

Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 06 September 2022**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Mancroft room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich, NR2 1NH**

For further information please contact:

Committee members:

Committee officer: Leonie Burwitz
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Norwich City Council:

Councillors Huntley (Chair), Kidman, Thomas (Vi), Osborn, Schmierer and Wright

Norfolk County Council:

Councillors Brociek-Coulton (vice chair), Birmingham, Reilly, Rumsby, Ward¹ and Watkins

Democratic services
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

Co-opted non-voting members:

Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Felicity Devonshire (Friends of the Norwich Museums), Councillor King (Broadland District Council), Councillor Spruce (South Norfolk) and Danusia Wurm (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society)

www.norwich.gov.uk

Ex officio: Councillor Kybird (vice chair, Norfolk Joint Museums committee)

¹ Chairman of Norfolk Joint Museums committee

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

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1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence

2 Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public which have been submitted in accordance with 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 - 10

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2022.

5 Norwich Museums Report May to July 2022

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To receive the report on the activities at the Norwich Museums for the period May to July 2022.

6 Reports from Representatives of the Voluntary Organisations

This is a standing item to receive reports from the non-voting members of the committee who represent the voluntary organisations that support the Norfolk Museums Service

Date of publication: **Friday, 26 August 2022**



Norwich Area Museums Committee

14:15 to 15:30

7 June 2022

Present:

City Councillors:

Huntley (chair -following
appointment)
Kidman
Thomas (Vi)
Schmierer
Wright

County Councillors:

Birmingham
Reilly
Ward

Apologies:

City Councillors Osborn, and, County Councillors Brociek-Coulton, Rumsby and Watkins, Councillor Kybird (ex officio member) (other council business), Felicity Devonshire (Friends of Norwich Museums), Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Danusia Wurm and Janey Beddington (her substitute) (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society) and Councillor King (Broadland District Council)

1. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Huntley for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Brociek-Coulton for the ensuing civic year.

3. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

4. Declarations of interest

None.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2022.

6. Norwich Museums Report – February to March 2022

The assistant head of museums introduced the report and proposed that he and his colleagues would present the relevant sections and pause after each section for members to ask questions or comment.

The assistant head of museums presented the first section of the report. There were measures in place to improve ventilation and ensure the safety of visitors and staff as visitor numbers began to return to pre-pandemic levels. Volunteers were also being welcomed back into the museums.

The operations manager presented section 2, Reopening the Norwich Museums. Members noted that in April there had been 99 ceremonies, with a footfall of 2,494, showing a return in confidence as Covid-19 restrictions were removed. In reply to a member's question, the operations manager said that the ceremonies and footfall were as expected and set to increase but was still down on pre-pandemic levels. He explained that the footfall had been less because of the restrictions on the number of guests attending ceremonies. This had increased from less than 30 to 50 in March.

The assistant head of museums services presented section 3, Norwich Learning Team activity – highlights report, and said that Colin Scott, the Eastern Area learning manager and Jan Pitman, the Western Area learning manager were supporting the Norwich learning team on a temporary basis whilst the post of learning manager Norwich was vacant. The team continued to have a strong relationship with schools and, whilst noting the reduced capacity, bookings had been full for the autumn and spring terms. A positive of the pandemic, was that staff had acquired a high level of skills to provide digital resources to complement school visits. In reply to members' questions, the assistant head of museums explained that as with all learning events, the *Life at the Time of the Great Fire of London* event at Strangers' Hall was linked to the national curriculum. Events were developed in conjunction with teachers and were piloted and tested. The programme was constantly evolving to reflect changes in the curriculum. The team had received the Sandford Award which demonstrated the quality of the learning programme.

During discussion, Councillor Ward said that as chairman of Norfolk County Council, accompanied by the then Lord Mayor, he had attended the 600th anniversary of the Great Fire. The county of Norfolk had been the largest contributor to the fund to rebuild London after the fire.

The committee noted the visitor programme as set out in section 3 of the report. This included events as part of the Love Light festival, with Norwich Castle being at full capacity throughout. Members noted that an audio series *Unstitched* had been produced to provide the stories behind textiles in the NMS collection. As part of the Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn activity programme tales of Norwich's historic past had been commissioned and launched; events tailored for Early Years audiences and a poetry trail around the city. These demonstrated the reach of the project beyond Norwich Castle.

Members noted the *Kick the Dust* statistics. A bid to the Heritage Lottery fund was being prepared on partnership with the Leicester Kick the Dust project to secure future funding when the current funding stream ended in March 2023. The assistant

head of museums invited members to contact Christine Marsden, the Kick the Dust project coordinator for further details on projects in their wards/divisions.

The assistant head of museums presented section 5, Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn and updated members on the progress of the construction works, including preparations for the installation of steel works in the Keep and the concreting of the base for the lift shaft in the main stairwell, in consultation with Historic England and the city council's conservation and design officers at every stage to ensure that the new structures fit the purpose but preserve the historic fabric of the building. The new accessible toilets and changing place facility would be operational from the end of the summer. A pop-up café would be used to service the Rotunda at busy times to supplement the main café/restaurant which would be expected to be handed back in the second phase by Easter 2023. Demolition of the old shop area was currently underway. The contractor had started work on the relocation of the old Boardman stairs to follow the original stair line one outside the Keep. The project was progressing well with detailed planning work being undertaken on the exhibition areas. These would include a new permanent gallery to display objects on long-term loan from the British Museum. Members also noted the work of the Wider Impact Group which included work on the content and visual displays for a new Dungeon Tour, the new ticket barrier system and the new restaurant/café, and retail area. Regarding timelines, the entrance/café area was expected to be available next year, with construction works in the Keep expected to be completed by September 2023, followed by work on the exhibition spaces for opening in 2024.

During discussion, the assistant head of museums confirmed the arrangements in place to mitigate increased construction costs and that contingencies were in place. The objects on permanent loan from the British Museums focused on the medieval period. The artefacts on display would place Norwich and Norfolk in the national and international context, which as the second richest city traded with the Arab world and beyond.

The assistant head of museums presented section 6, Other activity across the Norwich Museums and updated members on the activities at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell and Strangers' Hall. Covid-19 would soon be part of our past. KonectBus had donated posters, used on local buses to promote social distancing and public health messaging, to the *Picturing the Pandemic* contemporary collection.

In the absence of the senior curator of Norwich museums and keeper of fine and decorative art, the assistant head of museums presented section 7, Norwich Curatorial update. *The World We Live In: Art and the Urban Environment* exhibition was the first to take place in the T (temporary) galleries since the improvements to the environmental controls. Dr Rosie Gray was also working on the *Slaves of Fashion* by the Singh Twins, which had received lots of interest, and would cross reference with the textile and costume collections. Dr David Waterhouse, the senior curator of Natural History, had been interviewed for Open Country on BBC Radio 4 and had referred to the Morpho butterflies, part of the Margaret Fountaine butterfly collection held by NMS. He was also working with Paston College and the Kick the Dust team for a film collaboration about the Deep History Coast. Dr Francesca Vanke, the senior curator of Norwich museums and keeper of fine and decorative art had worked on the acquisition of the JMW Turner's *Walton Bridges* which was currently on tour. This would be the first time that a painting by Turner would be on

public display in King's Lynn. Members were invited to an open afternoon at Lynn Museum to launch of the exhibition.

The operations manager confirmed that the Project Refresh capital works had been completed by 14 April 2022 and that NMS was confident that it could continue to host national and international touring exhibitions in the temporary galleries and provide a stable environment. In reply to a member's question, the operations manager explained that the use of CO₂ monitors minimised the risk of Covid 19 for customers and staff in areas where there was no mechanical or natural ventilation. It would be possible to set the environmental control systems to 20 per cent fresh air to mitigate the risk whilst having the capacity to control humidity and temperature. Members noted that works to resolve the infestation of dry rot in the Shirehall Chambers was expected to be completed over the next 12 months.

The operations manager advised members that it was difficult to compare visitor numbers over the last three years because of the lockdowns and museum closures due to Covid-19. There had been a significant uplift in visitor numbers from January to April 2022 which demonstrated that visitor confidence was returning.

The assistant head of museums presented the social media update for the Norwich museums. ([This report is available on the council's website and was circulated to members after the meeting.](#)) The Norwich Museums now have 65,048 followers in total across the four platforms and shows a good level of engagement. Members also noted that there had been 4,000 views of the Norwich Castle blog (that includes stories from Strangers' Hall and the Museum of Norwich) from March to May, and notably included details of Norwich Castle built in Lego built by an enthusiast. During the three-month period there had been over 7,000 views on the Norwich Castle YouTube channel. NMS continued to develop good quality social media. This included celebrating International Museums Day in May and the National Lottery Heritage Fund's *#ThanksToYou* week on social media, as well as on site.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) thank the assistant head of museums and operations manager for presenting [the report](#);
- (2) note that members of the committee:
 - (a) are welcome to observe learning events and that a schedule of available dates will be circulated;
 - (b) may visit any Norfolk Museums Service site in Norfolk by showing their councillor passes;
 - (c) are invited to contact Christine Marsden, Kick the Dust, for further details of Kick the Dust projects in their wards/divisions;
 - (d) are invited to attend a site visit to Norwich Castle to view the progress of the Norwich Castle – Palace Reborn project, on Tuesday, 6 September 2022 (to be held before the commencement of the committee);

- (3) members of the committee are invited to attend the open afternoon to launch the Turner exhibition at Lynn Museum on 23 June 2022 at 14:00.

7. Reports of the Representatives of the Voluntary Organisations

The chair said that Felicity Devonshire had submitted a report on behalf of the Friends of the Norwich Museums. The Friends had held their centenary lunch at Houghton Hall and expressed their gratitude to their patron Lord Cholmondeley and Lady Cholmondeley for their hospitality. The report also detailed the items on loan from NMS which were incorporated into the exhibition celebrating the founding of Houghton Hall 300 years ago. Jamie Jamieson was one of the sponsors and it was considered fitting that his uncle's WW1 medals were on display.

RESOLVED to note the report.

8. Schedule of Meetings

RESOLVED to confirm the schedule of meeting for the remainder of the civic year 2022-2023, as follows:

Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 14:00

Tuesday 6 December 2022 at 14:00

Tuesday 7 March 2023 at 14:00

(At the end of the formal business of the meeting, Samantha Johns, collections development manager, Norfolk Museums Service gave a power point presentation. [A copy of the presentation is available on the council's website with the papers for the meeting.](#))

CHAIR

Norwich Area Museums Committee 6 September 2022

Norwich Museums Report: May to July 2022

1. COVID-19 Service update

- 1.1 Despite the ending of legal restrictions, 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 any risk of transmission. Sites continue to provide hand sanitiser stations and some directional signage. The wearing of face coverings is optional and visitors are requested to follow “respectful distancing”. The pre-booking of tickets is no longer a requirement, but remains an option. Site capacity limits have largely reverted to pre-pandemic levels.
- 1.2 In terms of the COVID-19 and other infection control procedures and systems that remain in place across NMS sites, the 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 have been 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 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 Throughout the period of the pandemic, NMS staff developed a broad range of digital resources to support audiences, including resources for children and families. Digital engagement included a significant expansion of social media activity. A number of these digital resources have been repurposed to support a hybrid offer e.g. enhanced schools resources.
- 1.5 In line with NCC practice at office hubs, non-frontline NMS staff have been able to return to the workplace. NMS has also implemented NCC Smarter Working and Hybrid Working principles across teams, which identify patterns of home and office-based working that meet service requirements.
- 1.6 Volunteering has recommenced across NMS sites. Outdoor volunteering commenced earlier in the pandemic including garden volunteers at Strangers’ Hall.

Since Easter 2022 a phased resumption of indoor volunteering has been facilitated supported by the NMS Volunteer Coordinator.

2. Reopening at Norwich Museums

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 and visitors are also now able to access the Rotunda toilets.

A 'pop-up' catering offer 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.



Temporary catering and retail units at Norwich Castle

Hand sanitiser dispensers are placed at strategic points throughout the museum. All visitors are requested to sanitise their hands upon entry, after visiting the toilet and prior to exiting the museum. Additional hand sanitiser units have also been installed at points in the museum where there are increased risks of visitors touching door handles or push plates.

2.2 Norwich Castle ceremonies arrangements

The number of ceremonies taking place at Norwich Castle has continued to remain strong, with over 800 taking place within the past 12 months.

| Month | No of Ceremonies | Footfall |
|-----------|------------------|----------|
| August | 56 | 1901 |
| September | 127 | 1663 |
| October | 83 | 2062 |

| | | |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| November | 49 | 1426 |
| December | 30 | 668 |
| January | 28 | 475 |
| February | 58 | 1320 |
| March | 40 | 862 |
| April | 99 | 2494 |
| May | 59 | 1613 |
| June | 133 | 3223 |
| July | 57 | 1980 |
| Total | 819 | 19,687 |

3. Norwich Learning Team activity – highlights report

3.1 On-site Schools Events



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 *What's On* and *Learning* pages of the Norwich Castle website: [Learning - Norfolk Museums](#)

School figures May – July 2022

| | Norwich Castle | Museum of Norwich | Strangers' Hall | Digital | Total |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------|-------------|
| May | 764 | 378 | 215 | 214 | 1571 |
| June | 849 | 105 | 243 | 270 | 1467 |
| July | 593 | 114 | 144 | 382 | 1233 |
| Total | 2206 | 597 | 602 | 866 | 4271 |

3,405 school students visited the three Norwich Museums during May, June and July for on-site learning events. We continue to host schools in line with NCC COVID-19

procedures designed to keep staff, other visitors and the school groups as safe as possible. The level of engagement and involvement of the pupils has been sustained with all available school visit slots booked this term. The numbers visiting reflects the reduced capacity at Norwich Castle due to ongoing construction works which means that a maximum of 60 pupils plus their adult supporters can be hosted for facilitated events on site each day. Despite these restrictions, Norwich Castle hosted 2,206 students during this period, with *A Day with the Romans*, *Ancient Civilisations: Farming to Philosophy and Ancient Egypt: Discovery and Debate* being the most popular events. At Strangers' Hall 602 students were accommodated – the most popular event being *Tudor Norwich at the Time of Kett's Rebellion*. The Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell welcomed 597 students, with *Chocolate* being the most popular event. In addition, schools are still able to come on self-guided visits, and a range of worksheets and other resources remain downloadable from the website free of charge: [Learning at home - Norfolk Museums](#)

Early Years Foundation Stage Events

The Castle's monthly events for children under 5 continued this term, with two Animal Explorers sessions in May and June attended by 37 children and 11 adults. Feedback for these events included these comments:

"Fantastic session - I loved that you used sign with your speech too. The rhymes were great and really engaged the children."

