

GENERAL UPDATE ON THE NORWICH MUSEUMS

Report by the Norwich Museums Manager
March 2012

<p>This report updates Members on work in the Norwich Museums over the last 6 months</p>
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1. VISITOR NUMBERS

See Appendix A

Visitor numbers across the Norwich Museums are just under 8,000 less from April 2011 to the end of January 2012 than in the previous year taking into account closure of Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum and Carrow House in September 2011. The majority of this difference is as a result of the difference between visitor numbers to Norwich Castle in August 2010/11 and 2011/12. Members will recall that last year's August visitor numbers to Norwich Castle were 28,000 compared with 18,000 in 2009/10. This represented an unprecedented increase of 55% which is difficult to fully explain. August had been wet and the popular temporary exhibition Beatles to Bowie and the interactive exhibition 'Medieval Machines' in the Castle Keep obviously had a positive impact but these factors alone do not obviously explain such a significant visitor increase in one particular month. Consequently, a reduced number of visitors in August 2011 was to be expected, but the reduction is considerably less than was possible and still represents a 27% increase on 2009/10 which in itself had been a good year.

The economic situation doesn't yet appear to date to be having a significant impact on the number of people visiting museums, however reductions in retail and café income demonstrate that once in the museum, visitors are less willing to spend money in the shop and café.

2. FUNDING

Arts Council England Major Partner Museums Funding

NMAS is one of 16 museums or consortia in England who are now ACE Major Partner museums. See the ACE website for the news release.

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news/arts-council-news/we-announce-renaissance-major-partner-museums-and/>

NMAS applied for £1.4m a year for 3 years. The final settlement figure is still being negotiated with ACE and will be lower than the figure applied for as the total value of the successful 16 bids is in excess of the available annual budget of £20 million. However, the award is still substantial and will enable NMAS to maintain much of the momentum achieved under the previous Renaissance funding programme, plus some new exciting work streams. This funding cannot be used to fund the efficiency savings NMAS still needs to make to the core NCC budget, but it will enable NMAS to continue to deliver a wide range of high quality services to the public.

Funding success for the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum collections.

A £64,500 award from the DCMS/ Wolfson Museums & Galleries Improvement Fund will enable us to put the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum at the heart of Norwich Castle with major new displays on the Rotunda balcony, due to open in Spring 2013.

The new displays will tell the stories of soldiers serving in the Royal Norfolk Regiment during peace time and those serving the Empire, and during the First World War, Second War and the years of National Service. It will also tell the stories of women and children on the campaign trail, which can often be forgotten.

Personal letters and diaries as well as other precious artefacts that reflect the varied experiences of daily life as a soldier in the Royal Norfolk Regiment, both in peace and wartime, will be at the heart of the new displays

Among the regimental items on display will be a whistle used to play carols during the legendary Christmas Truce in the trenches in 1914. Also on display from the First World War will be a body armour waistcoat sent by a concerned mother to her son, and a reply from the young officer thanking her but refusing the offer as the body armour was heavy and impractical.

Visitors will also get the chance to see the first Military Cross of the Second World War. Fascinating objects from serving soldiers in peacetime will include a pair of boots of the type issued to soldiers to cope with the cold of the Himalayas in 1903.

A further funding bid has been submitted to Heritage Lottery Fund's Our Heritage funding programme to support the development of further interpretive resources. The decision regards the HLF bid for just under £50,000 will be made available in April or May. In addition the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum Trust and the Regimental Association have committed funds towards the displays.

In the meantime, a temporary display of star objects from the Regimental collections can be seen on the Rotunda balcony, and the Museum's study services remain in the Shirehall.

Important New Acquisition for Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery

Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery has succeeded in raising nearly £200,000 to buy four magnificent stained glass roundels made in Norwich at the beginning of the 16th century. The funding was provided by the National Heritage Memorial Fund, The Art Fund, the Pilgrim Trust, The Friends of Norwich Museums, the Paul Bassham Charitable Trust and a private donor.



The four roundels represent half of a surviving set of eight from an original twelve, depicting the popular medieval subjects of Labours of the Months. These were common

in medieval art both in Britain and in mainland Europe. No complete set survives in stained glass, in Norfolk or elsewhere. Single panels exist, mostly, unlike these examples, in fragmentary condition. Of this set of eight roundels, Norwich Castle has acquired four, two have been bought by a private collector, while two have gone to the V&A Museum. Our acquisition has ensured that many as of these rare objects as possible have come back to their city of origin.

