

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO TULLIE'S CIRCUS ATTRACTION

We've rolled up, rolled up in large numbers!

BY JOHNNY IRVING

A CIRCUS exhibition has got visitors rolling up in big numbers - with record attendances at Carlisle's Tullie House.

The Mechanical Circus exhibition is pulling in the crowds with thousands of families coming through the doors during half term.

As of Thursday lunchtime, 4,200 visitors had rushed to the museum, with over 3,000 of them eager to catch a glimpse at a variety of model clowns, acrobats, jugglers and other circus acts all put together in a unique way.

SMASHED

And with two days still to run for the exhibition, last year's total half-term visitors number - 1,255 - has already been smashed. The museum hopes to reach 5,000 visitors by the end of the week, meaning around 700 people a day will have visited during the school holidays.

Michelle Wiggins, marketing manager at Tullie House said: "It's something a bit different for us as it's so family-orientated."

"The public seem to like the interactive nature of the exhibition and we've found that numbers are remaining high after the success of the Crosby Garrett helmet which brought so many people to Tullie House," added Michelle.

"We are thrilled that this family friendly exhibition is



Bare bones: Six-year-old Savannah De-Berry and mum Caroline have fun with a skeletal exhibit at the Mechanical Circus Exhibition in Tullie House which attracted record numbers of visitors

DAVID HOLLINS

proving to be a huge success with children and adults alike.

"The fun and interactive nature of the exhibits and supporting half term activities has ensured there is something for everyone to enjoy".

Families and children alike were taken aback by the interactivity of the exhibition as visitors could literally make get hands on with many of the mechanical displays housed under circus tents.

"It is great that they don't say don't touch this, don't touch that, it is great they can interact," said 39-year-old Daniel Roberts, from Belle Vue who had brought his young daughter Neve.

"We come quite a bit because my daughter like to see all the different exhibitions. This is good because it is dedicated to the kids and makes them want to interact."

One of the key parts to increasing visitor numbers has been attracting families

that have never visited the museum before.

Rachel Kipling, 24, from Penrith, brought along two-year-old son Ben.

"We saw the exhibition in the news and it looked really good so we wanted to come and see it. I would definitely come back again."

John Howell, 58, from Stanwix in Carlisle, brought along his nine-year-old granddaughter Lucy.

"We come along about twice a year, recently we saw the Crosby Garrett

helmet. We come to anything special like that."

The exhibition has even attracted families from outside the county.

Caroline De-Berry, from Newcastle, brought her six-year-old daughter Savannah.

She said: "The little one saw this on the news and wanted me to bring her across. We usually stop local for things like this but we thought this looked good."

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Hands on: Daniel Roberts with daughter Neve from Carlisle



Fascinating for all ages: The Mechanical Circus Exhibition at Tullie House Museum in Carlisle

Appliance of science can be fun

DAYS OUT

The Mechanical Circus, Tullie House, Carlisle

Tullie House's Mechanical Circus exhibition combines modern mechanical sculptures with centuries-old physics games and puzzles to prove that science and technology are alive and absorbing.

For the first time in the UK, you can see the marvellous, hilarious and, at times, hair-raising automata of the Mechanical Cabaret Theatre, together with the scientific tricks, toys and spectacular experiments of the Museum Boerhaave, the Netherland's state museum of science and medicine. Entrance is £3 per adult, £2 per child. No concessions.

The museum is also staging a series of free drop-in sessions today until Sunday. The following activities take place each day:

LEGO challenge: Build a machine using Technic LEGO. Rule one - it must have at least one moving part.

Rule two - it must do a job.

Bicycle challenge: How fast can you ride a bike? Find out INSIDE the museum!

Electric games: Have a go at some electrifying games, from buzz wires to *Operation*.

Trail of inventions: TVs, telephones, cars, trains, clocks, computers, just some of the many machines and inventions that surround us. But which were invented in the Victorian period?

Game gears- Gears or cogs found in clocks, watches and cars.

Sparkling interest: Anya Robinson and grandfather Philip Robinson admire the plasma ball in The Mechanical Circus



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CITY MUSEUM'S SHOWCASE FOR MECHANICAL GEMS

Rolling up to enjoy the scientific circus

BY KELLY PATTON

ALL the fun of the fair is helping to bring science and technology to life at a Carlisle museum in a UK 'first'.

Visitors to Tullie House were given the chance to master the arts of circus skills including juggling and plate-spinning as the city museum kicked off its latest major exhibition on Saturday.

The Mechanical Circus exhibition, which runs until June 1, is the first time that many of the items on show have been displayed in the UK.

The circus-style exhibition, in the museum's art gallery, has been inspired by its own popular Flying Reiver which hovers above reception.

The exhibition combines modern mechanical sculptures - automata - with age-old physics games and puzzles.

It is the first time that the automata of the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre can be seen in the UK.

There is also an array of scientific tricks, toys and items from the Museum Boerhaave, the Netherlands science and medicine museum.

Tullie House leaders drafted in circus performers to help teach visitors tricks during Saturday's family fun day event.

