

York Trailblazers

VISUAL ARTIST CALLOUT

Introduction

York Trailblazers, a partnership between Make It York and York Civic Trust, are calling out for several visual art commissions to support a city-wide heritage sculpture trail taking place in Summer-Autumn 2024.

17 large sculptures of Tansy Beetles, being created from metal and canvas, will be customised by local artists working with community groups with 11 going to public call out currently.

This project is funded by the National Lottery and made possible by National Lottery players.

Each commission will be awarded £1,000 to cover all the costs of production, development and delivery.

Artists are invited to apply by sending a portfolio and covering letter to yorktrailblazers@gmail.com. Please see the guidance notes for what should be included in your covering letter.

We are not looking for design submissions at this stage, but asking for a sense of your style and how you would approach this project, working to the requirements of a community group commission.

Please note this project aims to be as environmentally sustainable as possible, so applications which make use of recycled and repurposed materials, leftover paints etc are encouraged. We discourage the use of new plastics or other materials which cannot be easily recycled, or materials with a carbon-intensive production process.

Applications are open until noon on **30 January 2024**.

If you would value a conversation to help shape your proposal or to understand more about the project, please contact us on yorktrailblazers@gmail.com for an informal conversation.

Commission Overview

Selected artists will be awarded £1000 for the creation of visual art onto a steel sculpture with an optional canvas covering. The area to customise does not cover the entire structure, but only the wing-casing section, the large part forming the body of the beetle.

Successful artists will receive a full brief from a community group, and a technical brief about the sculpture design, and can meet to discuss, or work directly with the group.

Commission Timeline

30 January 2024 Applications close at noon

19th February 2024 All applicants will be informed by 19th February

29th February 2024 a full artist brief will be handed over from the organisations doing the research on the Trailblazer

Early May 2024 Beetles to be completed

24th May 2024 Sculpture trail starts

September 2024 Sculpture trail ends

About York Trailblazers

This is a city-wide project, funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund, which will celebrate some of York's lesser-known trailblazers - people from our past and present who have made a difference to their communities, the city, or the world. Community and heritage groups are researching and producing visual art commissions on their trailblazer's life for a temporary sculpture trail for residents and visitors to enjoy in Summer 2024. Schools and young people in York will benefit from workshops and trips to the trail, and the project has funded a programme of community-led activities, enabling more people to celebrate and access heritage in York.

Please see the York Trailblazers [project page](#) for more information on the wider project and the trail.

Funding for these commissions is made possible thanks to lottery players through the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Artist Call Out Guidance Notes

About the Sculpture

The sculptures, in the shape of the York-based Tansy Beetle, will be approximately 2 x 1 x 0.5 metres, featuring a steel frame with wings covered in canvas. They will be modular and although heavy, the canvassed part of the beetle will fit through a standard door, to allow artists to work in their studios. Alternatively, by arrangement artists may access a warehouse space on a local bus route in which the beetles can be worked on. The beetles will be finished with a varnish which prevents vandalism, which will be provided to artists as part of their contract.

A prototype 3D sketch of the frame is available [here](#). Please note not seen on the sketch is a further metal mesh covering to provide shape and robustness.

Artists will have the opportunity to employ various artistic techniques on the canvas, creating a visual narrative that reflects the essence of the chosen Trailblazer. The artists can also choose to adorn the steel frame with materials (i.e. weaving with fabrics, reclaimed materials etc), in which case, the structure would be offered without the canvas covering to work directly onto the metal. The mesh which covers the shape has approx 38mm gaps between spokes, which makes it possible to weave materials into it.

This project aims to be as environmentally sustainable as possible, so applications which make use of recycled and repurposed materials, leftover paints etc are encouraged. We discourage the use of new plastics or other materials which cannot be easily recycled, or materials with a carbon-intensive production process.