The roundels are thought originally to have been made for Thomas Pykerell (d.1545), a Mercer, Sheriff and Mayor in Norwich. Pykerell became Sheriff in 1513 and was elected Mayor in 1525, 1533 and 1538. He is thought to have built his house in Rosemary Lane around the end of the fifteenth century. At this time domestic stained glass was a luxury, the commission symptomatic of the wealth and prosperity of merchants in Norwich at the height of its commercial importance.

Pykerell's House, bombed during the Second World War, has since been restored and is now in domestic use, though owned by Norfolk Archaeological Trust. It was converted into a pub in the mid 19th century. At this point the roundels were removed, four were lost, and eight installed at a stately home, Brandiston Hall in central Norfolk, until 1985. They remained in private ownership until 2011, when they were put up for sale. Norwich had one of the most flourishing schools of glass-painting in England by the 15th century. Much stained glass was destroyed during the Reformation and the Civil War, but fine examples of Norwich-made church glass survive in the churches of St Peter Mancroft, Norwich and All Saints, East Harling. There are relatively few known extant examples of Norwich-made stained glass which illustrate secular subjects. These roundels are outstanding examples of early 16th century work of the Norwich school. All four have been composed with the highest artistic and technical skill. The faces are rendered with great character, and the figures show a strong Flemish influence in their high degree of naturalism. This is characteristic of Norwich-made glass at the beginning of the sixteenth century, at which point increasing awareness was shown of artistic influences from the Low Countries.

The significance of these objects, in terms of enriching both the museum collections and Norwich as a city, cannot be over-estimated. Nowhere else will these roundels have such historical resonance, since they are such an important part of the artistic, cultural and architectural heritage of the city.

The ultimate destination for their display is in the Castle Keep, once the re-development is complete. They will illustrate the very high quality of Norwich-made decorative arts in other media apart from the perhaps better-known silver, and allow us to give a more balanced picture of the broad spectrum of the city's cultural heritage.

In addition, the display of the roundels and their connection with Pykerell will allow us to tell the important story of secular patronage of the arts in Norwich at the time. The roundels could be exhibited close to the civic regalia, which includes both the famous crystal mace commissioned by Augustine Steward - twice mayor in successive years to Pykerell and related to him by marriage - and also the silver-gilt standing salt commissioned by Pykerell's fellow mercer and younger contemporary Peter Reade.

Salary budget savings

Phase 1 of the Norwich Museums Organisational Review - Front of House and Learning Services - was implemented on 21st November 2011. Staff have been undergoing training to equip them to deliver their new roles.

Phase 2 of the Norwich Museums Organisation Review involves curation, display and collections management functions. A business case has been approved by NCC's Design Authority. Natural wastage through retirement and staff moving on to new posts together with the non-renewal of a fixed term contract means that target budget savings for Phase 2 can be achieved through rethinking roles and responsibilities and line management structures and will not necessitate redundancies.

3. OTHER NEWS

Theft of Nelson objects

On Saturday February 25th it was discovered that one of the display cases housing a number of Nelson artefacts had been broken in to and several pieces were found to be missing. We informed Norfolk Constabulary immediately. This theft follows a recent attempted theft of a Rhino horn from the museum but we understand the police are not linking the two incidents.

There has been some comments made about the safety of the Titian now on display at the Castle Museum. The National Gallery would not have been prepared to let this masterpiece come to Norwich if it was not fully satisfied with the security arrangements that are in place. It is to the Museum's credit that Norwich Castle Museum has been chosen to house such a valuable painting

This is obviously a serious incident and one which we are treating with the utmost gravity. An internal review of security at the museum is already underway and we have separately asked the National Security Advisor for the Arts Council to carry out a full security review. ACE have appointed a security consultant to undertake an independent review. Any comments and recommendations received will be shared with members.

It has been suggested that a recent staffing restructuring at the Castle has reduced security. The restructure has been carried out with security in mind and we believe that the new arrangement does not compromise security. Clearly, if the investigations reveal this not to be the case, then we will, of course, follow any recommendations made.

We continue to work closely with the police over this theft. The museums service is as keen as anyone to learn any lessons from this for the future, but the immediate priority for our staff is to assist the police in any way they can in catching the person or persons responsible and recovering these important items..

Attempted Theft of Rhino Horn

On Monday 20th February Norwich Castle was targeted by a gang of thieves who tried to steal the rhino head and horn from the Natural History Gallery. They broke into a locked case during opening hours and tried to make off with the head but were intercepted by two members of staff. The thieves dropped the head and then fled. The police are investigating.

The theft of rhino horns from museums is an international problem as such horns are greatly prized as trophies or for alternative medicines. Norwich is the first museum in England where such an attempt has been foiled. NMAS is most grateful to the staff who acted so bravely and instinctively in defence of our collections, but staff have been reminded that they should always consider their personal safety first. The rhino head is off display until it can be fitted with a replica horn.

4. RECENT AND CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Family Matters:

The Family in British Art

15 October 2011 – 8th January 2012

This major touring exhibition, part of the Heritage Lottery Fund project The Great British Art Debate, was curated by Norwich Castle and looked at how artists have depicted families and family life from the sixteenth century to the present day. The exhibition included works from Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery and work on loan from The Tate and other organisations and proved very popular with visitors.

Collection Highlights

A semi-permanent display of works from our 20th and 21st century art collections can be seen in the Timothy Gurney Gallery at Norwich Castle. Work by Andy Warhol sits alongside a line drawing by Paul Klee whilst a painting by emerging artist, Lee Marshall is located next to the Surrealist René Magritte. The display has been created to show the range of styles, techniques and media represented in our collections.



Norwich Castle continued its Family Focus season on Saturdays during January-March, to include a 'hands on' exhibition called '**Life**' from the exhibition company who produced 'medieval machines' a popular interactive exhibition presented in Norwich Castle Keep in Summer 2010. Family Saturday themes included Egyptians, Romans, Anglo Saxons, Titian and a focus on the world in motion as part of National Science Week.

Titian's *Diana and Actaeon*

until 15th April

Titian's 16th century masterpiece is on tour from the National Gallery, London.

Committee members will be provided with additional information during the tour prior to the meeting.



FNM 90 at Norwich Castle

On Saturday 5th November, NMAS staff and members of the Friends of Norwich Museums worked together to present a day of family activities and talks in the Castle to mark the 90th birthday of the Friends. The day was a great success, and was even featured on Anglia TV news – a great publicity boost for the Friends.

Norwich Castle: feeling blue!

On 14th November, Norwich Castle was lit up in blue to mark World Diabetes Day and school children around the county were invited to colour in a picture of the castle for a competition designed to raise awareness of Diabetes and the importance of a healthy diet.

Christmas Celebrations

There was a new festive addition to the Castle Keep, a 16" Christmas Tree! Taverham Garden Centre very kindly agreed to donate the tree but sadly not the muscle, so much fun was had carrying it in and up the stairs. It provided a perfect backdrop to our Christmas event on December 10 which included Voices Gospel Choir and The CNS Student's Jazz Band, and visiting families made some lovely decorations for it.



Norwich Museums' Christmas activities were once again focused predominantly at Strangers' Hall, and included Father Christmas in his toy workshop together with Christmas craft activities.

5. LEARNING DEPARTMENT

School Visits

See Appendix B

School visit numbers from April 2011–January 2012 are approximately 1,000 visits or 6% down on the same period last year. This may be partly due to the departure of our experienced School and Group Bookings Coordinator. The post has now been filled and the new post holder started on 27th February.

After School Club

December saw the completion of a five week after school club with Lakenham Primary School focussed on the exhibition 'Family Matters' The Family in British Art. This was funded by Kettle Foods.

The project aimed to help the children investigate how pictures show feelings about self, family and homes and explore these through words, art and drama. The first session was at Norwich Castle where they looked at the exhibition 'Family Matters' and talked about the messages, moods and emotions that different portraits communicate. The children worked in groups and chose a painting which they felt matched an emotion they were given. Each group of children then had to show their picture to the others and explain why they chose it.



The rest of the sessions were back in school where they used drama and art to develop ideas around portraits and the family. Each session started with a drama warm up game. The children explored facial expression and body posture in portraits, and produced collage, drawings and wire sculptures as they developed ideas. They also thought about their home and family and looked at objects from homes in the past. They brought in objects of their own and designed and made a coat of arms.

