That Belongs in a Museum!
Local heritage symposium

Saturday 24 September
10.30am-3.30pm
Aberdeen Art Gallery
Free, booking essential

That belongs in a museum ...! Or does it?

Join us for a day of presentations and discussions exploring how artefacts end up in museums, who puts them there and why – and what it all means once they’re part of a collection.

We’ve invited a fantastic range of people who work in many different areas of heritage management locally and nationally. They’ll be sharing insights into their own areas of work, from excavating skeletons under Aberdeen Art Gallery, to repatriation and ethical ownership and the idea of being ‘good ancestors’.

Our panelists want to hear from you – come along and tell us what you think actually belongs in a museum. And what do you think about who decides? How do we identify what kinds of heritage are worth preserving, and how do those objects come into museums? What about cultural heritage outside of the museum?

You don’t have to work in a museum to enjoy this event – everyone is welcome.
That belongs in a museum...!

**Programme**

10.30am  Welcome
Jenny Brown, Lead Curator (History), Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums

10.40am  Keynote
**Treasure Trove in Scotland**
Emily Freeman, Treasure Trove Manager

11am  Panel
**Who decides what belongs in a museum?**
Sue Taylor, Alford Heritage Museum
Steven Watt, Project Officer, AOC Archaeology Group
Joan Bruce, Gallery Review Team Leader, The Garioch Heritage Society
Lesley Anne Rose, Culture Collective
‘Safe Harbour: Open Sea’ project in Fittie
Chair: Patricia Weeks, Museums Development Officer, Live Life Aberdeenshire

1.45pm  Breakout discussions

**Choose to attend two 20-min sessions:**
Do you see yourself or people like you represented in the museum? How can we improve the breadth of Aberdeen City residents past and present represented in our collections?

Energy, economy and the environment: we live in interesting times. What should we be collecting now to preserve for the future?

Should human remains be part of museum collections? When and how is it acceptable to keep human remains and display them?

Museums exist for the public benefit, in many cases with vast collections. How can we make best use of these resources for everyone?

3pm  Feedback from breakout groups, reflections and discussions with all speakers

12.15pm  Panel
**Making the most of museum collections**
Dr Anthony Schrag, Artist and Senior Lecturer in Cultural Policy & Arts Administration, Queen Margaret University
Derek Jennings, Vice Chair, The Book of Deer Project
Neil Curtis, Head of Museums & Special Collections, University of Aberdeen
Chair: Bruce Mann, Regional Archaeologist, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service

3.30pm  Close