

Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 11 September 2018**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Norwich Castle**

For further information please contact:

Committee members:

Committee officer: Jackie Rodger
t: (01603) 212033
e: jackierodger@norwich.gov.uk

Norwich City Council:

Councillors Fulton-McAlister (E) (chair),
Bradford, Huntley, Maxwell, Price and Trevor

Norfolk County Council:

Councillors Nobbs (vice chair), Clipsham,
Jones (B), Rumsby, Ward and Watkins

Democratic services
City Hall
Norwich
NR2 1NH

Co-opted non-voting members:

Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art
Society), Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts
Fund) and Felicity Devonshire (Friends of the
Norwich Museums), Councillor Buck
(Broadland District Council) and Councillor
Hardy (South Norfolk Council)

www.norwich.gov.uk

**Refreshments for members of the committee will be available in the
Castle Rotunda from 13:30**

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

Please note that all questions must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Thursday, 6 September 2018**

Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Monday, 10 September 2018**

For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions please see appendix 1 of 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 5 June 2018

5 Friends of the Norwich Museums - Acquisitions

Mr Peter King, Friends of Norwich Museums, will give a presentation highlighting *90 objects* acquired by the Friends of the Norwich Museums.

6 Norwich Museums Briefing - June to August 2018

11 - 32

To receive the report on the activities of the Norwich museums for the period of June to August 2018

7 The Friends of the Norwich Museums - update

To receive an oral report on the activities of the Friends of the Norwich Museums

Paston Treasure Exhibition

At the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, members of the committee are invited to join Dr Francesca Vanke on a tour of the Paston Treasure exhibition.

Date of publication: **Monday, 03 September 2018**

MINUTES

Norwich Area Museums Committee

14:00 to 16:45

5 June 2018

Present:	City Councillors: Fulton-McAlister (E), (chair, following election) Bradford Huntley Maxwell Price	County Councillors: Nobbs (vice chair, following election) Clipsham, Jones (B) Ward Watkins
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Co-opted non-voting members:

Felicity Devonshire (Friends of Norwich Museums), Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society), Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund), and County Councillor Buck (vice-chairman, Norfolk Joint Museums committee) (ex officio member)

Apologies: City Councillor Trevor and County Councillor Rumsby

1. Appointment of chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Fulton-McAlister to the chair for the ensuing civic year.

2. Appointment of vice chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Nobbs to the chair for the ensuing civic year.

3. Councillor Brociek-Coulton

RESOLVED to record the committee's gratitude to Councillor Brociek-Coulton chair of the committee 2017-18.

4. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

5. Declarations of interest

None.

6. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2018.

7. Norwich Museums Briefing: December 2017 to February 2018

As requested at the previous meeting of the committee, Jenny Caynes, curator of community history at the Museum of Norwich, gave a presentation on the successful crowdfunding campaign which had raised £15,000 for a display case to preserve the restored 350 year old Samson figure which had stood outside the “Samson and Hercules” building in Tombland. This was accompanied by the promotional video for the fund raising campaign under the Art Fund’s initiative “Art Happens”. Supporters would receive “Save Samson” tote bags designed by local illustrator Leanda Jaine who like other contributors had donated her time for free. The curator explained that unlike the Samson figure, Hercules was a Victorian replica and therefore not as valuable as the Samson. In reply to a question, the curator confirmed that the display case would be the correct environment to preserve the oak timbers. The assistant head of museums referred to the Seahenge timbers and confirmed that there the necessary expertise in the service to ensure the preservation of this figure. The BBC had included the Samson in one of its 100 objects linked to the BBC Civilisations programme and the museum had permission to incorporate this into its display.

The assistant head of museums then presented the report highlighting areas of specific interest to members.

The assistant head of museums referred to the report and said that the *Square Box on the Hill* exhibition had proved very popular with visitors. The *Inheritance: Norwich Castle Open Art Show* complimented this exhibition. Amanda Geitner addressed the committee and said that this was the fifth open art show organised in collaboration with Norwich Castle and East Anglia Art Fund. She explained that 900 artists in Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk had responded to the broad theme of “Inheritance” and 129 had been selected for inclusion in the show. Social media had been effective in attracting entrants. Around 41,500 visitors had attended the open art show and around £30,000, including the sale of work by O N Gerald Stamp for £16,000, had been raised of which 35 per cent was donated to the East Anglia Art Fund. In reply to a member’s question, Amanda Geitner said that the open art shows were held every three years and it was not practical administratively to arrange shows more frequently. Whilst the theme of the next show had not been agreed it could tie in with the Crome bicentennial.

