

Fiends of the Norwich Museums

Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee

Mancroft Room, City Hall, 3rd December at 2.30 p.m.

Although the Friends of the Norwich Museums have been relatively quiet in the last few months, we can be pleased that some of the plans we made earlier in the year have come to fruition. Dr. Agata Gomolka, Keep Project Assistant has given us an update on the progress of the Textile Project and has said that remarkable progress has been made in recent months. For example the hangings for the north wall of the Keep will soon be joined together and these will form a magnificent collection of historically accurate textiles. The Friends Tapestry will be the centrepiece of all the textiles in The Keep, and has been made with the Bayeux stitch. Members of the Friends' Council have been given the opportunity to learn how to make the stitch, and a number of us have asked to be shown this authentic technique.

The FNM have made a successful bid for a photograph album which has a valuable collection of photographs of the 1/6th Cyclist Battalion, Norfolk Regiment in 1914. The Friends have been able to purchase the album for the Museum. The Battalion was formed in 1914 when the threat of invasion was considered to be real and the 6th Battalion was mobilized to observe and patrol the British Coast from Wells to Gorleston-on-Sea. The Museum is very pleased that this album has been added to the story of the Norfolk Regiment.

At present we are enjoying a beautiful exhibition of works called 'Changing vision of landscape'. This exhibition is the culmination of a project with JMW Turner's work taking centre stage. Francesca Vanke has curated a show at Lynn Museum on the subject of water, another about bridges at the Time & Tide and the present exhibition at the Castle Museum. There are 78 artworks in the exhibition with many great paintings on display, including a work by Jacob van Ruisdael 'Panoramic Landscape with Cornfields and Dunes beside the Sea, which the Friends of the Norwich Museums recently helped to purchase. Also, there are a total of sixteen works by Turner, including Walton Bridge, 1806, which Turner painted several times. This painting is in the Norfolk Museums' permanent collection.

Felicity Devonshire

Publicity, Friends of the Norwich Museums – 21st November, 2024