

A DECADE OF IMPACT

THE
ROMAN
BATHS
FOUNDATION

Celebrating Ten Years of
The Roman Baths Foundation





Celebrating Ten Years of Impact: Thank You

As we celebrate ten years of The Roman Baths Foundation, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported us on this remarkable journey.

Since launching in 2015, your generosity has helped us achieve so much from the creation of inspiring spaces like the Clore Learning Centre and the World Heritage Centre, to the opening of The Gym through our first fundraising campaign - The Archway Project. These achievements have opened up new ways for people to engage with Bath's extraordinary heritage, and none of it would have been possible without your belief in our mission.

“

On behalf of Bath & North East Somerset Council, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to The Roman Baths Foundation for their remarkable support over the past decade.”

Cllr Kevin Guy,
Leader of the Council

In particular, we would like to thank Bath & North East Somerset Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Clore Duffield Foundation, and Garfield Weston Foundation alongside other generous donors for their support.

Looking ahead, we are entering an exciting new chapter. Groundbreaking research is underway to revisit our collections with fresh perspectives. This includes exploring the lives of underrepresented groups from Roman society in our museum - migrants, enslaved individuals, women, and disabled people. This work will enrich how we tell the story of Aquae Sulis, helping our museum reflect a fuller, more inclusive picture of the past.

Together, we are not only preserving history, we are reshaping it to be more representative, more engaging, and more meaningful for everyone. Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us build a museum experience that every visitor can enjoy.

Robert Halton,
Chair of The Roman Baths Foundation



The Archway Project Unlocking Opportunities, Transforming Lives

2022

The year The Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre, World Heritage Centre and The Gym (The Archway Project) opened.

The Archway Project has brought people closer to Bath's rich history, expanded educational opportunities and strengthened community connections.

The Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre

is a purpose-built education space featuring three state-of-the-art classrooms and a hands-on Investigation Zone set amongst real Roman remains. The award-winning programmes delivered here spark curiosity and empower young people through interactive learning. In partnership with local organisations, the Centre also supports wellbeing and inclusion through social prescribing, creative workshops, and volunteering opportunities.

01



02

The World Heritage Centre, a free-to-access visitor hub on York Street, introduces people to Bath's UNESCO World Heritage status through exhibits, trails, and guides and provides local people with volunteering opportunities.

03

The Gym - a Roman gym and a laconicum (a type of sauna) were made accessible to visitors of The Roman Baths as part of the Archway Project, alongside new interpretive elements such as projections.



£850K

Raised for The Archway Project through gifts to The Roman Baths Foundation.



Thank you

None of this would have been possible without the Foundation's tireless advocacy and the generosity of donors. Your support enabled archaeological work, conservation, digital interpretation, and the creation of an inspiring learning environment.

Connecting people at the Clore Learning Centre

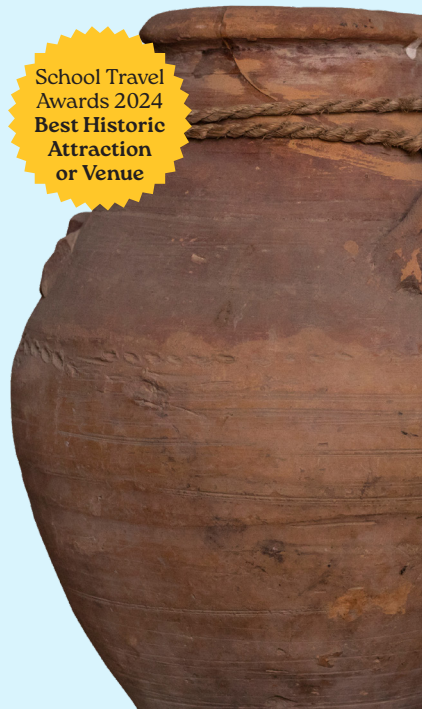
The award-winning learning and participation programme at The Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre fosters curiosity, creativity, and a sense of belonging, offering a wide range of community, educational, and participatory workshops for all ages.



“Due to the school having a high percentage of free school meals, we were able to do this trip. Without the free entry, this would not have been accessible to our families.”