"[I noticed] Children recalling information that had already learned this year and linking it to new experiences. For example when looking at the scene where there were lots of signs of Autumn"

In July we piloted a new *Castle for the King* event, which was attended by 49 reception pupils and 8 adults. The evaluation provided some very positive comments and with some minor adjustments to the activities will be ready to roll out from the autumn term.

"All children were involved, even the ones who sometimes struggle to engage. Some were making links between what they had learnt previously"

"The children were very engaged and enjoyed their learning at the castle. They also really enjoyed the role play and were totally immersed in the story. As a result the children created some brilliant writing back at school!"

"It was well organised, staff were engaging and helpful."

"The children loved their trip to the castle. They enjoyed the activities organised for them, especially the characters telling the story. They enjoyed looking around the castle afterwards, especially the animals!"

"It would be great to take the children again once all the work has been done to the castle to see the whole of the castle. I would do this workshop again with another group of children."

Children's feedback: *"It was a fantastic day"; "It was good"; "Loved it"*

Another new event introduced this spring, *Ancient Civilisations: Farming to Philosophy*, has gained traction quickly, and is already re-booking for the autumn.

School conferences

In July Learning staff ran an A-Level Conference for students/teachers and a History teachers' conference. Both were well-attended.

History teachers' conference evaluation comments:

'I really enjoyed it - good variety of presenters and I really enjoyed the variety of walking through the museum to look at the Paston treasure, looking out at venues packed by African abolitionists and handling objects and hearing their stories. It was also good to meet other History teachers in the community.'

'Genuinely one of the best courses I have been on. We are currently in the process of diversifying our curriculum and including more local history so this was perfect. Really appreciated the leads of people from King's Lynn. Richard Maguire was excellent.'

'Great speakers; lots of rich resources and ideas; links for extra reading; provision of all resources.'

'Many thanks for a really informative, thought-provoking day!'

Looking ahead

An A-Level Environment Conference (in partnership with UEA) is being planned for the autumn. There will be a series of pilot SEN events for a home education group that staff plan to run from autumn to spring. Learning staff have also developed new/adapted events to accompany The Singh Twins: *Slaves of Fashion* exhibition for the autumn term.

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. 866 pupils participated in digital learning events or used digital resources in the classroom between May and July. These interactions included a digital booking from a school in Newcastle.

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

Royal Palace Reborn: Castle 900 - Keeping it Regal

Part of the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* project's *Castle 900* programme of events and activities, *Keeping it Regal* aimed to raise awareness, knowledge and understanding of Norwich Castle's nine century heritage through a city-wide interactive trail and a series of creative participations and activities exploring what it means to be 'regal'. The project also sought to support the social and economic recovery and wellbeing of the city and its people following lockdown by brokering strategic partnerships with national and local partners and communities; encouraging connection, participation, civic pride and through engendering a sense of collective identity.

A city-wide, nine site, interactive trail launched in May, coinciding with the opening of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival. This led visitors through Norwich Castle's history and featured QR-coded access to the creative expressions of people from our community.

NMS Learning staff worked with creative and community groups across the city who responded to the brief 'What does it mean to be regal?' Over 240 people of Norwich aged 5 to 76 with diverse backgrounds and abilities took part, using a range of art forms to explore and express what being regal means to them. We partnered with photographer Jo Hayes to capture all direct participants wearing a crown in celebration of their achievements, including over 100 pupils from Notre Dame High School. These striking portraits, including some 3D iterations, have been used as our *Keeping it Regal* promotional images. Together with our partners Norwich BID, we aim to project these images of 'everyday regality' onto the castle walls this autumn in celebration of their achievements and to represent a democratisation of regality.



The project had many highlights, including moving performances by groups at The Garage, a major project partner, such as the SEND group D for Drama's performance of the St Crispin's day speech from Shakespeare's King Henry V: [Keeping it Regal with....D4Drama! - YouTube](#) and a beautiful dance performance from the Over 50s Contemporary Dance Group: [Keeping it Regal with...Over 50s Contemporary Dance Group! - YouTube](#)

To celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, staff worked in partnership with The British Museum to create a celebratory display in Jarrold's main shop window. This featured a street party scene featuring a selection of Norwich Castle's excellent teapot collection, as well as promoting the *Keeping it Regal* programme and introducing our British Museum partnership.



Staff also worked with UEA Drama students as part of their Year 2 Outreach module to create an original work *Regally Blind*. This was performed as a site-specific performance in the Sainsbury Centre gallery – a first for them to use the space in this way. We filmed the students initial discussion around what it means to be regal to illustrate the complexity of this curious term – see it here: [Keeping it Regal with...UEA Drama! - YouTube](#)

Learning staff also worked with Sainsbury Centre curatorial staff to create an exhibition entitled *Sacred Sovereigns* at the SCVA (30 April – 11 September 2022). This exhibition sought to extend the notion of what it is to be regal, featuring objects from around the world and exploring how monarchs often sought to blur the distinctions between themselves and gods and goddesses by adopting sacred objects and taking on the characteristics of their divine patrons, investigating the connection between the sacred and the sovereign across times and cultures. Find out more information here:

<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/whats-on/sacred-sovereigns/>

Knight Club – Sword Fighting School

Knight Club - developed as a key part of the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* Activity Plan - has built upon the successes of last year and not only returned to Latitude Festival but has also been hosted at new and exciting venues and events this year. We have supported the Festival of Archaeology at the British Museum and started a partnership with historically connected English Heritage sites, as well as supported local groups and communities.



In addition to newcomers taking their first steps in sword fighting, it has been pleasing to see children, teenage and adult participants from last year's events returning to take part once again.

Knight Club has provided the opportunity to work at events with total on-site audiences of over 151,000 people, many of them previously unaware of the exciting transformation underway at Norwich Castle. A small and dedicated team have managed to meaningfully engage audiences at events, providing the opportunity to rediscover a love for history and to get people excited for the future of Norwich Castle.

Video of the British Museum Festival of British Archaeology partnership event can be seen at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZZ5TFfxl0>

***The World We Live In* exhibition supporting programme**

The NMS Learning team has been running a series of events that delve into the themes presented in the current exhibition at Norwich Castle *The World We Live In: Art and the Urban Environment*. Learning staff have run workshops with different community groups during July and August, using creativity to explore *The World We Live In*.

Community Culture Club poetry workshop is a poetry workshop for older adults living with dementia and their carers, themed around personality and the city of Norwich. Here is a poem the group devised together:

Norwich – a kenning inspired Poem

Old mishmash
Pebbly cobbles
Medieval churches
Flinty faced

Boozy pubbing
Spicy scented
Fantastic market
Colourful canvas

Norwich School of Art
Wendling ways
Marvellous Morris
Safe haven

My City



The Museum Club is for young people aged 11-14. The group explored the exhibition and worked with poet Piers Harrison-Reid to look at different writing techniques.

New Routes is a charity that supports refugees and asylum seekers. Their International Family Club visited the museum and had a tour of the exhibition led by Curator Dr Rosy Gray. Some of the group then stayed to explore the rest of the museum, whilst others walked over to the New Routes' centre for an art workshop with Rose Feather. Inspired by *The World We Live In* exhibition, participants wrote, painted and drew stories that happen in our city. We folded book-buildings out of card and enclosed our stories inside - whether hiding in the attic, sliding down drainpipes or bubbling over in the kitchen. Cartoonist and activist David Shenton ran a *History Hunters* workshop with young people from Norfolk Heritage Centre & the Millennium Library. Together we watched one of the films in the exhibition, a six-minute piece by Mark Lewis called *Children's Games*. In the film, we see children playing games, all of which are being played in cramped and barely suitable areas, on pavements, maybe at risk of being told off, or knocked down ... Then we thought about the games that children play now, and taking Norwich City Centre as a potential playground, and together discovered places where the above games could be played.

