

## **Norwich Area Museums Committee 6 June 2023**

### **Norwich Museums Report: February to April 2023**

#### **1. COVID-19 & infection control update**

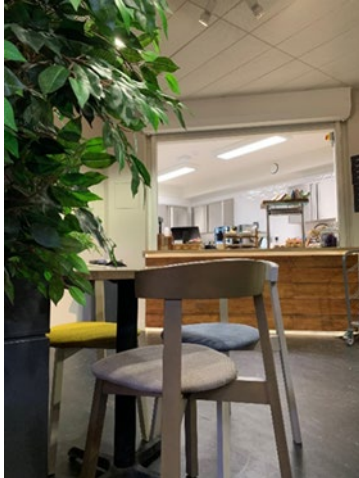
- 1.1 A number of the COVID-secure systems and procedures implemented across Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) sites during the pandemic remain in place, with a focus on keeping staff and visitors safe through minimising the risk of transmission of COVID and other infections. Sites continue to provide hand sanitiser stations and some directional signage. The pre-booking of tickets is no longer a requirement but remains an option. Site capacity limits are largely at pre-pandemic levels.
- 1.2 COVID-19 and other infection control priorities remain:
- Ventilation – maintaining existing ventilation arrangements to maximise fresh air flow including supplementary air purifiers and CO2 monitors at relevant sites
  - Cleaning regimes – maintaining enhanced cleaning arrangements including toilets and regular touch points
  - Hand sanitisation – maintaining existing sanitiser stations and encouraging regular hand sanitisation/hand washing. Additional hand sanitiser stations are introduced where required e.g. near interactives.
- 1.3 To facilitate increased levels of use of museum spaces by visitors, staff and volunteers, CO2 monitors provided through Norfolk County Council (NCC) are operating in a number of spaces across NMS where there is more limited natural/mechanical ventilation. These CO2 detectors are monitored locally by staff using these spaces and also link into the LoRaWAN network, facilitating the use of monitoring dashboards to track live data and trends. The use of CO2 monitors has enabled a number of spaces to be brought back into use by staff and volunteers and increased capacity for schools and other visitors
- 1.4 Digital resources developed by staff during the pandemic continue to be used to support a hybrid offer e.g. enhanced digital schools resources.
- 1.5 In line with Norfolk County Council (NCC) practice at office hubs, NMS has implemented Smarter Working and Hybrid Working principles across teams.
- 1.6 Volunteering has recommenced across all NMS sites, supported by the NMS Volunteer Coordinator.

#### **2. Norwich Museums operations**

##### **2.1 Norwich Castle opening arrangements**

Due to the ongoing construction works at Norwich Castle, visitors continue to use the external entrance door E8 as the temporary entrance and exit route. The one-way system introduced as a response to COVID-19 has been deactivated.

The new 'pop-up' catering unit continues to operate within the Rotunda areas of Norwich Castle along with a seating section. This interim offer will remain in place until the new catering facilities open as part of the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project. An enhanced retail offer has now been installed within the Rotunda, with many more lines of stock being made available for purchase.



The new 'pop-up' café operating in the Rotunda

## 2.2 Norwich Castle ceremonies

The number of ceremonies taking place at Norwich Castle has continued to remain strong, with 671 having been undertaken over the past 12 months.

Month	No of Ceremonies	Footfall
May	59	1613
June	133	3223
July	57	1980
August	57	1245
September	85	2621
October	62	1613
November	53	1162
December	22	539
January	18	383
February	53	1060
March	16	480
April	56	1678
<b>Total</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>17597</b>



The Colman Gallery wedding space

### 3. Norwich Learning Team activity – highlights report

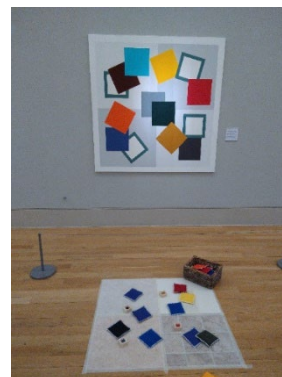
#### 3.1 Formal Learning



The Norwich Museums Learning team continue to develop, deliver and evaluate the impact of learning programmes for priority and target audiences, including Norfolk schools and young people. Staff have carefully managed the reintroduction of in-person learning events at all three city museums. To explore the programmes in more detail and get involved, please visit the *Learning Hub* pages of the Norwich Castle website: [Learning - Norfolk Museums](#)

#### **Snaplings and Snapdragons Early Years groups**

Our monthly groups for 0-2's and 2-4's ran on the 18 and 21 February, 18 and 21 March and 15 and 18 April. Themes were *Look at Me!/Portraits*, *Bumpy and Smooth/Teeth and Bones* and *Colourful Creations*.



### **Earlham Nursery Partnership**

Earlham Nursery visited Norwich Castle on the 6-7 and 9 March as a part of our long term partnership with the setting. These were the second visits for the children, building on the children's interests from their first visits in February. Points of focus this time were our Natural History Galleries and the Teapot gallery. Many children were particularly interested in looking at intricate details of the specimens, choosing to draw what they could see.

The children carefully chose the colours they needed and drew in the stripes and tiny dots on the tiger's mouth. We also trialled a relaxed, quiet separate play space for the group from the special needs provision. This proved successful in supporting the children to decompress on arrival and explore at their own pace.

### **The Clare School - Gloucester Sensory Session 29 March**

Emma Clarke ran a sensory focussed session exploring the *Last Voyage of the Gloucester* exhibition for a group of five learners aged 7-9 years from the Clare School, all of whom have a diagnosis of Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD)

Teacher Feedback:

- One pupil demonstrated higher levels of engagement than on a typical day at school*
- Pupils engaged with a fantastic sensory story and workshop.*
- The workshop and session was well adapted to meet the needs of our complex needs learners.*



### **Banks House *Dinosaurs and Rainbows* object handling session 30 March.**

Staff ran an object handling session for year 12 pupils from Banks House School. At the request of the school to tie in with their current topic, the theme for the session was *Dinosaurs and Rainbows*, exploring fossils and colour within our *Lumen* exhibition space.

*“Every aspect of this visit was catered for to the highest standard, Emma ensured we had support answering any questions throughout the planning. Emma had also sent photographs of all the areas that may present daunting to our pupils to eliminate any anxieties. The trip was planned to the pupils needs and communication skills, overall a great visit. This is our second visit with the Museum guided by Emma, we will definitely be visiting again.”*



### ***The Last Voyage of The Gloucester: EYFS, KS1 and KS2***

The first school events focusing upon *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester* exhibition have been delivered, with more booked for May and June. The event investigates the events of 6 May 1682 when the Gloucester sank off the Norfolk coast. Children meet characters from history: Ayres, the ship's pilot; a lady of the royal court; and a modern archaeologist. They handle replica objects inspired by the finds at the wreck site and take part in a mock court martial. At the end of the day, they visit the exhibition to contextualise their learning.

Feedback has been positive; *‘It was a wonderful experience for the children, and they learnt so much from the hands-on activities. Great exhibition as well!’*

### ***KS3 session - William I: Hero or Villain?***

Norwich Castle hosted its first KS3 *William I: Hero or Villain?* event in February since the Castle Keep closed for redevelopment. 60 year seven students (11-12 year olds) from Northgate High School in Dereham re-enacted the Battle of Hasting using replica weapons and armour, analysed Norwich's entry for the Domesday Book whilst practising their Medieval calligraphy skills, and compared Anglo-Saxon and Norman society through role-play and drama as well as experiencing a virtual tour of the Castle Keep.

### ***Teacher training***

In March, Norwich Castle hosted two events focused upon learning outside the classroom to over 75 trainee teachers. Primary and Secondary trainee teachers from City College and UEA were introduced to the potential to use museums in general, and Norwich Castle in particular, to enhance their classroom practice and engage and extend their pupils' learning.

A trainee said: *‘Time to explore and consider how I could use the exhibits within, and as an extension of, my teaching. The object handling was interesting and gave me ideas I wouldn't have considered.’*

A tutor said: *‘Trainees were able to see how to use collections to engage and inspire pupils across a range of subjects, setting the learning in context.’*



### **Castle Education Room**

As part of the Norwich Castle project, work has begun to plan for the fit out of the new education room. Designs have been created that aim to maximise the available space for use by schools and other learning groups with enhanced storage and improved access for learners with disabilities. A supplementary funding bid was successful and will be used to provide additional equipment for the room.

