

Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 15 September 2015**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Mancroft room**

City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH

For further information please contact:

Committee members:

Norwich City Council: Councillors Arthur (chair), Blunt, Maxwell, Price, Thomas (Vivien) and Wright

Norfolk County Council: Councillors Bremner, Dearnley, Morgan (vice chair), Sands (M) and Hannah (1 vacancy)

Co-opted non-voting members: Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society), Charlotte Crawley (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Ceri Lamb (Friends of Norwich Museums), Councillor Buck (Broadland District Council), Councillor Hornby (South Norfolk Council)

Committee officer: Lucy Palmer
t: (01603) 212416
e: lucypalmer@norwich.gov.uk

Democratic services
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

www.norwich.gov.uk

Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website.

Agenda

- 1 Apologies**
To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Public questions/petitions**

To receive questions / petitions from the public (notice to be given to committee officer in advance of the meeting in accordance with appendix 1 of the council's constitution)
- 3 Declarations of interest**
(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive late for the meeting)
- 4 Minutes** **5 - 8**
Purpose - To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2015
- 5 Norwich Museums briefing for period June – August 2015** **9 - 22**
Purpose - To update members on the work of the Norwich Museums to August 2015
- 6 Collections for rationalisation** **23 - 36**
Purpose - To set out the background to the review of collections from the Museum of Norwich with a view to recommending deaccessioning a group of social history items that are outside the NMS Collections Development Policy.
- 7 Update on the Keep Project (verbal update)**

Please note: A tour of the Keep Project site for members of the committee will take place at the end of the meeting.
Purpose - To update members on the Keep Project.

Date of publication: **Tuesday, 08 September 2015**



NORWICH AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

14:00 to 15:20

16 June 2015

Present:

City Councillors:

Arthur
Blunt
Lubbock
Maxwell
Price
Thomas (Vi)

County Councillors:

Bremner
Dearnley
Morgan
Sands (M)
Watkins

Co-opted Non-voting members:

Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society) and Charlotte Crawley (East Anglia Arts Fund)
Councillor Bracey (Broadland District Council)
Councillor Hornby (South Norfolk Council)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Arthur as chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

RESOLVED to appoint County Councillor Morgan as vice chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. APOLOGIES

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

There were no public questions or petitions.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 10 March 2015.

7. NORWICH MUSEUMS BRIEFING FOR PERIOD MARCH TO MAY 2015

Dr Robin Hanley, head of operations and learning at Norfolk Museums Service, presented the report and answered member's questions.

He reported strong visitor figures for the exhibition entitled 'Homage to Manet', with just under 64k visitors between January and April. The exhibition had also garnered good national press coverage.

He explained that, to date, the Koons 'artists rooms' exhibit had received very encouraging levels of visits. As this would be the only UK showing of Koons' work this year, the service had strong expectations that these numbers would remain high.

Dr Hanley continued by explaining that:

- to accompany the *Sawdust and Threads* exhibit, a great range of offers were available to visitors;
- the exhibition *Build Your Own: Tools for Sharing* would be featured in an upcoming issue of *What's On*;
- *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* should engage children and families over the spring half term and Easter holidays;
- the annual *Museums at Night* opening was very well attended with a good reach to younger audiences;
- *The Paston Treasure* research project had been successfully crowdfunded and the resulting exhibit would be shown in Norwich and the US during 2018;
- The *Voices of the Workhouse* exhibit would include the Lorina Bulwer samplers (which had recently been featured on the BBC *Antiques Roadshow Detectives* programme);
- the eighth curator report – giving a sense of the broad range of activities across the museums service - was available in hard copy or PDF and copies could be obtained from Stuart Garner, operations manager, Norwich Museums;
- school visits to Norwich museums were already 500 up on the same time in 2014 – despite significant changes to the curriculum;

Stuart Garner, operations manager, Norwich Museums circulated the newly produced venue hire documents. He explained that a partnership had been built with Event House – a planning company who put the practical elements of any event into place. He confirmed that two bookings for Strangers Hall and one for Norwich Castle had already been taken and a number of additional requests to view the venues had been booked. He added that, despite the change on opening days as a result of making Strangers Hall available to hire, visitor numbers remained strong.

In response to a member's question, Stuart Garner explained that all items were insured by the museums service and that safe-guarding measures were in place during the events themselves. He explained that a 'practice wedding' had successfully taken place.

Responding to a further question, Stuart agreed that the rise in visitor numbers could – in part – be attributed to improved coverage in the national press. He praised Heather Guthrie, exhibitions officer, and the work she had undertaken to raise the profile of the museums service in the press.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. THE KEEP PROJECT (VERBAL UPDATE)

Dr Robin Hanley, head of operations and learning at Norfolk Museums Service, said that the next meeting should include a tour of the keep.

He explained that the project was very much still at the starting blocks, although a bid was being put together for submission to the Heritage lottery Fund in December 2015. The outcome of the decision – to be taken at a national level – would not be known until May 2016. He said that work on the bid was well underway and gaining momentum – including close work with the British Museum. If the project attracts the requisite funding, the initial aim is toward an Easter 2019 opening.

In response to a member's question, Dr Hanley said that no detailed operational plan (for the way in which the museum may operate during the period of closure of the keep) had yet been developed, but a report would be produced shortly.

RESOLVED to note the report.

9. NORFOLK CONTEMPORARY ART SOCIETY REPORT

Brenda Ferris of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society presented the report, highlighting society events which had taken place.

