

NATIONAL POO MUSEUM

in a nutshell



Poo is surrounded by taboo. We all poo but we don't often talk about it. That's a shame because poo is important.

Seriously-ill people often put off seeking help because they are too embarrassed to talk about poo. Kids with encopresis can suffer shame and guilt. We need to have conversations about these things, but the taboo inhibits us.

Poo is important but it is also fascinating. Did you know that wombats do square poos? That some fish can eat coral and poo out sand? That a revolution in the science of gut bacteria is leading to a new understanding of our biology?

The National Poo Museum exists to explore topics like these. We use quirkiness and family-friendly humour to dispel the taboo so we can engage and inform. We want to lift the lid on the secret world of poo - to examine our relationship with it and to change forever how we think about this amazing substance.

The Poo Museum began as an exhibition at Sandown Zoo in 2016. News of our project soon went viral on the internet. We were overwhelmed by enquiries from newspapers, broadcasters and websites all over the World.

Media interest is still strong. We've featured in the New York Times and been filmed by BBC Earth Unplugged. We've just contributed to a major new BBC2 Wildlife quiz.

Our exhibits are encapsulated in clear resin so they can be safely handled and viewed. Many have a story to tell, like the Herring Gull poo filled with plastic, part of the ocean litter that increasingly threatens marine life.



Earlier this year we tried out our new, more interactive, exhibition at Sandown Library. The positive reaction and the way that people engaged with the exhibits was really encouraging. Most surprising was how much we learnt from our visitors!

We've developed many contacts. The Natural History Museum, Bowel Cancer UK, Oxfam and others have suggested we work with them. We've connected film makers with gastroenterologists in Canada and introduced American biologists to Italian anthropologists. We want to keep on enabling this meeting of minds and cultures.

The Poo Museum has so far been displayed in temporary exhibitions. We're now setting up a permanent home at the historic Sandown Battery on the Isle of Wight. In partnership with the Local Council, we will develop it as a visitor attraction. This will make us financially self-sufficient and enable us to create an innovative centre of fun, engagement and education that can be a real asset to the local community.

The National Poo Museum is a project of the Eccleston George Collective of Artists. Directors are Dan Roberts, Nigel George, Ian Boyd and Dave Badman.

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