

Yorkshire Museum

The History of York

A transcript for the Hearing Impaired

AS LIGHTS DIM

THE SHOW IS ABOUT TO BEGIN SO PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU HAVE SWITCHED OFF YOUR MOBILE PHONE AND DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OR RECORD VIDEO WHILE THE FILM IS RUNNING.

THANKYOU

NARRATOR

Be Still

You are not the first, many like you came before: Visitors entering Yorkfor Conquest, for Trade, for God. In a city this old we are all visitorsHere for a time and then gone!!

SO RELAX. UNWIND. LET TIME REWIND.

POLICE SIRENS,CHEERING POP MUSIC

AIR RAID SIRENS

Unwelcome visitors!! The great York Air Raid blasts away walls. Hitler sends his bombers to obliterate York as a revenge attack for the bombing of German Cathedrals. He uses a guide book to select the City.

TICKING SOUND

TIME IS UNWINDING

1839 and the railway comes to York bringing workers in and sending chocolates out.

TRAIN NOISES

200 years into the past and yet here are visitors much like you!!

18th CENTURY MUSIC AND A GUN SHOT

York is a centre of fashion but Highway Man Dick Turpin is not paying a social call. He is held in York Castle Prison.

Actors Voice

“He was carried in a cart to the place of execution. He bowed to the spectators as he passed, with undaunted courage he looked around. After speaking to the Topsman for near half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder”

Thus reports from York’s growing network of printers’ turns a murderer and a horse thief into a national celebrity!!

Uninvited guests Cromwell’s Army besiege the city. A crushing defeat at the bloody Battle of Marston Moor seals York’s fate. Surrender follows. “Black Tom” Lord Fairfax saves York Minster from desecration at the hands of victorious Parliamentarians.

BE STILL AGAIN TIME FLOWS BACKWARDS ONCE MORE

York’s most famous martyr Margaret Clitheroe is executed on Ouse Bridge, crushed under her own front door laden with rocks! She is one of thousands of victims of religious conflict set in motion by Henry V111. Henry dissolved St. Mary’s Abbey and destroyed all York’s monasteries and shrines. He split the Christian church all to raise funds to wage war against the French!!

TIME UNRAVELS TO EARLIER PEACE AND PROSPERITY

TICKING ----- MEDIEVAL MUSIC PLAYING

Money pours into the city from Trade, from Religious Tourists visiting St William’s Shrine and the Mystery Plays are performed in the streets on wagons paid for by the wealth of the Craft Guilds

EARLIER YET VISITORS COME TO PERSECUTE AND DESTROY

TICKING ----- MUSIC PLAYING

Norman king William The Conqueror has crushed the south at the Battle of Hastings. He marches to York to subdue the north. At his command crops and herds, tools and fuel are burned to ashes. More than a hundred thousand people perish from hunger. William builds two castles to stamp his control on the land!!

THE YEARS TICK BACK THE VIKINGS OCCUPY YORK NOW BUT TO THEM IT'S JORVIK

Eric Bloodaxe is crowned the last independent king of North England. Sagas recount his exploits from age 12, he has four brothers killed.....yet Viking remains show peaceful farmers, traders, craftsmen and so farno bloody axe!!

NORSE WORDS SPOKEN-----TRANSLATOR “What was the beginning, how did it start, what was before?”

UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ANGLIANS THE SITE IS CALLED EOFORWIC

A centre of wealth and power. It's famous' library and the books within now all gone. Along with the language of old English.

**OLDE ENGLISH WORDS SPOKEN
TRANSLATOR “That passed away so may this”**

CONSTANTINE IS CROWNED HERE

He is the fifth Roman Emperor to visit Eboracum. Visitors flock from far and wide. Meet Lucius of the 9th Legion who built York's first settlement the Fortress Eboracum, perhaps Lucius laid the stones here. These very stones stamped with the mark of his legion but after that the 9th legion disappears and now like Lucius's face the legion's fate is lost to time.

**ROMAN WORDS SPOKEN ----- TRANSLATOR
“But meanwhile it flees, time flees irretrievably while we wander around, prisoners of our love of the moment”.**

AND SO WE REACH THE BEGINNING

The junction of two rivers, a ridge slightly above marshy ground ...a natural walkway. Feet have trod this path for over 4,000 years, yes many came before!!

As you tread the streets of York today, look upon the signs of those who came before....

Discover the Roman fortress, the Anglian centre of learning and the Viking stronghold.

Gaze upon the ruthlessness of the Normans, the Piety of the Medieval period and the religious turbulence of the Tudors. Explore the grand buildings of the Georgians, the industrial heritage of the Victorians and the jeopardy of the 20th century.....No 21st century visitor you are not the first.....but today the journey belongs to you.....go out into the city and make it your own.