Teacher

School Travel Awards 2024
Best Historic Attraction or Venue



“It’s an escape from the chaos of my life.”

Minerva Monday participant - a participant-led monthly group which grew from the Wellbeing course

Sandford Award 2024
Recognised for outstanding contribution to heritage education



27,000

People took part in wellbeing courses, social prescribing, creative workshops, family activities, and collaborative programmes with community groups at The Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre over the last three years.

Bristol, Bath & Somerset Tourism Awards 2024
Active & Learning Experience of the year



“This has been the best school experience I can think of from almost 25 years of teaching.”

Teacher

50,000

People took part in a learning session at The Roman Baths Clore Learning Centre over the last three years. This includes primary and secondary pupils, teachers, parents, university students and home educators.

“These classes have allowed me to meet wonderful people, socialise, and form meaningful friendships.”

Refugee programme participant

People, Place, Purpose: Volunteering at the World Heritage Centre

Located in the heart of Bath,
the World Heritage Centre
brings the city's UNESCO
status to life.

Bristol, Bath &
Somerset Tourism
Awards 2024
Gold for Visitor
Information
Service

Through interactive exhibits and welcoming
volunteers, it helps visitors explore why Bath
is recognised as a place of outstanding
universal value.

Our volunteers play a vital role in making
heritage personal - sharing stories, offering
guidance, and helping every visitor feel
connected to Bath's rich past and vibrant
present.



“

We get consistently good feedback from
visitors, and it is rewarding to know that I
am able to have a positive impact on their
experience of Bath. This has all helped to
boost my confidence and made me think
more seriously about a career in visitor
experience and/or heritage.”

World Heritage Centre Volunteer



300,000

People visited the World
Heritage Centre over the
last three years

74

Volunteers help to run
the World Heritage
Centre. Volunteers have
the opportunity to gain
professional skills and
expertise through training,
meet new people and
develop their confidence.

6,800

Volunteering hours
contributed over the
last three years.

Wellness Then and Now: The Gym

The Gym explores how the Romans maintained their health through exercise, heated rooms, and social rituals.

Opened to the public for the first time, the Roman Gym and Laconicum area offer a unique glimpse into ancient wellbeing practices. Located beside the Great Bath and included in general admission, this immersive space uses projections and interpretation to show how Romans exercised, relaxed, and cared for their health.

Visitors can explore the exercise yard, see ancient fitness routines, and learn how Roman medicine shaped ideas of balance and healing, many of which still resonate today.

3.6 million

People have visited The Roman Baths since The Gym opened.



Main image

The Olympic gold-medal British Modern Pentathlon team helped launched The Gym.

Top right

Beneficiaries of Headway enjoyed the A Roman's Guide to Wellbeing course at The Roman Baths.



A Roman's Guide to Wellbeing

The Archway Project was the catalyst for growing our Wellbeing Programme. A Roman's Guide to Wellbeing, connects ancient Roman health practices with modern approaches through sensory and creative activities that promote mindfulness and social connection.

The programme has successfully reached diverse groups through social prescribing, with referrals from doctors, therapists, and support workers via the B&NES Community Wellbeing Hub. Participating groups include refugees, Headway, a charity supporting people with brain injuries, and Blind Veterans UK.

“

I've loved every week that I have come here, and I've also loved the atmosphere and the welcoming feeling. The activities that we have all done I have also loved. In other words, I love the learning and The Roman Baths. Thank you for having us all and thanks for making me feel happier!"

A participant from Headway

Right Sarcophagus with two skeletons discovered in Sydney Gardens

Below Ivory breasts votive from the Spring



Looking to the future: Reimagining The Roman Baths

Through rigorous research, The Roman Baths collection will be re-examined to gain a deeper understanding of the diverse people who made up Roman Society, including migrants, enslaved individuals, women and disabled people. We're taking a closer look at objects from the Sacred Spring, skeletal remains, and the Curse Tablets to build a richer, more nuanced understanding of the people who came here - who they were, what they believed, and how they lived.

The outcomes of this research will shape future storytelling, ensuring our interpretation is representative, and firmly rooted in academic evidence. This is more than a refresh. It's a bold commitment to inclusive storytelling, creating a museum experience where every visitor feels connected.