Norwich Castle's Summer Programme for children and families also explores themes from *The World We Live In*.



Our Museum Explorer Trail is a pick and mix of ideas to get under 5s and their adults moving around the museum and investigating different spaces. What do a graffiti can and a piece of flint have in common? An object handling activity reveals stories of architecture and building styles, as well the personal stories of the people in the city. Perhaps most impressively, visitors are invited to *Build a Cityscape* and become a city planner.



Cityscape assembly in the Town Close Auditorium



Cityscape details

Visitor feedback on the programme:

"This activity was a great hit with two autistic boys eager to move quickly around the museum. This build a city really captured their imagination even when they were not able to put their ideas into a model that pleased them Maya was very happy to help. More of this please"

"My girls really enjoyed the explorers trail and seeing the museum in a different way. They loved making their cityscape pieces."

"We enjoyed stomping and tiptoeing. The object handling was really interesting. The best thing was the cityscape - really enjoyed that everyone works together to make the overall city. No idea was too daft! Also loved the music and the temperature in the cityscape room!"

GoGoDiscover at the Museum of Norwich

The Learning team ran an exclusive GoGoDiscover activity workshop, where visitors could discover more about the Extraordinary Extinct™ species stomping across Norfolk this summer. Featuring Dodo and Dinosaur's bespoke T.Rex and Steppe Mammoth designs, they created fun activities to fuel children's fossil fascination.



Time and Place tours for Norwich Pride at Norwich Castle.

A guided tour to celebrate Norwich Pride 2022, exploring some of the queer related objects in the museum's collections, considering gender and sexual identities and celebrating the lives of LGBT+ people throughout history.

"made me learn a lot and feel good about being gay!"

"Thrilled to see the museum feel inclusive. I feel restored and renewed"

Public Guided Tours

Guided tours open to members of the public are on offer at all three sites in Norwich. Visitors can enjoy *Highlights Tours* at Norwich Castle on Saturdays in term times, *House Tours* at Strangers' Hall on the last Wednesday of each month and *Building History Tours* (including the Undercroft) at the Museum of Norwich on the first Saturday of each month. Tours are included in the price of admission, but we recommend that visitors book on to a tour slot to reserve their place via Art Tickets.

Norwich Castle: [Highlight Tour - Norfolk Museums](#)

Museum of Norwich: [Building History Tours - Norfolk Museums](#)

Strangers' Hall: [House Tour - Norfolk Museums](#)

3.4 Early Years Visitor Engagement

Snaplings and Snapdragons

Our regular monthly 'Snaplings' and 'Snapdragons' groups for 0-2's and 2-4 year olds continued to run during this period. A total of 12 sessions (2 Snaplings and 2 Snapdragons session per month) ran over the period with a total of 66 children aged under 5 and 66 adult caregivers taking part.

Sessions have included exploring materials from different 'medieval makers' workshops- wood workers, stained glass window makers, wool workers, apothecaries, and metal workers. We created presents and dressed up for a parade to celebrate the visit of Elizabeth Woodville and her young children to Norwich.

We have also been inspired 'Under the Sea' by fossilised sea urchins, sea sponges, ammonites and belemnites from our Natural History handling collection, these sessions took families back in time 90 million years to a time when Norfolk was under water to explore all the different creatures that lived there.

Feedback

"The women taking the class were great and really helped George feel involved in his own way."

"The whole thing captivated her. So much to see and touch."

CPD training for Early Years Practitioners

A training day for Early Years practitioners working with children aged under 5 in a range of settings in Norfolk was run in collaboration with the Early Years team in NCC Children's Services on 16 June. Eight delegates attended the whole day training held at Norwich Castle. The day shared the benefits of using the museum as a resource to support their children's learning and encouraged practitioners to consider a range of creative ways they could use the museum to best support their children's needs; highlighting our new 'I See a Family' book and 'Medieval Family Adventure Packs' alongside the rest of our offer for under 5s.

4. Kick the Dust: Norfolk – project activity update

The Kick the Dust: Norfolk project, funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) delivered in partnership with a range of organisations including YMCA Norfolk, continued to engage with young people aged 11-25 throughout the COVID-19 lockdown periods. The project team adapted their activities to support existing groups across Norfolk, in particular YMCA groups, using digital means.

The team is now delivering a blended approach with most sessions being delivered face-to-face but using online engagement where this has been the most effective for young people. This is the case for our online work experience programme which removes access barriers for those wishing to engage in this acclaimed programme but where travel would be a barrier.

This report compares our project data with that of the other 12 national NLHF-funded 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 the 21 August 2022 there were a total of 6,238 interventions, involving 2,349 individual young people taking part in 3,120 hours of quality digital activity. Following reopening and access to groups on site and in outdoor settings, the team has delivered 393 face to face sessions (41% of all delivery) with young people across the county, out of a total of 913 sessions delivered between March 20 and 21 August 2022. This equates to 76% of all activity now being delivered face to face. This blended approach offers a more diverse range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage.

Total participation numbers from October 2018 are 12,310 interventions, involving 4,071 individual young people taking part in 6,252 hours of quality activity, taking us beyond the initial target of 8,000 interventions. As more young people take the lead in projects this is shifting the percentage of activity at each of the 4 levels. In August, of all activity, we delivered 2 sessions at pre-player level (3%) showing that the YMCA young people are more confident and taking part in longer term projects as they engage on site. At Player level this represented 10% of all activity, Shaper 47% and Leader 40%. More importantly, of these activities, 87% involve 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% (1,318 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Thetford and Gressenhall),
- 28% (785 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Sheringham)
- 25% (683 opportunities) in Norwich
- 287 volunteering opportunities have been provided to 147 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 320 staff have taken part in training since October 2018, with 151 having taken up opportunities in lockdown. As we have opened the opportunities to volunteers, a further 39 young volunteers have taken part in training. Kick the Dust has supported a total of 7 young people on its bursary traineeship programme, the last cohort finishing on the 31 May 22. Three of these young people have secured permanent employment within the heritage sector to date. One Kick the Dust participant progressed onto the NMS Teaching Museum traineeship programme. We have recruited a further 9 Young Ambassadors to support Institutional Change within NMS and to join the strategic Youth Board and Project Board, with 3 of these young people coming through from the YMCA. Staff from our Front of House and Visitor Services teams have taken part in Autism Awareness training entitled 'Removing Barriers for young people' which has 'creating an autism friendly space' at Norwich Castle in July 2022. A front of house Supervisor at Norwich Castle stated '*It's been*

great to see customer focused enthusiasm again from the team, as a result we plan to have a small group who will regularly look at ways in which we can improve access, be more aware and more inclusive as a team.'

Our offer to support staff and volunteers around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and additional training to support staff working with young people facing more complex needs is to be delivered in conjunction with our new colleagues from Leicester YMCA, Y Heritage, as we embark on a new bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund entitled 'Your Heritage Your Future'. Data from the young people's feedback forms shows that 23% of young people up to August 2022 identified as having a mental health issue, an increase of a further 3% on May 22 figures.

As we have more front of house staff taking part in training to gain confidence in working with young people facing more complex barriers to engagement these teams are offering opportunities to young people to gain further experience. The team at the Museum of Norwich and Time and Tide Museum have agreed to pilot the new bursary Pre-Traineeship programme for two YMCA clients from September to the end of November within their teams.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group where members from across NCC 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.