The fun continues all this week, during February half term, with activities running from 10am to 4pm each day. There will be Lego and cycling



My turn! Alfie Hetherington, four, from Wigton enjoying the exhibition

JONATHAN BECKER

challenges to complete, as well as trails to follow and unusual games to try out.

Talks and workshops are also scheduled to take place over the next three months to coincide with the exhibition.

Marian Jones, programming manager at Tullie House, said: "The artist that made our Reiver, Keith Newstead, has links with the



Slide: Oscar Higgin, four, from Kingstown, Carlisle, uses a projector



Fascinated: Mollie Harkness, 22 months old, from Carlisle



Mechanical toy: Ben and Addison Jonker from Wigton

Cabaret Mechanical Theatre - a collaboration of artists who make these wonderful pieces. And from there we have the pieces from the Museum Boerhaave in the Netherlands.

"It is great for us because we have very little in our collection linked to science and technology so this is a great way to show people how it can be brought to life."

Cumbria County Council and the Co-op helped Tullie House stage Saturday's fun day by giving grant funding, including workshops from local circus skills outfit Astral.

It is understood some of the items in the exhibition will be heading to Warsaw, Poland after its three-month stint in Carlisle.



This is great fun! Five-year-old Thomas Rodley from Brampton has a go on one of the interactive exhibits at Tullie House Museum. The exhibition runs until June 1



Sparking interest: Bethan Dodley is transfixed. The exhibition combines modern mechanical sculptures - automata - with physics games and puzzles

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Like clockwork: Amy Walker tests the automata in Tullie House's Mechanical Circus exhibition.

Tullie House opens a new display of fun automata today in its Mechanical Circus exhibition.

The show combines Museum mechanical sculptures with centuries-old physics games and puzzles to show that science and technology are alive and absorbing.

For the first time in the UK, you can see the marvellous, hilarious

and at times hair-raising automata of the Mechanical Cabaret Theatre, together with the scientific tricks, toys and spectacular experiments of the Museum, Dinohouse, the Nottingham's state museum of science and medicine. Entrance is £3 per adult, £2 per child, for conversions.

The museum is also staging a series of free drop-in sessions



Tullie House, Carlisle

throughout half term. The following activities take place each day:

LEGO CHALLENGE: Build a machine using Technic Lego. Rule one - it must have at least one moving part. Rule two - it must do a job.

BICYCLE CHALLENGE: How fast can you ride a bike? Find out by taking part in our bicycle challenge, INSIDE the museum.

ELECTRIC GAMES: Have a game electrifying games, the best wins to Operation.

TRAIL OF INVENTIONS: Telegraphs, cars, trains, clock computers, just some of the machines and inventions the museum is. But were they invented in the Victorian period? Try out the trail to find out!

GAME GEARS: Gears or do found in clocks, watches and



Transformation: Guests Faye McRae, John Porter, Robert Loffhouse and Sarah Clive at the Steampunk playground, part of Tullie House Museum for one night only
 PICTURES: DAVID HOLLINS

A steampunk playground

BY KELLY PATTISON

A FUN-FILLED evening that featured the sport of dunking biscuits and circus stars has been hailed as inspiring.

The Steampunk Playground was central to Tullie House's Museum at Night event in Carlisle.

Members of Steampunk - a form of science fiction, art and style inspired by steam power and historical periods like the Victorian era - turned the city centre attraction into a big top last Friday night, with DJs and traders showcasing their skills and wares.

Venues nationwide supported the Museums at Night campaign and staff at Tullie House are sure their event was one of the highlights.

Steampunk brought out the county's edgy fashionistas with top hats, bowlers, goggles, corsets, waistcoats and even a mousetrap among items visitors wore.

Exhibitions and events officer Amy Walker said: "A huge thanks to everyone who came along and made it a really fun, exciting and inspiring event."

"We were overwhelmed by the number of people who attended but also the distance some people travelled and effort attendees put into embracing the theme."

Visitors to Tullie House learned the difference between a 'nom', 'splatter',



Different look: Sara Fabre and Stuart Bruce-Gormley



Black and white: Creme Brulay and Grace McLeod



Magic trick: Chris Cook amazes the audience at Tullie House

'splodge' and 'splash' as they mastered eating Malted Milk biscuits which had been dunked in a cuppa for five seconds - tea duelling.

Other attractions included the chance to do fancy dress life drawing - either as a model or artist - crafts; a magician; and the intri-

cate automata models that are part of the Mechanical Circus exhibition running until June 1.

Museums at Night is an annual scheme where museums across the country are encouraged to open up after hours to attract different audiences.

► expositie

Circus Boerhaave,
t/m 26 okt, Museum
Boerhaave, Lange
St. Agnietenstraat,
Leiden



Minicircus

Tem de leeuw

Kleine jongleurs, leeuwentemmers, danseressen en apen die door een druk op de knop tot leven komen. In de familietoestelling Circus Boerhaave ervaren bezoekers hoe koningen en keizers zich vroeger vermaakten met wonderbaarlijke en grappige automaten, die bij elkaar een vrolijk circus vormen.

Gek
automaat



Tullie House (@TullieHouse) · Feb 14

Mechanical Circus preview well underway, exhibition begins tomorrow 15 February until 1 June! A must see!



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