She said that she hoped that the museums service could find the funding to continue the post of exhibitions officer. Dr Hanley explained that the service was also exploring ways of maintaining delivery of critical, high-quality programming if funding for the role could not be found. He said that different ways of staffing were being explored.

RESOLVED to note the report.

CHAIR

Norwich Area Museums Committee 15 September 2015
Norwich Museums briefing for period June – August 2015

A. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

A1. ARTIST ROOMS: Jeff Koons (9 May - 6 September 2015)

This important exhibition sees Jeff Koons's influential and controversial work being exhibited for the very first time in East Anglia. Norwich Castle Museum (NCM) is also the only venue to show his work in the UK this year. The exhibition featured in CNN's list of top 19 world events 'worth travelling for' and has welcomed over 50,000 visitors so far.

The exhibition is also providing an opportunity to extend NMS youth engagement programmes and is proving popular with younger audiences who have been responding excitedly to Koons' colourful and vibrant works and his sense of fun.

The *Koons Collaborative*, the youth group that has been working since January to devise and deliver events to engage younger audiences, have promoted the show through events such as their flowery float at the Lord Mayor's Celebrations and their Koons Couture Fashion Show. This last event has just been shortlisted as part of the Young Norfolk Arts Festival in the Art Entrepreneurs category of the EDP's Norfolk Arts Awards.

The show has supported strong local partnerships including Norwich University of the Arts, Norfolk and Norwich Festival and the Young Norfolk Arts Festival, alongside national and international partnerships with Tate and the National Galleries of Scotland, as well as with the Jeff Koons Studio in New York.

ARTIST ROOMS is an inspirational collection of international contemporary art acquired for the nation by National Galleries of Scotland and Tate through the generosity of Anthony d'Offay. ARTIST ROOMS On Tour is a partnership with Arts Council England and the Art Fund to make available this extraordinary collection to galleries throughout the UK. Anthony d'Offay, the man who made available his astonishing collection of modern art to the nation through the ARTIST ROOMS' scheme, has visited the exhibition three times, and described it as "*a triumph*" and "*the best presentation of Koons collection ever in the UK.*"



Image credit: Jeff Koons, *Winter Bears*, 1988 ARTIST ROOMS Tate and National Galleries of Scotland. Acquired jointly through The d'Offay Donation with assistance from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the Art Fund 2008 © Jeff Koons

A2. 'Almost too daring for an individual': John Sell Cotman's one-man exhibition, 1806-7 (until 6 March 2016)

During the winter of 1806–7, the citizens of Norwich had the opportunity to visit a one-man exhibition at the house of John Sell Cotman (1782–1842). With 500 artworks, Cotman's exhibition was probably the largest solo show ever to have been staged by a British artist.

This continuing display in the Colman Project Space re-imagines how a part of the exhibition might have looked. In so doing, it highlights the enterprising ways in which Cotman used his artwork to present himself as an ambitious and varied artist at a turning point in his early career.

A3. Sawdust and Threads (until 27 September 2015)

This exhibition in the Timothy Gurney Gallery is the culmination of a residency programme that takes de-accessioned museum objects as its material. For *Sawdust and Threads* artist Caroline Wright has made detailed drawings of each of these objects and then carefully and painstakingly taken them apart. Her meticulous and exquisite drawings are displayed alongside the museum objects in their various states of deconstruction.

The project was conceived by artist Caroline Wright and NCM in partnership with the Polar Museum in Cambridge and UCL Museum & Collections in London. A fully illustrated publication accompanies the exhibition which was launched on 11 July with a panel discussion between artist Caroline Wright, curator Harriet Loffler and academic and catalogue contributor Haidy Geismar. 25 people attended.



A4. Build Your Own: Tools for Sharing (3 October 2015 – 3 January 2016)

Build Your Own is an innovative and exciting new exhibition for Norwich Castle. It has been co-produced by NMS with FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) and the Crafts Council, working with curators Lauren Parker and Clare Cumberlidge.

The exhibition will feature newly commissioned works by leading artists, makers, creative technologists and collectives. Rachel Rayns with the Raspberry Pi Foundation will install an interactive robot-controlled garden in the gallery. Linda Brothwell examines the heritage of Norwich and experiments with applying our traditional dyes and pigments to new materials (with particular interest in how our medieval buildings were once so colourful). Will Shannon and Assemble showcase a transformative project based in the Toxteth area of Liverpool where they are helping residents to re-build their homes. Finally, a suite of 3D printers will be producing prosthetics for local children as part of the e-Nable community – a global enterprise collaborating to ensure the distribution of free prosthetics worldwide.

The commissions all reflect how craft, community and technology have forever been connected – working together, sharing skills, creating tools and improving our environments. They encompass one-to-one collaboration and mass co-production and both traditional and cutting edge tools.

An extensive programme of events and demonstrations has been organised to complement this exhibition, many of which will take place in the gallery 'Maker Space'. NMS has collaborated with Norwich University of the Arts who will showcase the different ways in which their students and tutors are designing, creating and building - from real-life architecture to virtual worlds through games design and VFX. Exhibition primary sponsors HP Enterprise Services will also demonstrate how their new Sprout device can revolutionise the way we create and share ideas.



Rachel Rayns with Raspberry Pi Foundation, *Neurotic Machines*, 2015. Image: Brian Slater

A5. Ana Maria Pacheco, *Enchanted Garden* (continuing in the Castle Keep)

Pacheco's series of eight alabaster reliefs have been on display on the balcony level of the Keep since March and have received much acclaim from both public and local press, with a visit from the Brazilian Embassy being planned.