Breakdown of respondents

We continue to engage with a higher number of older young people as we work with YMCA clients and those from the University of East Anglia and Norwich University of the Arts who are aged 18-25 years of age. Whilst the number of young people aged 11-16 years is lower than the older age groups, this allows this group to progress through the programme.

The comparison with the UK-wide Renaisi data is in brackets and highlights the changes since the last Renaisi report in 2020. 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%)
- 10% aged 14-16 years (17%)
- 30% aged 17-19 years (24%)
- 29% aged 20-22 years (22%)
- 24% aged 23-25 years (23%)

Data is also 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 - 2% (7%)
- Arab – 0.3% (1%)
- Irish traveller – 0.7% (1%)
- Mixed ethnic – 5% (5%)
- White – 89% (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 – 21% (9% in Renaissi data)
- Non-disabled – 15%
- Preferred not to answer – 64%

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 are finding 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

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category)

- FE/HE – 35%
- YMCA clients – 35%
- Secondary schools – 23%
- Young people with mental health issues – 23%
- SEND – 9%
- Outside of mainstream education – 7%
- NEET – 7%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 5%
- Young Offenders and those at risk of offending – 4%
- Care Leavers – 3%
- Young Carers – 3%
- New arrivals and refugees – 2%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 1%

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.

- Before taking part in a KTD programme, 77% of young people stated they had little or no knowledge of job roles in NMS or the heritage sector. After their engagement 61% of these young people stated they now had a good understanding of the different job roles available in the sector and a further 36% felt more knowledgeable. 91% 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, 88% felt that museums were a space they would use in the future.

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 9 of the 13 areas. (The Renaissi responses can be found in the brackets).

Following their engagement:

- 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%).
- 90% of young people said they had learnt new and interesting things about heritage (Renaissi 85%); 85% of young people felt that heritage represented young people like them (Renaissi 73%)
- 81% of young people said they were more likely to become a volunteer because of their involvement in KTD (Renaissi 78%) and 81% stated they would be looking to take part in other local heritage events as a result of their engagement (Renaissi 73%).
- 96% of young people stated they felt welcomed and respected by staff (Renaissi 95%) and 84% felt a sense of achievement (Renaissi 82%).
- 90% felt heritage delivered in this way would engage other young people (Renaissi 92%) with 81% of young people stating they now had a better understanding of heritage having taken part in the programme although 19% weren't sure and needed more engagement. (Renaissi 85%)
- 64% of young people felt they had the opportunity to influence decisions. (Renaissi 64%)
- 92% 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.
- 98% 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%).

- 78% of young people said they had found heritage more relevant than they had before embarking on their Kick the Dust journey with 19% neither agreeing nor disagreeing (Renaiss 81%).

Summary

The current NLHF-funded Kick the Dust project is due to end in March 2023, with evidence clearly demonstrating the positive impact on young people and staff engaging in project activity. As we deliver activity through our new 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, and 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.

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 will allow 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, three of the current 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 and Young People's Champion roles, one of whom has recently secured a position with Norfolk and Norwich Festival. Others have stated that their involvement has helped them make choices around subjects and options at school and college.

Quotes from participants

'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.)

Take-up continues to expand through the establishment of new partnerships with schools, colleges, NCC Children's Services, and other cultural organisations as well as Job Centre Plus and Norfolk and Waveney MIND. The launch of the new Kick the Dust web pages on the NMS website is bringing traffic and enquiries from young people who would not ordinarily come to us through our existing partnerships which will support this growth and solidify the way NMS approaches youth engagement going forward.

The Y Heritage, another Kick the Dust project based in Leicester YMCA, who undertook a 3-day visit hosted by our young people in May, are incorporating this evidence to support a new partnership funding bid with NMS to the National Lottery Heritage Fund entitled 'Your Heritage Your Future'. Feedback shows that this cross-fertilisation of ideas and peer mentoring approach allows other young people and their partner organisations to develop the skills and knowledge to implement their own youth engagement programmes. This legacy work will support the new project funding bid to the NLHF, highlighting the need for a new project based around the principles of Kick the Dust but embedding our work with SHARE East to embed learning within a wider range of museum and heritage organisations across the East of England, building on our current successes and approach to youth engagement. An Expression of Interest form for this new partnership project was submitted to the NLHF. Following a positive meeting with NLHF, a Round 1 funding application will now be prepared. Consultation work to inform this application has commenced.

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

Recent construction works have included final stages of work on the fit-out of the new WC block area, which includes accessible toilets, a new Changing Place and a 'pop-up' catering area. This area is due to be formally handed over to NMS in August 2022. The installation of main steelwork structures in the Keep is ongoing and structural works have commenced in the new entrance area. Further investigative surveys have been undertaken, alongside archaeological excavation where required.

A verbal update on recent progress on the construction site will be given at the meeting, following a tour of the construction site that will take place in advance of the meeting..

5.2 Wider Impact Group

Since the start of the Norwich Castle project, a separate working group was formed to help facilitate the delivery of the project. Its core aim is to ensure that we are able to successfully operate as an accessible museum throughout the construction works and to plan and implement the new facilities as they come back online.

