

## Research Contributions: Threads Exhibition

Research and interpretation for fashion and textile history collections at Gloucester Folk Museum.

This project was completed as part of a university placement with the Gloucester Folk Museum and marked my first step into exhibition and archive work. It involved contributing historical research and interpretive content to support the Threads exhibition, which explored local textile history through themes of fashion, identity, and material culture. My work focused on contextualising selected garments and textiles within their social and historical frameworks, linking personal narratives to broader cultural developments.

Undertaken during my undergraduate studies in History and Religious Studies, the placement aimed to develop practical skills in museum research, documentation, and interpretation. Working under curatorial supervision, I contributed to the early planning stages by identifying key artefacts, researching their provenance, and producing interpretive materials designed for public display and educational use.

### Methods:

Archival research, primary source analysis, and object-based study were used to inform interpretive materials and exhibition text. Research drew on museum collection records, contemporary press articles, and regional fashion archives to ensure contextual accuracy and inclusive representation. I also collaborated with curatorial staff to align interpretive tone, reading level, and visual layout with the museum's educational aims.

### Key Outcomes:

- Researched 19th-20th century garments and textile production in Gloucestershire
- Produced interpretive notes to inform exhibition labels and online content
- Supported inclusive storytelling through focus on women's labour, craft, and community identity
- Strengthened collaboration with curatorial staff through shared review of interpretive drafts
- Gained insight into the balance between preservation needs and narrative engagement in exhibition planning

This placement strengthened my ability to combine rigorous historical research with accessible interpretation. It also deepened my understanding of how local textile histories can be communicated through material culture, narrative voice, and visual display. The project provided a foundation for my ongoing interest in curatorial research and inclusive storytelling, skills I continue to apply in later museum and heritage projects.

