

## Friends of the Norwich Museums

### Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 2.30 p.m. at City Hall Norwich

The AGM of the Friends of the Norwich Museums took place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. It was attended by the Lord Mayor Councillor James Wright and other dignitaries, Head of Museums, Steve Miller and other staff members. Our Guest Speaker was Senior Curator at Strangers' Hall, Cathy Terry. Cathy gave us a lot of interesting information about recent developments and improvements that have been made at Strangers' Hall during its Centenary Year. The FNM has been able to financially support these improvements e.g. the refreshing of the displays and the conservation of display cases. The Toy Room is an outstanding example of this. Cathy also gave us very interesting insight into the conservation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Overmantel Paintings in the Great Chamber and the Georgian Dining Room.

The Friends of the Norwich Museums continue to plan for events which will take place in the forthcoming months. We would like to hold a special Tea for the FNM to celebrate the opening of the Castle Keep in the late Autumn. We are particularly excited to see the Friends Tapestry on display in the King's Bedchamber.

The Friends continue to help to purchase new acquisitions and paintings by the still life artist Hubner and landscape artist van Ruisdael have been purchased with the help of the FNM. Both these works are a wonderful addition to the Castle Museum's Fine Art Collection.

We are having our usual Talks in the Town Close Auditorium, and coming up next is a talk by archaeologist and author James Wright, entitled 'Historic Buildings Mythbusting' on Friday 19 July at 3.00p.m.

The FNM hope to have a presence at the Royal Norfolk Show this year – 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July. We will give out our up-to-date membership leaflets and recent and current Newsletters. We hope to gain more members, so the FNM can continue to help the Norfolk Museums Service in its work.

Felicity Devonshire,

Vice Chair of the Friends of the Norwich Museums