



Animals in Ancient Egyptian Religion
Saturday 25th April 2026

BOLTON's EGYPT

Spring Study Day 2026

About Bolton's Egypt

The 'Bolton's Egypt' collection first took shape in 1884, following an initial gift of objects discovered during excavations at Tanis by the Egypt Exploration Fund (now Society). In that same year, Bolton's first museum, the Chadwick Museum, opened in June 1884, and its first curators, William and Thomas Midgely, became world experts in the history and manufacture of ancient textiles. Bolton's growing collection of ancient Egyptian archaeology includes a collection of mummified animals and objects relating to the embalming and wrapping of creatures ranging from sacred bulls to tiny snakes.

With the collection still one of the world's most important centres for Egyptian textile studies, the new Bolton's Egypt galleries opened in 2018, to showcase over 2000 objects from its collection of 12,000 ancient Egyptian artefacts.



Animals in Ancient Egyptian Religion

Our Bolton's Egypt Study Days have been going from strength to strength since our first, "All About Mummification", in Summer 2024. With this latest day we bring you "Animals in Ancient Egyptian Religion".

Animals were central to ancient Egyptian belief, and were integral to the civilisation's identity. They were revered as sacred beings, embodying divine power, but also played essential social and practical roles in everything from food and labour to fertility and protection. In this study day we explore the animals encountered by the ancient Egyptians, how they were featured in daily life, and how they were incorporated into the ancient Egyptian belief system of life, death and the afterlife.



Faience Offering Tile, depicting a cat, discovered at Serabit el-Khadim, Sinai (BOLMG:1905.68.37)

Yet our Bolton Study Day not only looks at the importance of Bolton's Egyptian collection, its unique blend of workshops provides the opportunity to get up close and learn at first hand.

Study Day Breakdown

Introduction Introduction to Bolton's Egypt

11am

with Mr Ian Trumble

Ian will briefly introduce Bolton's Egypt; the collections, the galleries and the Study Day.

Lecture 1

11.20am -
12.30pm

Ancient Egypt's Animal Kingdom

with Prof Joann Fletcher

Joann investigates the animals encountered by the ancient Egyptians and how this natural world is represented in the art and objects they created.

Lunch

12.30pm - 2pm

Served from the basement crush hall

Lecture 2

2pm - 3pm

Pharaoh as Animal Hybrid

with Dr Campbell Price

Pharaohs routinely depicted themselves as hybrid beings, Campbell examines the forms, functions and fashions in which they did this through Egyptian history.

Workshop 1

3pm - 3.50pm

Animals in the Galleries

with Ms Lauren Field

Take a tour around the Natural History and Egyptology galleries to compare the taxidermied specimens with the ancient pieces they inspired.

Workshop 2

4pm - 4.50pm

Object Handling

with Dr Campbell Price and Dr Lidija McKnight

Get up-close with some of Bolton's animal related objects, from small amulets to animal mummies, with Campbell and Lidija.

Workshop 3

5pm - 5.50pm

Animal Mummification

with Dr Stephen Buckley and Prof Joann Fletcher

Explore the process of mummification, in the context of animals, as Stephen and Joann demonstrate how the resins were made and applied to ancient mummies.

Lecture 3

6pm - 7pm

Re-rolling an Animal Mummy

with Dr Campbell Price and Dr Lidija McKnight

How did the Ancient Egyptians create the standardised forms and elaborate decorative designs that we see in museums today? Using knowledge gained through the radiographic study of ancient mummies, join Campbell and Lidija as they attempt to wrap a modern animal mummy.

Drinks

Reception

7pm - 9pm

Drinks in the Galleries

with all of the days speakers

A chance to unwind with a drink in the beautiful surroundings of the Bolton's Egypt galleries and chat with the speakers.

The Speakers

Prof Joann Fletcher

Joann is Visiting Professor at the University of York, Lead Local Ambassador for the Egypt Exploration Society and Egyptologist for the Egyptomania Museum. She has curated numerous museum exhibitions around the UK, including the current "Cleopatra and the Queens of Egypt" at Barnsley Museum. Jo has also published widely in archaeological and scientific journals and has written 10 books translated into seven languages, and is also known for her multi award-winning television work.



Dr Stephen Buckley

Stephen is a Research Fellow at the University of York where he co-founded the university's Mummy Research Group in 1999 and has been studying the organic materials employed by the ancient Egyptians for over thirty years. As archaeological chemist for excavations in the Valley of the Kings since 1993, his work has been published in the world's leading science journal 'Nature', featured in international news reports and listed in 'Archaeology' magazine's 'Top 10 Discoveries'.



Dr Campbell Price

Campbell has been Curator of Egypt and Sudan at the Manchester Museum since 2011. He completed his BA, MA, and PhD in Egyptology at the University of Liverpool, where he is now an Honorary Research Fellow. He was also Chair of Trustees for the Egypt Exploration Society from 2021 to 2025. He has undertaken fieldwork at Zawiyet Umm el-Rakham, Saqqara and the Egyptian Museum, Cairo. He has published widely on his research interests including his latest book "Ancient Egypt in 50 Discoveries".



Dr Lidija McKnight

Lidija is Senior Research in Egyptology at the University of Leicester. She completed her BA at the University of York and her MSc and PhD at the University of Manchester. Her research focuses on the radiographic study of mummified animal remains and she is currently working on the 'Raptors Unwrapped' project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, which seeks to investigate the specific role of birds of prey in Late Period and Ptolemaic Egypt. Her research is widely published in academic journals, and has co-curated award-winning exhibitions including "Gifts for the Gods: Animal Mummies Revealed".



