



## NEWS RELEASE

16 October 2015

### **THE SUPERNATURAL CASTS A SPELL ON BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS FOR HALF-TERM**

Monday 26 October – Sunday 1 November

From enchanted fairy-worlds to terrifying tours of the city's most haunted houses, visitors to Birmingham Museums will be spookily spellbound as fairies, witches, ghosts and beasties come out to play this half-term and Halloween.

"Whether you're seeking thrills or magical enchantment, this year's half-term events promise to cast Birmingham Museums in a very otherworldly light," says Andy Fowles, Learning and Access Manager. "With the nights drawing in, it's a great time for families to get together to celebrate the imagination, so we're making sure there's an exhilarating experience for everyone – there are events deemed too scary for children at Aston Hall, but also creature crafts for toddlers at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery."

Fearless families seeking fiendish fun can explore the infamous spooky cellars of Soho House, meet the Witchfinder General at Blakesley Hall, or follow the scarecrow trails and pumpkin flotilla at Sarehole Mill. There are even tours by twilight and torchlight for those who aren't afraid of the dark. Mad scientists can make their own slime, or be electrified by the Science of Fright live show at Thinktank. There's also the chance to bring nightmare monsters to life with haunting hands-on activities at Soho House and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter.

"It's not just about spooky thrills, though" adds Andy Fowles. "We've created a magical fairy glen at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, inspired by the Enchanted Dreams of artist Edward Robert Hughes – a special exhibition opening this October, where you can step into fantastical dream-worlds. This half-term, children can recreate their own fantasy worlds with arts and crafts, and explore the mythical wonders of the night sky in a pop-up planetarium, just for half-term."

On 22 October, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery will also be launching its first-ever Mini Museum, an immersive, animal-themed gallery uniquely designed for younger children and their parents. With a puppet theatre, play zones and storytelling spaces, toddlers can meet animal exhibits from the natural history collection, and make their own works of art alongside some of the museum's grand paintings.

Please note that admission or event charges may apply. For more information on these, or any of the events taking place across Birmingham Museums, please visit [www.birminghammuseums.org.uk](http://www.birminghammuseums.org.uk).

## Ends

Photographs are available by following the links at the bottom of this email, or from <http://news.cision.com/birmingham-museums>.

For further media information or photographs, please contact:

Jay Commins

Pyper York Limited

Tel: 0121 285 9899

Email: [jay@pyperyork.co.uk](mailto:jay@pyperyork.co.uk)

## Notes to Editors

### OCTOBER HALF TERM AND HALLOWEEN AT BIRMINGHAM MUSEUMS

#### Daily

17 Oct 2015 – 21 Feb 2016

#### **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

##### *Enchanted Dreams*

Visit the magical fairy glen filled with stories and crafts, in this spectacular exhibition featuring the fantastical dream-worlds of artist Edward Robert Hughes. The exhibition is Free to children under 16s, £7 adults, and £6 concessions. The Fairy Glen and the half-term Pop-up Planetarium are Free to all exhibition ticket-holders.

#### Week-long activities

Mon 26 – Fri 30 Oct

#### **Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

Join us during the week for arts and crafts, storytelling, giant Big Draw activities, and the chance to handle real artefacts.

FREE ENTRY

Some activities may charge.

Mon 26 – Fri 30 Oct

#### **Thinktank, Birmingham Science Museum**

'Make Your Own Slime' workshop, 'Science of Fright' live science show, spooky arts and crafts.

Activities free for Thinktank ticket holders.

For full listings visit [birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on](http://birminghammuseums.org.uk/whats-on)

Tue 27 – Sat 31 Oct

#### **Soho House**

##### *Hubble Bubble Trick or Treat*

Do you dare to explore the spooky cellars at Soho?

11am–3pm. £6 Adult, £5 Concession, Child (under 16) FREE

Tue 27 – Fri 30 Oct

**Blakesley Hall**

*Haunted House!*

The year is 1645 and the Witchfinder General has arrived in search of witches. Find out about this scary episode and see the Hall decorated for Halloween.

11am–3pm. £3 Adult, Child (under 16) FREE

Tue 27 – Sat 31 Oct

**Aston Hall**

*Aston Hall'oween*

Spot jack-o-lanterns and hear haunted tales about the Hall on a family friendly tour.

11am–3pm. £6 Adult, £5 Concession, Child (under 16) FREE

Tue 27 & Fri 30 Oct

**Soho House**

*Halloween Crafts*

Make spooky castles or jumping spiders.

12–2pm. £2 per child

Tue 27 Oct – Sun 1 Nov

**Sarehole Mill**

*Halloween at the Mill*

Follow the scarecrow trail and try your hand at the lucky dip.

12–4pm. £6 Adult, £5 Concession, Child (under 16) FREE

Family fun

Tues 27 and Thu 29 Oct

**Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery**

Pop-up Planetarium

11am – 4pm. £1 per child (Free to all Enchanted Dreams exhibition ticket holders)

Wed 28 Oct

**Museum of the Jewellery Quarter**

*Fabulous Beasts Crafts*

Make your own creature out of clay, in this designer-led workshop.

1–3pm. £3 per child

Pre-booking required – call 0121 348 8140

Thu 29 Oct

**Museum of the Jewellery Quarter**

*Spooky Masks Crafts*

Make a Halloween mask in this designer-led workshop.

1–3pm. £3 per child

Pre-booking required – call 0121 348 8140

Fri 30 Oct

**Museum of the Jewellery Quarter**

*Halloween Ghost Walk*

2–4pm. £5 per person

Pre-booking required – call 0121 348 8140

Fri 30 Oct

**Weoley Castle Ruins**

*Spooky Halloween Crafts*

12–3pm. £1 per child

Sat 31 Oct

**Soho House**

*Torchlight Tours*

12.15pm & 2.15pm. £6 Adult, £5 Concession,  
Child (under 16) FREE

Twilight visits

Thu 29 & Fri 30 Oct

**Sarehole Mill**

*Pumpkin Flotilla*

Bring along your carved pumpkin and watch it float across the mill pond at twilight. Plus, spooky stories and a hot beverage.

6.45pm. £15 per float (up to 4 people).

Pre-booking required – call 0121 348 8263

Too scary for children

Fri 30 & Sat 31 Oct

**Aston Hall**

*Haunted House on the Hill*

An immersive ghost tour with spirits, shocks and plenty of scares.

5pm, 6.30pm & 8pm. £9 Adult, £8 Concession, ages 12+

Pre-booking required – call 0121 348 8263

Funded by:

