

Object information





1900th Anniversary of York commemorative coin

In 1971 City of York issued commemorative coins to celebrate the 1900th Anniversary of the founding of York in AD71 by Quintus Petillius Cerealis. These coins were given to schoolchildren at the time.

Suggested conversation starters: decimalisation, Romans, history of York.



Axe

This is a soft toy version of a Viking Axe. A Viking army called the Great Heathen Army captured York in 866 CE and stayed in the region for around 100 years and renamed it Jorvik!

Suggested conversation starters: Brief history of York – Romans, Vikings, Medieval, Tudor, Georgian, Victorian, 20th Century.



Black Magic Chocolate Box

Black Magic chocolates were created by Rowntree's in 1933 and are still a popular dark chocolate treat today. Rowntree's was founded in 1862 at Castlegate in York, by a Quaker called Henry Isaac Rowntree. Rowntree's also created popular confectionery such as Kit Kat, Rolo, Aero, Quality Street and Fruit Pastilles. In 1988 Nestle bought Rowntree's and by 1991 all traces of Rowntree's were rebranded as Nestle.

Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



City of York Education Committee Swimming Proficiency Medal

These medals were awarded to swimmers around the 1920s. The front side shows a swimmer design and crest with motto "Civis Eboram". The reverse side reads "City of York, Education Committee, Awarded for Proficiency in Swimming".

Suggested conversation starters: schools and growing up in York, playing on the Strays, swimming pools, horse racing.



Cravens of York sweet tin

Cravens was established in 1822 and, after her husband died in 1860, Mary Craven ran the Craven's business for more than 40 years, right up until her death in 1902. The business was based in Coppergate until the 1950s, when it moved to Millfield Lane in Poppleton. They were famous for their toffees, humbugs and French almond sweets. This tin is from the 1950s.

Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



Dick Turpin

Dick Turpin is a famous Highwayman, who was executed in York for Horse theft and spent his last days in what is now York Castle Museum. His grave is located nearby in St Georges Churchyard on Church Street.

Suggested conversation starters: folk tales, famous York stories.



Fruit Gums advert

Rowntree's of York developed the Kit Kat (1935), Aero (1935), Fruit Pastilles (1881), and Smarties (1937) brands. Rowntree's merged with Mackintosh Confectionery in 1969, which brought us Rolo and Quality Street. Fruit Gums were introduced in 1893. This advert shows fruit juice being poured into the container emphasising how fruity they are! In 1988 Nestle bought Rowntree's and by 1991 all traces of Rowntree's were rebranded as Nestle.

Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



Mallard Toy Train

The Mallard engine was built in 1938 in Doncaster. It was named after the Mallard Duck due to Sir Nigel Gresley's (a famous steam locomotive engineer) interest in birds and birdwatching. The Mallard can be found at the National Railway Museum in York.

Suggested conversation starters: railway journeys, holidays, day trips.



Nestle model van

In 1988 Nestle bought Rowntree's of York and by 1991 all traces of Rowntree's were rebranded as Nestle.

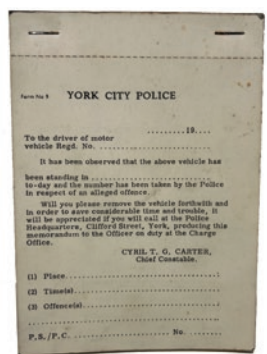
Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



Nurses Apron

This traditional nurse's apron is from the early 1900s. It shows the familiar red cross associated with healthcare. A nurse would have worn this to protect her uniform. York's first hospital was St Leonards, in what is now York Museum Gardens. York County Hospital was built especially for the city in 1740 and only closed in 1977 when our current hospital was built and amalgamated the remaining nine hospital in the city.

Suggested conversation starters: first jobs, hospitals in York, vaccinations.



Police uniform jacket, notebook, badge and buttons

These objects are from the 1960s. The notebook reads:

To the driver of motor vehicle Regd. No.

It has been observed that the above vehicle has been standing in

.....
today and the number has been taken by the Police in respect of an alleged offence.

Will you please remove the vehicle forthwith and in order to save considerable time and trouble, it will be appreciated if you will call at the Police Headquarters, Clifford Street, York, producing this memorandum to the Officer on duty at the Charge Office.

*CYRIL T. G. CARTER,
Chief Constable*

Reading this today, it is incredibly polite. Do you think people these days would take notice of such a notice? The badge buttons would be displayed on a police uniform.

Suggested conversation starters: York Prison (which is now York Castle Museum), mischief, the Minster Police, North Yorkshire Police.





Postcards

Postcards were introduced in 1870. They are an informal way to keep in touch with friends and family when you are away on holiday and let them know how you are. They can include photos of locations or funny cartoons. These are popular day trip destinations from York.