### **3.2 Schools Digital and Virtual programmes**

Whilst the greatest demand has been from school groups to visit the museums in person, with the site's reduced capacity due to ongoing construction works, digital provision continues to be important for a smaller number of schools. These programmes provide the high-quality curriculum links, learning outcomes, and engagement opportunities that underpin the success of the schools' programme. They are also provided as pre- and post-visit resources to school groups visiting on-site to extend and enrich the learning event.

Schools are still able to come to our sites on self-guided visits, and a range of worksheets and other resources remain downloadable from the website free of charge:

[Trails and resources - Norfolk Museums](#)

### **3.3 Visitor Programme Activities**

#### **February Half Term holiday programme 11–18 February**

February half term was run in partnership with Norwich Science Festival, with science linked activities at all three Norwich sites:

#### **Norwich Castle 'Fabulous Food'**

Norwich Castle ran a programme daily 11 – 18 February which used museum collections to explore food and diets. Activities included opportunities for visitors to closely examine and hold different animal skulls – comparing how teeth varies with diet. Our 'star' specimen here was a hippo skull!





Alongside this was an activity exploring Ancient Egyptian farming techniques, using the Ancient Egyptian grain store in our collection as a jumping off point. This activity was designed to provide a relaxed, welcoming crafting opportunity through which discussions and discoveries could take place. The offer was tied together with a menu building activity which encouraged families to create their own 'museum meal' by drawing items from across the museum onto their plates.

#### Visitor Feedback:

*"My son says he 'loved it one hundred and infinity!' Such brilliant activities, my son was really interested and engaged. He REALLY enjoyed Fantastic Farming and we really appreciated the staff telling us lots of interesting information on all the activities. A great way to rediscover the museum and get kids engaged. Thank you!"*

*"Absolutely terrific! We were absolutely gutted when the keep closed, but to find this activity still on offer was lovely! It was introduced really well with extra explanations given for our 4 year old. Thank you very much to the staff. We loved it!"*



#### Museum of Norwich

NMS Teaching Museums Museum Trainee Sha Kandil developed an activity exploring the pharmacy collection, encouraging visitors to 'unpack the packaging' and investigate some rather unusual 18<sup>th</sup> Century beauty treatments!

#### Strangers' Hall

Bethan Holdridge developed some short science experiments to get visitors thinking about plant-based beauty treatments used throughout history, inspired by the beautiful garden at Strangers Hall.

#### Visitor Feedback:

*"Really enjoyed the activities - engaging and exciting, perfect for young scientists! Thank you! :)"*



*Madder*

#### *Cheeks*

The root of the madder plant was often used to stain your cheeks red to give you a fashionably delicate blush.

The red colour is derived from an organic compound called *alizarin*, which can be found in varying degrees of concentration in the roots.

**Try your own experiment:** Take a selfie. Now go outside and run around until you are out of breath and warm, then take another selfie. Do your cheeks look redder? This is because when you exercise, your body temperature increases and carries the blood towards the skin's surface, causing you to sweat and cool off. This is more obvious on people with fairer skin.

## Norwich Castle Keep Activity Plan – *Anarchy* May half-term activities

We continue to trial innovative ways for visitors to explore and experience the medieval past. Lee Warden, Norwich Castle project's activity plan learning officer has been developing a social game based upon the twelfth century 'Anarchy'.

*Anarchy* is a one hour game for up to 30 players aged 7+ which places visitors in the shoes of a historical character and challenges them to navigate the perilous world of Medieval politics whilst also achieving their character's personal ambition. The game has been designed to be both light-hearted and historically grounded, encouraging participants to explore what their character actually achieved during this tumultuous time.

*Anarchy* will be complemented by a *Design your own Heraldry* activity, our ever-popular *Arms and Armour* demonstrations, and self-led *Knight's Trail* in which visitors explore the museum collections to choose the objects that they will need to go on a quest.



**Anarchy at Norwich Castle**  
27 May - 3 June

Included with admission  
**Anarchy**  
A 30 player social game set in the 12th century.  
Take on the role of a historic character  
during England's first civil war.  
11:00 - 12:30 & 2:30 - 4:00

**Arms and Armour Demonstrations**  
Discover the gruesome history behind the weapons  
and armour of the Middle Ages.  
12:45 - 2:15

And also...  
A Knight's Trail  
Medieval Board Games  
Design your own Heraldry

**ANARCHY**  
A social game that decides the fate of England.



 Ages 7+  Up to 30 players  1 hour

## Reframing Mental Health in Museums & Galleries

In February Learning and Engagement Officer Rosalind Hewitt was offered a bursary to attend a conference in London on mental health projects in museums. The day was run in partnership by Dulwich Picture Gallery and The Baring Foundation. Speakers included; mental health service users and museum project participants, artists with lived experience of mental health conditions, and staff from museums such as The Holbourne, the Bethlem Museum of the Mind and Chisenhale Gallery. The day provided opportunities for networking and inspiration for future projects, particularly for the wellbeing priority that forms a part of Norwich Castle project's *Keep Learning* strand.

## Conservation for Wellbeing: Kintsugi Bookbinding

Kintsugi is a traditional and longstanding Japanese method of object repair that visibly accentuates and enhances the damage an item has sustained to create a new, equally beautiful object. Across four sessions, participants took a book of their choice that is damaged and repaired it in a tactile and meaningful way to create something that is patched but equally perfect. The sessions were targeted at young adults and were fully booked. This project was inspired by the conservation of two medieval manuscripts that will be displayed in the redeveloped Norwich Castle Keep. The sessions were led by



library and archive conservator Victoria Stevens ACR and the project was run in partnership with and hosted by the Millennium Library. We are planning to hold one final session so that participants have the chance display their work together. A small exhibition about both the medieval manuscript conservation and the project can go on display in the Millennium Library Heritage Centre.

*"This course has been great for my wellbeing, it has been really enjoyable, everyone is really friendly and kind. I would love to be involved in a course like this again."*

*"It has been a lovely way to switch off and focus solely on one thing."*



### **Medieval Creative Writing Workshop**

An immersive, interactive experience teaching learners to produce writing styled in the voice and exploratory of the life belonging to the period.

*"I enjoyed the class very much. We learnt some general skills about how to write a story as well as specifics on how to set a story into a historical time period. I loved listening to other people's stories and getting constructive criticism on my own writing."*

### **Friends & Fabric project**

*Friends & Fabric* is a nine week project delivered in partnership with New Routes and Art at Work CIC. New Routes is a Norwich-based charity that supports refugees and asylum seekers living in the city. Facilitated by Art at Work, we are working creatively with participants from New Routes, exploring medieval history, with a focus on the contributions to society from people who moved to the UK from abroad. We are looking at this history via textile art, trying a different textile technique each week. The end result will be an informal sharing of the work created in the sessions, held at The Forum as part of Refugee Week 2023.

*"Thank you for bringing creativity and life back to New Routes. We haven't had anything like this since before the pandemic and I feel quite emotional seeing the energy in the room"* – New Routes staff member



## Adult Learning

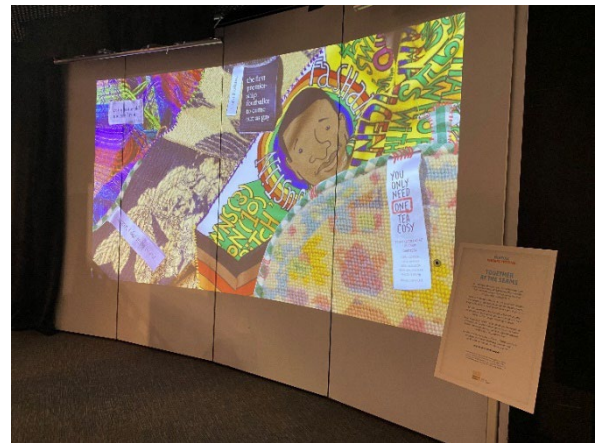
### The Singh Twins: *Slaves of Fashion - Together at the Seams* at the Maker's Festival

Exploring the personal stories that are woven into textiles, we created a digital community patchwork with members of the public, made up of stories of joy, grief, creativity, and so much more.

Sessions were held at the Museum of Norwich and the Millennium Library, where people were invited to bring in a textile that holds special meaning to them.

Using photographs of the textiles belonging to the people of Norwich and beyond, and capturing the stories behind them in interviews, the final quilt was digitally stitched together by artist Rose Feather.

The digital quilt was displayed at The Forum for the duration of the Maker's Festival, where it was seen by thousands of people.



### Norwich: A Redefined City - LGBTQ+ Tour

To mark LGBTQ+ history month, the Museum of Norwich commissioned Jo Foster-Murdoch, to research and deliver a tour exploring LGBTQ+ narratives behind the collections. Jo is a Community Librarian & member of the Norfolk LGBT+ History Club. Jo ran a pilot tour with members of the Norfolk LGBT+ History Club to gain their feedback and capture their personal stories, lived experience, & recollections. The tours ran on Saturday 25 February and we had positive feedback from visitors. We hope to run the tours again soon in the future and keep developing this offer.

*"Thank you very much for the tour and all the interesting stories, pictures and newspaper columns. I enjoyed it so much!"*



## Knight Club

Norwich Castle's *Knight Club* has provided sessions across several counties over the past few months. Staff have been to Scout groups, schools, other castle sites and a broad range of history-based clubs. There has also been extra interest in the learning curriculum which supports Knight Club and is based on the medieval Trivium and Quadrivium, which knights would have been expected to learn – astronomy, mathematics, music, geometry, grammar, logic, and rhetoric. Bookings continue to come in from new events and previous venues alike.

Knight Club has continued to receive outstanding reviews from participants of all ages. *"My three girls absolutely LOVED knight school! Knight School is NOT just for boys! Thank you!"*

*"Very good (mainly because I got to whap my dad!)"*

*"Amazing! Excellent and fun. Leader was superb. Best activity for the holiday"*

*"What an absolute amazing morning. Very good value for money. Great fun and informative. Would definitely come again. Adults and kids love it."*

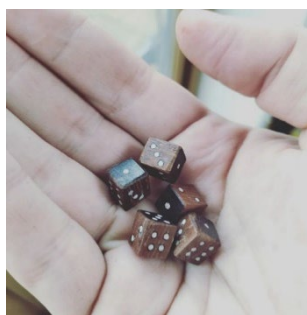


Knight Club activities

## Medieval Board Games

A selection of medieval board games were researched, designed, and built by hand by learning staff using heritage woodworking, metalworking, and leatherworking skills.

These have proved engaging for all ages and inspired curiosity about a range of topics such as the materials the games were made from, who played them and how we know the rules. A number of the games are being made available to visitors, alongside information sheets, video resources and guides about how to make and play your own medieval board game.



#### **4. Kick the Dust: Norfolk – project activity update**

The Kick the Dust: Norfolk project, initially funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and delivered in partnership with a range of organisations including YMCA Norfolk, continues to engage with young people aged 11-25. The project provides a structured progression pathway for young people: Player-Shaper-Leader.

This is the final report for the NLHF-funded Kick the Dust project and highlights the work of the Kick the Dust team in terms of how it adapted its approach to accommodate activity since the start of the project in October 2018 through to the completion of the NLHF-funded project at the end of March 2023. The team has developed a blended offer with over three quarters of sessions being delivered face-to-face and online engagement for those groups where this was the most appropriate approach to remove access barriers. This is the case for our online work experience programme which removed access barriers for those wishing to engage in this acclaimed programme but where travel would be a barrier.

This report compares our data with that of the other 12 national Kick the Dust projects through the Renaisi data produced for the National Lottery Heritage Fund from Oct 2020 to September 2021.

#### **Current number of interventions with young people:**

From the start of lockdown to 31 March 2023 there were a total of 7,834 interventions, involving 2,805 individual young people taking part in 3,907 hours of quality digital activity. Following post-COVID reopening and access to groups on site and in outdoor settings, the team delivered 903 face to face sessions (78% of all delivery) with young people across the county, out of a total of 1,158 sessions delivered between March 2020 and 31 March 2023. This equates to 78% of all activity being delivered face to face. This blended approach offers a more diverse range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage and will be the approach taken forward into the new Kick the Dust project starting in April 2023.

Total participation numbers from October 2018 are 13,905 interventions, involving 4,527 individual young people taking part in 7,039 hours of quality activity, taking us beyond the initial NLHF target of 8,000 interventions.

More young people have taken the lead in projects, shifting the percentage of activity at each of the 4 levels. In the last year there has been no need to deliver activity at Pre-Player level showing that the YMCA young people had gained in confidence and were taking part in longer term projects on our sites:

- 25% of all activity was at Player level
- 40% at Shaper level
- 35% at Leader level.
- 86% of all activity in March involved young people in leading and designing projects, taking on the role of Young Ambassador and playing a leading part in the Youth Board.



Breakdown of activity taking place in each area since October 2018:

- 47% (1,449 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Thetford and Gressenhall),
- 27% (825 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Sheringham)
- 26% (771 opportunities) in Norwich
- 331 volunteering opportunities have been provided to 180 individual young people.

We continue to develop and deliver an online training offer for all staff and volunteers who support youth engagement in NMS. In total 420 staff have taken part in training since October 2018, with 151 having taken up opportunities in lockdown. In addition, 45 young volunteers have taken part in training. Kick the Dust has supported seven young people on its bursary traineeship programme, the last cohort finishing in May 2022, all of whom have secured permanent employment within the heritage sector. A further six young people completed the pre-traineeship programme. One Kick the Dust participant progressed onto the NMS Teaching Museum traineeship programme with three others applying for the role and being shortlisted. Two Young Ambassadors have progressed onto teacher training programmes. Our seven Young Ambassadors have supported Institutional Change within NMS on the strategic Youth Board and Project Board. Staff from our Front of House (FOH) and Visitor Services teams have engaged in training such as mentoring and coaching, mental health first aid and creating autism friendly spaces which played a key role in supporting the new pre-traineeship pilot programme for YMCA clients and other vulnerable groups. Two of the staff at Norwich who mentored the young YMCA trainees have since secured promotion in their roles.

Our offer to support staff and volunteers around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and the Youth Board have worked with NCC Public Health and the Audience Agency to incorporate the framework to measure mental wellbeing into the new evaluation tool which is to be rolled out from 1st April 2023. Data from the young people's feedback forms shows that 26% of young people up to 31 March 2023 identified as having a mental health issue.

As more FOH staff have taken part in training to gain confidence in working with young people facing more complex barriers to engagement, these teams have offered opportunities to young people to gain further experience. The team at the Museum of Norwich and Time and Tide Museum supported three YMCA clients onto the pre-traineeship programme and Stories of Lynn took on a young person with complex learning needs to support the Learning and Engagement Officer who has since progressed into a role with the Corn Exchange in Kings Lynn to gain further experience.

Feedback from the three trainees has been extremely positive with comments such as: *'This traineeship has given structure to other areas of my life. I now have a routine which will help me achieve other things in my life. Having structure has had a massive positive impact on my mental health'* (Trainee Norwich YMCA)

*'Being in a working environment and watching staff work has made it easier for me to interact with people and school children. Having to manage my bursary payments has also helped me with finances and I am finding that easier now'. (Trainee Great Yarmouth YMCA)*

*'This programme has given me confidence. Confidence within myself, confidence to communicate better and confidence to know I am capable of putting myself out there and learning new things and being able to share that information I have learnt with others ..... The KTD programme allowed me to apply for the pre-traineeship. This opportunity has well and truly been amazing so far. My confidence has skyrocketed. And I have been surrounded by intelligent and passionate people. I am wanting to apply for the full traineeship due to loving my experience so far. This has made me consider what routes I can take in my future. I know I want to work with young people, and it would be amazing to potentially work in a museum in the future teaching and sharing my interest with young people!' (Trainee YMCA Norwich)*

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group where members from across Children's Services identify ways to engage the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people through a joint effort. The group continues to play a key part in the delivery of activity as part of the DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) project through the Big Norfolk Fun programme ([Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)) and through our own contributions to this through our Kick the Dust offer. The focus is on mental health and wellbeing and now has representation from the NCC Public Health team.

### **Breakdown of participants**

We have worked with a higher number of older young people aged 17-25 years through our partnerships with YMCA Norfolk and the University of East Anglia and Norwich University of the Arts (54%). Whilst the number of young people aged 11-16 (42%) years is lower than the older age groups, this has enabled these young people to progress through the programme.

The comparison with the Renaisi data below is in brackets and highlights the changes since the last Renaisi report in 2021. Across all 12 Kick the Dust projects, the largest proportion of participants were from the 17-19 category (24%), while the largest proportion in Years 2 and 3 of the project came from the 14-16 category (32%). Approximately half of participants (49%) were aged 11-16 in Years 2 and 3, compared to 32% in this final year. The reasons cited by Renaisi for this change is that young people are engaging in deeper levels of engagement than in previous years which in turn could explain why participants are from the older age groups. Whilst this is the case for Kick the Dust Norfolk, we are providing a range of Shaper and Leader opportunities for young people across all age groups participating although the older age groups tend to be engaged at Leader level.

- 7% aged 11-13 years (15%)
- 12% aged 14-16 years (17%)
- 29% aged 17-19 years (24%)
- 29% aged 20-22 years (22%)
- 22% aged 23-25 years (23%)

Data is collected around ethnicity through the Young People's Feedback form (should they choose to answer this question) and is based on the descriptions used by the NLHF: (Renaissi data is shown in brackets).

Breakdown of ethnicity:

- Asian – 3% (5%)
- Black - 1.5% (7%)
- Arab – 0.2% (1%)
- Irish traveller – 0.5% (1%)
- Mixed ethnic – 4% (5%)
- White – 91% (70%)

Those who chose to respond to the question on whether they had a physical or mental disability which can be a barrier to engagement is as follows:

- Disabled – 22% (9% in Renaissi data)
- Non-disabled – 28%
- Preferred not to answer – 48%

A large number chose not to answer this question but a further 7% of young people added that additional barriers to their engagement included transport and finances.

How young people found out about Kick the Dust has changed since the beginning of the project with 16% coming to us through social media posts and the new Kick the Dust web pages, 10% through flyers and posters, 19% through friends or a family member and 12% from having taken part in a previous Kick the Dust activity. Strong partnerships with Children's Services and other cultural and youth organisations accounts for 43% of young people being signposted to Kick the Dust, showing the importance of maintaining these partnerships going forward.

**Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category) as of 31/3/2023**

- FE/HE – 33%
- YMCA clients – 34%
- Secondary schools – 22%
- Young people with mental health issues – 26%
- SEND – 13%
- Outside of mainstream education – 10%
- NEET – 10%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 4%
- Care Leavers – 4%
- Young Offenders and those at risk of offending – 3%
- Young Carers – 3%
- New arrivals and refugees – 3%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 2%

As part of the feedback, young people are asked how aware they are of the range of job roles available within NMS and the heritage sector and how they perceive museums in terms of being spaces for young people. (Updated 31/3/23)

- Before taking part in a KTD programme, **61%** of young people stated they had little or no knowledge of job roles in NMS or the heritage sector. After their engagement **55%** of these young people stated they now had a good understanding of the different job roles available in the sector and a further **40%** felt more knowledgeable. **94%** stated that the skills they had learnt would be useful to them in the future (Renaissi 92%). This shows that Kick the Dust as a programme enables young people to gain a greater understanding of the opportunities within the heritage sector and develop transferable work skills.
- Following their engagement, **85%** felt that museums were a space they would use in the future with **85%** stating their engagement had been 'as expected or better than they expected'.

When we compare all our data to the Renaissi findings, (which uses data from October 2020 to September 2021 across all 12 national Kick the Dust projects), it shows we are in line with other Kick the Dust projects, scoring higher in 10 of the 13 areas. (The Renaissi responses can be found in the brackets and will be updated at the end of the project once the data is released).

Following their engagement: updated 31/3/23

- **80%** of young people felt that there were jobs for young people like themselves to work in heritage with 13% not sure and needing to find out more. (Renaissi **67%**).
- **87%** of young people said they had learnt new and interesting things about heritage (Renaissi **85%**); **83%** of young people felt that heritage represented young people like them (Renaissi **73%**);
- **73%** of young people said they were more likely to become a volunteer because of their involvement in KTD (Renaissi **78%**) and **77%** stated they would be looking to take part in other local heritage events as a result of their engagement (Renaissi **73%**).
- **98%** of young people stated they felt welcomed and respected by staff (Renaissi **95%**) and **94%** felt a sense of achievement (Renaissi **82%**).
- **97%** felt heritage delivered in this way would engage other young people (Renaissi **92%**) with **98%** of young people stating they now had a better understanding of heritage having taken part in the programme (Renaissi **85%**)
- **84%** of young people felt they had the opportunity to influence decisions. (Renaissi **64%**)
- **91%** stated there was something for everyone irrespective of background (Renaissi **91%**) although this needs to be put into context of other demographic data for Norfolk.
- **91%** of young people felt that the programme was easy and affordable to get involved in but had concerns that they may not be able to do this in the future if there was a significant cost to them with 50% of this number stating financial concerns as a barrier. (Renaissi **93%**).



- **88%** of young people said they had found heritage more relevant than they had before embarking on their Kick the Dust journey with 12% neither agreeing nor disagreeing (Renaiss **81%**).

## Summary

The NLHF-funded Kick the Dust project ended in March 2023 with evidence clearly demonstrating the impact on young people and staff engaging in activity. As we deliver activity through our blended offer of face-to-face activity and online engagement, this impact is increased further as more staff engage in the co-delivery of activity and see the benefits to their own development. This has been seen in the delivery of current exhibitions, curation, the pre-traineeship programme and through collections.

Kick the Dust was set up as a three-stage journey, with young people developing transferable work-related skills and gaining experiences that they would struggle to find elsewhere, to support them in securing employment. Whilst young people cite being involved in curation and creating exhibitions as the main areas they have enjoyed, it is through these activities that they hone their skills and understanding of the workplace, which will help them secure employment longer term. The introduction of the 10 hour per week pre-traineeship programme allowed the young people who have been developing their skills through the Kick the Dust programme, but who lack the confidence to put themselves forward for job roles, to go through a supportive recruitment process and receive mentoring support to help them progress after the programme finishes. Feedback from those taking part in the pilot shows that this adds real value to the overall offer and that the process has helped them have the confidence to put themselves forward. The 10 hours a week posts meets the needs of the young person and the participating team and will be used to demonstrate to smaller museums that they can support a young person from a more challenging background in a meaningful way as well as provide opportunities for professional development for their own staff.

Our aim as we move forward is to support more working age young people to progress into employment, training or further learning and long-term volunteering. The new pilot for the bursary pre-traineeship programme has enabled us to gauge the need and success of this entry level pathway into the sector. We have seen young people move through the programme, gaining the confidence to take on volunteering roles within NMS, others securing their first job through the Government's Kick Start 6-month placement programme; three young people who have taken up positions within NMS Front of House teams, eight young people progressing onto the Teaching Museum and Kick the Dust bursary traineeship programme, four of the last cohort of trainees securing permanent employment in the sector, one with NMS; two young people progressing onto Teacher Training, and nine young people taking on the Young Ambassador roles, one of whom has recently secured a position with Norfolk and Norwich Festival and another on a Teacher training programme. Others have stated that their involvement has helped them make choices around subjects and options at school and college.

The building of the strong partnerships we have developed through Kick the Dust has been pivotal to the success of the project. As these organisations have become more familiar with the approach of Kick the Dust, take up has continued to increase. The Kick the Dust web pages on the NMS site has brought traffic and enquiries from young people who would not ordinarily come to us through our existing partnerships which will support future growth and solidify the way NMS approaches youth engagement going forward.

## **Feedback**

*'Make Yarmouth & Saturday Art Club have influenced me to do more creativity and thanks to Kick the Dust for helping and supporting us. I was really shy when I started and didn't speak much. I feel quite confident and have improved a lot more by being here and learning and artists and the history of Time and Tide' (Young Carer in the East).*

*'M chose film production after a National Saturday Club taster session at East Norfolk Sixth Form. She is now applying for a volunteering role as a result.'* (Project Worker East)

*'I still thought it was worth emailing to say thank you for the photos of the museum club enjoying the trail, it's so lovely to know they gave it such positive feedback as well! It was a lovely project to be involved in and I feel I have learned a lot about creating heritage projects in more practical terms, so thank you for that. I also hope that when I have the time there are more Kick the Dust projects I can get involved in!'* (Young Person on the Faith and Ritual YAF project)

*'It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to be a part of the SHARE organising group, so thank you for having young people, like myself, involved at an organising capacity at this event. It was very insightful and I learnt a lot. Thank you also for being so patient and helpful with my questions!'* (Lily F Young Ambassador KTD). *Following the event Lily secured a job with Norfolk & Norwich Festival in Kings Lynn – 'I have been successful in a job application (which I'm so happy about!!), to work at Kings Lynn Festival as their 'events and communications intern'*

*'Kick the Dust has helped me to gain real-life experience within the museum and heritage sector. I was able to curate, organise and develop my own creative project which has since been on display in numerous venues in Norfolk. As a result of this, I have been able to kick start my career as a project coordinator within the arts and culture sector. Without the hands-on experience that Kick the Dust gave me, and the help and knowledge of the scheme's organisers, I wouldn't have had the experience or confidence to start applying for the jobs I once dreamed of.'* (Young person on the online work experience programme.)

Lily who completed the 6 month Kick Start programme apologised for not being able to apply for the new Project Worker role saying: *'I was starting my application when I received a job offer regarding a role at the GroundWork Gallery in King's Lynn. I have accepted this so will no longer be applying for the Project Worker position. Which is bittersweet as the role breakdown excited me. Thank you so much for sending it over, I really appreciated it as I hadn't seen it.'* Lily – Young Ambassador

One of our complex needs young people who had previously applied for a traineeship has been successful on his work experience with Norfolk Library service. The project

worker stated: *'I am sitting S who was one of the Time Turners and former College of West Anglia students. He has just completed his job placement with the library and has done brilliantly. He is applying for a permanent part-time post with the library service and has successfully been accepted onto their Casual staff list and hoping for a job in the library permanently'*. R Williams Project Worker and mentor

Working on the Baedeker project Aug to Nov 22 one young person stated: *'I feel that working on this project has been a new experience which has really helped me to develop some new skills and gain some new knowledge'*

*"Throughout my time with KTD, I couldn't be more amazed and grateful for all of the opportunities that have been presented to me. I have learnt so much about many different topics, in a variety of different ways; whether this being through activities at the YMCA, trips out to museums, being able to lead/tour other groups of YMCA residents (Leicester trip), volunteering with Museum lab to help me gain experience for my dream job of working with young people (this is fab as it combines my love for art and new found deep interest in history and helps me take steps to be closer to my dream). Along with this, I have truly been able to express myself in a new way. This programme has given me confidence. Confidence within myself, confidence to communicate better and confidence to know I am capable of putting myself out there and learning new things and being able to share that information I have learnt with others. Kick the Dust has also allowed me to see the government does have an interest in young people's voices. We had a trip to Yarmouth and visited winter gardens and it was so cool to throw around ideas and to be a part of this buildings journey! The KTD programme allowed me to apply for the pre-traineeship. This opportunity has well and truly been amazing so far. My confidence has skyrocketed. And I have been surrounded by intelligent and passionate people. And I am wanting to apply for the full traineeship due to loving my experience so far. And this has made me consider what routes I can take in my future. I know I want to work with young people and it would be amazing to potentially work in a museum in the future teaching and sharing my interest with young people! I have also been involved with the climate change mural project being ran through KTD. These workshops have helped me to be creative, be collaborative, learn about our planet, thinking of being more conscious when making daily decisions and how they'll impact the planet. The artwork is amazing, the message behind it is inspiring and it's so cool the artist worked with scientists. All messages I want to bring with me to inspire other young people. I have no idea where I would be today without KTD. The programme has been the greatest impact on my life in a very positive way."* (Trainee Norwich YMCA)

### **Future funding**

Whilst the NLHF-funded Kick the Dust project ended in March 2023, NMS will be maintaining the *Kick the Dust: Norfolk* brand as the vehicle for our ongoing youth engagement programmes.

NMS has secured 3 years of funding from 2023-26 to support Kick the Dust activity through Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation uplift funding. This will see the Kick the Dust team further developing the existing partnerships with libraries to

support the development of young people's cultural and digital skills and provide pathways to employment in the cultural sector. Additional funding has also been secured in 2023-24 from NCC Public Health to support Kick the Dust activity focussed on young people's mental health and wellbeing.

### **New funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund**

A successful National Lottery Heritage Fund *Grants for Heritage* Round 1 application was submitted to the NLHF for the *Your Heritage Your Future* project. The application was submitted by YMCA Leicester, with NMS as Lead Partner. This complex application was put together by a joint project team of staff from YMCA Leicester and NMS, who will now work on the Development Phase of this application, ahead of a Round 2 bid submission in early 2024. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery would commence in later 2024.

## **5. Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn – project update**

### **5.1 Main construction works**

In August 2020 the Keep and surrounding site areas were formally handed over to the Principal Contractor, Morgan Sindall Construction following Contract Award for the main build. Internal and external secure hoardings are in place to demarcate the construction site and delineate the contractor compound on the mound. There is an additional contractor compound and deliveries access point in the Lower Castle Gardens. A tower crane has been installed on the mound. An internal hoarding line runs across the entrance to the Rotunda, separating the construction zone from the areas of the museum that remain open to visitors throughout the project.



Drone image of the construction site

Sectional completion of the first phase of the project took place on 11 August 2022, with the formal handover of the new WC block area, which includes accessible toilets, baby changing facilities, a new Changing Place and a 'pop-up' catering facility. The Changing Place is now fully operational and registered <https://www.changing-places.org/find?toilet=2026> .



The installation of internal steelwork structures in the Keep has been completed, with new floor levels installed. Joinery and mechanical & electrical installation is ongoing. Installation of structural steels is ongoing in the new entrance area and adjoining Percival wing of the building. The next key phases will be the installation of steelwork on the Keep roof and the inserted of the new glazed atrium roof in the entrance area.



New visitor toilets and Changing Place

A verbal update on recent progress on the construction site will be given at the meeting.

## 6. Other activity across Norwich museums

### 6.1 Museum of Norwich

The Museum of Norwich team has been busy delivering a broad range of activities.

#### Exhibitions

##### ***Threads of Connection: A Creative Response to Our Textile Heritage***

23 November 2022 – 3 June 2023

Curator Hannah Henderson has been collaborating with Art at Work CIC, a local not for profit organisation that creates art-based projects to promote wellbeing and good mental health. The *Threads of Connection* project has been undertaken by their arts for

wellbeing group for women and has focused on the Norwich textile industry. This project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF).

Through visits, talks, creating and making, the participants have gained new knowledge and become experts in their fields of research. They have also harnessed their creativity to bring our textile heritage to life. As part of the final stage of the project, Hannah Henderson and Holly Sandiford, Group Leader, supported the group to create their own exhibition, which showcases some of the women's artwork.

Feedback from the group's participants showed that the women were so engaged and inspired by the project, that they expressed a genuine interest to continue their learning journey:

*"I have loved this group brining history and art together."*

*"Being a volunteer for the first time has really helped my confidence."*

*"I enjoyed spending time at the Bridewell. Please can we have more time next time?"*

Subsequently, Art at Work successfully applied for a further three-year funding package from NLHF. The group will be based at the museum for the next three years, meeting in blocks of eight weekly sessions, three times a year. Staff have greatly enjoyed working with Art at Work on this past project and have learned so much from them in terms of developing our wellbeing arts practice. The partnership has been mutually beneficial in many ways. This new 3-year project will empower the participants with more time, enabling them to pursue a deeper exploration of their local heritage. Furthermore, this continued partnership will enable our team to learn first-hand from expert practitioners in wellbeing arts work, enriching our own practice and enhancing future public programmes.

The Art at Work exhibition has been extended to early June and was a highlight event for Creativity and Wellbeing Week.



### **Norwich Puppet Theatre**

During the school summer holidays Museum of Norwich will be hosting an exhibition by Norwich Puppet Theatre. Museum staff are currently liaising with Norwich Puppet Theatre about this youth curation project. The working title for the exhibition is *Snap and Beyond* and it will be co-curated by young people.

## Community projects & events

The period has been busy, with several active community projects including:

### **Community Culture Club 10 November 2022 – 8 February 2023**

Our second cohort of Community Culture Club ended on Thursday 8 February. Community Culture Club is a series of ten creative wellbeing sessions, hosted at the Museum of Norwich. The programme is designed to improve wellbeing, decrease feelings of isolation and loneliness, and create new social connections by bringing people together. The sessions are open to all older people, including carers, those living with a dementia or other long term health conditions, and those who may feel lonely or isolated.

In the first session we ask everyone to bring a small trinket in and tell us a bit about it. We then designed labels for the objects and had the opening and closing of the 'Museum of Us' exhibition. In the final session we created self-portraits using a polaroid camera, celebrating identity is at the heart of Community Culture Club. This year we held onto the labels from the first session and displayed them alongside the portraits from our final session. We held another small exhibition and said a few words of gratitude for each other and the journey we had experienced together. Staff are hoping to run a third cohort of Community Culture Club from November 2023.

