

Welcome to Thackray Museum of Medicine



DISABILITY: FROM INACTION TO FASHION

This Disability: from Inaction to Fashion trail has been put together for Key Stage 3 groups. We hope you enjoy exploring the museum together.

Disability history is the history of all people.

This trail highlights some individual's accounts of lived experience with disability, aspects of how people with disabilities have been viewed and treated by medical professionals and society, as well as changing contributing factors towards the causes of disability in the past.

This trail is not comprehensive. We invite you to centre the experiences of disabled people and all marginalized people while viewing the galleries and exhibitions.

Before we start there are some important things to note:



This sign means there is something for you to watch



This sign means it is time for you to be a detective



This sign means there is something for you to do or touch



This sign means there is something for you to look at



This sign means there is something for you to think about



This sign means there is an activity for you to do back at school

INTRODUCTION GALLERY

The UK government says: ‘You’re disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.’

Disability is a ‘protected characteristic’ – this means it’s down to society (businesses, government, other people) to make sure a disabled person has access.



What can you see in this gallery that could help someone with a disability in their everyday life?

DISEASE STREET

SOME STUDENTS MAY FIND THIS GALLERY UPSETTING

This gallery shows us what life was like for people living on a slum street in Victorian Leeds and how they did their best to look after themselves.



Choose a character card and use the light boxes to follow their story through the street.



Find the Quack Cart and poster ‘Quack Cures’.

Why do people rely on home remedies at this time?

What health system do we have in the UK now?



Find poster 'Hard Labour' near the mill.

At what age did children start work in the mill?



What do you think children in the mill were at risk of?



In 1933 a law was introduced in the UK to limit the employment of children.

From your own knowledge, what is the youngest age that children can be employed in the UK today?

VICTORIAN OPERATING THEATRE

SOME STUDENTS MAY FIND THIS GALLERY UPSETTING

This gallery shows us what it was like to have surgery in Victorian times and how medics at the time were trying to help people, despite not having access to the scientific knowledge we have today.



Watch the film.



Did Hannah Dyson want her operation to take place?

What word do we use today to describe someone giving their permission for something to happen to their body?

If Hannah Dyson had survived her surgery, how would life have been different for her afterwards?

If Hannah Dyson had had her accident and surgery this year, how would her treatment and care have been different?

MAKING US WELL, OUTSIDE IN

It was important that people made changes to the way they lived. New public health authorities helped create rules about this to help direct people.



Find 'Killer Cholera' and read about Dr Baker.

What issues did Dr Baker identify that might impact a person's health long-term?



Why do you think Dr Baker's ideas about social reform were not welcomed?



Find poster 'Labour Pains: the birth of public health'.

What changes did the Public Health act of 1848 force councils to make?



Who do you think benefitted the most from these changes?



Find the board 'Edwin Chadwick and the birth of public health'.

In the 1840s, what was the average life expectancy among the working class?



Find 'Life expectancy at birth' chart.

What was the increase in life expectancy between 1900 and 2000?

Men:

Women:

What factors do you think caused this change?



Find two objects: 'pap boat' and the 'invalid feeder' in one of the cases.

What were the two basic ingredients in 'pap'?

Do you think this has enough nutrition to help a sick person get better?

Which other group of people would be fed 'pap'?



How would you feel about eating this if you were ill for a long time?



Think about the word 'Invalid' – we will look at this again later.

WORKHOUSE

This display is about the history of the museum building. It used to be the Leeds Union Workhouse, housing people who could not support themselves.



Which groups of people were most often in Leeds Union Workhouse?

What was this museum building used for after being a workhouse?

What year did the first old age pensions get paid?

What year was the NHS established?



From your own knowledge, what other type of institution did people with disabilities and mental health conditions often get sent to in the late 1800s and early 1900s?

Make your way up the stairs to the 'Cutting Edge' gallery.

CUTTING EDGE

This gallery shows us some of the amazing inventions that help us stay healthy.



Find 'Managing life with chronic illness – Aby's Story'.

Which organ in Aby's body is affected by her condition?

How does Aby feel about dialysis?



Find the info board called 'The fight against cancer: Proton beam therapy – Lily's Story'.

What is the psychological (mental health) impact of being a cancer patient?



Find 'Managing Diabetes'.

What year did the first insulin injection to treat diabetes take place?

What does Paul like about modern blood monitoring techniques?



Find information about Thalidomide.

What side effects did the drug Thalidomide have?



How many people are estimated to have been affected?



Find information about Aarne Larsen.

How many pacemakers did Aarne use over his lifetime?

Before pacemakers were invented, what were people with Aarne's condition at risk of?



Find 'Transportation and Transplantation'.

Why would someone need antirejection drugs?