Intergenerational After School Club, September-November 2011

Family Matters exhibition was the inspiration for an after school club with a difference: an intergenerational group mixing children and octogenarians. We worked with a new partner, AGE UK Norwich, to bring together members of an older persons' lunch club from the same area as Magdalen Gates school, where the children came from. Particularly heart-warming was the way in which the participants bonded from the very first session – indeed now the six weeks of club are over there are plans to have a lunch club at school, so old and young can continue to meet and chat. Our theme was 'hands and feet' and the medium was photography. Older participants talked about 'what these hands have done' and 'where these feet have been' whilst younger suggested what their hands might get to do, and where their feet might get to go. Younger taught older how to use digital cameras and most kept journals of the sessions, written and illustrated. Feedback has been very positive from across the spectrum. 'It's been fab!' was the response of more than one person, but more explicitly, an older member confessed that she had previously found the Castle rather a forbidding place but that she now felt 'truly welcome'. Another child said: 'I will miss coming to the Castle and seeing everyone'. The final title, HI 5, was chosen because all felt they'd achieved something really positive and wanted to celebrate it *together*.



Whose chair are you sitting in?

Launch event for the *Family Matters Exhibition*



Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, 15th October 2011 *Whose Chair are you sitting in?* was an interactive event for the public to participate in at the Castle Museum the day the exhibition *Family Matters* opened. Visitors were invited to choose from an array of chairs in the Rotunda one which they felt said something about them. Their companion took a photograph of them in 'their' chair. Little girls frequently chose the throne, because it made them 'feel like a princess', whilst older men tended to go for the rocking chair – and demanded a tot of whisky whilst they were there... The faux leopard skin

chair was also in high demand. We had a lot of laughs, but there was a thoughtful subtext: how does the furniture we choose reflect something of our identity? What does it tell us about ourselves, our families, our home?



Medicine days for GCSE History

A costumed Joseph Clover (pioneering anaesthetist and nephew of the artist) showed GCSE students the special interactive version of his uncle's "The Harvey Family of Norwich". (Family Matter Exhibition) This was a great finale to one of the morning sessions in our 5 "Medicine" days running at the end of November and in December. Students not only met Joseph Clover (born Aylsham 1825), inventor of the first method to deliver a controlled dose of ether to surgical patients, but also John Green Crosse, celebrated

surgeon of Norwich. Crosse's most famous work was in developing lithotomy procedures to remove bladder stones which were endemic in this region.

We borrowed a selection of objects from the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital Archive for another of the day's activities, including a drawer of the actual stones with original labels, cut by Green Crosse and his colleagues.

Most of the day concentrates on the module "Transformation of Surgery 1845-1918" but we also support the paper on the development of medicine by looking at Norwich's response to the 19th century Public Health Acts.

Work experience day at the Castle

On December 19 we held our first work experience day for people interested in museum careers. Around 10 people enjoyed a full day finding out how the museums works, what careers are available within the museum and routes into them. Although most of the attendees were young people still at school there were a few who were older and looking for a career change.

Youth Forum

A Youth Forum has been established as part of the Great British Art Debate project. It is hoped that by embedding the thoughts and opinions of young people into the exhibition and public programme planning processes, we will be able to tailor and develop the programme to suit their needs and interests. The intention is for Norwich Castle to become a valuable resource and support network for their professional development and learning.

The Youth forum have been attending key Norwich Museums team meetings to ensure that planning and programming takes in the interests and needs of young people, and they lead a public activity to create a huge Norwich Family Tree, as part of the UK wide initiative *The Big Draw* and the *Family Matters Exhibition* during the October half-term holiday..

6. PROJECT UPDATES

The Bridewell Project Update **AWARD SUCCESS**

Bridewell Project staff Hannah Maddox and Jenny Caynes recently attended the Norwich Society's 2011 Design Awards, where the Bridewell was honoured with the Community Award. The contributions of architects Lucas Hickman Smith and contractors Draper and Nicholls were acknowledged in recognising the sensitive adaptation of a major Norwich historic building.



The museum fit-out stage is well underway. Display structures, cases, display lighting and AV equipment are being installed and galleries decorated in preparation for the installation of 4,000 plus objects and interpretive material including graphics panels, interactives, replicas, AVs. Curators and members of the display department continue to work on text and images for graphics panels and labels, case layout design and mount designs for objects, A/V content and interactives and education resources.

