

John Stolarczyk, from Skipton, North Yorkshire, England. Retired early retirement after 35 years working in English Local Government as an administrator in a Legal Services Department. When not digging deep for carrot information I enjoy foreign travel, walking, local history and a drop of red wine.

The Museum bills itself as –

“The first virtual museum in the world entirely devoted to the history, evolution, science, sociology and art of Carrots. The mission is to educate, inform and amuse visitors through the discovery, collection, preservation, interpretation and exhibition of objects relating to the Carrot. This site provides lots of interesting and useful information about the humble carrot.”

The Carrot Museum collection features in several public shows and is the only rare opportunity to examine the extent and variety of items in the collection.

It is not for profit and carries no advertising and is self funded.

Here is how the World Carrot Museum came about.

Me and my family love to travel and always make a point, wherever we go, to visit all local museums, castles and churches. We were always fascinated by the unusual items people collected over the centuries which usually end up being bequeathed to the local museum. As well as those individuals whose passion has prompted a vast personal collection.

We reckoned we'd seen or heard about a museum or collection for just about everything and that any subject could be made into a successful museum - even an innocuous item such as a carrot.

Then we got thinking some more and on further investigation could not find one related to carrots so decided this was it - the ideal project to learn about web design and to create something interesting and worthwhile. We always know how healthy carrots were and decided to spread the word.

My fundamental aim was, and still is, to inform, educate and amuse.

The site started in 1996 with just a couple of short pages, giving a brief history and nutritional guide. A few years later it metamorphosed from very much a personal website into a world famous site with its own dotcom presence www.carrotmuseum.com

What started out as a bit of whimsy turned into a very absorbing hobby which has brought me in touch with lots of interesting people around the world and I have made many good friends from all points of the globe. I regularly correspond with several people who have collections of carrot items in their thousands. One lady has two carrot tattoos!. (see web site for details). Other museum visitors have asked for advice on growing, variety selection and tips on juicing, storage and uses for surplus carrots.

History is an immense part of the information available and has been the part of several prestigious academic publications. It is constantly reference by others in the carrot research world. Research, particularly into ancient manuscripts proceeds at a pace.

An especially thorough amount of research has looked into the role of carrot in World War Two.

Another feature of the Museum's activities is to visit the various caerot festivals around the world – USA, New Zealand, Switzerland, France and more!

As the Museum's fame grew so did contact with other people interested in the Museum. There have been appearances on tv shows (BBC and C4), and a myriad of radio interviews and Newspaper/magazine articles have featured the site.

I always say I wanted to collect carrot collectors! – but as interest has grown, people with private collections have been in touch and occasionally we exchange gifts so I have, by default a collection, although really I have no room to display such items..

It would be good to create a proper bricks and mortar museum, to house both my collection and some of the others around the world. Sadly this sort of venture does not attract suitable funding.