

Middlesbrough Museums

Dorman Museum

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum

Exhibition Information

Clothing Connections

DORMAN MUSEUM
20 July 2009 to 5 January 2010
Tuesday to Sunday 9:30 to 17:00

This exhibition uses items from the Dorman Museum's archaeological, social history, costume and textile, natural science and ethnographical collections to make connections between different cultures and across different time periods through the materials and techniques used to create and adorn clothing.

Clothing plays an important role in all societies and cultures. As well as providing practical protection against the extremes of climate, textiles can also communicate messages of wealth, social status and religious and ethnic identity through our choice of fabric and ornamentation.

Choosing clothes is one of the very first ways in which we learn to express ourselves. We reveal a lot about our individual personality, but also the tastes and social values of the times in which we live, through what we wear. Take a closer look at some of the factors that influence the choices we make – such as financial limitations, social aspirations, ethical issues and environmental concerns.

This freedom of expression can be taken for granted. In previous centuries the scope for creating a personal image was much more limited. Clothing chiefly proclaimed the person's status as an indication of occupation and rank. Before the development of artificial dyes, for example, bright colour was rare and expensive and only the rich could afford it.

Textiles have also played an important economic role in society, having been widely exported over the centuries and functioning as a negotiable currency. Find out where in the world pig's tusks were as valuable for adornment as gold and silver in other cultures. Find out how the mucous secretions of a Mediterranean sea snail and the cocoon of a moth influenced world economies for over five thousand years.



The Dorman Museum
Linthorpe Road
Middlesbrough
TS5 6LA
01642 813781


Middlesbrough
moving forward

Captain Cook Birthplace Museum
Stewart Park, Marton
Middlesbrough
TS7 8AT
01642 311211