

Norwich Area Museums Committee  
Friends of the Norwich Museums Report  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 2.00 p.m.  
at City Hall

Since the Norwich Area Museums Committee last met, the FNM has held its AGM on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, attended by the Lord Mayor, Kevin Maguire and his Consort, Julie Keane, and other dignitaries, and was well attended by the members. After the business of the meeting, Steve Miller, Head of Museums, gave an address, which brought members up to date with events at the NMS, including the success of the current exhibition "The Last Voyage of the Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682". He was pleased to report that the response of the public has been very enthusiastic and visitor numbers reflect that.

There was also an update on the 'Royal Palace Reborn' Project by Hannah Jackson, Project Manager and Dr Tim Pestell, which members found fascinating. This presentation was followed by a talk by the Sheriff of Norwich, Caroline Jarrold, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

The FNM's main focus at present is the help we are giving to Strangers' Hall, in preparation of its Centenary. I mentioned in my last report that Cathy Terry, Curator at Strangers' Hall, has asked the Friends to help with the conservation of a rare 16<sup>th</sup> Century Turkish carpet, and this has been agreed by the Friends' Council on behalf of the membership. In order to make Strangers' Hall ready for its Centenary, a number of improvements need to be made, and we have received estimates of these. They have been broken down into different areas e.g. Display Design, Display Production, Display Installation, Digital image enhancement and photography and Case Electrics conversion. I will bring you more detail of these improvements and new interpretations in my next report.

We will be supporting Strangers' Hall in conjunction with other bodies, e.g. The Freeman of Norwich are funding the front window displays with support from the NMS Kick the Dust programme. They are also supporting the conversion of an antique display case to hold a new contemporary collection.

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