

## **Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee , 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019-02-26**

The FNM 100 Committee is planning a meeting for the 28<sup>th</sup> February to consolidate the aims and objectives for the celebrations of their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2021. With the help of Jenny Caynes and her colleagues, we have already formulated some ideas and Jenny has now supplied us with the costings for printing leaflets to promote one of our main events, which will be a Trail for families including the three Museums in Norwich. This Trail will highlight some of the many objects and artifacts that the Friends have helped to purchase for the collections over 100 years. It is hoped that as well as giving the FNM a high profile during their celebration year, it will also be an opportunity to encourage new Friends to become members, and in doing so may shift our demographic with younger members and families joining the FNM.

We are considering a number of other events and I will update the Committee in my next report. We are hoping to have a celebratory illumination on the Castle Museum exterior, for which we will be seeking sponsorship.

Richard Fair of the Forum Trust put together a CD of the favourite 90 objects when the FNM was 90 years old, and has kindly agreed to expand this to 100 objects. This is a very attractive marketing tool for the FNM and I have used it on a number of occasions when giving talks to Societies such as the WI. This rolling display is accompanied by music.

We continue to arrange monthly talks for the FNM and the public. The next one is on 28<sup>th</sup> February in the TCA, at 2.30.m. entitled 'A History of the Norfolk Broads' by Pete Gudrum.

The FNM has helped again with the final push to obtain funding for Samson. The crowd funding was a tremendous success, raising most of the sum required for the conservation and display of this very important figure. The FNM had already committed £2,000 to go towards the digital information but the total required fell short of the amount needed, but we were again able to help with the shortfall, and now Samson will be put on display with the much needed digital information touch screen, which will be very popular with visitors.

The Council of the Friends of the Norwich Museums also agreed recently to give financial support to a number of other objects for the Museums' collections, including the Sceatta Hoard of silver coins and a Middle Bronze Age gold torc found at Great Dunham, mentioned in my last report, the financial underwriting of a statue of St. Anthony, and the Embroidered Tapestry being made for the Castle Keep.

I was fortunate to see the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms exhibition at the British Library before it closed last week. There were several objects from the Castle Museum collection in pride of place, including the seated figure of Spong Hill man from Norfolk and a pair of enamelled mounts from Hockwold, Norfolk. Also beautifully lit and displayed was the pendant from Winfarthing, Norfolk. As a member of the Friends I took special pride in the fact that the Friends of the Norwich Museums had played their part by contributing to the purchase of these rare and precious objects.

Felicity Devonshire, (Representative, FNM) 26.02.2019