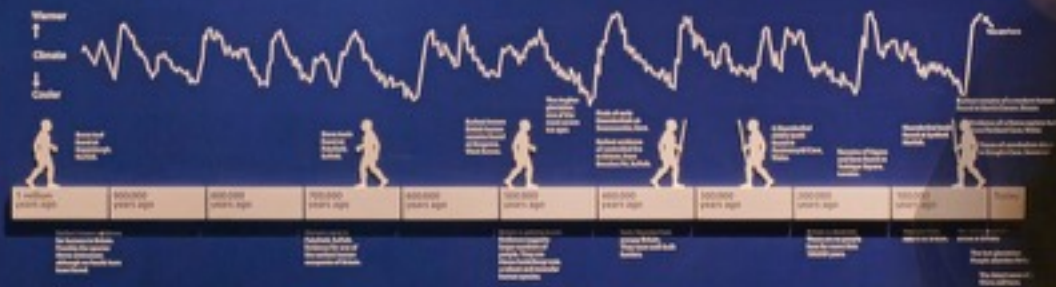


Scattered across the world
people who over time
in their attempts to colonise
You are about to take a journey to meet them.

One million years of the human story

The human journey through time

The story of humankind is a long and complex one, spanning millions of years. It is a story of survival, adaptation, and the quest for knowledge. This timeline illustrates the key milestones in human evolution and history, from the earliest hominids to the present day.



Britain, with its rich history of
monarchies, architecture and culture,
has a story of how people came to be
here at all, how they discovered an
archipelago which periodically
disappeared and reappeared, and
how they came to live and work
here.



From 100,000 years ago
to the present day, the human
story is a story of survival, adaptation,
and the quest for knowledge. This
timeline illustrates the key milestones
in human evolution and history, from
the earliest hominids to the present day.

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timeline illustrates the key milestones
in human evolution and history, from
the earliest hominids to the present day.


The first arrivals

950,000–700,000 years ago

A cold wind sweeps across the landscape and stirs the dense pine forest. A narrow waterway that cuts through the landscape is an ancient route of the River Great Ouse. A small group of humans have arrived. They have not been here before. In their hands they carry chunks of flint, tools covered in blood from the butchery of a deer. Bears are nearby so they must be on

This is Norfolk, nearly one million years ago and these are the earliest humans to have come to Britain. They have managed to survive in an environment at the edge of the habitable world, behind only faint traces of their presence in the form of stone tools, weapons and





The ice lies in thick sheets, not just here in Britain but across northern Europe. Its powerful force pushes the River Thames southwards.

Temperatures have plummeted. This is not a place that can sustain human life. The ice creaks and cracks as concealed rivers push their way out.

An enormous glacial lake builds up to the east of Britain, and when it finally breaks free its force cuts a gorge through the land - the beginnings of the English Channel.

Neanderthal beginnings

400,000-180,000 years ago



The lives of these people have been reconstructed from a tiny fragment of bone found in 1908. It was a young woman's tooth with two simple holes for the roots. They have been called along the spine of the tooth.

Jump forward in time. This is what, 200,000 years ago, it is a cold day. The forest has gone and all are now open grasslands. Chattering at the mouth of a cave, a cold huddle close to a warm shelter from the glowing embers of a dying fire.

These humans were early Neanderthals. During the long period that followed between cold and warm periods, Neanderthals learned to adapt to winter. They were skilled hunters who knew that surrounding landscape well. The vast, open landscape had been broken down into a particularly cold period, after which the open spaces and the dense forest had been a warm and comfortable place to live.



How do we know about ancient landscapes?

Neanderthal beginnings

400,000–180,000 years ago



The thaw of the ice age has given way to a typically warm day in Kent, 400,000 years ago. A young woman travels with her people beside the river. They have come to hunt along the open river path.

Jump forward in time. This is Wales, 230,000 years ago. It is cooler now. The forests have gone and left are vast open grasslands. Sheltering at the mouth of a cave, a child huddles close to a woman. Behind them, the glowing embers of a dying fire.

These humans were early Neanderthals. During this long period that fluctuated between cold and warm periods, Neanderthals learned to adapt, to survive. They were skilled hunters who knew their surrounding landscape well. They were beaten back from Britain several times by particularly cold periods, when food was scarce and the climate harsh. But as soon as conditions were right, they came back.



