

The Norwich Museums

Members' briefing March/April 2012

Norwich Castle Temporary exhibitions

Norfolk & Norwich Festival: Performance Art Event

Battle of the Eyes Presents: Planet of the Jackanapes

Commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival in association with Norwich Castle and Museums at Night. Curated by Paul Gravett.

Savage Pencil (aka Edwin Pouncey) and Eyeball (aka Chris Long) are Battle of The Eyes and Norwich Castle's temporary exhibition galleries will become their studio during the festival. Visitors will be able to see the exhibition take shape at LIVE performances in the gallery on Saturday & Sunday 12th, 13th, 20th & 26th May from 1-4pm, and Saturday 19th May 5-10pm as part of Museums at Night event.

Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration

Sat 7 July - Sun 30 Sept 2012

Cedric Morris & Christopher Wood

Sat 20 Oct – Mon 31 Dec 2012

MAGIC WORLDS – loan exhibition from the Museum of Childhood (V&A)

Sat 26 Jan – Sun 14 April 2013

Gallery refurbishments

COLMAN GALLERIES REDEVELOPMENT:

RE-PRESENTING JOHN CROME, JOHN SELL COTMAN & THE NORWICH SCHOOL

The galleries showcasing the Norwich School painters are being revamped to include imaginative re-displays, contemporary art, new trails and activities and short films as part of the Great British Art Debate project. Redecoration of the Galleries began in November. The work is being phased in an attempt to minimise length of time the galleries are closed to the public. Both galleries will be re-open Sat 7 April 2012. Improvements include new glass doors from the Rotunda into the galleries, redecoration, Audio Visual interpretation, new text and labels, and learning resources.

Capital programme

Bridewell

Work on installing the displays is progressing well. The museum will re-open to the public on Tuesday 3rd July. Due to the lack of space for a large

gathering several formal launches and previews will be held over the preceding few days.

Norwich Castle Study Centre

The costume and textile library, resources and collections are now housed in Norwich Castle Study Centre. Public access is available to pre-booked groups or individuals Mondays to Fridays. Carrow House has now been completely vacated.

Norwich Castle redecoration

Norwich Castle has been undergoing a major redecoration programme to refresh the public spaces including the shop, the front desk and the toilets. This has caused some inconvenience while work was going on but the Castle was well overdue for a bit of smartening up.

Courtroom, Norwich Castle Study Centre

NMAS is exploring the opportunity to use the courtroom in the Shirehall for tours for museum visitors, schools, living history events, conferences and other activities. Public tours could potentially begin in the Castle, take in the Dungeons and/or prison displays in the Castle Keep and access the Courtroom via the spiral stairs which were in the past used to access the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum from Norwich Castle. Building improvements including roof repairs and the repair, refurbishment and decoration of the courtroom funded by the County Council's Buildings Maintenance Fund will commence in Spring 2012.

Special events

Castles Conference

On Thursday 17th & Friday 18th May 2012, Norwich Castle will host a conference on Anglo-Norman castles. We are really lucky to have such a fantastic line-up of French and English speakers over the two days. Presentations will cover Norman archaeology, architecture and artefacts. Further details are now on our website (including a downloadable information sheet and booking form): <http://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/>

We will be using this event to officially 'launch' the Norman Connections project, a wonderful partnership linking Norman castles in England and Normandy. The project is being co-funded by the Interreg IV A France (Channel) – England programme, and the Castle Keep will benefit from a fresh interpretation and new Norman displays in 2013.

Museums at Night

Norwich Castle will again be celebrating **Museums at Night** on 19th May with financial support from HEART in order to provide free entry and deliver a range of activities and entertainment. In 2011 over 2000 visitors attended Norwich Castle during a 5 hour period enjoying torch light tours, music and performance art.

If you want to discuss any matters in this briefing please contact Rachel Kirk rachel.kirk@norfolk.gov.uk or Vanessa Trevelyan vanessa.trevelyan@norfolk.gov.uk

For further information about the Norwich Museums, their services and programmes check out the website on www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk where you can also sign up to receive regular e-bulletins.