About the Canvas

The section for customisation can be covered with a bespoke canvas cover, which will provide a smooth and paintable surface for the artist to work on. This will need to be ordered in advance, so we ask you to indicate in your application whether you will need one of these or not.

We are open to all visual art practices, including embroidery, paint, print to this surface. We can provide a small sample of the cotton canvas to interested artists.

Please note that the canvas works well with acrylic paint and inks, but watercolour is not possible due to a coating on the material. Artists are welcome to experiment with other types of paint using the sample that can be provided.

More about the Community Participation

The selected Trailblazers represent a diverse cross-section of York's history, ensuring a rich tapestry of stories and achievements.

This project has actively engaged community groups, students, and academics to identify and discuss the contributions of these Trailblazers, fostering a sense of inclusivity and shared heritage. They have produced the introductory briefs you can read below.

How to Apply

An introductory outline of each of the trailblazers who are being commissioned is available below. Applicants can express a preference for or respond to specific briefs, which will be taken into consideration by the panel adjudicating.

An artist can express a preference to work on a maximum of three of the projects, though it is unlikely that more than one commission will be awarded to a single artist.

All applications will be considered by a panel which includes members of the community groups.

To apply, please email your portfolio and a cover letter to yorktrailblazers@gmail.com before noon on 30 January 2024.

In the cover letter please include

- Your name, contact number and email
- Any context to help us better understand your work and portfolio
- A link to examples of your portfolio, if stored online
- A preference for working in your space, or travelling to the storage warehouse on the outskirts of York to do your work.
- Whether you expect to work onto a canvas, or directly with the metal sculpture.
- Any brief(s) you would be particularly keen to work with
- How you would approach working on this project
- Confirmation you are based in York, North Yorkshire, or have a strong qualifying connection to the area

The Trailblazers - Introductory Outlines

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The Luddites - The Good Organisation

Good Organisation (Social Ventures) CIC is a local Community Interest Company, which is collaboratively run by people with personal experience of homelessness, substance addiction and the criminal justice system. It seeks to support some of York's most marginalised residents to share in the positive benefits of heritage based tourism, and has piloted a number of successful initiatives across the city to that end.

The organisation operates walking tours and other award winning activities. However, we know there's still a great deal of stigma surrounding homelessness, and not everyone engaged by our work wants to serve in a high profile role where their situation is publicly known.

The Luddites

Our proposed sculpture doesn't seek to celebrate an individual, but instead aims to commemorate 64 Luddites who were tried during a 'Special Commission' held at York Assizes in 1813.

The dictionary definition of a Luddite, is a derogatory term, used to denote someone who 'opposes new technology or progress', but the concerns of those involved in the early 19th Century movement ran much deeper than disputes about the mechanics of industrialisation. It was about who controlled production in terms of quality, skills, safety, wages and price, and those involved also raised funds to influence Parliament and campaigned to protect laws on apprenticeship and other workers rights, so could be seen as an early precursor to the trade union movement.

The aforementioned 'show trial' in York, which ran between 2 January 1813 and finished ten days later, was seemingly designed to act as a deterrent to the self organisation of ordinary working

people, and the first three to be hanged (in the middle of the trial) were accused of being ringleaders.

They were George Mellor, William Thorpe and Thomas Smith, and were all under 23 years old. Their bodies were taken to the York County Hospital (off Monkgate), to be dissected 'for medical science', but in reality, this was likely to prevent their funerals from becoming a focal point for further protest.

The Concept

Luddites have gained notoriety for smashing up machinery, so we're hoping to smash up (or at least deconstruct) our tansy beetle sculpture in some way, and while our design ideas aren't fixed, we envision the body of the beetle will form two halves of a human brain. The right half (the creative side of the brain) being representative of the luddites and their traditional skills, and the left hand side (the analytical part of the brain), will be some form of digital representation of the brain, reflecting contemporary concerns in relation to AI technology and its impact upon jobs. We also hope to include a time capsule within the sculpture, to record our involvement in the project, and capture public fears in relation to AI and employment. Having said that, we are open to other ideas and are seeking to work collaboratively with artists.