All but a few of the larger collections which will be on display are now back in the building, many have been conserved or undergone conservation cleaning, and many of the wall mounted objects are in place. From early March objects will begin to be installed. This is a time consuming and complex process and will involve two teams comprising display and conservation technicians.



The museum will re-open to the public on Tuesday 3rd July 2012.

Colman Galleries Update

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 for Easter 2012. Improvements include new glass doors from the Rotunda into the galleries, redecoration, Audio Visual interpretation, new text and labels and learning resources.

Cotman oil paintings : Conservation Research and Treatment Project

Rose Miller, paintings conservation student at the Hamilton Kerr Institute, is undertaking her third year project on J.S. Cotman and has been working with the NMAS conservation department and fine art collections at the Castle Museum.

Cotman has long been noted and celebrated for his watercolours, but his oils have been studied less. Rose is using technical examinations such as sampling, x-radiography and infra red imaging to study his paintings, including many from our collection. Her work is adding to our knowledge of the collections, and is also helping to prioritise conservation treatment. This is making an important contribution to the Colman Galleries redisplay project.

Cotman's methods of paint application during his second Norwich period, which encompasses his most mentally disturbed time, produced the most disfiguring drying problems in his paintings. The most visually disturbing of these are wide and extensive cracks known as 'drying cracks'. These have often been subsequently disguised by over paint, and the resulting loss of clarity obscures the true quality of a number of his oils from this period.



Microphotograph showing example of drying paper cracks on "*Lincolnshire Draining Mill*"



"*Duncombe Park*", c.1806-8, oil on (now mounted on canvas), Tate Britain. Possibly contemporary to "*Boat House and Trees*" below.



Although painted on board rather than paper, similarities found between our undated *Boat House and Trees*, and Tate's *Duncombe Park*, c.1806-8, would suggest the two are contemporary. The ground of both consists of lead white and Mars red, giving a pinkish tone in the sky that is used to subtle effect in stippled paintwork in the trees. The skies show a common use of an unusual form of Prussian blue (possibly Antwerp blue). The use of board and simplicity of layer structure support a date within his first Norwich period.

"*Boat House and Trees*" after treatment

Staff have also been carrying out public consultation:

'Curator for the day'

Heritage Open Day at Norwich Castle this year included an event, 'Be a curator for a day', aimed at encouraging feedback about proposed changes to the Colman Galleries. A secondary aim was to inform the public about the difficult decisions that curators and other museum staff have to make when redesigning a gallery.

The event was organised by Amanda Burke, Evaluation Officer and Anna Green, Learning Officer, with the help of eight volunteers (some of whom were members of Norwich Castle Youth Forum), Curators Giorgia Bottinelli and Andrew Moore and the Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Trevor. Activities included assessing different lighting levels and using viewing cards to look at the effect of wall colour on paintings. Probably the most successful activity was 'Correct the Curator' in which Andrew Moore bravely subjected his panel text to public scrutiny. Visitors were asked to mark the text with highlighter pens - pink for '*I like this bit*', blue for '*I don't understand this*' and yellow for '*I don't like this bit*'. There was space for comments and suggestions. Giorgia, who is leading on the re-hanging of the galleries said that she found it 'an eye-opener' and we are planning to use this technique again in the near future.

What the event did highlight was the value of 'testing' interpretation with the public, for example, an 'I-Spy' trail leaflet for very young children, whilst very popular, showed the difficulty they had in doing the trail due to the height of the pictures and consequent reflection on the glass when the pictures are viewed from low down and at an angle.



