

YAC's JORVIK VIPs!!

On Friday 12th February, the new-look JORVIK Viking Centre in York opened its doors for the very first time. And 12 YAC members and their families were the first people inside, in the company of YAC President, *Time Team's* Tony Robinson!

The group included 13-year-old Madeleine Phillips from London, who won the Viking coin competition in Issue 142 of *Young Archaeologist*. Madeleine's design has been made into a real coin for the new JORVIK!

Our YAC VIPs' trip round the new-look attraction began with a new gallery called 'Discover Coppergate'. It recreates part of the Coppergate excavation under your feet. Our YAC VIPs saw for themselves how the Viking-age remains were discovered by the archaeologists, and then examined some of the 1,000 year old timbers which once formed the wall of a Viking house.

After exploring the new gallery, our YAC VIPs then boarded the ride which took them around the reconstructed Viking-age city of Jorvik.



Tony presents Madeleine with a framed copy of her winning coin design!

In the new gallery at JORVIK, where the archaeology is literally under your feet!

The city is now home to new Viking-age citizens who speak in Old Norse. Characters include Unni the wood worker and Sigurd the antler worker, as well as a couple arguing about what to have for supper and some Viking builders taking a rest from their work constructing a new house!

What did our YAC VIPs think?

Madeleine said: "I was very pleased when I saw my coin design in real life. I felt like I was in an extremely good dream!"

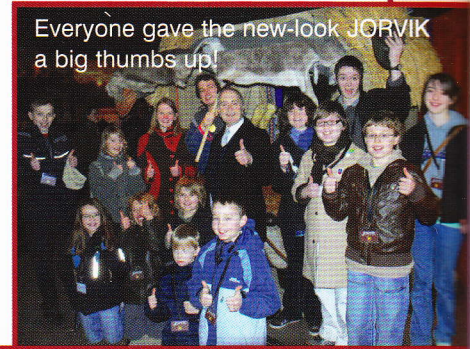
Alice from the York YAC Branch said: "I liked the bit where you stood on top of the archaeology!"

And **Tony Robinson** said: "JORVIK has always been a cutting-edge place to learn about history and archaeology, but even if you've been before, the new gallery makes it well worth another visit!"

Remember YAC UK members can get free entry to JORVIK with their membership card and YAC Pass. Check out your booklet for full details!!



Everyone gave the new-look JORVIK a big thumbs up!



My time as a YACer...

My name is James Dilley and I am 17 years old. 2009 was my last year as a member of YAC, but so much happened during that time. Let me take you back to the beginning...

A young James surveying a roundhouse in Cornwall

When I was six I developed an interest in Ancient Egypt; however it wasn't until a few years later that I got actively involved in archaeology. A farmer that I knew started to find

broken pottery in his field. The pottery dated to 2nd-5th century AD. It became clear that there must be a large Roman villa complex on the site!

In 2003 I joined the Young Archaeologists' Club. Two years later I went on a YAC holiday to Cornwall, and I also had my first go at flint knapping and metal working. I did not know then, but both crafts would become major parts of my life.

In 2006 I passed GCSE Archaeology with an 'A' grade. The next year I won the Young Archaeologist of the Year Award for my archaeological monument trail around Royston in Hertfordshire (you can download James' trail at www.yac-uk.org/James.pdf).

The prize included the opportunity to excavate on York Archaeological Trust's Hungate site.

In 2008 I passed A-level Archaeology with an 'A' grade and last summer I was lucky enough to be a stunt extra for the new film blockbuster *Robin Hood* (which is due to be released in May 2010). The film is directed by Ridley Scott and stars Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett (and me, somewhere in the crowds!).

I now perform in re-enactment and Living History events, flint knapping demonstrations and participate in local digs and field walking. You can follow my adventures this year by checking out my website:

www.ancientcraft.co.uk

During my time in YAC, I have learned new skills and I have met many interesting people, including David Attenborough, flint knapper John Lord, and most of the *Time Team* archaeologists. I still visit my local YAC Branch in Cambridge. Thanks YAC, it was a great seven years and I will never forget them!



Ready for filming on set of the new *Robin Hood* movie!
© James Dilley



Excavating with Raksha from *Time Team* at Hungate in York