Pacheco is a former resident of Norwich and from 1985-89 was Head of Fine Art at Norwich University of the Arts (then Norwich School of Art). During her time in Norwich she befriended Francis Cheetham, then Head of Norwich Museums and an expert on medieval alabasters. She loved the collections at the Norwich Castle and the series *Enchanted Garden* was designed and made with NMS in mind. It has taken years to come to fruition. The alabaster was difficult to source and the material and the scale in which she wanted to work were completely new to Pacheco (who is more widely known for her large sculptures in wood).

The imagery in the reliefs is, in Pacheco's words, 'a homage to the human imagination', but it also references the mythical beasts of her native Brazil, biblical and apocryphal tales, western mythology, poetry and our own local lore.

The reliefs have provided the perfect contemporary counterpart to the medieval alabasters on display in the Keep. For this reasons the loan of the works has been extended until Christmas. During this time NMS will seek to apply for funds to acquire the works for the permanent collection. It is hoped that by doing so, NMS can retain this unique series and continue the stimulating dialogue they have inspired between the medieval and the modern.



A6. Other forthcoming exhibitions

A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons (6 Feb – 30 May 2016)

This national touring exhibition from Seven Stories - National Centre for Children's Books is based on Cressida Cowell's hugely popular *How to Train Your Dragon* books. Opening soon after the release of her latest book, *How to Fight a Dragon's Fury*, it is anticipated that Cressida Cowell will come to Norwich Castle to help launch *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* next spring.

British Art Show 8 (25 June – 4 Sept 2016)

The British Art Show is widely recognised as the most ambitious and influential exhibition of contemporary British art. The exhibition introduces the public to a new generation of British artists, providing a vital overview of the most exciting art produced in this country over the last five years. Organised in partnership with Norwich University of the Arts, this marks the first time the British Art Show has ever been shown in the city.

Julia Margaret Cameron and Olive Edis: Two Modern Women

Photographers (Oct 2016 – Jan 2017) (provisional exhibition title and dates)

The bicentenary of Julia Margaret Cameron (1815 – 1879) celebrates her place as a pioneering woman in the history of photography. In 2016 NCM will stage a unique exhibition pairing Cameron's portraiture with that of Olive Edis, whose own major contribution at the forefront of modern photography is further celebrated with a complementary HLF-funded project at Cromer Museum, culminating in 2017.

Small Stories: At Home in a Doll's House (4 Mar – 25 June 2017)

Selected as one of only two UK regional venues, NCM will host this international touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood. Showcasing a stunning collection of twelve of their best dolls' houses, this exhibition will attract families and doll's house enthusiasts from across Norfolk and beyond.

Collecting in East Anglia (Timothy Gurney Gallery from 6 October)

The Collection of Fine and Decorative Arts at NCM has been enriched over several years by some outstanding acquisitions. This display will focus on those works of art acquired in the last five years, but set them within the context of the Lady Adeane Bequest, which greatly enhanced the modern collection in 1993. Recent additions include paintings by Edward Seago, Graham Sutherland and Frank Auerbach and a fine collection of twentieth-century pots. The exhibition will afford NCM the opportunity to convey to the public the numerous paths through which we acquire work and thank the various organisations and individuals who have so generously supported us.



Frank Auerbach, *Head of Julia III* 2002, Norfolk Museums Service, © Frank Auerbach. Formerly in the collection of Lucian Freud, Accepted in Lieu of Tax.

Significant loans

Central to the new Timothy Gurney Gallery display will be a stunning and newly conserved sculpture by Barbara Hepworth: *Pavan (Forms in Movement)*. This beautiful bronze has been loaned to the museum for five years from a private collector and will be shown in the gallery from 6 October, marking the first time it has been on public view in forty years.

NMS is working in partnership with the British Museum and Wiltshire Museum, as the beautiful piece of secular medieval silver, the Lacock Cup, which will be on display in Norwich Castle Keep from 4 September 2015 to 10 January 2016 as part of a national tour.



B. Events

B1. Lunchtime talks

ARTIST ROOMS: Jeff Koons was accompanied by a programme of lunchtime talks (individual attendances shown in brackets):

- *An Introduction to the exhibition* 12 May, Harriet Loffler, NMS (40)
- *The Saint and the Sinner* 23 June, Michael Archer, Professor of Fine Art, Goldsmiths (35)
- *Jeff Koons, Pop Art and the American Dream*, 30 June, Dr Sarah Garland, Lecturer in American Literature and Culture, UEA (40)
- *But is it art? Jeff Koons the Mischief Maker*, 14 July, Francesca Vanke, NMS, (45)

B2. Medieval Madness

Families have been stepping back in time with a host of medieval-themed summer holiday activities at Norwich Castle. This creative and engaging programme has attracted a significant level of interest. Thousands of visitors have taken part on a *Conquer the Castle* trail, involving a quest for eight items in the Castle Keep. There were also sessions on Arms and Armour, medieval weaving and Magna Carta. Performances of *Chaucer's A Knight's Tale* by local actor Neil Paris have proved particularly popular in the Town Close Auditorium. Visitor feedback included many comments that children had been enthralled by the sessions.