Feedback:

*"A really positive impact on my wife who is in the first stages of Alzheimer's. Community Culture Club is the perfect way to engage and stimulate the mind with brilliant staff and a different group of people. Benefit of a fun break for the carer too. This is a brilliant format and actually better than NHS Cognitive Stimulation Therapy."*

*"It has encouraged me to be more outwardly creative. I just wish that the course of sessions was even longer!"*

*"You really created an enabled and welcoming space, where everyone's contributions were valid and valued. This is something that has been on my mind of late and you guys did it really well."*



### **Norwich: A Redefined City - LGBTQ+ Tour - Saturday 25 February**

To mark LGBTQ+ history month, the Museum of Norwich commissioned Jo Foster-Murdoch, to research and deliver a tour exploring LGBTQ+ narratives behind the collections. Jo is a Community Librarian & member of the Norfolk LGBT+ History Club. Jo ran a pilot tour with members of the Norfolk LGBT+ History Club to gain their feedback and capture their personal stories, lived experience, & recollections. The tours ran on Saturday 25 February and we had positive feedback from visitors. We hope to run the tours again soon in the future and keep developing this offer.

*"Thank you very much for the tour and all the interesting stories, pictures and newspaper columns. I enjoyed it so much!"*

### **Friends & Fabric Welcome Session - Thursday 29 April**

Friends & Fabric is a nine-week project in partnership with New Routes and Art at Work. New Routes is a Norwich-based charity that supports refugees and asylum seekers living in the city. The Museum of Norwich hosted the launch of this project, welcoming staff and 25 participants to the museum.

*"Thank you so much for taking our participants to the museum. They really enjoyed it, thank you to you and your team for facilitating such a lovely afternoon."* – New Routes staff member

### **Book launch**

On Thursday 2nd March we hosted the C&TA's book launch for the new publication by Dr Michael Nix on Norwich Textiles. This book is the culmination of years of research and will shine a light on many previously unknown elements of the textile industry.

Pippa Lacey, C&TA, fed back:

*"Thank you and the wonderful team at Museum of Norwich for all your support last week (and before) for the launch of Michael Nix's beautiful and important new book on Norwich Textiles. It was a real pleasure to hold the book launch at the Museum of Norwich and you all helped to make it a memorable and smooth-flowing evening."*



### **Vision Norfolk Visit**

We are continuing our long relationship with the Vision Norfolk group who have visited us for a joint workshop on the Norwich textiles with Assistant Curator, Bethan Holdridge, and two representatives from the Art at Work women's wellbeing group who talked us

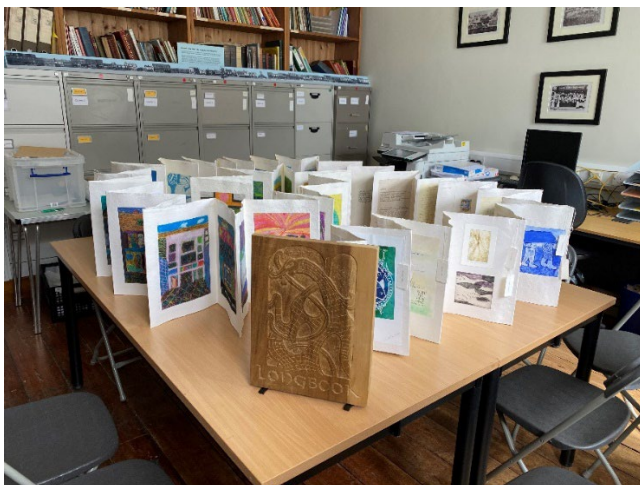


through their exhibition and devised some tactile resources to help them explain the look of a Norwich shawl. Museum of Norwich staff have continued to build the partnership with Vision Norfolk. Most recently, in the spirit of community collaboration, we teamed up with some of volunteers from the women from Art at Work's wellbeing group to create a multi-sensory tour of the new exhibition *Threads of Connection*.



### English Plus Visit

Our partnership with English Plus continues to develop, supported by Bethan Holdridge, Assistant Curator. The group comprises of people from all over the world, such as Hong Kong, Brazil, Ukraine, Iran and India, who come together to make friends, improve their English and boost their wellbeing. The English+ Museum Club recommenced in February. The first session was a simple orientation as many of the group were new. For our second session we invited Jules Allan from Bookscapes to show us the Norfolk Long book project as well as some of her other stunning art works created using books or with books as the inspiration. English+ then contributed their own pages to the book. There were some poignant pieces. One participant wrote: *'It is not always simple to lead a simple life.'*



## UEA visit

On Thursday 16 March curator Hannah Henderson welcomed students from the Museums and Cultural Heritage Studies course at UEA.

The leader's feedback was positive.

*It was useful to get local museum insight, and to see how a curator can approach different angles of histories and individual stories. Many of them were interested to hear how collaborative and diverse your work is.*



## School Holiday Activities

### February Half Term Holiday

The museum enjoyed a lively half term, welcoming 587 visitors. On 14 February we hosted an event linked to *Norwich Science Festival*, led by the Norwich Museums Learning team called *Skin Deep: Unpacking the Packaging*.

Museums Trainee Shaimaa Kandil, a trained scientist, delivered an event which explored the chemistry behind the products in our recreated pharmacy.

The museum also ran a 'Last Rolo' spotting trail, with replica Rolos hidden all around the museum.



### Easter Holiday

Our Easter holiday programme had us combine the early history of chocolate and bunnies, as the Aztec god who gave humans chocolate (Quetzacoatl) also put the

bunny in the moon. Visitors were invited to hunt the bunnies to discover the name of the god and on Tuesdays the Learning Team led a handling workshop where visitors could find out the journey of chocolate from central America to the Caley's Fleur de Lys works.

### **Instagram channel**

NMS launched a new Instagram channel for Museum of Norwich in late February, which to-date has just under 500 followers. We have been trialling different types of posts to see what will work well longer term and hope that information might be useful for other sites. Social media champions from the Museum of Norwich have also been posting content about events and activities. We hope that the channel will also be a useful as a platform for promoting the range of local makers that we stock in the museum's shop.

## **6.2 Strangers' Hall**

### **Strangers' 100 Centenary programme - February Half Term activities**

February half term saw the Museum reopening after the annual Deep Clean and participating in the Norwich Science Festival with a new family event *Skin Deep: Natural Beauty*. This was designed to partner *Skin Deep: Unpacking the Packaging*, delivered at the Museum of Norwich. Using the garden as inspiration, we explored the science behind the use of natural plant ingredients in beauty products and visitors played a game to guess which plants enhanced which areas of the body before moving on to a range of science experiments that they could carry out to illustrate the answers. The activity proved popular with visitors of all ages.

### **Deep Clean Media Interest**

One of the Strangers' Hall's social media posts on the discovery and treatment of woodworm in some of the museum's furniture during its annual Deep Clean generated a surprising amount of interest from the media. Assistant Curator Bethan Holdridge was interviewed on Radio 5's *Drive Time* and then Radio Norfolk, following an article in the EDP, to talk – amongst other things - about the logistics of putting a historic table in a freezer.

### **Vision Norfolk**

In March Strangers' Hall hosted *Vision Norfolk* for a talk and handling workshop on medieval dining in the Great Hall. The group were seated at a table, which was gradually set as Assistant Curator Bethan Holdridge described the place setting and the history of the different items and how to be on your best behaviour. The workshop was very popular and the group have booked a return visit in December for a similar theme but with a Christmas twist.

### **Strangers' Hall garden**

The garden team volunteers have made great headway this spring with reorganising some of the now rather shady beds, building a new compost bin and introducing a new Victorian-style 'Auricula Theatre'. The effort the team had put into planning the spring bulbs was rewarded by a superb display this year.



The Auricula Theatre created by garden volunteers

### **Strangers' Hall 100 programme**

Strangers' Hall opened as a City of Norwich Museum on 4 July 1923, and over the course of the year the Strangers' Hall 100 programme will promote this centenary of the first Folk Life museum in the country. We aim to encourage new audiences to explore its fascinating history and showcase the museum's collection of archive documents and photographs. The programme is supported through the generous support of the Freemen of Norwich and the Friends of Norwich Museums.

New window displays are currently being designed and constructed ahead of the centenary launch in July 2023. The visibility of the museum will be enhanced by figurative displays highlighting Strangers' long history, showcasing some of the people associated with the museum's history, key objects and photos of displays from the early days. The commissioned artist/designer for the new displays is Hannah Broadway, who previously produced the very successful alphabet of love and belonging windows at Strangers' Hall as part of the for *Love Light Norwich* festival in 2020. 'Characters' featured will include former residents Thomas Sotherton, Joseph Paine and well-known curators Leonard Bolingbroke, Frank Leney, Rachel Young, Pamela Clabburn. The exterior redecoration of the street frontage at ground floor level is also anticipated.

