

## **The Armitt Library and Museum Centre – Artist/Creative Practitioner Brief**

### Introduction

The Armitt Library and Museum Centre has received funding from the [David Snowdon Trust](#) and the Westmorland Arts Trust, administered by [Cumbria Community Foundation \(CCF\)](#), to run a series of nature journalling workshops during the summer term of 2023. We are looking for an artist/creative practitioner to run these workshops for groups of young people to explore nature journalling. This will include planning and delivering the sessions, as well as supporting the evaluation. This work is part of the programme of activities associated with the centenary celebrations of Charlotte Mason, linking with the museum's "[Learning through the Natural World](#)" exhibition and its partnership with the [University of Cumbria](#) who will be supporting this activity through school group coordination.

### About us

We are a small independent accredited museum in Ambleside, Cumbria. Founded in 1912, the museum recently celebrated its 110-year anniversary, and we have been in the current premises since 1997. The Armitt is run by a Board of Trustees, all of whom are volunteers, a Manager & Curator (full time employed staff member) who manages a team of 3 part time staff who deliver administration, front of house support, marketing, and events. There are also around 15 active volunteers who assist with archive and digitisation tasks, front of house, events, and learning.

The museum collection contains a wide range of items, including books, art, archaeology, photographs, manuscripts and documents, maps, and other objects of cultural and artistic significance and interest. These number 75,000+ and mostly cover the Ambleside area, its inhabitants, as well as the wider Lakeland world.

### Project brief

The basis for this programme is the consideration of the nature notebooks of students from Charlotte Mason's House of Education/Charlotte Mason College and exploration of how they can still be used today for creating personal nature journals, so advancing knowledge of science, geography, literature and art, as well as supporting mental health and wellbeing.

The appointed individual will work with four groups of 15 participants between the ages of 10 and 16 delivering two workshops per group. The first workshop will be an introductory workshop that includes a review of nature notebooks from in the museum collection and a trip out into the Lake District (from The Armitt) to discover the natural world and inspire the students' own journals. The second workshop will be a plenary to discuss the development of the journals, what people have found positive and helpful, and anything that has been found challenging. The artist/creative practitioner will have free access to The Armitt for background preparation and will work closely with staff to develop ideas and resources/equipment. The artist/creative practitioner will provide tools and techniques to encourage the young people to continue to pursue their nature journals between each workshop as well as beyond.

### Key deliverables

We are looking for the creative practitioner to:

- Plan and deliver two workshop sessions between May and July 2023 to four groups of young people (eight sessions in total) between the ages of 10 and 16 based on developing their own nature journal.

- Support the evaluation of the workshops by completing satisfaction surveys eg. Warwick-Edinburgh scales to track the young peoples' development before and after the workshops.
- Produce a follow-up survey for The Armitt to distribute to participants in the autumn/winter of 2023.
- Work with the team at The Armitt and the University of Cumbria.

#### Project timescales

The funding we have received requires us to have completed the project (including workshops, evaluation and an internal report) by 31 January 2024. Invoicing for fees would need to be received before this date, after the workshops and evaluation have been delivered.

#### Project budget

£2,550 including VAT.

#### What we are looking for

We are looking for someone confident to plan and lead the workshops with young people and who has the following/similar experience/competencies:

- Has a completed DBS check (essential)
- Experience working with young people between the ages of 10 and 16
- Creative and/or artist credit
- Knowledge of Charlotte Mason and/or nature notebooks
- Knowledge of the curriculum
- Experience with mental health and wellbeing initiatives
- Understanding of evaluation methods, such as Warwick-Edinburgh scales
- Knowledge of nature and the Lake District landscape

#### References and Documentation

We require the artist/creative practitioner to supply:

- Two appropriate references
- DBS certificate
- Relevant example portfolio work

#### How to apply

CV with covering letter of no more than one side of A4, highlighting key experience relevant to this project and example portfolio work, to be sent to Faye Morrissey, Manager & Curator, The Armitt [faye.morrissey@armitt.com](mailto:faye.morrissey@armitt.com) by 2 April 2023.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel and short-listed candidates will then be selected to attend an interview. Expected appointment of practitioner to be made by 16 April 2023.

#### Payment, tax etc

The museum will pay the creative practitioner within 30 days of completing the work and issuing the invoice(s).