B3. Jeff Koons

Several resources have been produced for families visiting the Jeff Koons exhibition with the most popular being the Koons-inspired photo booth designed by MA students at Norwich University of the Arts. The events programme was also well attended by families including the Museums at Night on the 16 May and the Koons Couture event on 26 June. Visitors have enjoyed being able to take

photographs in the gallery, boosting social media activity relating to the exhibition.

B4. Koons Collaborative – Youth Engagement Work at Norwich Castle

July saw the final event organised by the *Koons Collaborative*—a group of eleven young people aged 17–22 years who worked on events and activities to support the world-class Jeff Koons exhibition as part of the Young Norfolk Arts Festival. A Koons-inspired float was part of the Lord Mayor's Parade and won a runner-up prize of £100. The vehicle was supplied by NCC Highways and Transport. In front of 25,000 onlookers, the Koons Collaborative paraded costumed bears, living statues and four young Koons-inspired couture models on a float decked with the funkiest, most brightly coloured accoutrements, including a life-size stuffed lion, a hundred gorgeous paper flowers, graffiti panels, and much more.



B5. Summer School for Looked After Children

The annual Summer School was a great success this year with twelve children aged 9-12 years old taking part in a week-long programme focussing on the medieval Castle. Highlights included the creation of a giant paper-mache medieval queen, which was subsequently placed on display in the Keep. This work took place in partnership with Norfolk's Virtual School, a long-standing NMS partner. The NMS Teaching Museum trainee cohort helped lead the Summer School, displaying great energy and enthusiasm. Foster carers evaluated the day as important for building confidence and social skills, and helping to strengthen foster placements.

B6. The Museum of Norwich

Two successful talks were held this month as part of Adult Learners Week. Fashionistas flocked to the museum to hear Curator Ruth Battersby-Tooke talk about street style. Hannah Henderson presented a talk on 'Making a Memory Box' aimed at those caring for people with dementia. Currently various agencies are looking to make Norwich a 'dementia friendly' city and NMS staff are in discussions about how the museum can be a lead partner in this exciting project.

One of the *Go-Go Dragons!* 'baby' dragons has been located in the museum entrance during the summer. A new 'Knit and Knatter' group are furiously knitting dragons which will 'fly' in the museum's front windows.

B7. Strangers' Hall events programme

Strangers' Hall has worked with other heritage organisations across the city on the Huguenot Summer programme, which celebrates the achievements of this remarkable group of refugees. Strangers' Hall's summer events have followed the Huguenot theme. On 5 July a Huguenot History walking tour led by Rod Spokes, local historian and Blue Badge guide, took visitors through some of the little-explored Norwich churches, lanes, burial grounds and courtyards, highlighting those with particular Huguenot settler associations. The walk finished at Strangers' Hall with Curator Cathy Terry reviewing the museum's textiles and showing Huguenot-related objects, including the Le Blanc family bible.

The Strangers' Hall Summer Fayre celebrated the Huguenot heritage with a specially-themed dance afternoon presented by Norwich Historical Dance, drawing on French dancing traditions.



On 4 September the talk *Stories of Refugees in Elizabethan Norwich* will explore the history of the earlier group of settlers to mark the 350th anniversary year of their arrival in Norwich. This group generally known as 'the Strangers' was directly linked to Strangers' Hall. Historian Dr Alastair Duke will reveal some of their poignant tales.

C. Curatorial update

C1. Major Loans

A major group of fourteen objects will be travelling to the British Museum in September for their much anticipated and prestigious exhibition *The Celts* (24 September to 31 January 2016).



NMS is a major lender to the exhibition which will then travel to National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh from 11 March to 25 September 2016. The items are some of the most precious from our Iron Age, Roman-British and Early Medieval collections including

a stunning drinking horn-terminal in the form of a bovine head with flaring nostrils, which shows incredible design and attention to detail. The mount was found by a metal detectorist in Needham, South Norfolk and is one of several archaeological treasures acquired through the HLF's *Collecting Cultures* scheme.

C2. Norfolk Historic Buildings Group visit to Strangers' Hall

Led by Jan Bensley, a member of the group and of the NMS learning team, the tour provided a detailed look at the many layers of history which make up this fascinating and elusive building. The tour was written up for the NHBG newsletter by Karen Mackie, a member of the group who also works for Visitor Services.

The group spent a very enjoyable afternoon interrogating the details of the building which gives us clues as to its long history of alterations—such as Nicholas Sotherton's initials and merchant mark in the spandrels supporting the tie beam of the Great Hall which indicates a 16th century alteration. Beginning in the garden, the tour took in the entire building, ending in the Georgian dining room.

The article provides an interesting perspective on a specialist group's experience of one of our sites and demonstrates how we can cater for such groups through the expertise of NMS staff.

C3. Conservation work at Strangers' Hall

The Costume and Textile Association (C&TA) has very generously funded some textile conservation work at Strangers Hall. Currently, work is underway on two key objects:



Georgian Wing Chair, Walnut Room

There is evidence that the chair, which dates from the first half of the 18thC, was re-upholstered in the 1950s and 1980s. The silk cover has not fared well and is split and frayed in many places with some resulting loss of fabric due to light damage and physical deterioration. After a careful review the decision was taken to carry out new reupholstering.



17th Century Stumpwork Cushion Cover, Lady Paine's Bedroom

This beautiful embroidery has been on display for some time in a very heavy wooden box frame at the end of the bed. The box had not been opened for many years so a thorough condition check could not be carried out.



A new bespoke mount and a new acrylic box will be made for the cushion cover, so when it goes back to Strangers' Hall to the foot of the bed, more of the beautiful embroidery and trim will be visible to visitors.

