

**Friends of the Norwich Museums – update report**

**Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

This is my third report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee as FNM Representative. Whilst the summer period is always a relatively quiet period for the Friends of Norwich Museums, the Sub-Committees have continued preparing and hosting events and talks for the coming season. The talks take place in the TCA, now on a Thursday and are always well attended and include a wide range of subjects. The next one is on 6<sup>th</sup> September entitled 'Cabbages & Kings' – Royal visits to the City of Norwich, given by Barbara Miller, MBE, and promises to be very popular. The programme of events is already arranged up until April 2019, which will be a visit to Gressenhall Museum and Farm.

Other events are being considered for the coming year, including a tea party at the Museum of Norwich, using the Courtyard, to take place within working hours to minimize the cost of hosting the event.

The FNM 100 Committee meets again at the beginning of October, which will progress plans for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. The events planned will include a reception for the Friends and some activities for young people as well.

We have two more invitations to speak at WI meetings this year on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September, in order to promote the work of the Friends and encourage new members to join. We will run the dvd of 90 objects at these meetings. I will be presenting the dvd also to this meeting. A further dvd is being compiled by Richard Fair of the Forum Trust, which will feature 100 objects to celebrate the Friends Centenary.

There was a Council Meeting of the FNM on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September at which Steve Miller gave the meeting an update on the activities at the Castle Museum, including an update of the Keep Project. The Museum is coming to a crucial point with the HLF, and they will know by October whether the final application has been successful. He also reported that the Paston Treasure exhibition has proved very popular and has had a national and international profile.

We also had, at the meeting, two applications by Tim Pestell requesting initial funding for the Sceatta Hord of Earliest English silver coins and a Middle Bronze Age Gold Torc found at Great Dunham. Both of these are very rare and important finds.

Felicity Devonshire  
Representative, FNM

5<sup>th</sup> September 2018