An integral element of the plans has been the inclusion of young people in the creation of collage portraits for one of the front windows. These will showcase well-known local characters. *Kick the Dust* team's Rachel Duffield and Amelia Long ably co-ordinated a number of groups including Norwich International Youth Group, StART club, Teenage History Club, and ARC Girlguiding to make collage papers and portraits. The museum also held two additional *What a Pane* workshops inviting members of the public to join in the process of creating collage portraits for the front windows.





STRANGER'S HALL : SH100



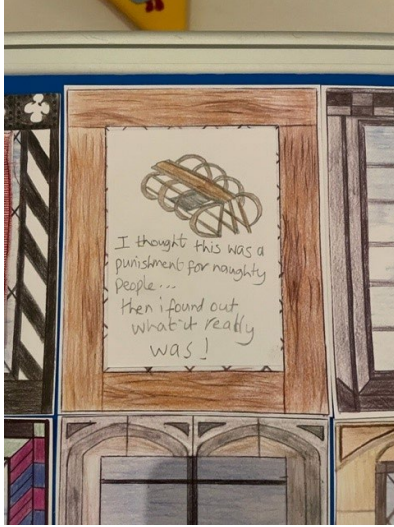
Front windows concept for Strangers' Hall



Young people creating a front window collage portrait

### **'Strangers' Things'**

With Strangers' Hall often described as a 'much-loved' part of our local heritage portfolio we wanted to find out what people really enjoyed looking at during their visit. Some pieces on display go back to the very earliest days of the museum and have been on show continuously since then. Visitors were invited to contribute to a display of one hundred objects, each one describing a favourite object in words or a picture, or simply to record their favourite at the end of their visit. Over 150 suggestions were made, and the most popular was a wooden bed-wagon on show in Lady Paine's bedchamber. This was followed by the 15<sup>th</sup> century aumbry in the Great Hall with its curious piercings and locks, the Norwich Baby House and the Noah's ark with its huge procession of animals. The people's choices are currently being used to inform the final set of windows along the street frontage on the theme '*One hundred Objects for One Hundred Years*'. During May half term museum visitors will have the chance to design and paint their own plate in celebration of the Centenary.



Visitor description of their favourite object – the bed wagon

Strangers' Hall 100 will be launched in July and public programming will include a week of *Freemen's Free Days* of free entry, plus special tours and workshops in the autumn. The programme is made possible with generous support of the Freemen of Norwich and the Friends of Norwich Museums.

## 7. Norwich Curatorial update

Dr Francesca Vanke, Senior Curator of Norwich Museums and Keeper of Fine and Decorative Art continues to deliver tours and events based around the current exhibition *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682* which opened to the public on Saturday 25 February. The ship sank off the Norfolk coast while on the way to Edinburgh, carrying James, Duke of York, brother of King Charles II and the heir to the English throne. Over 150 lives were lost.

This unique exhibition displays fascinating historical contextual material on loan from national and international museums, alongside objects rescued from the wreck, revealed to the public for the first time. In the exhibition we explore the story of the ship itself, as well as detailing the extraordinary endeavours of the divers from Norfolk, Julian and Lincoln Barnwell, who found the wreck in 2007, and the ongoing conservation of the rare artefacts rescued so far.

The exhibition continues to be exceedingly popular and well-attended, with over 26,000 visits by the end of April. Francesca has taken part in a two-day conference, and a series of research seminars connected to the exhibition and is in the process of working on an event scheduled for this summer with artist and Norfolk Joint Museums Committee member Danny Keen, to explore the *Gloucester's* Black history.



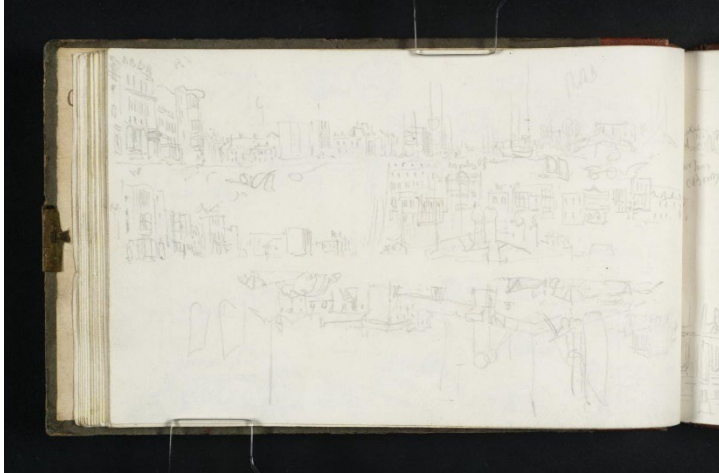
*The Wreck of the Gloucester*, 1682, Johan Danckerts, c 1682,  
© National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

An 80-page catalogue, written jointly by Dr Francesca Vanke, Ruth Battersby-Tooke and co-curators Prof Claire Jowitt and Dr Ben Redding, maritime historians from UEA, accompanies this show.



*The Last Voyage of the Gloucester* exhibition, Norwich Castle

In addition, Francesca is working on her new exhibition based around JMW Turner's *Walton Bridges* painting, which is programmed for Time and Tide Museum, Great Yarmouth, in October 2023. Entitled *Constructions, Crossings and Connections: JMW Turner and Bridges Old and New*, it explores how bridges are portrayed by Turner and other artists, from Norfolk and elsewhere. She is liaising with Time and Tide Curator, Philip Miles, and the team working on the Third River Crossing, to incorporate Yarmouth material, historic and contemporary. She has also secured three loans from Tate for this show, two sketchbooks and a print by Turner.



JMW Turner, *South Quay at Yarmouth*, sketchbook, 1824, © Tate

Francesca is also working on a Turner-based exhibition for Norwich Castle for autumn 2024. This will explore the evolving aesthetics of portraying landscape in art over time – from Ruisdael, Canaletto, Gainsborough, and Turner himself, to interpretations by modern and contemporary artists. This show will also look at the philosophical and political ideas which have underpinned the appearance and focus of landscape art, exploring what landscape means and how these meanings have changed in the light of ongoing environmental issues.

Senior Curator of Costume and Textiles Ruth Battersby-Tooke has also been working on events and tours connected to the *Gloucester* exhibition. Apart from this she is planning for a large scale stores move, packing and re-locating about two thirds of the entire costume and textile collection in order to accommodate remedial building works in Shirehall.

Senior Curator of Natural History & Geology, Dr David Waterhouse left Norfolk Museums Service on 17 May to take up the post of Curator at the Scott Polar Museum and Research Institute in Cambridge. Before he left NMS David completed a fossil display update in Norwich Castle, as part of the ongoing Deep History Coast project.



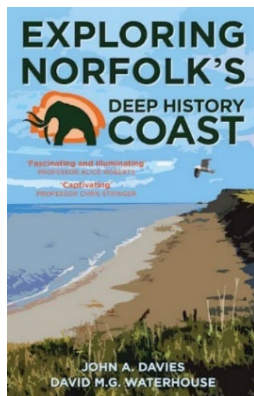
'Norfolk's Deep History' fossils case update



He also worked with a group of students of illustration from NUA, and took them on a study trip to Happisburgh as part of their project on Doggerland. He conducted an Amber handling session at Cromer Museum and took part in handling sessions based around the *Gloucester* exhibition with the Learning team at the Castle during the Easter school holidays

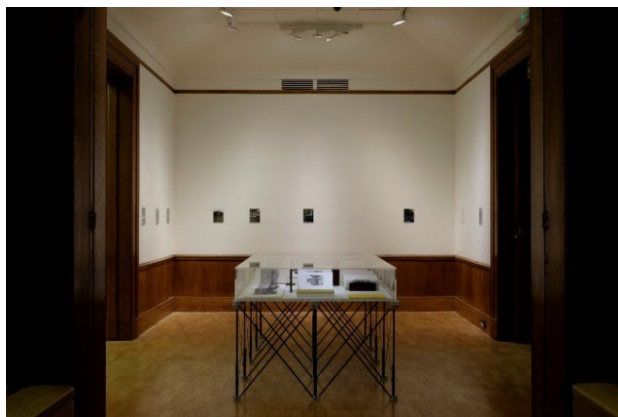
David also hosted artist team Daniel and Clara to draw bird specimens from the collection. These artists are putting together an exhibition creating a contemporary response to the Norfolk landscape, planned to be displayed next year in the Colman Project Space, working with Dr Rosy Gray.