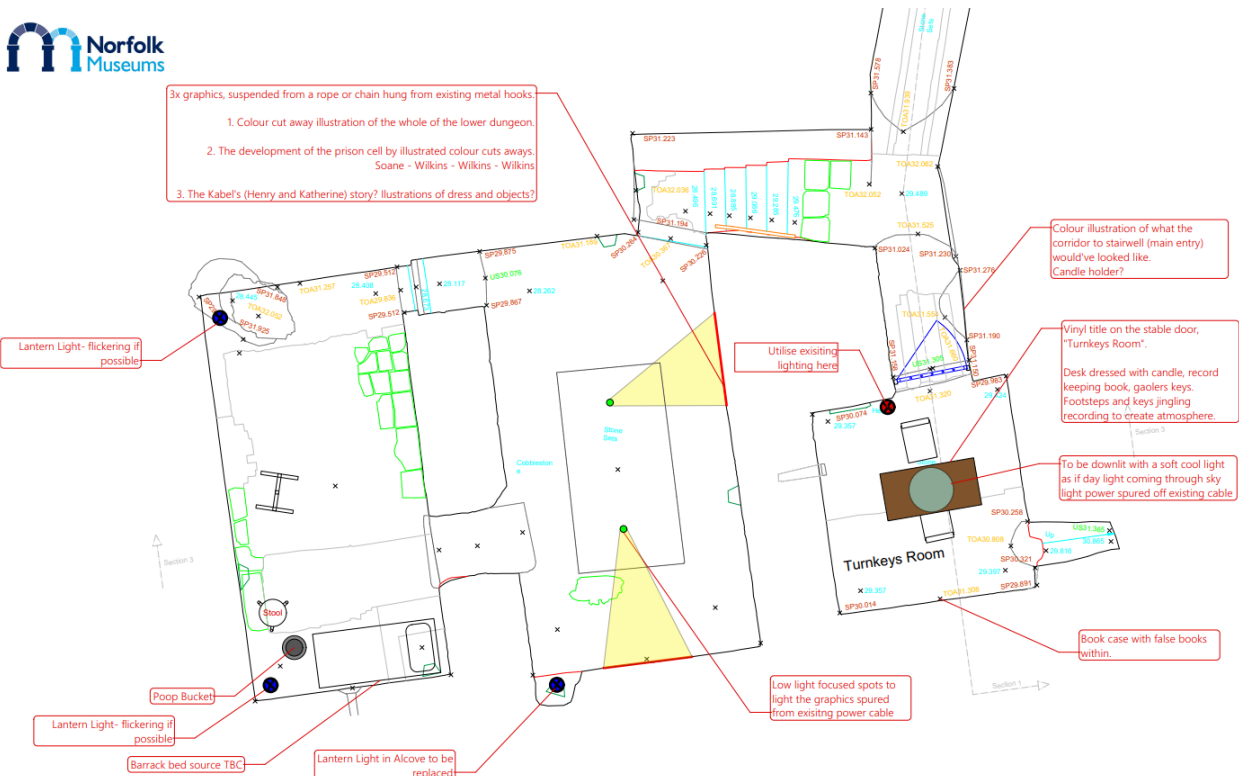
New Dungeons displays and tour

Since the previous committee meeting work has been developing well in all areas. We have been working on the content and visual displays of an all-new Dungeons Tour. We want to create an immersive experience for visitors whereby visitors will be able to learn about the Castle's 500-year history as a prison. The new dungeons interpretation will also support an enhanced schools offer.

As part of the public tour, visitors will be able to see a recreated Turnkey's room, as well as recreated cells within the lower dungeons themselves.



Illustrations showing what the original late 18th Century dungeon cells would have looked like



A design plan of the lower dungeons, showing the recreated cell and Turnkey's room

New Prison Stories display

Work has also been progressing on a new case within the Rotunda that will highlight the Castle's history as a prison. The display will be opening shortly and will inform visitors about some of the people that were imprisoned within the Castle, as well the methods used by the Victorian prison system.

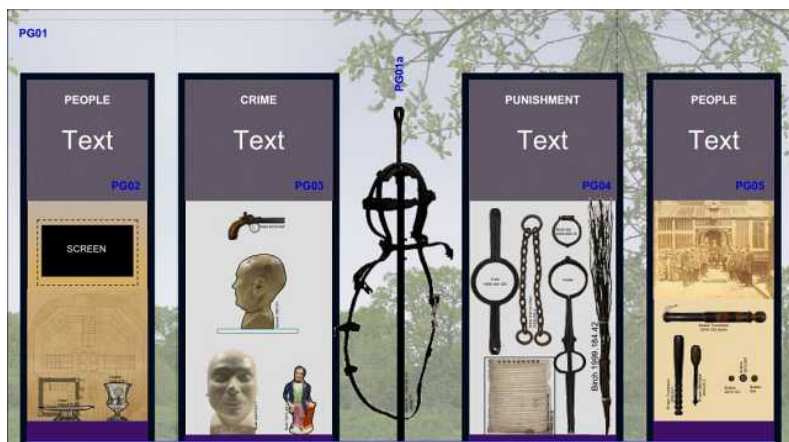


Illustration showing the new Prison Stories case within the Rotunda

New Restaurant

NMS staff have been working with suppliers to purchase furniture, equipment and crockery for our new restaurant, as well as looking at interior design options.



The design concept for the new Restaurant

New retail shop, admissions desk and access control barriers

Work is also underway to develop the new retail shop and admissions desk. Staff have been liaising with our existing ticketing system provider, to identify and procure suitable access control barriers. These barriers will interface with our existing ticketing system and enable us to ensure controlled and secure access to the museum.



The proposed new entrance and retail areas

6. Other activity across Norwich museums

6.1 Museum of Norwich

The Museum of Norwich team has been busy over the last few months delivering a broad range of activities and events.

Norfolk and Norwich Festival - *Dominoes*

On Friday 13 May, the Museum was part of *Dominoes*, the much-anticipated launch event for the 2022 Norfolk & Norwich Festival. This volunteer led, public artwork event, was created by Station House Opera. Crowds followed the 2km route, with many chasing the dominoes into and then out of the museum, towards The Guildhall and onto the finale at The Forum. Feedback from partners was extremely positive.

"We just wanted to say a huge thank you again for all your efforts and support with the dominoes event, your help, patience and hospitality was absolutely vital to the success of the event and we really appreciate you making it possible, giving us your time and space and being such an integral part of the event and its success. Please pass on the thanks to the rest of the team and volunteers too – we couldn't have done it without the amazing help and wide-ranging support your team provided."

Laurie Hutcheson | Production and Programme Assistant, Norfolk & Norwich Festival



Norfolk and Norwich Festival 'Festival Foundations' Exhibition

On Tues 17 May, the Museum hosted a special preview for the pop-up exhibition, which formed part of the NNF's 250th celebrations. It was a positive, well attended event, with refreshments and a speech by NNF Director Daniel Brine

Funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which supported this project, funded free entry for all during the festival period 13-28 May. 3,284 people visited the museum during this time. Again, partner feedback was positive.

"Thank you and the rest of the Bridewell Team, for being part of Festival Forever. It was great working with you all."

Helen Busby, NNF Festival Forever Project Manager



City of Ale

The Museum returned to the programme for Norwich City of Ale. On Saturday 11 June, Assistant Curator Bethan Holdridge delivered her popular 'Pop Up Pub' events in three of the city's pubs. On Wednesday 15 June, we welcomed visitors back into the museum for an evening of brewing history and beer tasting in our medieval undercroft in association with Bruha Brewing. Many visitors commented how positive it was to be back for this popular event.



GoGoDiscover Dinosaur Trail

This summer, the museum was fortunate to be selected to host two *GoGoDiscover* Dinosaurs as part of the popular BREAK Charity fundraising trail. An update will be provided in the next report.



Community projects & events

The last few months have been busy with several active community projects, including:

Art at Work

Curator Hannah Henderson has continued to work with Art at Work CIC, an organisation that designs and delivers arts for wellbeing sessions in the community. Their latest programme is based on Norwich Textiles and is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The group were welcomed to the museum on 4 May, when writer and curator Sarah Lowdnes delivered a moving poetry workshop. The group returned on 8 June, when they looked at creating timelines for their project. It is hoped the museum will host an exhibition linked to the project at the end of the year.



Visit by Vision Norfolk

On Wednesday 25 May, the Museum welcomed 15 people from Vision Norfolk back into the museum. Bethan Holdridge, Assistant Curator, hosted a lively session about the Norwich shoe industry. One participant was even able to read a very rare, previously unknown braille advert for Start Rite shoes, dating from the 1940s. The group were inspired to offer to do some further research and will report back on what they discover about this fascinating advert.



English plus, international group

Our partnership with English Plus continues to develop, supported by Assistant Curator Bethan Holdridge. On Thursday 14 July, Bethan arranged for the group to visit Norwich Cathedral with Colin Howey, on the hunt for Medieval Graffiti. Everyone enjoyed the session. We also expect to be working with a new sub-group over the autumn, exploring the history of tea.



Refugee Week walking tour

On Wednesday 22 June the Museum of Norwich and Strangers' Hall worked in partnership to offer a Refugee Week Walking Tour, focusing on our Huguenot heritage. Paul Dickson led the 20 strong group through the city streets, winding between the Museum of Norwich before finishing at Strangers' Hall.



Refugee Week walking tour

School Summer Holiday activities

The Museum's holiday theme has been *Dinosaurs*. The Museum continues to offer a light but varied programme of activities during the school holidays, supported by colleagues Rosalind Hewitt and Kate Malyon from the Norwich Learning team.

