

**The Tickenhill Collection**  
**Registered Charity, 527509**  
**Annual Report, April 2022 to March 2023**

**Charitable Purpose and Activities**

The collection was established as a charitable trust in 1958 and updated in 1970 with the following purpose:

*The maintenance and administration of the Tickenhill Collection which shall be placed or kept in such one or more public rooms, halls, museums or other places for exhibition in Worcestershire or elsewhere and that it shall be kept open for inspection by the public. Also to lend the said collection or any part thereof for public exhibition or for educational purposes.*

The Charitable Activities of the Tickenhill Collection are:

*The care and conservation of the objects, records and associated information from the Tickenhill Collection, and the use of that collection for public benefit through display and educational activities.*

**Trustee**

Worcestershire County Council.

The Tickenhill Collection is managed by Worcestershire County Council's Joint Museum Service, Museums Worcestershire, and the responsibility of Principal Curator of the Tickenhill Collection is within Museum Worcestershire's Social History Curator's role.

The Tickenhill Collection is overseen by the two Worcestershire County Councillors serving on the Council's Joint Museums Committee.

**2022-23 Achievements**

***Collection Care and Accessible Storage***

The Principal Curator and Collections Volunteers have continued to focus on repackaging and cataloguing the Tickenhill Collection.

This year's focus has been on improved accessibility, achieved by creating more usable space at the Collections Centre. Improved space and more visible objects on open display, allow for better public access to items on group and public tours of the Centre, as well as allowing museum staff to locate, inspect, conserve and store objects.

This project required the moving of large items, such as horse drawn vehicles, large domestic items including chandeliers and furniture, agricultural items including ploughs and mowers as well as industrial presses and machinery. The team have also erected new racking to make better use of the height of the store and free up useful floorspace for renovation projects. The work will continue to relocate collections into more logical and accessible spaces and to decongest crowded areas to make the collection more accessible.

***Collection Documentation and Conservation***

The team have continued to conserve and catalogue Tickenhill items as they are located during inventory taking.

This work has been undertaken alongside similar tasks for the City of Worcester Social History Collection, so that the collections in store can be better understood together. This improved standard of classification will take many years, but 182 boxes of collection have been inventoried, repackaged, and stored in SHIC order (Social History & Industrial Classification), in the past twelve months. Mirroring the Tickenhill collection will ensure objects are easier to locate or archive in the future. This work has also made considerable impact on the museum documentation backlog plan.



*Figure 1 – Collection of frigger glass canes or Witch Sticks from the Tickenhill Collection at Museums Worcestershire Collection Centre.*

Work has continued on the archiving and conservation of industrial items as well as repacking of more delicate folk items such as glass and textiles. 312 new items were located and conserved and include:

- Horse tack
- Models and tools related to vinegar production
- Motoring items and fuel containers
- Seed drills
- Shop signage
- Clocks
- Knitting Machines

- Decorative and frigger glass
- Gunsmithing
- Hand tools
- Dairying
- Forge goods and Blacksmithing
- Wheelwright's tools
- Domestic and cookware
- Weights and measures



Figure 2 – Conserved gunsmith's tools and motoring items

Tickenhill Collection Volunteers have helped clear space at the Collection Centre for the return of vehicles on loan to Tudor House Museum. These vehicles are now accessible at the Collections Center and can be seen during public tours. Remedial conservation has also been undertaken on these vehicles and their related equipment.

Further work with Bewdley Museum has identified a number of other long-term Tickenhill items on loan. Work continues to return all of these items to the Collections Centre and to aid Bewdley in their collection rationalisation project.

### ***Use of the Collection for Public Benefit***

#### ***Volunteering***

Collections Conservation sessions continue to offer meaningful experiences and wellbeing benefits for Museum Volunteers, both on site and remotely. Volunteers and researchers working at the Collections Centre have expressed that working with museum collections is of great benefit to physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a valuable practical outlet for their skills. For some it is still one of their core regular social activities.



Figure 3 – Volunteers working together to organise the Tickenhill Collection in store

### *Research*

Four news articles featuring the Tickenhill Collection have been published in the *Worcester Evening News* and online and amplified through social media. These can be read at [researchworcestershire.wordpress.com](http://researchworcestershire.wordpress.com).

### *Exhibition*

Items from the collection have featured in *Hokusai's Great Wave: Reflections of Japan* (to 2<sup>nd</sup> July) and the *Return to Oceania* (to 11<sup>th</sup> June) exhibitions at the City Art Gallery and Museum – seen by 13,379 visitors.

### *Collections Centre Tours*

Guided tours of the Tickenhill Collection in store were able to start again following a pause during Covid. Groups visiting this year included Worcester University of the Third Age.

### *Education in wider partnership*

The Tickenhill Collection continues to be useful in Museums Worcestershire's ongoing outreach and community co-curation projects, where participants have strongly identified with objects that connect them to the place that they call home. This relevance ensures that the work of the Parker family at Tickenhill continues to inspire their local community, as well as sharing it with new groups throughout the county.