Suggested conversation starters: holidays, weather, Scarborough, Whitby.



Pre-decimal coins

in 1971 the Bank of England introduced decimalisation. This set shows the coins that were used before this. Old coins include Shillings and half a Crown. The Royal Mint was based in York during the Middle Ages and was the only city outside of London allowed to issued pennies.

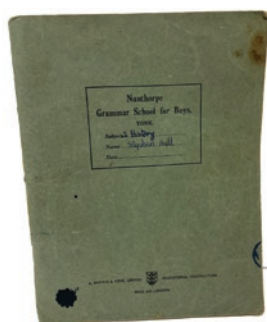
Suggested Conversation Starters: What could you buy with old money?



Roman bust

York was founded in AD71 when Roman soldiers marched from Lincoln and settled. In those days Romans called York Eboracum, which meant Yew Tree Place. The Ryedale Roman Hoard was discovered in 2020, in the Ampleforth area of Ryedale district, North Yorkshire. Included in the hoard was a bust of Antonine Emperor Marcus Aurelius which would have sat on top of a sceptre or priestly staff and a focal point for religious ceremonies. This is a 3D printed replica.

Suggested conversation starters: Archaeology, treasures, Roman York.



School exercise book

This History exercise book belonged to Stephen Hull. He attended Nunthorpe Grammer School for Boys, which was built in 1920. The building is still there and forms part of Millthorpe Secondary School.

Suggested conversation starters: school days, favourite subjects, city's schools.



The Secret Chocolate Lovers Handbook

York is well known for its chocolate industry with popular manufacturers Rowntree's and Terry's both established here. This novelty book includes facts about chocolate, chocolate recipes, chocolate games and chocolate jokes.

Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



The British Chocolate Industry Book

This book charts the history of the manufacture, marketing and consumption of chocolate from its origins in the eighteenth century.

Suggested conversation starters: confectionery manufacturers, favourite chocolates and sweets, guess the chocolate, city smelling of chocolate, Rowntree family and history, careers, first jobs.



Tetley Tea Mascot

Tetley Tea was founded in 1837 by Joseph and Edward Tetley in Huddersfield. They relocated to London in 1856. Tetley is the second-largest manufacturer of teas in the world, after Unilever. The Tetley tea folk were invented in 1973 to help promote the brand. This figure is called 'The Gaffer' – the boss of the Tea Folk. He worked his way up from Tea Boy, and is known for being a bit of a perfectionist.

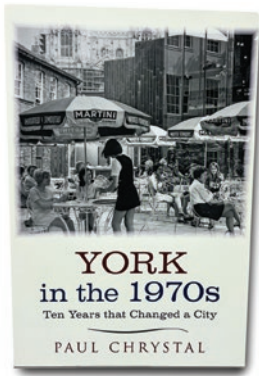
Suggested conversation starters: How do you drink your tea? Memorable adverts. Is Yorkshire tea better?



Ten Shillings note

The Ten Shilling Note was worth £1 and was first printed in 1928. It was fondly known as a 'Ten Bob Note'. In 1971 when the Bank of England introduced decimalisation it was replaced by the 50p coin. The Royal Mint was based in York during the Middle Ages and issued pennies.

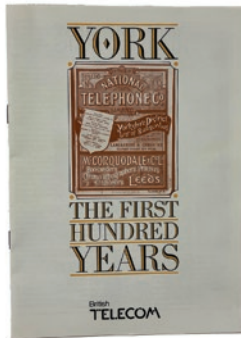
Suggested Conversation Starters: What could you buy with old money?



York in the 1970s book

In this book Paul Chrystal describes all of the fascinating details about York during this pivotal decade in the city's history. The 1970s saw such major events as the pedestrianisation of Stonegate, the opening of the world-famous National Railway Museum, the excavations in Coppergate, which paved the way for the Jorvik Viking Centre, and the opening of the Minster undercroft to the public.

Suggested Conversation Starters: Tourism in York, Viking York, Railways



York – the First Hundred Years brochure

A brochure produced by British Telecom in Leeds showing the history of the telephone structure in York.

Suggested conversation starters: remembering phone numbers, old phones, mobile phones.

You can see objects relating to the History of York in the following galleries at our venues:

York Castle Museum

Victorian Street, The Period Rooms, Secrets of Dress, 1914: When the World Changed Forever, York Castle Prison, 1960s.

Yorkshire Museum

Medieval York, Roman York, Jurassic Yorkshire, Historic Library.

York Art Gallery

Burton Gallery.

Alongside these objects, you'll find our Collection Cards that feature images of items from our museums and galleries, with prompts, questions, and facts to spark more conversations.