C4. Recent Acquisitions

The Art Department has recently purchased a stunning glass sculpture, *Dragon Boy I*, by Norfolk-based, internationally-known contemporary glass artist, David Reekie. This work, a lively modern take on the ancient Norwich 'Snap' is on display in the Castle Keep, next to the original Snaps. It will also feature in the forthcoming *Vikings Guide to Deadly Dragons* exhibition.

D. Formal Learning

D1. Schools and Formal Learning

Schools numbers at Norwich Castle were strong during June but less good in July. Learning staff have noted a shift in visiting patterns this year as schools wanted to visit earlier and the 'activity week' experience no longer seems to be taking place in the last few weeks of term. The good weather in July also meant that Norwich sites did not attract as many last minute wet-weather visits as usual. Secondary schools continue to find it very difficult to make educational visits.

		JUN	JUL
Norwich Castle	2014	2037	1474
	2015	2489	854
Museum of Norwich	2014	183	106
	2015	123	74

D2. Snapdragons: Early learning at Norwich Castle

The theme for June 'Snapdragons' (the monthly event at NCM for 2-4 year olds) was 'Pattern, Colour and Shape' to link with the Jeff Koons exhibition.

The children collected and created patterns in a playful way—drawing round shapes to find out about outlines and threading coloured cotton reels to create pattern sequences. They looked at and talked about patterns in Norwich shawls, teapots and animals from the collections.



Jeff Koons was introduced as an artist who uses repeated shapes, large outlines and bright colours. The children entered the gallery to look for and match up shapes and colours. The children had great fun playing with their reflections and body shapes in front of the mirrors.

D3. Castle of Ideas: UEA's Festival of Literature for Young People (FLY) at Norwich Castle

For the first time in FLY's history UEA left the campus and set up a Castle of Ideas at Norwich Castle on 13 July. Forty young people from four different secondary schools took part in a day of readings and creative writing workshops with nine authors, poets and playwrights including George Szirtes, Andrea Holland and Steve Waters. Each young person had the opportunity to descend to the dungeons to write scary stories or have a blood-chilling introduction to the Gothic. The feedback was excellent and it was good to work with UEA on such an inspirational event, we hope it will be repeated in the future.



D4. The sixth annual 6th Form Biodiversity Conference

This event was held at Norwich Castle on 9 July. With the aims of supporting A level studies, promoting further study, careers and volunteering in the conservation sector, it also addressed some of the politics of biodiversity. As part of Norwich Castle's annual programme for secondary schools, NCM welcomed fifty students and their teachers. The conference was funded by the RCUK via the UEA Research East project headed by Professor Kay Yeoman which supports local schools' engagement with research. Speakers included staff from UEA, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Broads Authority, Hawk and Owl Trust. The success of this event is guaranteed by the commitment of staff and volunteer representing all the partner organisations.

Student comments:

Everything I learnt could be used towards my A level

It has really inspired me and shown me the importance of biodiversity



D5. Children's University celebration at UEA

Jenni Williams from the NMS earning team attended the Norfolk Children's University graduation ceremonies at UEA on 16-18 June. Over 1,200 children from around forty Norfolk schools were awarded certificates whilst wearing graduation gowns and caps after completing over 30 hours of learning outside of school. The scheme involves children visiting approved educational establishments including NMS museums and recording their learning in specially designed notebooks called Passports.

E. Other Developments

E1. Weddings

Further to the development of a wedding offer for Norwich museums, a number of wedding bookings have now been confirmed; two for later in 2015 at Strangers' Hall and five for 2016. Staff have also supported a number of viewings with potential customers. The first wedding ever to be delivered at Stranger's Hall took place on Saturday 22 August. The event was very successful.

E2. Conference & banqueting

NMS continues to actively promote the corporate venue hire offer at Norwich Museums. A range of branded promotional materials have been produced and distributed. Corporate hire is recognised to be an area with considerable potential in terms of enhancing earned income. NCM has already delivered a number of high profile evening civic and corporate events including the NCC Chairman's Reception and the VJ commemoration event, with strong levels of bookings and

interest for the remainder of 2015 and 2016. Bookings range from book launches to formal dinners and receptions.

On 16 June NCM hosted the launch of both the *Go Go Dragons!* trail and sticker book, with 100 guests attending. The Castle mound has subsequently played host to two of the *Go Go Dragons!*, with large numbers of visitors participating in the accompanying trail.

F. Visitor Numbers

Norwich Museums continue to perform well in 2015-16, sustaining the excellent performance of 2014-15. Visitor numbers from the period April-July 2015 remain strong, with attendances at the Castle boosted by the Jeff Koons temporary exhibition and the strong *Medieval Madness!* programme of family activities over the summer holidays.

April-July 2015:

Castle Museum 72,845 (71,820 in 2014-15)

Museum of Norwich 4,459 (4,513)

Strangers' Hall 3,408 (2,727)

Detailed visitor figures will be circulated at the meeting.

Report contact:

Dr Robin Hanley

Head of Operations and Learning

Norfolk Museums Service

Shirehall,

Market Avenue,

Norwich NR1 3JQ.

Tel: 01603 493663

Email: robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk

Collections for Rationalisation

Norwich Area Museums Committee 15 September 2015

Report by the Head of NMS

Summary

This report sets out the background to the review of collections from the Museum of Norwich and recommends deaccessioning a group of social history items that are outside the NMS Collections Development Policy.