June Hargreaves - The Friends of Rowntree park (Make Space for Girls Project) and York HerStory

In the 1960s there was a new law on 'Conservation Areas', this was the idea of June Hargreaves, a young town planner in York. Conservation Areas include places of environmental and historic interest or importance. June said "A town is a place to live and work". In the 1960s lots of towns and cities were being modernised, which involved demolishing old buildings. June wanted it so that buildings couldn't just be knocked down without permission, the whole street/character had to be considered. June influenced the 1967 Civic Amenities Act which established the idea of 'special preservation areas' which helped preserve the history and character of many towns and cities across the country. June was important as she was a young woman in a senior position, which wasn't common in the 1960s when women were not regarded as equal in the workplace, and she worked in an area dominated by men. She personally convinced senior civil servants and government ministers to change the law - encouraging people to look at spaces in a different way. More info <https://www.herstoryyork.org.uk/june-hargreaves/>

Friends Of Rowntrees Park and HerStory York

The Friends of Rowntree Park's 'Make Space for Girls in Rowntree Park' project has teamed up with HerStory York to collaborate on a York Trailblazer. The 'Make Space for Girls' project focuses on trying to prevent the drop off of use of parks as girls enter their teenage years. After the age of 10, girls' use of parks drops compared to boys, and parks can be so beneficial to mental and physical health. Therefore the project focuses on listening to what local girls want to make the park more welcoming and doing what we can to make that happen. HerStory York is a community history project that aims to make the stories of inspirational York women from the last 100 years known and celebrated. Together we are focusing on a Trailblazer who was a woman, who was important to us. Because June

Hargreaves considered how 'space' was used and got people to rethink previous ideas, this links to the MSFG project. The project focuses on re-examining the park/public space and making changes to make it more welcoming to girls and women. Part of this is challenging old ideas about parks, and what facilities should be provided for teenagers, how parks should be planned/designed with older girls (and women) in mind. A focus is on not just doing what we've always done, but actually considering the needs of this group. Our project has teen girls at the heart of everything - they share views, ideas and make change happen - empowering them.

The Concept

A group of 12 teenage girls met to research June Hargreave and have put together some ideas to share with potential artists. The notes and images below are a combination of their ideas: Themes Space(s), voice, change, women/girls Colours Purple/Green - links with suffragettes and green with parks (any nature colours) Iridescent/shiny - link to tansy beetle Images Nature Space - perhaps represented by lines/flows/waves/movement etc 60s - geometric shapes from art (often flowing/curved). If typography used - may be similar to 1960s popular styles in advertising. Voice - mouths/megaphone/amplification/female images The teen girls involved have created mood boards with some design ideas. The file can be accessed in this dropbox or contact

hello@rowntreepark.org.uk

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/avvym9vwixir7ttys078o/Art-ideas-Trailblazer-info-for-artists.pdf?rlk=wefn6a1eb8bjy5ag32z9i3h1j&dl=0>

Mary Kitson Clark - Yorkshire Philosophical Society

Mary Kitson Clark, 1905-2005, Archaeologist, was a pioneering archaeologist who saved the Roman collection in the Yorkshire Museum from potential war damage by organising their removal to a safe place away from the centre of York in 1941. As Curator of Roman Archaeology, she was responsible for cataloguing and conserving this collection. Her "Gazetteer of Roman Remains in East Yorkshire" published in 1935 remains an important work. Born in Leeds after studying archaeology at Cambridge in 1929 Mary joined Dorothy Garrod excavating palaeolithic sites in Palestine as one of a pioneering group of women archaeologists and in 1935 she was appointed a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, an unusual honour for a woman at that time. Suffering from hearing loss after measles age 3 she was a quietly enriching presence for many throughout her long life and an inspiring woman who deserves to be better known. Marrying Rev Derwas Chitty in the 1940's, who she had met many years before in Palestine, and giving birth to a daughter in 1947 she lived in Oxfordshire and Wales but continued her links with Yorkshire and from 1950 until her death, she was a Vice President of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society.