“

We are entering a bold new chapter of research at The Roman Baths, exploring both the archaeological site and our extraordinary collection. The discoveries we make will play a central role in shaping the Museum's future transformation, ensuring it is inclusive, relevant, and inspiring for all.”

Amanda Hart,
Director of Archaeology & Art at The Roman Baths

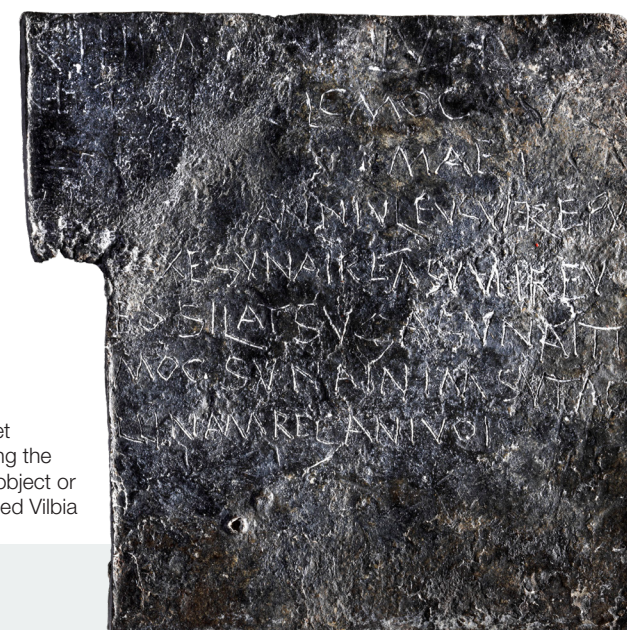


Below The gilt bronze head of the goddess Sulis Minerva

Above Pewter vessels from the Spring



Right Tablet documenting the theft of an object or woman called Vilbia



Research Priorities

Ancient DNA & Osteobiographies

In partnership with the Francis Crick Institute's GB Genome Project, we are carrying out scientific analysis of the ancient DNA from our human skeletal collection. We will create osteobiographies that tell us more about the types of people who came to Aquae Sulis and how they lived their lives.

PhD Placement

A PHD student placement with Reading and Exeter Universities is exploring the museum's Victorian imperial context, reassessing archaeological finds, and highlighting perspectives on identity and representation in the collection.

Curse Tablets

The Curse Tablets are the personal and private prayers of 130 individuals. They are inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World UK register - the only objects from Roman Britain to receive this accolade. Our ambition is to use new technology to translate the tablets.

Sensational Museum

We are piloting new ways of interpreting the site. For example, we've worked with a pan-disabled group to explore inclusive, multi-sensory exhibition design starting with a 'Smellscape' in the East Baths.

Shape a Bold new Chapter for The Roman Baths

Your support will help us reimagine the museum's displays, grounded in cutting-edge archaeological research and designed to tell richer, more inclusive stories of the people of Aquae Sulis.

By investing in this transformative work, you'll be helping us preserve heritage, expand understanding, and create a museum that truly belongs to everyone.

We're seeking support from individuals, trusts, foundations, and corporate partners to fund projects that protect, interpret, and share The Roman Baths in new ways.

Whether you choose to give a one-off donation, become a regular supporter your contribution will have a lasting impact.

Become Part of an Enduring Story

To find out more and discuss your support Please get in touch with Rebecca Gibson, Development Manager.

foundation@bathnes.gov.uk
and 01225 477722



Your Support Will:

Care for Historic Buildings

Preserve The Roman Baths for today and future generations.

Protect the Collection

Conserve rare objects and interpret voices from the past.

Advance Research

Unlock new insights into Roman life through scientific study.

Transform Storytelling

Reimagine displays with inclusive interpretation and new technologies.

Expand Access

Create exhibitions that reflect diverse experiences and improve accessibility.

Enrich Learning

Deliver powerful educational experiences for all ages.

Future-Proof the Museum

Invest in structural repairs and digital innovation to secure long-term sustainability.

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Get in touch

Would you like to find out more?

Please get in touch:
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The Roman Baths
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Bath & North East
Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