Members were advised that Harriet Loffler, curator of modern and contemporary art, who had contributed to the *We Came to Conquer: eleven Artists Respond to the Print Collections at Norwich Castle* had left the Norfolk Museums Service to take up a new position in Cambridge. Recruitment for the post was underway.

Members welcomed the opportunity to view *The Paston Treasure: Riches and Rarities of the Known World* exhibition and agreed to this being arranged before the start of the next meeting. The assistant head of museums said that an official catalogue had been produced and a more affordable version of the catalogue was on sale in the museum shop for £9.99.

In reply to a question from the chair the assistant head of museums explained the number of events where there was free entry to the museums. This included the Museum at Night events which were part of a national initiative and held twice a year and Heritage Open Days, also part of a national campaign. The Norwich Freeman's Charity will again provide free admission to Strangers Hall and the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell for two weeks in 2018. There was also free admission for Norfolk school children attending as part of a school visit, Children's University Passport holders and looked after and foster children. The reduced price 'Twilight ticket' was also well used

Members noted that Strangers Hall had featured in the Channel Four documentary *Norwich – Britain's Most Tudor Town*. The assistant head of museums said that regrettably the programme was no longer available on demand.

The curator of community history answered members' questions on the arrangements for the dementia friendly coffee mornings at the Museum of Norwich. There were usually six to eight people at each morning and events were tailored to the individuals by specially trained staff.

The assistant head of museums referred to the learning team's activities and projects and pointed out that the number of secondary school visits had increased from 29 school visits to 48 over the three years to 2017-18.

(Amanda Geitner left the meeting at this point.)

The committee was pleased to hear that the Round 2 bid for Heritage Lottery Fund for the Kick the Dust Programme had been successful. The bid had included an activity plan and activities to engage young people would commence in September 2018. The assistant head of museums said that he would keep the committee informed on the progress of this four year programme as it rolled out county wide.

The operations manager presented the part of the report under the heading Other Developments. He explained that although it would be a challenge, weddings would be conducted at Norwich Castle during the works on the keep, with the Crome room being used during the phase where access to the Benefactors room was unavailable. In reply to a question, the operations manager said that the contract for wedding and event management catering for events had been awarded to Florentina Events.

The launch of the History Mystery Escape Room games in the undercroft at the Museum of Norwich would be on Friday, 8 June 2018. Members welcomed this innovative use of the undercroft at the Museum of Norwich and noted that it was the first museum in the country to enter into an arrangement where objects from the museums were used for the games. Discussion ensued on the arrangements with the company History Mystery that would be providing the service. Members noted that the games would be popular with the 18 to 25 age group and that half price admission would be offered as an incentive to get people to visit the museum. Members expressed an interest in experiencing the games for themselves.

The operations manager apologised that the external lift was out of use as it had broken down again. Works to refurbish it would be completed in the autumn 2018.

The assistant head of museums said that the cohort of Teaching Museum trainees had been appointed. There had been over 400 applicants had been received for the 8 twelve month paid trainee posts. The trainees would engage in real projects and graduates of the scheme had secured good rates of employment. Members commented that this year's cohort was unusual in that seven out of the eight were female. The assistant head of museums said that this reflected that more women were coming through. Trainees might attend future meetings of the committee as part of their development.

Members of the committee expressed their appreciation of the work of the Norfolk Museums Service conservation team and volunteers who had contributed to the conservation and repair of the Ensign of Le Génèreux and were pleased that it had been awarded a highly commended in the Conservation category of the Museums & Heritage Awards.

The committee was pleased to note the record visitor numbers for 2017-18 and that there had been a year on year increase. The national total for return visits from local people averaged 10 per cent of visitors. In Norfolk this was 30 per cent of visitors. A member pointed out that some people could not afford to visit the museums more frequently. Members were advised that the twilight price for people to visit in the last two hours in the afternoon were popular as were museum passes. In reply to a question from the chair the operations manager said that it was not possible to provide information about where people lived unless it was collected at the point of sale. This was something that could be considered and reported to a future committee meeting.