Yorkshire Philosophical Society and York Museums Trust

This project will celebrate the heritage of York, particularly linked to the Yorkshire Museum and Gardens, founded by the Society, alongside unearthing hidden stories with local people. Beginning with the little-known work of archaeologist Mary Kitson Clark, particularly during the second world war in York we will reach out to school and community groups encouraging them to become involved in archaeology and heritage through telling their own stories and exploring heritage in a multi-disciplinary way through oral history, research, drawing, drama, video, scrapbooking and other creative activities, alongside small group guided visits to the Museum and Gardens. York Museums Trust have agreed to display the Tansy Beetle Sculpture in the Museum Gardens. We plan to produce



a “Museum Gardens through time” blog along the lines of the book “A Street Through Time”. This could hopefully lead to a short animation and a presentation to a session of York Café Scientifique.

The Concept

We have photographs of Mary Kitson Clark dressed for archaeological field work in Palestine in 1929 and on her own dig in the centre of York in 1939. This site variously known as the Railway Control Shelter and/or Air Raid Control Shelter was on the south side of the river in York, beneath the Old Railway Station (the 1840s station, located on the inside of the city wall between that and Lendal bridge/Station Road and on the city wall side of the Council offices). In the Yorkshire Museum there are Roman artefacts which she curated. We also catch glimpses of her in later life in Oxfordshire in the sixties described as “hippy granny - dressed like one of the flower children with a light blue shapeless paisley dress down to her ankles and a double string of beads”. These different links reminded us of the work of artist “Marc Chagall”, particularly his stained-glass window in Chichester cathedral. A sculpture for her could perhaps show archaeology, roman artefacts, and different clothes women wore across the twentieth century from the covered-up archaeologist in Palestine to the “hippy granny”?

Anne Lister - University of York and Church’s Conservation Trust

Our trailblazer is polymath Anne Lister – a businesswoman, traveller, intellectual, scientific investigator, lover of women and expansive diarist. Lister’s diaries amount to 5 million words which encompass all aspects of her remarkable life and record her daily experiences in minute detail. A sixth of Lister’s diaries are written in a coded ‘crypthand’ which allowed her a textual medium through which to negotiate the social, emotional and sexual challenges of her lesbian identity. By forming and articulating a strong sense of self within her diary, Lister – though facing great challenges - was able to live confidently and authentically in early nineteenth century Yorkshire as a woman who ‘love[d] and only love[d] the fairer sex’. Lister’s identity is closely related to her time in York where she met several of her lovers including Eliza Raine, and Mariana Belcombe. It was in York too, at Holy Trinity Church, that she took the sacrament with Ann Walker as a mark of their commitment to and love for each other. Lister is a true trailblazer as she has inspired so many people today who identify as LGBTQIA+ to understand and embrace their true selves.

Church’s Conservation Trust & University of York

This project is directed by the Anne Lister Trailblazer Committee – a collaboration between the Church’s Conservation Trust and the University of York. The committee is made up of volunteers from Holy Trinity Church and university students spanning the departments of History and English & Related Literature. It also receives support from the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies (CECS) and the Institute for Public Understanding of the Past (IPUP). This means the committee has a broad base, spanning those engaged in detailed academic study of Lister’s life and writing; those who have been inspired by Sally Wainwright’s dramatization of LGBTQIA+ history in Gentleman Jack; and those drawn to Lister as a figure of local significance.