6.2 Strangers' Hall

Events and activities

Strangers' Hall has been busy over the summer with 24 school and other group visits. The programme of monthly tours on the last Wednesday of the month has been running successfully, with 'museum highlights' mini-tours currently being worked up by members of the Visitor Services team as part of an enhanced visitor welcome.

To coincide with celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Strangers' Hall's *Crowning Around* family event ran across the May half-term. This saw the museum festooned in vintage paper bunting, featuring images drawn from our magazine collection matched with creative crowns.

Refugee Week events in mid-June commenced with the launch of a joint project with English+. The Strangers' Hall collections include five dolls wearing traditional Polish dress made at the end of the Second World War by Polish people in a displaced persons refugee camp in Wentorf near Hamburg. We told the story to these dolls and used the discussion as inspiration to create peg dolls dressed in the group members'

own national costumes. 55 participants included people of the following nationalities Iran, Ukraine, Brazil, Palestine, Hong Kong, Poland, Romania, Tajikistan, Guinea Bissau, Hungary, Iraq, Spain, France, Portugal, Bangladesh and Moldova. The skills of the group were exceptional, with the Ukrainian peg dolls that were created particularly beautiful and moving. The dolls will be displayed, alongside the original Polish set, as part of our Centenary celebrations in 2023.



Refugee Week events

Regular engagement with the English+ Museum Club continues and has included a visit to Strangers' Hall looking at the importance of light in our lives, using varied collections from rush light holders to chandeliers, and a tour of the graffiti that is to be found etched into the fabric of the Cathedral, led by local historian Colin Howey.

This year's summer activity programme entitled *Great Gadgets* is a collections- based look at some of the more curious household objects that find their way into the museum's collection, with the emphasis on family participation.



Great Gadgets family activities

Additional family events at Strangers' Hall for August include a special session for younger children called *Inky Fingers*, which forms part of the *Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn* Activity plan, and *Go Wild in the Garden*, promoting the benefits to biodiversity which everyone can make by focusing on wildlife in their gardens.

Cathy Terry, Senior Curator, provided a special tour for visiting academic Prof. Chris Joby, author of the new publication on 'Stranger' writer and poet John Cruso of Norwich, to coincide with his lecture at the Norfolk Record Office. Strangers' Hall also hosted a garden tea-party arranged by the Costume and Textiles Association to mark the significant birthday of member Jean Smith, who has also been a leading member of the Strangers' Hall steward team over the years.

Curatorial programme

On the curatorial front, work towards celebrating the centenary of Strangers' Hall as a City of Norwich museum in 2023 moves forward, with the volunteer archive research team delving into the early records of the Museum, revealing fascinating facts such as when the veteran lavatory seat (still in use!) was installed and, that 1920's curators also faced problems with leaking roofs. The museum is exploring options for presentation and display of the new research, and University of Leicester Museum Studies MA student Ayaka Umetani has started a two month placement at Strangers' Hall to support this work.

The *Kick the Dust* group of young people are in the process of finalising their selection of contemporary objects to sit alongside objects from the very first days of the museum when it opened as a City of Norwich museum in 1923. NMS trainee Angelica Ufano has commenced work on documenting the *Picturing the Pandemic* collection. An audit of collections is taking place supported by the documentation team and NMS trainee Beau Brannick.

Bethan Holdridge, Curatorial Adviser to the Freemason's Museum in St Giles Street has been providing curatorial support for the museum's forthcoming Museum Association Accreditation Scheme.

Site management & conservation

Following repairs to the roof above the Great Chamber and the clearing of gullies, the condition of the Coach House and Toy Store are improving. We await remedial interior decoration where we have had leaks and the covering of the gulley. Collections in the areas affected by leaks has been impacted by mould, and David Harvey of the NMS Conservation team has continued to make good progress with cleaning mould from the objects in the Toy Store. The Small Coach House has benefitted from a Deep Clean, with Bethan Holdridge and Anne Brown supervising volunteers who were unable to participate in this year's full deep clean owing to Covid restrictions able to participate this time. This enabled us to carry out a condition report and clean the Brougham made by Thorns of Norwich.



Deep Clean of coach house and Brougham

The majority of members of the Stewarding team have now returned to duties post-pandemic, and the Garden team is up to full strength with their hard work really paying dividends in terms of how the garden looks and visitors very positive reaction.

7. Norwich Curatorial update

Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, Curator of Historic Art, is working on an exhibition for the Colman Project space, based around the Frederick Sandys' portraits in our collection. She is also in discussion with staff at Time and Tide Museum in Yarmouth, to re-work the Rembrandt exhibition held at the Castle in 2017, for the Yarmouth exhibition gallery. Otherwise, she is accessioning a new donation from the Art Fund of a group of prints, drawings and watercolours and is working with the collections management team on reorganising the art stores.

Ruth Battersby-Tooke, Senior Curator of Costume and Textiles is working with Dr Rosy Gray on the Singh Twins exhibition, as works from her collections will be featured in the show. Ruth is also working on the exhibition *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester, Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682*. This exhibition will open at Norwich Castle in February 2023 and is being undertaken with the finders of the wreck, the Barnwell brothers, and the University of East Anglia, our academic partners. Ruth is focusing on the sections of the exhibition devoted to textiles and to maritime archaeology.



The Gloucester's ship's bell manufactured in 1681

She is also involved in other, longer-term projects, including research for *Masquerade*, an exhibition on the history and significance of fancy dress, scheduled for 2025/26. In addition, she is working towards a stores re-organisation.

Dr Rosy Gray Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art is working on the forthcoming exhibition for the newly re-furnished T-Galleries at the Castle *The Singh Twins: Slaves of Fashion* (1 October 2022 – 22 January 2023).

Preparation for this show continues with NMS working in collaboration with East Gallery, Norwich University of the Arts, to bring the exhibition to Norwich. The Singh Twins are sisters who work as a single-entity artist duo. Based near Liverpool, The Singh Twins' work combines traditions from Eastern and Western art, exploring contemporary global and in particular, British histories, culture and politics. *The Singh Twins: Slaves of Fashion* explores the hidden narratives of Empire, Colonialism, conflict and enslavement through the lens of India's historical textile trade and its relevance to modern day legacies and debates around ethical consumerism, racism and politics of trade. Over thirty objects from across NMS collections have been selected by The Singh Twins and will be included in the exhibition.

Rosy is also, in conjunction with others, running the public programme for the current exhibition *The World We Live In: Art and the Urban Environment* which is on display until 4 September. The programme of linked events has been very successful, with a range of activities on offer. In addition to the workshops and activities led by the NMS Learning team, Dr Sarah Lowndes facilitated a reading and creative writing group inspired by the works on display. Across four Saturdays during the exhibition run, the sessions have begun with looking at and discussing a piece of work in the exhibition, followed by a shared reading of a text supplied on the day. Shared reading involves the course leader or another group member reading that week's text aloud and the group talking about the text together. The group then embarks on creative writing exercises inspired by that week's artwork, reading and discussion.

These are also available on Soundcloud the day after each session, for our audience members who may want to participate from home. During the four sessions, the group looked at artworks by Eduardo Paolozzi, Vanley Burke, Patrick Ward and Tish Murtha. The writings explored cover themes of community, identity, love and loss by authors Diana Athill, Jay Bernard, Joan Didion and Stuart Hall.