Tim Pestell, curator, gave an oral update on the Keep Project. Preparation for the second stage of the application for funding was due on 14 June 2018 and work was being undertaken to ensure that the appendices supporting the bid were completed. He outlined some of the contents of the appendices. Members were advised that the project was on target for opening in July 2020. The proposals included the completion of the business plan, ensuring that the project complied with the Green Business Scheme, digital strategy and arrangements for the construction and storage of flagstones during construction etc. Discussions had been held with the city council to ensure that, as the owner of the museum, the unlocking of funding for this project would not be detrimental to either party. The vice chair sought assurance that this would be the case. During his presentation Tim Pestell said that a femur bone had been discovered during the excavations. The results of carbon dating were still outstanding but it could be early human.

The curator also reported that there would be a press launch for the acquisition of an Anglo Saxon pendant.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) thank Jenny Caynes, curator of community history at the Museum of Norwich, for her presentation on the Save Samson campaign;
- (3) ask the assistant head of museums to arrange tour of The Paston Collection exhibition before the next meeting of the committee;

- (4) ask the chair to write on behalf of the committee to the conservation team to express the committee's congratulations on the highly commended award in the Conservation category of the Museums & Heritage Awards:
- (5) ask the curator of community history, to look into the feasibility of members of the committee having an opportunity to try out the History Mystery Norwich game, The Merchants' Vaults.

8. The Friends of the Norwich Museums – Update

Felicity Devonshire presented the report which updated members on the activities of the Friends of the Norwich Museums.

It had been her intention to give a presentation on the Ninety Objects that the Friends had given to the museums service over the years. Members considered that to give this their full attention the presentation should be at the start of the next meeting.

RESOLVED to

- (1) thank Felicity Devonshire for her report;
- (2) defer the presentation on the Friends Ninety Objects to the next meeting of the committee.

CHAIR

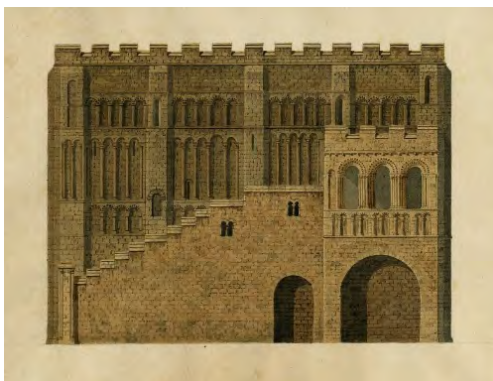
Norwich Area Museums Committee 11 September 2018

Norwich Museums briefing: June to August 2018

1. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

1.1 The Square Box on the Hill (10 February – 3 June 2018)

The Square Box on the Hill exhibition explored the history of Norwich's iconic Norman keep. Featuring never-before seen archives and artefacts from Norwich Castle's 900-year history, including a wealth of new research uncovered by the *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England* project, the exhibition showed this landmark in a new light. *The Square Box on the Hill* illustrated the Castle's rich history, from Norman showpiece palace, to county gaol to museum, through a mixture of prints, models, paintings, architectural plans and memorabilia, many of which have never been on display before. The exhibition also showcased the latest plans for the Castle's future as part of the *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England* project supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



William Wilkins (attrib.) Norwich Castle 1795 ©Norfolk Museums Service

1.2 The Paston Treasure: Riches and Rarities of the Known World (23 June – 23 September 2018)

This major exhibition in collaboration with the Yale Center for British Art reunites, for the first time in three centuries, rare 17th century works of art and objects originally featured in the mysterious painting *The Paston Treasure*. Painted by an unknown Dutch school artist, circa 1663, the painting's unique and cryptic subject continues to mesmerize and puzzle art scholars and historians. Featuring an array of exotic treasures from around the world, as well as animals and people, the painting chronicles a fraction of what was once one of the greatest private art collections of 17th century England, amassed by Norfolk's Paston family, famed for their medieval letters.