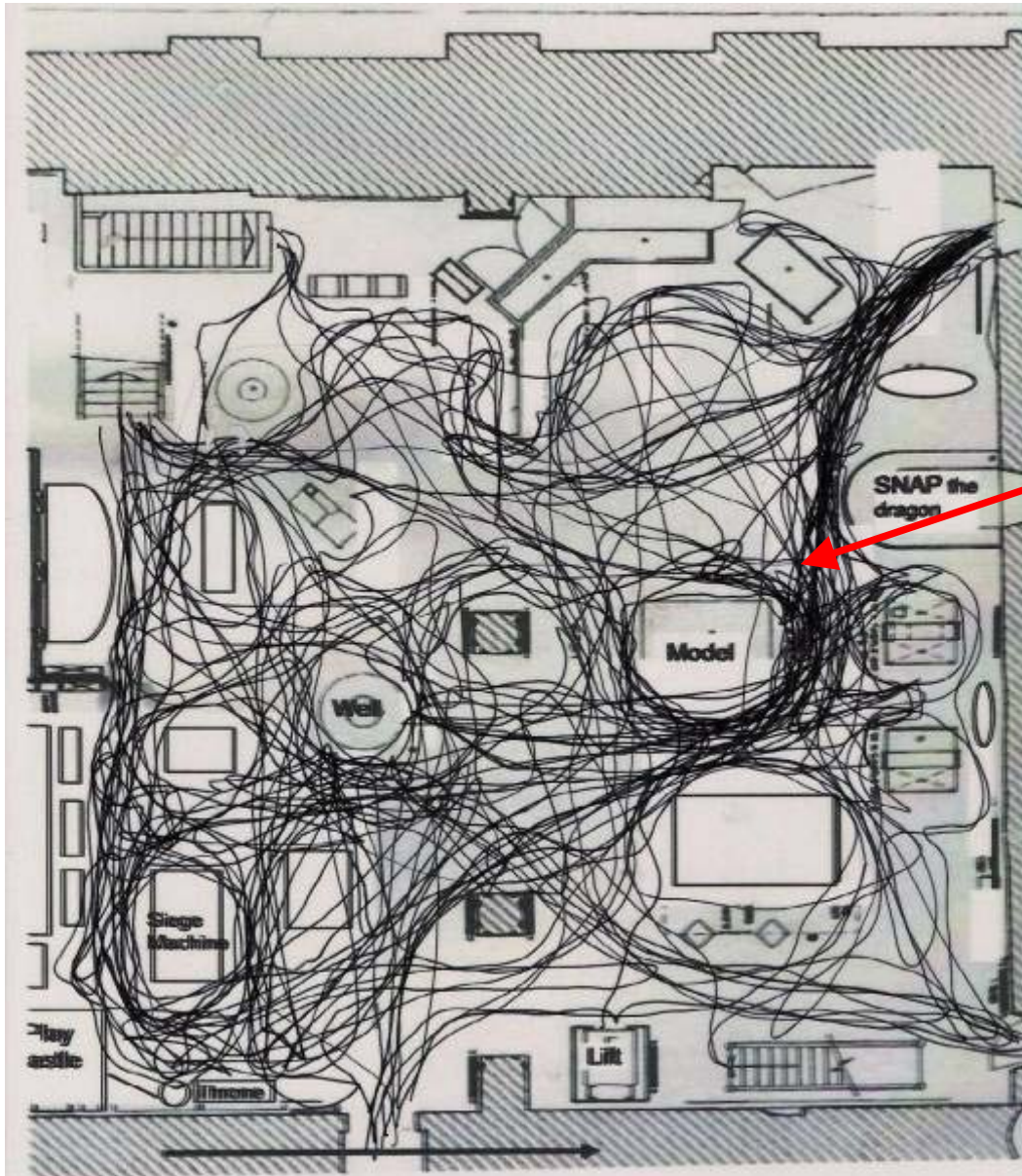
Courtroom, Shirehall Study Centre

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 will commence in Spring 2012.

Castle Keep

Tracking-and-timing

A team of volunteers (principally from Norwich Friends, City College Norwich and the UEA) kindly helped with a tracking-and-timing study of Norwich Castle Keep as part of plans to redevelop the area. This involved plotting visitors' paths on a plan and timing any stops over 10 seconds. Visitors were tracked over two floors and, with the keep having numerous entrances and sets of stairs, it was a challenging job to say the least. This study identified those displays that most 'attracted' visitors and those that 'held' their attention. Key to holding attention was found to be either interaction, or the combination of both objects and good interpretation (objects without interpretation and stand-alone panels were less successful). Small differences in design were found to affect dwell time, for example, the chapel in the balcony area had higher dwell time to a similar area, the kitchen. Examining the differences between them implies that this is due to lighting, the presence of an 'object' (the altar) in the chapel and the positioning/content of the label.



66% took
this route

Plots of visitors' paths showed the importance of gateway objects in drawing visitors along certain routes in an open-plan layout. See for example how visitors coming from the Fitch Room door tend to move towards the large model keep, due to both its size, its visibility and to the way it is lit.

Fewer visitors chose to visit the keep balcony and the basement than the ground floor; this may be because of the number of possible routes from main floor, and few clues as to the 'best' one to take. A possible remedy would be to use design elements, such as lighting and gateway objects, to suggest a route to visitors around the Keep.