Ms Lauren Field

Lauren has worked at Bolton Library and Museum Services for nearly three years as the Curator of Natural History. With a responsibility for over 300,000 objects her collections cover some of the smallest and largest objects in the museum. She specialises in local wildlife and has a passion for encouraging the younger generation to explore nature, and has recently relaunched initiatives for local nature recording across the Bolton borough.



Mr Ian Trumble

Ian has worked at Bolton Library and Museum Services for almost two decades, is curator of its Egyptology collections and created the Bolton's Egypt galleries in 2018. He completed a BA at the University of Manchester, MA at the University of Sheffield and he is currently undertaking a PhD in Egyptology at the University of York. He has excavated at internationally important sites across Europe. His research interests are ancient textiles, early collecting and museum collections; all of which he has presented across the UK and internationally.



Prices

Full Day: £50.00 (without lunch)
£55.00 (with lunch)

All Lectures: Adult £15
Child £7

Single Lecture: Adult £6.00
Child £3.00

Full Day

The full day includes all lectures and practical sessions, plus drinks at the evening drinks reception. If you are paying for the full day, you do not need to pay for the lectures separately.

All Lectures and Single Lecture

If you don't want to get hands on, but still want to learn about animals in ancient Egyptian belief, you can pay for whichever single lecture takes your fancy, or all of the lectures together for a discounted price.

BOOKING

To book for the Full Day, All Lectures or Single Lecture you can do so in-person at the *Bolton Museum Shop, 1st Floor, Bolton Library and Museum, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton.*

You can also book via Eventbrite by searching for Bolton Library and Museum Services Spring Study Day 2026.

Cancellations and Refunds

If you need to cancel your booking the amount of refund will depend on the notice given. These are as follows:

Up to and including 10th April	100% Refund
Between 11th April and 17th April	50% Refund
After 18th April and no-show	No Refund

In the unlikely event that Bolton Library and Museum Service cancel the study day you will be refunded 100% of the amount that you paid.

BoltonAES Student Bursary

Bolton Archaeology and Egyptology Society has supported Bolton Museum and its collections for over 60 years, since their founding in 1958.

In partnership with BoltonAES we are offering discounted Full Day tickets to ten students, at £40 each.

Applicants must be full-time students who would find it challenging to attend the study day at full price cost.

Student bursary tickets will be offered on a first-come first-served basis, and are dependent on availability of tickets generally. There will be no guarantee of availability of student bursary tickets at the time of application.

To apply for a student bursary email secretary@boltonaes.co.uk. Proof of student ID will be required upon payment.



**Bolton Archaeology
& Egyptology
Society**

Where We Are

The Bolton's Egypt Summer Study Day 2024 will take place at Bolton Library and Museum at Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE.



Coming by Car

There are numerous car parks in Bolton Town Centre, most of which are run by NCP. Visit the NCP website to find out more.

Coming by Public Transport

Bolton Library and Museum is 5 minutes walk from Bolton Interchange for buses and trains across the North West.

Accommodation

There are several hotels operating in Bolton Town Centre, within walking distance of Bolton Library and Museum, all of which are reasonably priced.

Catering

Drinks

Complementary tea and coffee will be available throughout the day during lectures and at lunchtime.

You are welcome to bring your own drinks with you, but for conservation reasons, only bottled water and drinks with a closed top will be allowed into the workshop rooms. These must be kept in a bag and not at the workshop tables.

Food

You are welcome to bring your own food with you for breaks and lunchtime. For conservation reasons, food will not be allowed into workshop rooms.

The Bolton Market, situated to the rear of the Library and Museum, has a range of fantastic food options in its Food Hall.

Order Lunch In Advance

Order your lunch in advance with a choice of:

Pie mushy peas and gravy (provided by Greenhalghs).

Choice of pie flavours are: Potato & Meat, Cheese & Onion or Butter. **(v)**

Sandwich* and fruit salad (provided by Odessa Cafe)

Choice of sandwiches are: Ham and Salad, Chicken and Stuffing or Egg Mayonnaise and Cucumber **(v)**

**Vegan options are available upon request*

Lunch is £5.00 and should be booked at the time of booking your Full-Day ticket.

Please Note: Limited spaces are available around the building to eat, but it is advised to make use of outdoor space to eat lunch

Bolton's Egypt Website and Social Media

Website

The Bolton's Egypt collection has a dedicated website where you can search objects in the collection. Why not visit visit and familiarise yourself with the collection before you attend.

www.boltonsegypt.co.uk



Social Media

You can follow Bolton Library and Museum Services on our various social media platforms:



@BoltonLMS



@BoltonLibraryandMuseumServices



@Bolton_Library_Museum



@BoltonsEgypt

The Day's Schedule

10.30am	ARRIVAL drinks and registration
11am	Welcome and Introduction
11.20am	Lecture 1 - Ancient Egypt's Animal Kingdom
12.30pm	LUNCH
2pm	Lecture 2 - Pharaoh as Animal Hybrid
3pm	Workshop 1
3.50pm	Comfort Break
4pm	Workshop 2
4.50pm	Comfort Break
5pm	Workshop 3
5.50pm	Comfort Break
6pm - 7pm	Lecture 3 - Re-rolling an Animal Mummy
7pm	FINISH
7pm- 9pm	Drinks Reception in the Bolton's Egypt Galleries

Booking:

In-person at Bolton Museum Shop, 1st Floor, Le Mans Crescent, BL1 1SE

or Eventbrite by searching 'Bolton Library and Museum Services Spring Study Day'

Enquiries:

CustomerServices.Museum@bolton.gov.uk

or telephone 01204 332211

Bolton
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