The result of an intensive 10-year research project, *The Paston Treasure: Riches and Rarities of the Known World* sets out to explore the history of the Paston family and how they acquired and lost one of the most distinguished art collections in seventeenth century Britain. It also examines the puzzle of the painting and its anonymous artist, and finally the history of the beautiful Oxnead Hall, of which only a part still stands today. Supported by the East Anglia Art Fund, the exhibition is divided into thematic sections, which are explained and illustrated by relevant objects, paintings and artefacts, the majority of which have been loaned from distinguished national and international public and private collections. Prestigious international lenders to the exhibition include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, Chicago Institute of Art, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Royal Collection and many others. Collectively the exhibition tells both a very Norfolk story and a genuinely international one.



Now in the last few weeks of its run, this exhibition is arguably one of the most ambitious ever displayed at the Castle, involving over fifty lenders and international loans from the USA and Holland. Twelve of the Paston's treasures appear in the painting, of which five still exist. These have been brought back from collections around the world for the first time since the collection was sold in the early eighteenth century, and are displayed with the painting.

The exhibition has enjoyed great critical acclaim, serving to raise Norwich Castle's profile nationally and internationally. The Paston's art collection was once unique in England for its size and splendour, but few people today know

about this fascinating aspect of Norfolk's history. Through the collaboration with Yale, a great many scholars have contributed to the research, leading also to a major publication which will be a lasting legacy of the project. It will ensure that further work can be undertaken and knowledge of the importance of the painting is maintained and increased into the future.

1.3 Colman Gallery temporary displays (- 30 December 2018)

The current extended exhibition in the Colman Project Space is *Magritte: The Lost Painting*. This explores the story of the detective work recently undertaken on NMS' Magritte painting *La Condition Humaine*, where a quarter of a missing Magritte painting, *La Pose Enchantée* was discovered underneath the later work.



La Condition Humaine by Rene Magritte

1.4 Timothy Gurney Gallery - Visible Women (-28 April 2019)

A showcase of work by women artists from both the modern and contemporary NMS art collections. Works are in a variety of media by different artists, including Barbara Hepworth, Jo Spence and Penny Slinger.

2. Forthcoming exhibitions

2.1. Armistice: Legacy of the Great War (20 October 2018 - 6 January 2019)

Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other funding partners including the Town Close Estate Charity and the Norfolk Regimental Museum Trustees, this major centenary exhibition will explore the First World War in Norwich and Norfolk, showing the physical impact on the county, coastal defences and changes in agriculture and industry, alongside stories of the communities and individuals whose lives were transformed by the War.

Celebrating resilience as well as commemorating loss, the rich displays will show fine art and textiles alongside locally manufactured goods. Posters, photographs, archives and interactive displays complement displays of diverse objects drawn from around the county. A series of finely crafted artworks by Paddy Hartley

called *Papaver Rhoeas* focus on the subject of memorialisation, comprising a series of unique poppies.



Brundal Auxillary Hospital 1915

2.2. Viking: Rediscover the Legend (9 February – 8 September 2019)

A major exhibition exploring what it meant to be a Viking and how the Vikings transformed and shaped every aspect of life in Britain, featuring some of the most significant Viking discoveries ever made. A partnership exhibition from the British Museum and York Museums Trust.

3. Norwich Castle Events

3.1 Norwich Medieval Mystery Play 2018

For the second time in 500 years the *Norwich Medieval Mystery Plays* were performed at Norwich Castle and Norwich Cathedral from 18-21 July. The plays were first performed at Norwich Castle in 2016. For 2018 they returned with a larger production, with 14 new stories in two locations, performed in two parts. Mystery plays were biblical stories performed in medieval times with music for local people and represent the beginning of live theatre. Local theatre director Peter Beck researched, wrote and directed the plays. Just as the plays would have been presented centuries ago, members of the local community played leading roles, supported by professional actors. The plays were very well received with strong attendances for both Parts 1 and 2 at the Castle. The audience saw the Castle keep brought to life with music and drama. The props were outstanding, from the life-size papier-mache giant Goliath to the beautiful white feathered angel's wings.

For 2018 the plays included a strong schools element, involving 240 students from four local schools. They learned about Norwich's medieval past and the tradition of presenting mystery plays.

