

Historians' Visit to Staffordshire Museum Collections Store 26 June 2026

On a very hot day, a small group of Historians visited the Staffordshire Museum Collections Store, which is situated in units on Beacon Business Park, Stafford. The group were shown around the units by Sarah English and her assistant, starting with a number of carriages obtained mostly from Shugborough. Sarah explained that documents were kept in the temperature-controlled archives at the Staffordshire History Centre in the centre of Stafford, but the larger items were held in two storage units on this site.

The group were more than happy to move to the air-conditioned vaults, where the more delicate collections are held: clothing over the centuries (including a collection of Lotus shoes, as Stafford was a shoe-making town) and art from local artists. After a break for refreshments, the group was taken upstairs where the social artefacts are kept: a whole range of items such as washing machines, bedpans, toys including a variety of dolls houses, early radios and televisions, cooking utensils including an early microwave, sweet-making equipment and much more. There was even a mystery item for which the group tried and failed to guess its use, but Sarah was able to give the answer. Some of the group went on to the second unit where larger artefacts were stored – a lot of farm machinery and other big and bulky items could be found here.

It was a most interesting and illuminating afternoon with Sarah giving the group a lot of information about the artefacts and the work that goes into acquiring and conserving them. Sarah and her assistant were thanked for their guided tour of the collections.



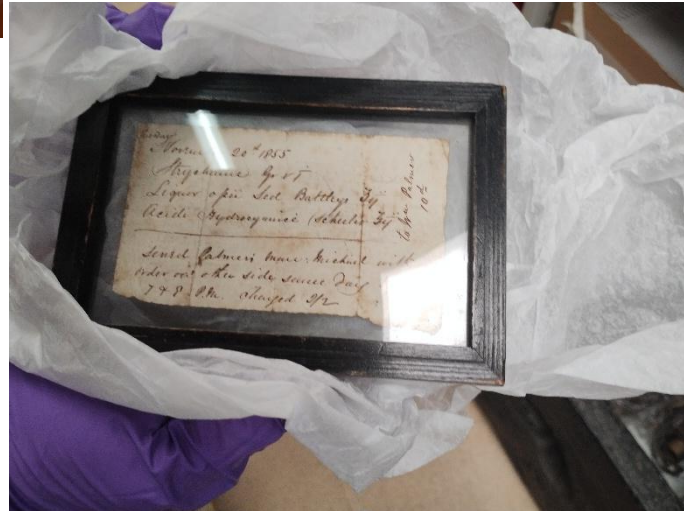
Standing with the carriages



This oak bier, made by the Myatt brothers of Netherton (Nethertown?), was used to carry the coffin into Hamstall Ridware church.



Death mask of William Palmer, the Rugeley Poisoner and his prescription for Strychnine below



In the second unit housing the larger items, including agricultural and beekeeping equipment.

Our guide, Sarah English on the left, and her assistant on the right.