David's book, written in conjunction with former Head Curator at NMS Dr John Davies, *Exploring Norfolk's Deep History Coast*, is due out in mid-July, published by The History Press.



*Exploring Norfolk's Deep History Coast* book cover

Dr Rosy Gray Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art worked on a new show for the Colman Project Space titled *Wall Existing* (13 May 2023-14 January 2024). *Wall Existing* is a collaborative project by artists Glen Jamieson and Robert Filby, exploring Norwich's medieval walls. The project takes the photographic archive of George Plunkett (1913-2006) as its starting point. Plunkett had a particular fascination for the wall, producing a hand-drawn map in 1938 detailing the locations of 'wall existing' and the sites with 'no remains existing.' In response to Plunkett's archive, Jamieson and Filby present a series of contemporary photographs and Risograph-printed book detailing the most substantial section of remaining wall. A new essay by Jonathan P. Watts titled 'Plunkett's Paradox' has been commissioned to accompany the show.



Glen Jamieson and Robert Filby, *Wall Existing* (2023) installation shot



Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, Curator of Historic Art, has just opened her new exhibition in the Watercolour Gallery at Norwich Castle, entitled *Where Land and Water Meet: Norfolk's Rivers, Streams, Brooks and Broad's*. This exhibition presents a selection of exquisite drawings and watercolours which capture the many different moods of the county's waterways, for which Norfolk is famed, and which have inspired numerous artists. The artworks featured in this exhibition show some of the ways in which they have been depicted by talented artists often working *en plein air*, or 'on the spot'.



Henry Bright (1810-1873) *Old Mill, Moonlight*, Norfolk Museums

Giorgia is also working on a major reorganisation of the art stores in the Castle, and is assisting Francesca Vanke with research for next year's Turner exhibition at the Castle.

Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Regimental Collections has been working on the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum new website as part of a 'New Views' project which is specifically aimed at the large student population in Norwich.

Students from UEA, NUA, City College and Access Creative College have free access to the displays and reserve collection. The aim is to encourage new creative uses, and responses to, the collection. This builds on the progress made with the accessible store for the Regimental Museum and the online access to the collection. An intern from the UEA Museum Studies course, Daisy Hough, assisted with social media and identifying and contacting course tutors and student societies. She also had the opportunity to see how the Museum operates and contributed to a meeting of the Regimental Museum Trustees. The site can be viewed here: [Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum | The museum and archive of the Royal Norfolk Regiment](#)

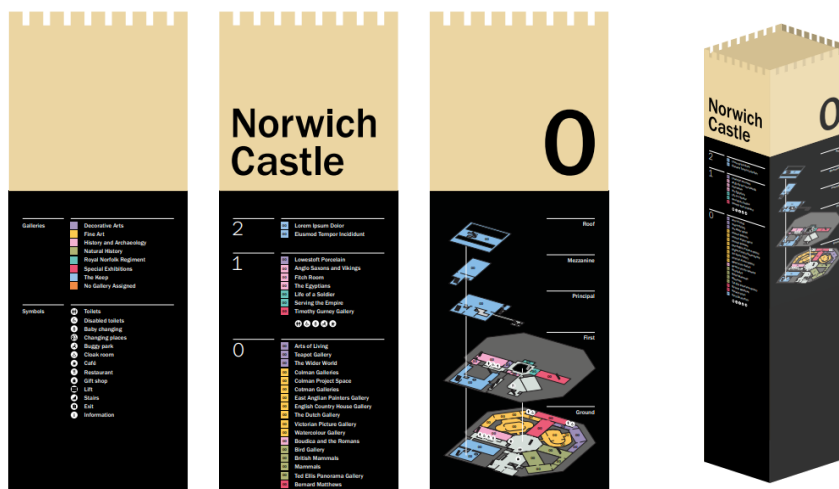


- Planning for operational changes to the museum
- Branding
- Managing the introduction of new admission and ticketing systems
- Implementation of the new catering and retail outlets
- Developing a Venue Hire offer for Norwich Castle
- Introducing new signage and wayfinding
- Managing the visitor journey
- Creation of a tours including a new dungeon tour experience
- The reinstatement of galleries and facilities
- Planning for Health & Safety and Premises Management considerations

The working group will continue to operate up to and beyond the completion of the Keep project and we will continue to update Members on developments in future museum committee reports. Recent projects include the creation of new branding for Norwich Castle and the development of branded wayfinding signage and a visitor map.



Impression of the new branding within the new ticket desk area



Example of the new branded wayfinding map

## **8.2 Successful MEND funding bid**

NMS has made a successful funding application to Arts Council England's, Museum, Estate and Development Fund (MEND). In a very competitive process, a total of £381,920 has been secured to fund an essential upgrade to the Building Management System (BMS) at Norwich Castle Museum and Shirehall Study Centre.

The current BMS controlling Norwich Castle Museum and Shirehall Study Centre is over twenty years old. The system operates on windows XP and has been subject to repeated faults. Routine maintenance only temporarily resolves frequent failures of the system which will soon become obsolete with no possibility of replacement parts being sourced. Breakdowns in the system can result in significant fluctuations in both relative humidity and temperature in public galleries and stores, potentially resulting in collections being placed at risk through an inability to effectively control the environment. The lack of adequate control also has the potential to put the historic fabric of the buildings at risk, with increased incidences of mould and rot. The proposed solution would see the installation of a fully integrated system covering the entire site, including the new air handling plant being installed as part of the Norwich Castle project. The new BMS would be remotely monitored and controlled by in-house teams, supported by our incumbent facilities managers, Norse TFM.

The project will broadly cover:

- Installing a new BMS software system.
- Replacing out of date BMS control panels.
- Installing new temperature and relative humidity sensors.
- Upgrading the system to run on reverse osmosis to soften water, prolonging the life of our plant and reducing the risk of future complex maintenance issues.

## **8.3 The Shirehall Courtroom**

The project within the Shirehall Courtroom to treat the major outbreak of dry rot is ongoing. The commencement of repair works is awaiting the confirmation of an agreed methodology for installing scaffolding, as the Listed Building consents for the works require surface protection for the historic fabric. NMS staff continue to work closely with the Norse projects team who are responsible for project management and also with relevant Norwich City Council Planning colleagues. T.C Garrett Roofing have been appointed as the Principal Contractor for the works, which will include the removal and replacement of affected timbers along with the introduction of steel interventions, to reduce the risk of future outbreaks. Once works start, repairs will take approximately 6 months to complete.



The SW corner of the Courtroom and details of affected structural timbers

## 8.4 Staffing update

From July 2023 some changes arising from the recent Norfolk County Council Strategic Review will be implemented. This includes changes to the management of NMS Learning teams. Dr Jan Pitman (currently Western Area Learning Manager) will become the new Learning Manager - Norwich and Colin Stott (currently Eastern Area Learning Manager) will become the new Learning Manager - Countywide. These changes will not affect capacity at Norwich museums and transition arrangements are currently being implemented with relevant teams.

Jan has already been supporting the line management of the Norwich learning team for several months, following the departure of the previous Norwich Learning Manager. Jan has also been leading on the delivery of the Norwich Castle project Activity Plan.

## 9. Visitor numbers

		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL
Castle Museum	2021-22	0	2,732	5,309	8,053	12,796	7,652	8,964	6,226	4,068	4,962	8,110	6,605	0	75,477
	2022-23	8,129	6,857	9,070	8,289	9,390	8,064	8,900	7,259	2,995	7,483	7,914	14,373	8,129	98,743
	2023-24	13,471												13,471	13,471
Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)	2021-22	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	3	23	27	0	62
	2022-23	24	59	43	56	46	29	85	46	49	82	116	121	24	756
	2023-24	106												106	106
Museum of Norwich	2021-22	0	115	504	595	614	842	749	767	422	647	1,308	1,165	0	7,728
	2022-23	1,406	1,552	1,044	1,666	2,476	1,970	1,431	1,406	1,387	1,185	1,587	1,917	1,406	19,027
	2023-24	1,589												1,589	1,589
Strangers Hall	2021-22	0	0	0	24	39	450	508	521	460	0	302	883	0	3,187
	2022-23	478	642	639	635	779	843	713	620	863	16	329	986	478	7,543
	2023-24	468												468	468

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