Becoming Neanderthal

Neanderthals were a subspecies of the genus Homo. They lived in Europe and North Africa from about 400,000 to 40,000 years ago. They were skilled hunters and gatherers, and they lived in small groups. They were also known for their use of fire and their ability to adapt to different environments. Neanderthals are considered to be one of the closest relatives to modern humans.





Humans return 60,000-12,000 years ago

It has been many thousands of years since humans walked Britain and the rest of what is now the British Isles. How did they get here? The answer is a mystery. They have followed the animals. The climate has been unstable. Long, hard winters have killed the food of land animals. They must have been driven west, using only the best tools, spears, bows and arrows.

Handwritten fossils returned to Britain around 60,000 years ago after being absent for more than 100,000 years. Around the same time, a new human species, Homo sapiens, was emerging from Africa and started to make its way across Europe. Evidence suggests Homo sapiens probably arrived here around 40,000 years ago. Did Neanderthals and these early modern humans ever meet in Britain? Did they live alongside each other? We simply do not know. But we do know that only one species persisted - Homo sapiens. UK.

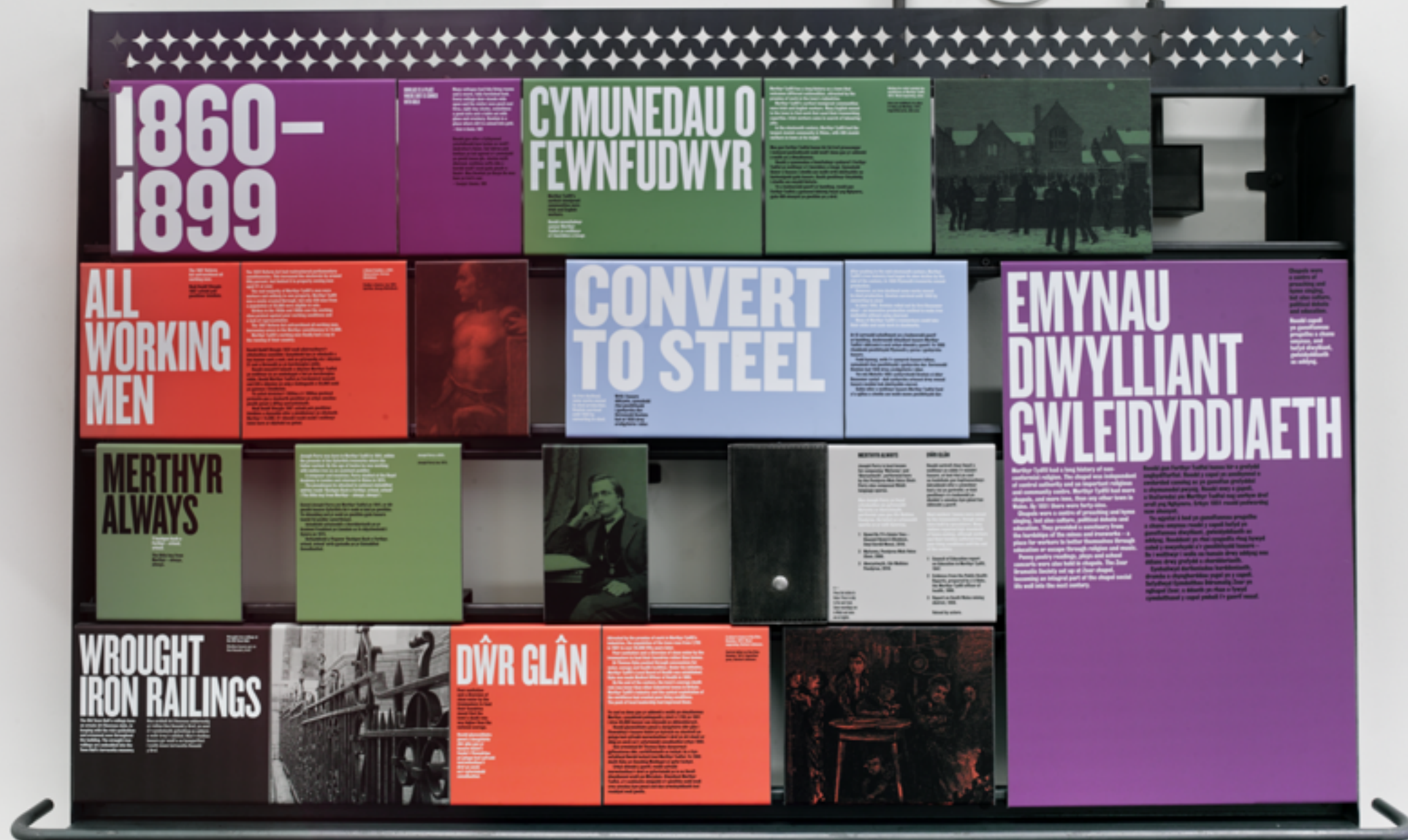


Redhouse Old Town Hall Merthyr Tydfil Housing Association

Content development, 3D design and graphic interpretation design of an editable and updatable display system for Redhouse, a new arts centre born out of Merthyr Tydfil's former town hall. The system consists of 8 hanging staves fabricated in hot-rolled steel onto which slide movable steel panels. Each panel is wrapped in printed adhesive-backed vinyl enabling inexpensive and easy re-skinning of content. Incorporating video and audio, the installation tells the story of Merthyr Tydfil.

Working closely with local history societies, libraries and organisations, we have researched and written over 100 stories in Welsh and English. Both personal and community histories since 1830 to the present day have been shared. A collaboration with Coombe Architecture and Kate Hulme.