Recommendation

Members of the Norwich Area Museums Committee are asked to recommend to the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee (JMC) that the objects listed in Annex 1 are deaccessioned.

1. Background

1.1 Collecting within NMS is undertaken in accordance with the Collections Development Policy approved by the Joint Museums Committee. This is reviewed every five years and sets out the strengths of the collections, areas for future collecting and constraints on collecting, such as resources, space and expertise. As part of a responsible collections management strategy, NMS undertakes regular reviews of its collections to ensure that material is properly classified and adequately housed. Objects that are deemed unsuitable for retention as part of the core collection are identified and alternative homes found. The process to be followed was agreed by Committee in 2002 following a Best Value Review of collection and collections management

1.2 To summarise the collections review process, material is proposed for rationalisation which:

- Does not fall within the current collecting policy.
- Is loan material no longer required for display.
- Is of good quality but would fit better into another organisation's collections (including those of Norfolk Record Office and Norfolk Library & Information Service).
- Does not provide important information about Norfolk and its history.
- Has no reasonable expectation of being useful for display or research.
- Has been unethically acquired.
- Is unprovenanced (i.e. has no background information to provide a context).
- Is of poor quality compared with other examples in the collection.
- Has deteriorated beyond any useful purpose (e.g. through decay or infestation. This might be a natural history specimen that has suffered pest infestation).
- Poses a threat to other objects or people (e.g. by contamination. This might be WW2 gas masks with degraded asbestos filters or radioactive geological specimens).
- Is an unnecessary duplicate.
- Offers no reasonable expectation that NMS will be able to provide suitable levels of curation or collections care.

Meeting one of the above criteria does not automatically condemn any object. Each will be considered on its merits. There may well be good reasons why objects that fall into one or more of the above categories should be kept, but they will be critically examined and justified.

1.3 **Options for disposal:** there are several ways in which material that is not suitable for the NMS core collections might continue to fulfil a useful purpose including:

- Transfer to a handling collection for use with schools or the public

- Working machinery can be used to engage the public and demonstrate historic practices

Other alternatives include (in order of approach):

- Transfer to another Accredited museum by gift or sale
- Transfer to another public institution by gift or sale
- Return to donor or lender
- Repatriation to country of origin
- Charitable donation
- Set dressing or adapted to repair working objects
- Sale on the open market, or
- Destruction (as a last resort)

Any income generated by sales of objects is allocated to a ring-fenced fund for the purchase of new collections or the care of existing collections.

1.4 Once JMC has agreed the list of proposed disposals the following steps will be taken:

- As required by the conditions of the Museum Accreditation Scheme, a notice will be placed in the Museums Journal or on-line equivalent, and any other appropriate specialist publication, advertising the availability of significant material to other Accredited museums.
- Direct contact will be made with any Accredited museums or other public institutions that would have a particular interest in any of the objects.
- If no Accredited museum is interested and the material was donated within the last 20 years, attempts will be made to contact the donor to return the item.
- Material in which no interest is expressed will be either sold or destroyed.
- Complete records of all transactions will be kept.

2 Review of Norwich social history collections

2.1 The larger part of the social history collections of the Museum of Norwich and Strangers Hall are stored at the Norfolk Collections Centre, situated at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse. Many of the objects were brought into the collections during the 1970s at a time when museums generally were actively collecting items in a relatively uncontrolled manner, without reference to an official collecting policy or quality control. Others are unprovenanced architectural salvage, probably collected when Norfolk Museums Service shared a store with the City Works Department in the 1970s and 1980s.

As a result the collections contain objects which are duplicated elsewhere within Norfolk Museums Service or by other museums, or are of poor quality and now require large conservation resources to be of display standard. Most of the objects proposed for rationalisation have little or no provenance and some have no known relevance to the local history of the area. As a result these fall outside the Collections Development Policy of the Museums Service today.

These social history objects take up large areas of storage space and are in some cases bulky and cumbersome. As a result the proper care of and access to other stored and better provenanced collections is made more difficult.

2.2 A review of these collections has been undertaken in order to:

- Improve access to the collections as a whole
- Release storage space and resources to allow improved collections management

- Remove threats posed by possible insect infestation
- Remove threats posed by inappropriate storage conditions

- 2.3 Following the agreed process the attached list of objects (Annex 1) has been identified for deaccessioning and subsequent dispersal or disposal. These objects have little or no provenance, have little relevance to the history of the area and as a result fall outside the Collections Development Policy of NMS. Many duplicate items in the collection and others are in extremely poor condition and incomplete.
- 2.4 While finding a new home for the objects in another museum will be the ideal first priority, it may be that because of the poor quality and lack of provenance of the objects, sale or destruction of some the objects may be the only realistic outcome of the rationalisation process.
- 2.5 The objects listed in Annex 1 have been identified by the relevant curators as candidates for deaccessioning and dispersal if possible. The list has been scrutinised by NMS' internal Rationalisation Committee which comprises the Chief Curator, Collections Development Manager, the Senior Conservation Officer and the Registrar. Where possible these objects will be found a home in another museum or cultural institution.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 **Finance:** a budget of up to £500 may be required to pay for removal charges and possible disposal of objects which have deteriorated too far to save. Objects found homes in other cultural organisations will normally be collected at the new owner's expense, but in some cases assistance from this budget may help encourage an organisation with restricted financial means to acquire an object and thus keep it in the public domain.