The Concept

Our trailblazer sculpture will be situated at Holy Trinity Church, Goodramgate, the site where Anne Lister and Ann Walker took the sacrament together to seal their union. We are keen that the sculpture and project encourages awareness of this event and queer history in York more broadly. Fundamental to our understanding of Lister is the importance of her diaries to LGBTQIA+ and literary history and we therefore hope to feature Lister's writing prominently. However, we also hope that the sculpture will reflect as many features of Lister's multifaceted identity as possible. We would like to see representations of Lister's extensive travel, scientific enquiries, intellectual endeavours, conscientious timekeeping, business dealings, and give a space for the women who supported Lister to be seen. Ideally, we will develop some kind of framing device which draws together these aspects of Lister's identity. The artist will have to carefully negotiate the representational forms of the early 19th century and understandings of Lister today

We particularly encourage applications from artists who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Unpaid Carers in the city - York Carers Centre.

The group were taken by the grace and beauty of the Tansy Beetle's exterior and also the power and activity of the driving legs and workings underneath the shell. This gives a perfect metaphor of a carer.

We are interested to hear an artists interpretation

York Young Carers will be working to create a narrative of all of their carers as a group.

It would be difficult to find one person or one story from present or history that reflected adequately young carers or young adult carers. Carers all share similar experiences and similar circumstances but are unique in their own right, therefore it would be difficult to find a Trailblazer to inspire them.

What might be more impactful is enabling young adult carers to recognise themselves as Trailblazers for the role they hold, sacrifices they make and difficulties they go through for the love of the person they care for. Many carers, especially those under the age of 25 do not recognise themselves as carers. Many have grown up into the caring role and see it as normal life. Consequently they may not see the way it can inhibit their opportunities in life. The caring role may impact their practical opportunities, their outlook and also their confidence, motivation and self-efficacy. Despite being some of the most resilient and resourceful young people they can also suffer from poor mental health due to consistently putting the needs of others first.

Rosie Wall - Chapelfields Community Association

Rosie Wall

Rosie Wall - has been a long standing member of the Chapelfields Community and for two decades was chair of the Residents Association. She was a leader in the moves to get a new community centre for the area, and shop with the redevelopment of the former Youth Centre, shops and problematic block of flats in Bramham Road. The new Sanderson Court Community House was co-designed with the community to provide a flexible space, with energy efficiency and a base for the community which was completed in 2005. She led the move to establish with volunteers "Crossroads" in an empty shop to provide a space for young people to hang out at a time when there

had been significant anti-social behaviour in the estate as part of an initiative to channel young people into positive activities. With a backdrop of personal trauma with the murder of her son Daniel in December 2003 she worked through her grief by pushing the council and partner organisations to make life better on the Chapelfields Estate. Proposals for utilisation of the Estate Improvement Grants to provide a safer, cleaner and more self-confident area responding to the perceptions from areas of York outside of Chapelfields. Encouraging the community to take pride in the area in which they live is a key motivator for Rosie, and ensuring that the voice of the estate was heard by decision makers was something that she has consistently done to ensure that Chapelfields was not “overlooked” when it came to getting its share of resources. In 2015 Rosie sadly lost her husband Jeff who had been York Community Pride 2011 Parent of the Year.

Family has always meant a great deal to Rosie and with the involvement of her daughters in the Community Association there have been many hundreds of hours of volunteering to ensure that everyone who needs help in the area is able to get it, and to make the case for additional help and advice. Rosie led the development of the “Hub” at the Community House to have regular coffee and chats, and advice sessions from CAB, Housing, Police and other partners in the building at the heart of the estate. As part of the response to the 2015 Boxing Day Floods, Rosie spearheaded utilisation of Sanderson House to be a base for materials, and support for people in need of help, and with teams of volunteers sorted through lorry loads of donations. The centre became a base for support for the local community during the Covid lockdowns and intervening periods, and a means of people keeping in touch with each other and offering help to those who couldn’t go out.

Chapelfields Community Association

Chapelfields Community Association exists to support all the residents in Chapelfields across the ages, and recognising that it is a part of the city which often gets forgotten. However, it has a strong sense of community and identity in the face of adversity and pulls together.