As part of the Activity Plan for the *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England* project, the intention is to make the Norwich Medieval Mystery Plays a bi-annual event with the next play scheduled for 2020, when the redeveloped keep is due to re-open.



3.2. Summer Holiday Family Programme at Norwich Castle

This summer Norwich Castle's Treasure! programme offered a hoard of exciting crafts, activities and trails inspired by the Paston Treasure painting and the accompanying exhibition. Highlights of the summer programme included:

- *The Paston Puzzle*—an interactive investigative drama with actor Neil Paris
- *Science Shorts* – mini science sessions developed with colleagues from the UEA Biology Department
- *Sound scramble* – matching sounds to objects in the painting including the sound of a lobster under water!
- Partnerships with Norfolk Record Office (record your family tree) and Norwich Cathedral (stained glass windows)
- NCC Community Learning and Information Service provided a string of activities relating to the *GoGo Hares* located at the base of the Castle bridge, which was painted with the story of Boudicca.



4. Strangers' Hall

4.1 Summer holiday programme

A varied programme of events has been on offer at Strangers' Hall over the summer months, including the *Busy for Lizzy* activities commemorating the Royal progress of 1578, when Elizabeth 1 was entertained in Norwich. Visitors were able to try a range of crafts and enjoy a *Bed-staves to Bolsters* trail, write a welcome speech, make fine ruffs and learn Elizabethan dances.

Staff also delivered a programme of pre-booked walking tours including *Norwich in the Time of Elizabeth I* on 19 July and 16 August.

4.2 Toyroom redisplay project

Staff are continuing to work on a project to redisplay the Toyroom collections at Strangers' Hall and increase access to the important toy collections. A programme of visitor consultation has been completed and outline design plans are currently being developed. It is anticipated that a funding application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2019.

5. Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell

5.1 Refugee Day

The Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell is grateful to the Freeman of Norwich for their support once again for two key events in the summer calendar. On the 21 June the Freeman supported activities for Refugee Day which included celebrations of Norwich's rich textile heritage and the contribution that immigrants have made to the development of the trade. Over forty students working with Norwich-based charity English + were treated to a demonstration of weaving on

the restored Jacquard loom. Many in the group were particularly interested in the beautiful collection of Norwich shawls making connections with styles of dress in other countries.



5.2 Freeman Fortnight

As in 2017, funding support from the Freeman of Norwich enabled the museum to open free for visitors a fortnight from 24 July to 4 August. Despite high temperatures during this period, staff welcomed over 2,000 visitors. 48% of visitors surveyed said they had never visited the museum before, with the majority of those (98%) saying they would visit again. The Museum also participated in the Norwich-wide *GoGo Hares Trail*, with two baby hares drawing visitors, as well as a tiny hare and tortoise trail inside the museum.



5.3 Norwich Pride

Once again this summer, the Museum of Norwich supported Norwich Pride. For 2018 the museum showcased a recently acquired object from Norwich cartoonist and activist David Shenton – the *Duo Shirt*. David explained how and why he made the shirt *'It's made from six shirts that constitute the Pride rainbow, the two middle sleeves are sewn together as one, so hand holding is unavoidable, blatant and the integral function of the garment. I made it and we wore it at London Pride in 2013 to celebrate Equal Marriage on the horizon.'* This object, alongside the *Duvet of Love* took pride of place for the duration of the weekend.



5.4 Escape Room games

The Merchants' Vaults escape game opened at the beginning of June and from the end of July an evening opening on a Saturday was introduced. Evening games will shortly be added on Friday evenings at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. Reaction to the new game – which is based exclusively on the collections of the Museum of Norwich – has been hugely positive with two of the country's most experienced escape game players describing it as: *"Absolutely top-notch. A wonderful mix of history, story and creative, clever, varied and satisfying puzzles! We loved every second of it - only wish we could play it again!"*



6. Learning Team activities and projects

6.1 The Castle Project at Norwich Castle with Norfolk Youth Offending Team

This activity marks the second suite of programmes that Norwich Castle has hosted in collaboration with the NCC Youth Offending Team in 2018. The partnership dates back to 2004 when an annual creative project was established to develop team working skills in young offenders and confront perceptions of spaces that could be seen as being linked with authority. Many of the young people have low self-esteem, which is often challenge in itself. The first suite of these sessions ran for 11 weeks, including a celebration evening in the final week. It was so successful that a second, shorter suite of sessions was proposed as an appropriate next step rather than waiting to run the sessions again the following year. The 2018 summer suite of sessions ran with the same format as before, with each cohort having a set of two two-hour workshops running on consecutive Wednesdays, with the outcome of making a clay object inspired by the Museum's collections.