Find Polly-Esther.

When a prosthetic 'replacement part' lights up, press the buttons on Polly's body to select where they go. Try to do them all before the time runs out. You should have seen some of them in the gallery!

Press the green button to start.

NORMAL AND ME

This gallery considers what ‘normal’ means. Normal can come in all kinds of different ways and can be specific for each person. The museum has worked with different communities around Leeds to help look at their concepts of what normal is.

‘There are 16 million disabled people in the UK. 11% of children in the UK are disabled.’ – Scope, a UK charity supporting equality for disabled people.



Find the Invalid carriage in the small room off the gallery.

What are two meanings of the word ‘Invalid’?



Read “Mind your language”.

How would you describe the tone of the 1908 book mentioned here?

How would you feel if you were discussed in this way?

What does this tell you about how disabled people were treated at this time?



Find the display about visual impairments.

How did Amy Kavanagh used to feel about using the word ‘disabled’?

How does she feel now?



Find the case of prosthetic legs.

Who developed blades?

Were they: a professional designer, a medical professional, a prosthetics user or a sports coach?



Find the display about use of colour.

How does HK communicate?



Find 'A trick of the light'.

Look at the shapes to test your colour sight.
Can you see them all?



Find and compare three hearing aids made in different years.

I have chosen

What has changed?

What caused these changes?



Find the canes.

What does a red and white striped cane mean?

Why do people use canes?

RESPONSE TO CRISIS

Medicine reacts to the world around us and responds to crisis in different ways, this gallery explores some of the positive medical developments that emerged from global crises.

‘Disabled people are almost twice as likely to be unemployed. Life costs an extra £975 a month on average if you’re disabled.’ – Scope, a UK charity supporting equality for disabled people.



Find the book titled ‘Three minutes for a dog’.

Paul Alexander wrote his autobiography on a digital tablet, by holding the stylus in his mouth and by dictation.

What caused Paul’s paralysis?

What does the iron lung help him do?

How old was Paul when he started using the iron lung?

What was Paul’s job?



Find the Thomas splint and information about wound treatment.

What does this do for someone who has broken their leg?



What would have happened to someone who broke their femur (thigh bone) before the Thomas splint was invented?



Watch the video of two injured soldiers.



How have their lives changed now that they have prosthetics?

What can you learn from this video about what they feel life is like for wheelchair users?

DRESSING DISABILITY

For centuries, disabled people have been denied the right to make decisions about their own bodies, and this includes expressing themselves through clothing. From our hairstyles to our footwear choices, we all have a unique way of expressing ourselves.

‘The Social model of disability is a way of viewing the world, developed by disabled people. The model says that people are disabled by barriers in society, not by their impairment or difference. Barriers can be physical, like buildings not having accessible toilets. Or they can be caused by people’s attitudes to difference, like assuming disabled people can’t do certain things.’ – Scope, a UK charity supporting equality for disabled people.



Find Enas’ prosthetic arm, 2019.

Why did Enas stop wearing this arm?



Find the ‘Unhidden pussy bow tie shirt’.

Choose one accessibility feature of this shirt.

What is the purpose of this feature?



Why do you think designing accessible clothing is important?



Find the: Pauls Glass intestinal tubes 1903, Colostomy Belt 1930, Disposable stoma bags 1969 and Hollister cera plus 1 piece drainable pouch 2023. Compare these items.

Which internal organ do these items connect into?

What issues did the glass intestinal tubes and colostomy belt have?

How have these issues been solved?



How do you think they could be improved further in the future?



Read 'What is a prosthesis'.

What is the oldest known prosthesis?

What features can modern prosthetics have?



Watch the "For us, by us" film.



Which language is the man in the black top using?

WHO CARES?

This gallery talks about all the people who help to keep us healthy and shows us the different ways some people care for each other.

‘In 2019, almost half of the EU elderly population (people aged 65 and over) reported difficulties with at least one personal care or household activity.’
– Data from the European health interview survey, conducted by the European Union in 2019.



Open the doors to find the exercise equipment.



What do Frederica, Beverly, Margaret and Pamela enjoy about the exercise they do?

APOTHECARY

This gallery showcases ingredient jars, used by apothecaries who made bespoke medicine, these shops developed into modern pharmacies.



Find ‘Better out than in’.

What is a palliative medicine?



Find ‘The Chemists’ at the back of the room.

Read about milestones that happened in the 20th century.

What year did medicines have to state their ingredients and prove their claims?



Why do you think this change was important?

BACK AT SCHOOL ACTIVITY



Highlight a map of your school or local area with potential barriers and accessibility accommodations. Consider at least three types of disability in your survey.



Research the development of disability rights in the UK. What were the key turning points in changing the lives of disabled people?