The Concept

We would like to see the local area represented positively, and colourfully with something to cover all age groups and portraying the heritage for the estate and the lives of so many residents who have supported the community over the years.

Michael Rowntree - The Rowntree Society

Michael Rowntree: Leader of Good Causes and Lover of Nature

Michael Rowntree (1919-2007) led a full and fascinating life of public service despite his unassuming character. He was born and brought up in Yorkshire, attending Bootham School in York. Michael had a lifelong interest in natural history and the environment, especially birding. He was one of six children, a scion of the Quaker Rowntree and Harvey families, and the great-nephew of Joseph Rowntree, the founder of the world-renowned Rowntree confectionery company. As a Quaker his life was informed by his faith, and the importance of public responsibility, social justice and peace were therefore instilled into him from an early age.

During World War Two he was a conscientious objector and served in the Friends Ambulance Unit in Finland, the Middle East and Germany. After the war Michael's first career was as a journalist and in the 1950s he became the general manager of the Oxford Mail and Oxford Times.

Significantly he held a number of senior roles in Oxfam, serving on the Executive Committee from 1952 right until the end of his life, and was Chairman from 1971 to 1977. He believed in encouraging local initiative, particularly in agriculture, and was an early advocate for recycling and the impact of climate change, especially in relation to Africa.

Closer to home Michael was a Trustee of both the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Social Service Trust. He was also an advocate for the National Health Service serving on the governing bodies of both Oxford Hospitals and Scarborough Health Authority.

For further information see the following: -

<https://www.rowntreesociety.org.uk/explore-rowntree-history/rowntree-a-z/michael-rowntree-1919-2007/>

<https://www.rowntreesociety.org.uk/michael-rowntree-birdwatching-from-pembrokeshire-to-palestine/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2007/oct/30/guardianobituaries.internationalaidanddevelopment>

Mary Ward - All Saints School and The Bar Convent Museum

Yorkshire woman Mary Ward (1585-1645) paved the way for education for girls in this country. She is the foundress of the order who resides here at the Bar Convent.

Mary wanted to be a nun when it was illegal to be Catholic. She escaped England and went to the Continent where many other Catholics fled. Mary's calling was to educate girls, and for the members of her order to be unenclosed, free to go wherever they were needed. Mary wrote that "there is no such difference between men and women that women may not do great things" and believed that girls deserved an equal standard of education. She was far ahead of her time - this was 300 years before women were given the right to vote. The Church said that women in religious orders should stay within the convent walls. They closed down Mary's schools and houses across the Continent and she was imprisoned. After her release, she returned to York where she died in Heworth in January 1645 and was buried in Osbaldwick.

Following her death, the members of her order continued her work. They opened the first school for girls in the country in London in 1669 - and the second here in this house in 1686- dressed as widows in order to hide their true identity. Today, this is the oldest living convent in the UK, the main house to a global order of religious sisters and there are around 200 schools worldwide in Mary Ward's name. Every year this Yorkshire woman, with a legacy in York, is celebrated around the world from 23- 30 January, however, many people from York have never heard of her. This needs to change!

The Artist will work with a group of students from All Saints to run workshops to help create the beetle.

The Bar Convent will work with the young people to learn about Mary Ward and bring that into their sessions with the artist.

John Chesterman and Stuart Feather

[Stuart Feather](#) is an activist who was an original member of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) and took part in the first public demonstration of homosexuals in the UK in 1970 (once arrested in full Mary Whitehouse drag in 1971.)

Stuart is a painter and the author of political biography, *Blowing the Lid: Gay Liberation, Sexual Politics and Radical Queens*, published in 2016. Stuart was also a member of the Bloolips queer theatre troupe between 1977-1993, which won a New York OBIE awards in 1981.

John Chesterman with Stuart Feather helped form the GLF, queer archivist and writer, founder of *Gay Times*.