Among other findings were that visitors to the balcony spent more time sitting and looking around the space, implying that views within the space (into the roof and down to the floor) and outside could be better exploited.

Whilst a time-consuming exercise, this study has pointed to further uses of this type of research in smaller ways, for example, to assess the difference to dwell time after any changes or improvements to displays.

6. FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton: **A Diamond Jubilee Celebration.**

Looking forward to Summer 2012, Norwich Castle will be celebrating the Diamond Jubilee and the Cultural Olympiad with a photographic exhibition from the V&A. We anticipate that this will be a very popular exhibition and will provide opportunities for all sorts of associated activities and events. The exhibition will open to the public on Saturday 7th July.



NORFOLK AND 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 from 1-4pm, and Saturday 19th 5-10pm as part of Museums at Night event.

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.

In autumn 2012 the temporary exhibition galleries will host an exhibition of the works of **Cedric Morris and Christopher Wood** together with an East Anglian Arts Fund **Open Art** show where local artists are invited to submit works for a selected selling show.

7. CONSERVATION

The Conservation of Feathers

On the 9th and 10th of November, the Conservation Department hosted a workshop on the conservation of feathers. This two day workshop was run by Allyson Rae, previously Head of Organic Artefacts Conservation at the British Museum, now a conservator in private practise and with over 30 years of experience. Allyson shared some of her extensive experience working on a fantastic array of objects incorporating feathers such as Hawaiian cloaks and Amazonian headdresses. The workshop provided an opportunity for conservators, from both the UK and international institutions, to learn about the composition and deterioration of feathers, as well as methods and techniques that can be used to conserve and repair them.



Conservator Allyson Rae demonstrating a technique for repairing a feather.

On the second day, participants were able to apply some of these techniques to damaged feathers, including cleaning, reshaping and repairing. The workshop was a great opportunity to meet other colleagues in the conservation profession, to discuss common problems and share knowledge and experiences.



Participants, including NMAS Natural History Curator Dr David Waterhouse and Conservation Technician Alice Forkes, applying the cleaning and repair techniques learned.

The Arts of Living Gallery - second rotation of textiles and costume

As part of the initial gallery design, 3 rotations of all the textiles and costume were planned over forthcoming years. This would enable more of the collections to be viewed and accessed. It is also part of a collections care strategy as these objects are particularly vulnerable to light and insect damage. Even when displayed on appropriate mounts, very long term display can cause stress and subsequent damage to costume.



Alice Forkes installing a sampler into the 19th C case

The first phase of installation in all the wall cases has been completed. The second phase will be to change the costume in the large island case and the cases in the Treasure, Trade and the Exotic gallery. This is planned for early 2012. Rotating the textiles display involved the assessment, conservation and mounting of 42 objects by Conservation staff with some very valuable in-put from two volunteers.

An 'in progress' shot of a 18th C flower embroidered picture. It has been de-framed and removed from the wood backing board. The image is the reverse of the embroidery and the mirror image that has been caused by light damage onto the back board. Reverse of a 17th C embroidery of Adam and Eve, showing the bright un-faded colours, particularly of Adam, compared to the front which has suffered light damage and looks grey.

Photographing the Castle mummies

As part of its ongoing programme to photograph the entire Egyptian collection, the Archaeology Department recently photographed its two mummies, Ankh Hor and Heribrer. Working closely with Conservation (Debbie Forkes and Jonathan Clark) and with assistance from the Display department, the mummies were removed from the gallery and taken to the auditorium which was used as a temporary photographic studio.

They were photographed by Dr Martin Shepherd, who has been working with Faye Kalloniatis to produce a set of digital images of the entire Egyptian collection. Every aspect of the mummy's cartonage has been photographically recorded in sections.



Martin has produced an excellent photographic record which will greatly improve the documentation of the Egyptian collection. The mummies have been on display in their present gallery for over ten years and although housed in much better environment and mounted more sympathetically than before, the mummies are in need of some remedial work. Conservation were able to assess the needs of the mummies more accurately with them being off display. A programme of conservation will be devised over the coming months.