Dowlais is a place
where dirt
is coined
into gold



He by
whose labour
these minerals are produced
ought to have the means
of educating
his children

1830-
1859

HARMONIOUS
BLACKSMITH

PROTEST

THE
LIMITATIONS
OF LIFE

CALLS FOR
A TOWN HALL

ARLOESWR

SIARTR
Y
BOBL

GWAHARD
GWRAGEDD
A PHLANT

BOOM

FOUR
ARCHANGELS

Gwell
dysg
na golud



education

within reach
nearest

1900-1919

1900-1919
1900-1919
1900-1919

The year of 1900 was the year of the centenary of the birth of the first Welsh Labour MP, David Lloyd George. It was also the year of the first Welsh Labour MP, David Lloyd George. It was also the year of the first Welsh Labour MP, David Lloyd George.

FFRWYTH LLAFUR

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RADICAL

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NEW TOWN HALL

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FREE EDUCATION FOR ALL

In 1900, the town's new Labour MP, David Lloyd George, introduced the Education Act of 1900, which provided for free education for all children in the town. This was a significant step towards universal education.

Merthyr's crumbling houses and
decaying streets cradle the
creative in the human spirit

2000-
TODAY

ADFYWIO

Y
BENNOD
NESAF

LOCAL
PROTESTS

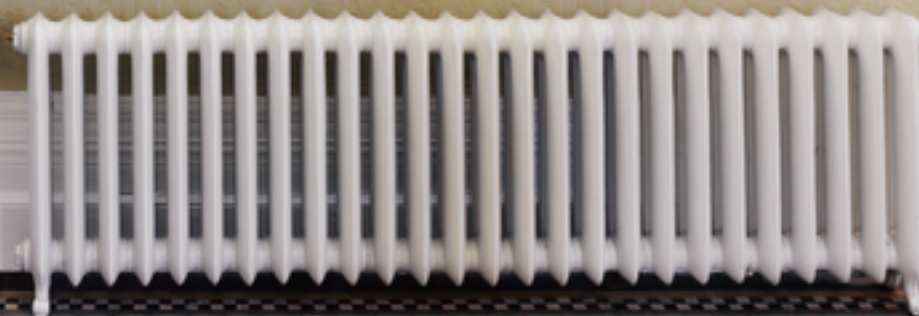
LOCAL
DEBATE

DADENI
LLENYDDOL

PAPUR
WAL



Die by inches
rather than accept
the old terms



Welsh
hunan
gweithiwr

1920-
1939

PHILANTHROPIC SETTLEMENT

In the 1920s an educational settlement housing fine art, art appreciation and crafts in the unemployed was founded at Denbigh.

The philanthropic settlement. The vision was that art would make a difference to people's daily lives.

Under the leadership of Eudie Morris, Peter Rogers, Eudie Rogers and others, the Denbigh settlement was a focus of creative activity in the 1920s.

UNITED IN PROTEST



CALEDI

MARCH AGAINST HUNGER

FFENESTRI ADDURNIADOL

DIRWASGIAD

A MINERS AGENT FROM DOWLAS



GWE dysg na golud

1940-1959

TAI I'R GWEITHWYR

INSPIRE ACTION

HOPE FOR MERTHYR TYDFIL

RED DRAGON MOSAIC



GOBAITH A LLOCHES