'We would spend whole weekends talking about ways of furthering gay liberation and countering our opponents. John Chesterman had the kind of mind that could work out plans like kidnapping a statue or subverting a book. The festival action was much more than just Street Theatre people. They were there from other hippie groups and from the underground press.' (Stuart Feather)

The two were partners who met in York, and stayed lifelong friends

We particularly encourage applications from artists who identify as LGBTQIA+.

Group TBC

Geoff and Roma Oxford - Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG)

Geoff Oxford is currently an Honorary Fellow in the Department of Biology, University of York, where he taught genetics and evolution for nearly 40 years. Although his main interest is in spiders (you can read his previous blog here), he became fascinated by the Tansy beetle some 30 years ago when his wife, Roma, started to breed them... and began to ask questions. This led to two Ph.D. research studentships and a number of Masters projects studying the biology and conservation of the beetle. In 2008 he, Roma and representatives from relevant statutory authorities formed the embryo Tansy Beetle Action Group (TBAG) to coordinate the species' conservation. He continues to engage with Tansy beetle research and TBAG's activities.

As the common name suggests, the Tansy Beetle in Yorkshire eats predominantly Tansy *Tanacetum vulgare*, a tall aromatic plant with yellow, button-like flowers, which grows in large, adjacent patches along the banks of the river Ouse. Beetles overwinter as adults, deep amongst the roots of Tansy

clumps, emerging above ground in March. They feed on young Tansy leaves, mate and lay small batches of usually pale-yellow eggs on the underside of Tansy leaflets but also, counterintuitively, on adjacent non-food plants such as grasses. The eggs hatch into beige, slug-like larvae, which also feed on Tansy. In late June, the larvae head underground to pupate within an earth cell. A month later, the new generation of adults appears, by which time the old, overwintering generation has largely died. The new adults feed, and occasionally mate, before disappearing underground again in late September to hibernate.

From the start, TBAG tried to promote the Tansy Beetle more widely as a beautiful, inspiring and locally occurring invertebrate, of which York should be proud. In addition, the species serves as an iconic figurehead, representing perhaps less immediately attractive British invertebrates that are also of conservation concern. An 'educational' population sited in the Yorkshire Museum Gardens attracts much attention and interest from locals and visitors alike. The beetle's profile was further enhanced in 2019 by a giant, Crowdfunded image painted by ATM Street Art on the gable end of a house near York's railway station, and the naming of a cocktail bar 'The Tansy Beetle' in a York restaurant.

Mary Tuke - Hempland Primary School

Mary Tuke, a Quaker born in 1695, played a pivotal role in York's chocolate industry, a legacy that Nestlé acknowledges as the foundation of its UK confectionery division nearly 300 years ago. In 1725, facing the challenge of supporting herself after the death of her family, Mary defied legal restrictions by establishing a grocer's shop in Walmgate, York.

The powerful Merchant Adventurers Company imposed stringent regulations, demanding a licence for trading in the city. Mary, being neither a widow nor the daughter of a company member, faced formidable obstacles. Despite seven years of fines, court battles, and threats of imprisonment, Mary persisted, asserting her right to run a business as a single woman.

Ultimately, the Merchant Adventurers yielded, allowing Mary to operate a shop with one apprentice, her nephew. This humble beginning evolved into a thriving business dealing in tea, coffee, and, from 1785, cocoa. Mary's legacy extended beyond commercial success; her nephews, who inherited the business, supported causes like the abolition of slavery.

In 1862 the business was bought by Henry Isaac Rowntree and Rowntrees was founded.

The business continued to flourish, making its mark in confectionery from 1879 and eventually catching the attention of Nestlé. In 1988, Nestlé acquired the business, known for inventing iconic treats like KitKat and Smarties. Mary Tuke's remarkable journey reflects not only business acumen but also a commitment to social justice and advocacy for the oppressed.

The Artist will work with a group of students from Hempland Primary school to help create the beetle.