8. BUILDINGS UPDATE

Pigeon Problem at Norwich Castle

Planning applications have been submitted to Norwich City Council and English Heritage to trial a pigeon guarding system to parts of Norwich Castle similar to the system used on the City Hall. Excessive quantities of roosting pigeons are creating a Health and Safety risk to visitors, staff and contractors wishing to access the roof, and the build up of bird faeces can cause damage to the building fabric, e.g. gutter blockages causing roof leaks. If permission is given and the trial successful it is hoped that the system will be installed on all the vulnerable roof areas.

Accommodation Update

Costume and Textiles

The costume and textile library, resources and handling collections are now housed in Norwich Castle Study Centre. The handling collections are still in constant use by groups and researchers and are often on loan to museum learning teams around the county. Roller racking and other storage equipment is being installed in the Shirehall to accommodate the costume and textile collections when they are relocated in March 2012.



New Study Room

There is a new shared study room available to all the curatorial departments for the use of public activities. The room is used by individual researchers, group sessions, study centre events, training and collections work.

New Entrance

In January 2012, the main entrance to Norwich Castle Study Centre for staff, contractors and the public moved to the old Regimental Museum entrance. A new reception area, as well as new graphic panels and signs were installed during November and December.

Visitors to the Study Centre can buy publications, postcards and small gifts form the sales area.

Rachel Kirk, Norwich Museums Manager
March 2012

ITEM NO. 6

MUSEUM VISITS		APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	Total to 30th January 2012 all years
Castle Museum	2009/10	14,559	12,278	12,142	16,394	18,085	10,915	13,729	9,390	7,071	8,709	123,272
	2010/11	15,555	12,623	13,588	17,126	28,199	12,647	16,896	11,136	6,098	10,847	144,715
	2011/12	13,502	12,790	12,731	18,423	23,434	13,878	15,624	10,896	7,352	9,558	138,188
Strangers Hall	2009/10	1,050	664	786	1,129	952	1,104	778	1,150	1,619		9,232
	2010/11	992	547	613	987	1,051	781	962	939	1,159		8,031
	2011/12	903	641	918	1,013	1,286	842	1,076	843	750	CLOSED	8,272
Royal Norfolk Regimental	2009/10	414	299	204	375	379	467					2,138
	2010/11	403	225	339	462	471	565					2,465
	2011/12	311	226	319	262	391	836	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	2,345
Royal Norfolk Regimental via Castle	2009/10	1,939	1,076	915	2,405	2,089	1,069					9,493
	2010/11	1,413	1,014	1,297	1,731	1,815	1,046					8,316
	2011/12	1,346	1,039	1,103	986	3,270	348	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	8,092
Carrow House Costume & Textile Study Centre	2009/10	53	44	99	156	59	247					658
	2010/11	76	117	132	137	90	166					718
	2011/12	47	75	107	100	50	120	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	499
TOTAL NORWICH MUSEUM VISITS	2009/10	17,962	14,317	14,047	20,303	21,505	13,555	14,507	10,540	8,690	8,709	144,135
	2010/11	18,363	14,409	15,837	20,306	31,536	15,039	17,858	12,075	7,257	10,847	163,527
	2011/12	16,062	14,696	15,071	20,684	28,381	15,904	16,700	11,739	8,102	9,558	156,897

Carrow House and The Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum closed to the public on 10th Sept 2011

SCHOOL VISITS		APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	Total to 30 January 2012 all years
Castle Museum	2009/10	453	932	2,416	964	8	517	1,386	1,956	1,297	1,399	11,328
	2010/11	424	1022	2,217	1,708	57	1,118	1360	2,777	706	1,840	13,229
	2011/12	550	1,287	1,985	2,097	37	510	1,489	2,529	772	1,213	12,469
Strangers Hall	2009/10	28	48	237	109	-	32	110	609	403		1,576
	2010/11	91	112	30	150	-	-	156	537	128	CLOSED	1,204
	2011/12	29	168	164	94	-	-	223	253	78	CLOSED	1,009
Royal Norfolk Regimental	2009/10 ACTUAL	45	29	-	-	-	-	159				233
	2010/11	0	0	-	11	-	-	90				101
	2011/12		27	89	-	-	-	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	116
TOTAL SCHOOL VISITS	2009/10	526	1,009	2,653	1,073	8	549	1,655	2,565	1,700	1,399	13,137
	2010/11	515	1,134	2,247	1,869	57	1,118	1,606	3,314	834	1,840	14,534
	2011/12	579	1,482	2,238	2,191	37	510	1,712	2,782	850	1,213	13,594