

Groups

Groups can visit the museum for a Tour by prior appointment during Museum opening days and times.

Group tours are free, and require a minimum of ten people. A tour of the whole site takes between one and two hours and can be tailored to meet the needs of your group. Please give at least two weeks notice if you require a tour.

Email museum@panaceatrust.org to book.



Opening Hours

9th January- 28th March
Thursday - Saturday 10.00- 16.00

2nd April- 25th October
Thursday - Sunday 11.00 - 17.00

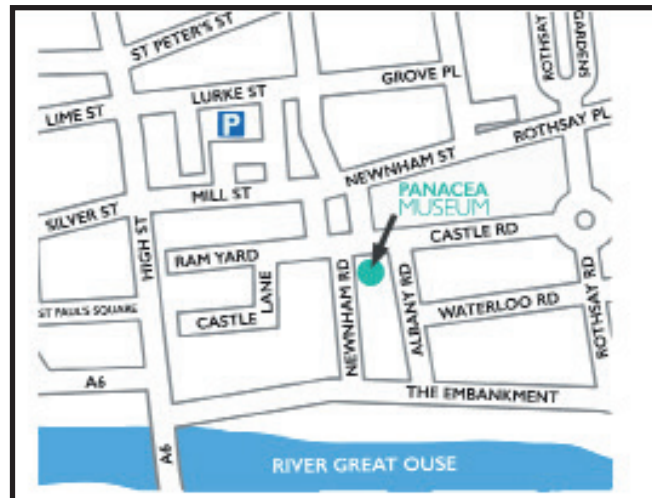
29th October- 28th November
Thursday- Saturday 10.00 - 16.00

9 Newnham Road, Bedford, MK40 3NX

Tel: 01234 353178

Email: museum@panaceatrust.org

Website: www.panaceatrust.org



The museum is located in the town centre, and easily accessible from Bedford's railway and bus stations.

By car: Pay and display parking is available in nearby streets and a multi-storey car park located in in Lurke Street, 5 minutes walk away.

Access: The Castleside building is fully accessible. Access is limited in the Gardens, Founder's House and Chapel. Assistance Dogs are welcome in the Museum.



Discover the remarkable story of the Panacea Society
A unique religious community formed in the early
twentieth century



About

The Panacea Society was founded in 1919 by Mabel Barltrop (Octavia) who had moved to Bedford with her husband and children in 1904.



Mabel emerged as the prominent member of a group of women studying the prophecies and publications of Joanna Southcott.

During the 1920s and 1930s the community grew to more than 70 resident members living in and around Albany Road in Bedford. Over 130,000 people from around the world applied to receive the Society's method of healing through water- a 'panacea' to cure all ills.



The Panacea Museum is presented within the original buildings lived in and used by members of the Society.

Joanna Southcott

Southcott's writings heavily informed the beliefs of the Panaceans, and of founder members such as Rachel Fox and Kate Firth.



Joanna died in 1814 having left a sealed box of prophecies with special conditions for opening. Octavia and the community campaigned tirelessly for it to be opened.

Research our Archives

The archives of the Panacea Charitable Trust hold significant material relating to the Panacea Society, its members and its healing ministry. The repository also holds original material relating to Joanna Southcott and other millenarian groups. The archives are available for research purposes to schools, colleges and universities. To arrange a visit, or book an external talk for an academic institution, please email: admin@panaceatrust.org

Talks for Groups

External talks on the Society given by the Charity's Archivist are available for groups such as WI, U3A and general interest. Email museum@panaceatrust.org to book.

New Exhibitions

The Museum offers several temporary exhibitions each year.

Visit www.panaceamuseum.org for full details.



Printing Press

An 1857 Columbian Press was in constant use by the Society, printing books, pamphlets and leaflets for distribution.

On the first Saturday of each month, visitors have the chance to see the Press in action and make their own artworks.



Our Gardens

The Museum is surrounded by beautiful gardens. Refreshments can be purchased from our Tea Shop, which serves hot and cold drinks and a selection of snacks.