Participants commented: *“A lovely relaxed and exploratory session with new people. I was prompted to think about things I don't usually ponder, and it was great to listen to the experiences & thoughts of others”* and *“Thank you for arranging workshops like these: they are a fantastic way to experience the exhibitions and the museum.”*

Norwich Castle will also host a special screening of Andrea Luka Zimmerman's 2015 film, *Estate, a Reverie* in the Town Close Auditorium as part of the exhibition's public programme. *Estate, a Reverie* was filmed on the Haggerston estate in east London, which was the artist's home for 17 years. When earmarked for demolition in 2007, Luka Zimmerman began filming. The film combines role play with observational documentary, weaving intimate portraits of the residents with architectural studies and dramatic re-enactments. A conversation between the artist and Haggerston Estate residents will take place immediately after the screening and there will then be the opportunity for audience members to ask questions. The screening is British Sign Language interpreted.

In addition, Rosy has put together a new exhibition for the Timothy Gurney Gallery, entitled *Lumen*. This show brings together works from Norwich Castle's collection of modern and contemporary art to explore how artists engage with ideas around light. The display includes recent acquisitions to the collection, including work by Bruce Lacey and Eva Rothschild.

Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Regimental Collections

In May, Kate joined 46 soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Battalions the Royal Anglian Regiment on a historical tour of some of the main battlefields that the antecedent Regiments, including the Royal Norfolks, fought in after D-Day. She was able to provide primary sources for the 5-day trip which was extremely successful. She was invited, and her trip was funded, by the Trustees of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum.

In 2021 a new store was installed and the collection moved into it. There is a continuing programme of repacking and photography of the collection to maintain its condition and make it more accessible. Over the last few months the Curator has been very pleased to welcome back both researchers and volunteers to the Shirehall and to have kept the Museum enquiry service going.

Senior Curator of Natural History, Dr David Waterhouse

After a clothes moth outbreak during the pandemic, a major cleaning and freezing project was launched for the specimens within the Natural History Gallery. Whilst the specimens were being frozen (killing moth adults, larvae and eggs without the use of harmful chemicals), David cleaned the cases before re-installation. Jonathan Clark from Conservation, and members of Building Services, especially Wesley Brown, were key in re-installing the largest specimen – the iconic nine foot tall Polar Bear.

Dr Erica McAlister Senior Curator at the Natural History Museum, London interviewed David for the popular BBC Radio Four series about insects:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m0017k7c>

The programme examined the butterfly collection of the intrepid Victorian lepidopterist Margaret Fountaine housed at Norwich Castle.

This summer David has also acted as consultant to the *GoGoDiscover* T. Rex and Steppe Mammoth trail for the charity Break. As well as helping to shape the mammoth sculptures, David led Norfolk fossil discovery sessions for local schoolchildren and community groups at the Learning Programme launch event at The Forum on 7 June.

www.break-charity.org/charity/news/local-schools-and-groups-celebrate-decorating-small-t-rex-sculptures-for-gogodiscover-community-project



Dr David Waterhouse at The Forum event

For the first time since the pandemic, face-to-face collections tours and training could proceed within the Natural History and Geology Departments for the NMS Teaching Museum trainees. David took the trainees on gallery and store tours and also conducted a label writing session and identification enquiry training.

In June NMS's regular History at Home spot on Kirsteen Thorne's BBC Radio Norfolk breakfast show focussed on Norfolk hippos. David told the story of the large semi-aquatic mammals which once roamed the lakes of Norfolk. He also took part in a three-part series for Channel Five entitled '*Ice Age: a frozen world*'. Presented by Steve Backshall and Michaela Strachan, David featured in episode one talking about the West Runton Mammoth and Happisburgh footprints. David also acted as scientific consultant for the series, specialising in advice on extinct species and the early stone age. The series is due to air later this year.

David continues, in conjunction with Dr John Davies, to work on the book related to the Deep History Coast project and drawing its maps and illustrations. This is due to go to print with History Press at the end of this year.

Dr Tim Pestell, Senior Curator of Archaeology continues to be fully occupied with supporting the Norwich Castle project. Apart from this, he has been working on the new Prison displays for the rotunda; the layout for these is now completed. He is liaising with our design team over further details of the display.

Tim has also been providing assistance to Oliver Bone for the Vikings exhibition at Thetford Ancient House Museum, helping with loaned objects and text-writing. He has been continuing to monitor Treasure finds, and has also raised funds to purchase a new gold Anglo-Saxon mount from Barningham, and has continued to pursue other possible acquisitions. Tim continues also to attend the Reviewing Committee for Export of Works of Art (RCEWA).

He has facilitated the study of a previously undated skeleton from Reedham; for which a palaeopathological report has now been undertaken. Tim recently also met with colleagues from York Museum, one of whom he is mentoring for the Art Fund New Collecting Award. Tim also continues to work on the Rendlesham Revealed Leverhulme-funded project, for which he is a Co-Investigator.

Senior Curator of Norwich Museums and Keeper of Fine and Decorative Art, Dr Francesca Vanke is working with Ruth Battersby-Tooke on the forthcoming major exhibition *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester, Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682*. At present she is working on finalising the object list, which includes loans from national and international museums. The exhibition design is in progress and the scope and format for the accompanying publication is being discussed.

Francesca completed the new exhibition at Lynn Museum *JMW Turner and the Moods of Water: Rivers, Estuaries and the Sea*, as part of the NLHF-funded Turner tour. This opened on 22 June and the opening event was attended by the Mayor of Lynn and several Councillors. She made a film to accompany the show which is being shown at the museum at present. It will be available on Youtube after the exhibition closes.



The Mayor of King's Lynn opening the Turner exhibition at Lynn Museum

On 25 June Francesca gave a Radio Norfolk *History at Home* breakfast show interview about the painting in order to give extra publicity to the exhibition. She will also be giving a public talk at Lynn Museum on 8 September which will also be live-streamed. Francesca's supplementary work for this show involved two online sessions with one of the Kick the Dust youth groups. This resulted in the young people putting together a summer programme of family activities for the Lynn exhibition, which they called *Turner Tuesdays*. These were positively received by visitors. She is also working on the next exhibition in the series, for Time and Tide Museum in Yarmouth, scheduled for October 2023, and liaising with Christchurch Mansion, Ipswich, for their exhibition in October 2022. On other matters Francesca hosted a visit from the Oxford Ceramics Group in June, to whom she provided study sessions in Shirehall for the first time since lockdown, with a focus on the Lowestoft porcelain collection.

8. Visitor numbers

| | | | APR | MAY | JUN | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | YEAR TO DATE | TOTAL |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|
| N O R W I C H | Castle Museum | 2020-21 | | | | | 245 | 238 | 2,454 | 357 | 756 | | | | 0 | 4,050 |
| | | 2021-22 | | 2,732 | 5,309 | 8,053 | 12,796 | 7,652 | 8,964 | 6,226 | 4,068 | 4,962 | 8,110 | 6,605 | 16,094 | 75,477 |
| | | 2022-23 | 8,129 | 6,857 | 9,070 | 8,289 | | | | | | | | | 32,345 | 32,345 |
| | Museum of Norwich | 2020-21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | | 2021-22 | | 115 | 504 | 595 | 614 | 842 | 749 | 767 | 422 | 647 | 1,308 | 1,165 | 1,214 | 7,728 |
| | | 2022-23 | 1,406 | 1,552 | 1,044 | 1,666 | | | | | | | | | 5,668 | 5,668 |
| | Strangers Hall | 2020-21 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 | 0 |
| | | 2021-22 | | 0 | 0 | 24 | 39 | 450 | 508 | 521 | 460 | 0 | 302 | 883 | 24 | 3,187 |
| | | 2022-23 | 478 | 642 | 639 | 635 | | | | | | | | | 2,394 | 2,394 |

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