



# School Report 2019

Queen Street School Preservation Trust



It has been a record year! We celebrated our tenth anniversary of the School Museum's operation – and a number of activities also marked the bicentenary of England's first Infant School, and our part in that story.

The number of adult visitors to the School Museum increased by 25% from 2018 to 3,227. An increasing number are from Hull and the East Riding. Some of our advertising has been targeted to the north bank. The Old School Canteen coffee shop has added enormously to the quality of visitor experience.

Now in its third year of operation, The Old School Canteen has continued to increase its appeal to museum visitors and draw in more regular customers. Over 11,000 customers used it – an increase of almost 10% on 2018, and 30% since opening in 2017. It's most recent award was another Lincolnshire *Life Magazine's Taste of Excellence Award* – just reward for the tireless efforts of Ruthanne and her fantastic team.



A "straw poll" suggests around a third of visitors to the Reminiscence Classroom enter from the coffee shop – emphasising the synergy between the two businesses.



Children continue to be an important part of our audience.

840 children visited as part of family groups – up by a hundred compared to 2018. Including children on school visits and those taking part in our events - around 30% of our customers are children.

Around 2,000 children visited as part of school groups – back to our previous peak in 2012, despite curriculum changes and the cost pressures face by schools. Our Education team delivered 111 learning sessions – including (left) our session looking at the historic building.

It was almost as busy as 2015 when we conducted 15 group tours - this year over two hundred adults came in 14 groups – and we have enlarged our team of tour guides to spread the workload.

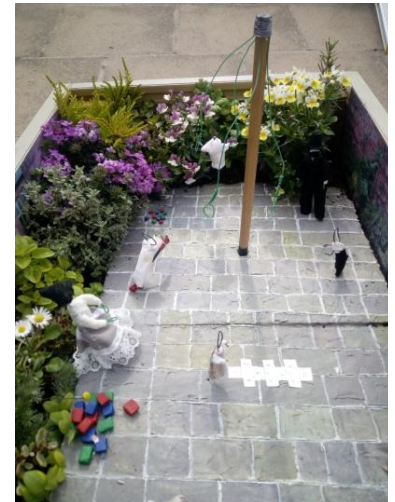
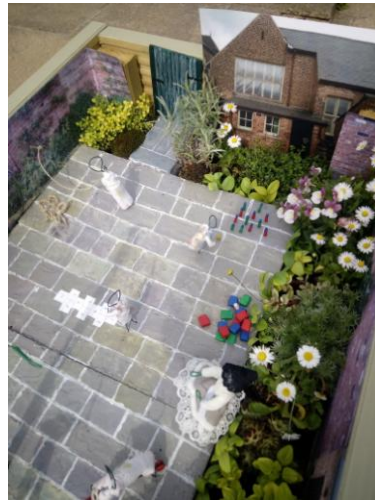
The Trust received a generous donation to help our Sewing Group create costumes for our tour guides.

Over two hundred people came to see our wartime kitchen and Anderson Shelter (right) at the *Appleby 1940s Day* including Rene Artois and other *Allo Allo* look-alikes from [funcast.co.uk](http://funcast.co.uk)



It's been a record year for community engagement too. 4,500 adults and children too part in events we organised at the Wilderspin School Museum, including Barton Bike Night and the Christmas Festival, or in our outreach activities.

Our volunteers took part in nine community events including the opening of the Holydyke air raid shelter as part of Heritage Open Days. This was the second year with National Lottery Heritage Fund funding support for Barton's heritage festival which is attracting a growing regional reputation. There were 4,395 recorded visits to Heritage Open Days events in Barton during the 2019 festival week.



Members of our Gardening Group (left) put the finishing touches to our entry into the Barrow on Humber Wheelbarrow Festival. Another volunteer made our barrow and its design represented the Wilderspin Playground - highlighting Wilderspin's part in the two hundred years story of English Infant schools.

This year there were over 7,500 users and 575 room bookings for private functions, business or community use – an increase of 200 since 2018. These include adult education courses, yoga and dance classes. North Lincolnshire Council's Community Learning Service currently occupies one of our business units.

An increasing number now use the Joseph Wright Hall (the former Chapel building). All school visits now depend on the Hall as a learning space and a lunch facility. It serves as a bar and reception space when the first floor auditorium is used for performances.



During the year, members of the Wilderspin Art Group and Trust volunteers gave the ground floor function room a make-over which has transformed its appearance until funding can be secured for a major refurbishment of the building.

**A Final Thought** - Around 30,000 people have visited or used the site during 2019. That takes the number of people who have used the site over the last ten years to 182,000, of which 102,000 have been museum visitors or coffee shop customers.