4 Equality Impact Assessment

NMS puts diversity, equality and community cohesion at the heart of service development and service delivery. It aims to ensure that activities included in the service plan are accessible to diverse groups in Norfolk and that all policies, practices and procedures undergo equality impact assessment. These impact assessments help the service focus on meeting the needs of customers in relation to age, disability, gender, race, religion & belief and sexual orientation.

This report has no equality implications.

5 Section 17 – Crime and Disorder Act

There are no Section 17 implications.

6 Conclusion

The collections reviews are proposing to remove items that are of minimal interest in interpreting the history of Norfolk and will free up space and resources for the benefit of the remaining collections and the visiting public.

7 Recommendations

Members are asked to recommend that JMC approve the deaccessioning and ethical disposal of the objects listed in Annex 1.




Background Papers





Arts Council England – Museum Accreditation Standard






Museums Association – Code of Ethics



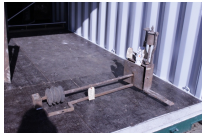
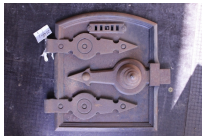
Museums Association – Good Practice Guidelines on Acquisition and Disposal




NMS Collections Development Policy


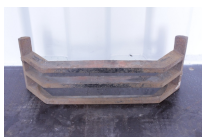



Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 1972.258.17	fireplace	Cast iron, squat fireplace with Gothic side panels, 19th century		This fireplace is in poor condition and a selection of better examples of similar type have been retained	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1972.514	board	Glass fascia board from above shop of C.B. Martins Butcher, 28 St. Benedicts Street, Norwich, Norfolk, Reads '28 Martins 28', gold letters on blue ground, (two polychrome tiled panels depicting bulls' heads from beneath either side of the shop window NWHCM : 1972.514.1), late 19th to early 20th century		The sign is in such poor condition that it adds little additional value to the understanding of Martins Butchers. The sign is beyond repair and unlikely to ever be wanted for display. It is advised that this sign be disposed/destroyed. Additionally, it presents a health and safety issue due to the sharp edges of the large fragments. The sign is also incomplete with a large section missing.	Destruction. This object should be safely disposed of.
NWHCM : 1980.160.1	rack	Case rack and 11 type cases, two with cast iron handles, John Haddon and Co, London, E.C., early 20th century, from R.P. Colman and Co Ltd, St. Andrew's Hill, Norwich, Norfolk		We have other examples of print cases in the collection, both on display and in store. Others that have been retained are in better condition and are complete.	Disposal. Offer to John Jarrold Printing Museum, Frogmore Paper Mill and other museums via Museums Journal.






Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.56	clock	Carved wooden clock. Face of clock surrounded by carved boarder of leaves and rope design. Below clock face, glazed window over pendulum flanked by carved dolphins and bottom of clock has carved anchor and rope design.		This object is incomplete and in poor condition with significant wood worm damage. It has been re-accessioned as it could not be linked to any documentation, so therefore has no provenance.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.66	blind	'Hartshorns' improved self-acting shade roller from the 1900s, long pole at the top, with metal ends with blue material extending from it, bottom of material wrapped around thin piece of wood, material is substantially damaged		This object is in poor condition and outside of the collecting policy of Museum of Norwich. It is possible that this object was never intended to be part of the collection (potential that it was office material), it has no provenance.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.69	pole	long thin metal pole, hollow and not joined up, long slot throughout the pole where metal doesn't join, possible bottom of banner to weigh it down?		This object is in poor condition and outside of the collecting policy of Museum of Norwich; it is unsure of the usage of the object. It is possible that this object was never intended to be part of the collection (potential that it was office material), it has no provenance.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.74	sign	Enamel sign for 'Brookers Coco'. Main text is in dark blue on a white background. 'Brookers' is in joined up writing while 'coco' is not. Left corner of sign has yellow circle with 'Dutch' written inside in black. There remains evidence that there would have been a yellow circle of similar shape opposite but damage to the enamel is too severe to ascertain. Sign is damaged with enamel eroded top section of sign and right hand side.		This object is on very poor condition.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.




Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.75.2	sign	Enamel sign for 'Cashmere Soap'. White lettering on blue background with white border		This sign is a duplicate and is in poor condition, the better of the two have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.76	sign	Pressed metal sign advertising 'Nectar Tea'. Black background with yellow writing. Bottom right corner has joined up inscription 'London' and left corner is partly illegible but 'Tea Co.' can be made out. Significant rust and erosion on sign		This sign is a duplicate and is in poor condition, the better of the two have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1929.111.4	spit	Plain spit, wooden wheel, 2 pronged fork		This object is a duplicate, better examples have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1968.69.3.1	fire guard	Semi-circular fire guard from Mousehold House, Norwich		This fireguard belongs with NWHCM : 1968.69.3 which has already been approved for rationalisation. Although this piece has a local provenance it is in poor condition and a representative selection of fire grates/guards in better condition has been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1972.572	lamp	Rear lamp for cycle, acetylene, with red glass, made by Powell and Hammer, Birmingham, no 135, 20th century		This has no local provenance and therefore falls outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.





Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 1974.414	cooker	Kitchen range made by Palmers and Co. of Norwich, 19th century, (range has been split into 26 accessioned pieces of various sizes all marked with 974.414 (18.3.2015), it is uncertain whether these are all the sections - there may be more still in the roller racking at superstore.)		This object is in extremely poor condition. It is incomplete; missing integral sections of oven therefore cannot be constructed. If the range is to be retained and stored correctly it would take up an extremely substantial amount of space, materials and resources ,as well as time, at the detriment of other objects.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1975.213.87	fender	Fender of brass, knob and rod style, 19th century. Gold lacquered fender with rectangular base with rounded upper which has six balls attaching the two parts.		This fender is in poor condition with the gold lacquer rubbed off, a better selection of fenders have been retained	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1986.52.4	jack	Smoke jack, blades missing, vertical shaft with cylindrical oil reservoir at top, a sprung forked lever plays on the shaft at the mid point, shaft continues into a worm drives which drives a brass sprocket, lower part of sprocket passes through an oil reservoir, reservoir, sprocket and worm drive in a metal casing, sprocket drives horizontal shaft on which is a single wooden pulley having triangular grooves for three ropes, end of shaft runs on two brass discs in an oil reservoir, found in wall of ground floor store at rear of 54A Pottergate, when store was being demolished, July 1983; late 18th to early 19th century		This item is in poor condition and incomplete, Strangers' Hall has a complete example in better condition.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.17	cooker	Kitchen range; two panels from a cast iron range with manufacturer's plate - C.F. Day & Co. / Dayturina / London N; single door with sliding damper control; marked on back - No. 14 13 OUR; not known whether door is part of range; there may be other parts to this object; 19th century		This object is in extremely poor condition. It is incomplete, having only two fragments of the range.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.





Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.84	range parts	Multiple pieces of range varying in size and shape; some very large other small. Parts include doors, grates, panels, but many are unidentifiable. This item was found in the collection without any documentation. It is unclear whether all the pieces make a single range or whether the pieces are from multiple ranges. If the pieces are from a single range it is unlikely that they would be constructed to make a complete object. Some pieces may relate to NWHCM : 2014.57.17.		This object is in extremely poor condition. It is unknown whether it is complete or whether it corresponds to a single range or multiple ranges. If it corresponds to a single range it is unlikely to be complete. Attempting to construct the range together would be an enormous undertaking which is unlikely to happen. If the range is to be retained and stored correctly it would take up an extremely substantial amount of space, materials and resources as well as time, at the detriment of other objects. The object has no discernable provenance.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.85	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.86	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.

Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.87	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.88	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.89	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.90	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.91	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.

Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.92	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.93	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.94	fire grate	fire grate		This object has no provenance and cannot be matched to any documentation or corresponding fire place. A selection of fire grates with fireplaces have been retained.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.97	cistern	Part of lavatory cistern? Metal, hollow cylinder with flat rounded bottom		Item is in very poor condition. It is unknown to whether it is part of a cistern or not. It is unlikely that this object will ever be matched to its relevant cistern.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.101	timber	Block of timber with mortis joint one end and tennon joint the other. Five nails in one side		Architectural salvage and therefore outside of collections policy	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.

Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2014.57.102	strap	T shaped metal wall strap. Short leg of 'T' is pointed at both ends. Long end is flattened and drilled to take fixing bolts		Architectural salvage and therefore outside of collections policy	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.103	wall tie	T shaped metal wall strap. Short leg of 'T' is pointed at one end and triangular form at the other. Long end is flattened and drilled to take fixing bolts		Architectural salvage and therefore outside of collections policy	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.104	cushion	Dining chair cushion covered in green velvet. Wooden frame with webbing and sacking. Stuffed with white material		This object is in poor condition. It has been retrospectively accessioned, we cannot link it to any chairs we have in the collection.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 2014.57.107	toilet	Toilet bowl probably porcelain. Piece missing from under rim		Object is in poor condition. We have other toilets that are in better condition and have better provenance.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.

Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2015.57.7	door	Wooden door, black on one side and brown on the other.		This door is in poor condition and as architectural salvage is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. Offer to museums via Museums Journal.
NWHCM : 1970.210.73	sleevebands	Chinese sleevebands for a woman's robe, pair sewn together by a collector to make a decorative object to frame or by someone who has not understood they should mirror each other; in ivory silk embroidered in floss with metal thread, satin stitch, seed stitch(the forbidden knot); women in a garden with bridges pavilions ,trees		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.
NWHCM : 2011.101.221	waistcoat	Waistcoat (non-British)		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.
NWHCM : 2015.57.1	tablecloth	Table cover, runner or throw; hand worked in gold metal thread on a woollen brown ground with pink floss silk carnations, pink lining to reverse and gold fringing to edge.		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.

Record number	Object Name	Brief Description	Image	Disposal Reasons	NMS Committee Recommendation
NWHCM : 2015.57.2	waistcoat	Waistcoat; non - British waistcoat possibly purchased as a souvenir, worked in gold metallic thread.		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.
NWHCM : 2015.57.3	mat	Mat or table runner hand worked in silver metal thread and purls on a silk organdie white fabric.		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.
NWHCM : 2015.57.4	border	Fabric border or sample with a worked border on two long edges of gold metal embroidery and the central strip has been left unstitched but marked with a red/ brown line to shown a decorative stitching line.		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.
NWHCM : 2015.57.5	runner	Runner or border for use on a table worked in silver metallic thread with silver sequins and purls to form stylised floral motifs on a pale green velvet ground. Silver thread fringing to each edge.		This was accidentally missed from a 2011 round of rationalisation. As it is of Chinese origin it is outside of our collecting policy.	Disposal. South Asian Decrative Arts and Crafts (SADDAC) have offered to take this item.