

GEM Course, in partnership with AHI: *Heritage Interpretation 2019*

If you want to develop your understanding and application of interpretive good practice, then this course is for you!

What will you gain?

Freeman Tilden, the “Father of Interpretation” believed that interpretation is an art, but one which can be taught. We will share the skills of this “art” and explore Tilden’s other principles of interpretation through hands-on learning. You will discover the background and context for interpretive theory and be supported to put it into practice in a meaningful way.

“It’s been really helpful to have a framework to work within and to gain a better understanding of the principles that lie behind good interpretation”

Who is it for?

This course is aimed at professionals with responsibility for planning, delivering or managing learning programmes or interpretation across the heritage sector. It is flexible to the individual needs of the participant, supporting those already involved in interpretation and looking for ways to improve or build upon their practice, and providing essential skills and knowledge for those new to the field.

Who runs the course?

Sarah Oswald is a creative coach with over 20 years’ experience in heritage interpretation, which she shares as the course director for *Heritage Interpretation*. She has worked in consultancy, on projects large and small, and in community heritage and loves to use that experience to help coach, mentor and train others in the sector.

When & where is it?

The course will combine a one-day workshop, personal work and on-going peer discussion to give you the most beneficial learning experience possible.

Further dates will be announced soon.

Course fee

It is **£125 for GEM and AHI members** and **£160 for non-members**, which includes tuition, course materials, lunch, and refreshments during the workshop. Participants will be responsible for arranging and covering the costs of their travel and accommodation for the one-day workshop.

How to apply?

To apply for this course, please download a booking form from the GEM website and email it to office@gem.org.uk or send it to *GEM Office, 54 Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4PG.*

Got a question?

Check out the FAQs below or phone us on 01634 853 424.

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FAQs

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What are GEM's courses?

Heritage Interpretation is one of five GEM courses, developed as part of the ACE-funded *Learning & Sharing Centre* project in 2016-18 (LSC). These courses were aimed at supporting the professional development of mid-career heritage educators, but have since been adapted to cater to a variety of levels through a highly flexible approach to learning. They address the core competencies identified by GEM, to help raise professional standards in the sector.

Heritage Interpretation was developed in partnership with the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI). It was developed in line with GEM's core competencies, which were produced in 2015 through consultation with experts in the sector, and the AHI core competencies, which were produced as part of the InHerit project working across Europe.

Who is the course for?

If you want to develop your understanding and application of interpretive good practice then this course is for you. This course is aimed at professionals with responsibility for planning, delivering or managing learning programmes or interpretation across the heritage sector. It is flexible to the individual needs of the participant, supporting those already involved in interpretation and looking for ways to improve or build upon their practice, and providing essential skills and knowledge for those new to the field.

What are the benefits and what will I gain?

Heritage Interpretation will provide practitioners with the opportunity to develop their understanding and application of interpretive good practice. Participants will share skills and explore the principles of interpretation through hands-on learning. The course will explore the background and context for interpretive theory and support participants in putting it into practice in a meaningful way.

During the course participants will have the opportunity to:

- Work in small, passionate peer groups to apply theory in practice.

- Develop understanding and skills using a “live” project.
- Network and work with others at a similar stage in their careers.
- Expand professional skills in a creative, hands-on way.
- Evidence professional development against GEM and AHI's competencies.
- Have some fun with practical applications of theory.

By the end of the course participants will:

- Have an understanding of how to prepare an interpretive plan.
- Appreciate and be able to apply the theory that underpins interpretation.
- Have produced an interpretive plan for their own workplace.
- Upon completion, participants will be awarded a certificate of achievement.

When & where is the course taking place?

The course will combine a one-day workshop with personal work and ongoing peer discussion to give you the most beneficial learning experience possible. This will include:

- A pre-workshop activity and online conversation two weeks before the workshop.
- A full day workshop with practical activities, in a museum location.
- A post-workshop activity and online conversations.
- An assessed piece of work to show that you have achieved the competencies.

The one-day workshop will be a mix of discussion and sharing of perspectives/experiences, practical working in pairs and small groups and some presentation of theory by the course director. It will also facilitate the building of a peer group to support you through the follow up activity. The output from the one-day workshop will be the basis of an interpretive plan which participants will complete, using the tools and techniques learnt, and submit as part of the post-workshop activity.

Further dates will be announced soon.

Who runs the course?

Sarah Oswald is a creative coach with over 20 years' experience in heritage interpretation, which she shares as the course director for *Heritage Interpretation*. She has worked in consultancy, on projects large and small, and in community heritage and loves to use that experience to help coach, mentor and train others in the sector. Sarah is director of The Authentic Spark; providing coaching, training, facilitation and interpretive scripting in the heritage sector. She works to help people find their “spark” of creativity.

How many participants will be on the course?

The course is for a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 25 participants. Places are limited so that each participant may benefit from personal guidance of the course director.

Please note, we would normally not run the course if there are fewer than 10 participants who book, in the event of a course cancellation all paid bookings will be entitled to full refunds.

Course fee?

The course fee is £125 for GEM and AHI members (£160 for non-members), which includes tuition, course materials, lunch, and refreshments during the workshop. Participants will be responsible for arranging and covering the costs of their travel and accommodation for the one-day workshop.

The course fee must be paid in full at least one week before the course begins.

How to apply?

To apply for this course, please download a **booking form** from the GEM website and email it to office@gem.org.uk or send it to *GEM Office, 54 Balmoral Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 4PG.*

Booking forms must be submitted at least two weeks before the workshop date.

Got a question?

If you have a question that hasn't been answered here, please contact Holly Bee at holly@gem.org.uk or by phone on 01634 853 424.