The first week of the activity enabled the young people to explore and engage with the galleries and collections and create a clay object in response to what they had seen. The second week offered an exclusive tour— to the dungeons or the battlements—or an exciting backstage glimpse of the armoury. This offer promoted a reason to return. In the second session the object created was completed or decorated. The sessions were developed and run by Susie Childerhouse from the Norwich Castle learning team and artist Rachel Daniel.

One young participant named Charlotte was able to develop her interest in fossils and rocks. Dr David Waterhouse, NMS Senior Curator of Natural History devoted time with Charlotte, looking through samples of rocks that she had brought in alongside examples in the NMS collection. This resulted in a real boost to her confidence. Charlotte will be returning with some of her own fossils for Dr Waterhouse to examine.

The final project celebration event was very successful. The objects created by the young people were set up in the Cotman gallery, with the paintings from the Norwich School as a backdrop. Rachel displayed objects within groups that complemented each other as well as some of the objects that were used within the programme itself. The event was attended by three of the young people, who received a certificate that can be used with a CV when looking at work or college applications.

In the future NMS intends to deliver a YOT programme on a termly basis. There are also further partnerships to be explored with other agencies such as the Stonemason's Guild of St Stephens and St George, who are interested in working with young people whom 'traditional' education has failed to engage. It is hoped that contact will be maintained with some of the young people after their time with YOT has ended, possibly through voluntary opportunities within NMS

and other opportunities through the Kick the Dust project. Initial steps towards this have already been taken with one of the young people. Other opportunities such as a Takeover Day, where different groups of young people are involved, will be developed during the autumn.

6.2 Norwich Castle History Teacher Conference

Over 25 secondary school History teachers from across East Anglia attended a conference held at Norwich Castle on July 12. Dale Banham, Deputy Head teacher of Northgate High School in Ipswich, delivered the opening address, 'How Key Stage 3 can be tweaked to help raise attainment at GCSE'. Christine Counsell, former teacher trainer at Cambridge University and Director of Education at the Inspiration Trust, gave the closing address, 'What is Key Stage 3 history for?'

Teachers were shown how Norwich Castle can support them in their teaching of the Key Stage 3 History. Delegates then had the opportunity to join a variety of tours and workshops which showcased how a visit to the Castle can be relevant and engaging to their students. Sessions included workshops on our current Key Stage 3 events:

- William I: Hero or Villain?
- Storming the Castle (a Maths and History investigation into the siege of 1216)
- The Changing Face of Norwich (a Geography and History event)
- Slavery
- Norwich in the Industrial Revolution
- First World War

All teachers who completed evaluation forms rated the conference Outstanding or Good. This is the second conference of this type organised by the NMS learning team, who plan for it to be an annual highlight for secondary history teachers in the region.



6.3 New 'Knight Club' opening!

Norwich Castle is pleased to announce its inaugural *Knight Club*, which will commence in September. *Knight Club* is a new initiative, seeking to bring together historical knowledge and sports during six two-hour sessions held at Norwich Castle. Participants will discover the secrets of medieval arms and armour, tournament combat, battle tactics and many other skills necessary to be a successful knight. Each session will be led by a trained instructor, using specially designed protective equipment. Sessions are suitable for children aged 8-11.

The idea for this offer grew out of the successful Arms and Armour sessions offered at the Castle, with evaluation demonstrating how engaging this subject is. The Keep project Activity Plan development phase enabled staff to pilot a range of activities to explore the subject further—the Knight has proved a popular figure with museum audiences and staff will be using him as the 'friendly' face of the medieval period for further themed events and days.



6.4 Chatterbox News

The Learning Team has begun to develop a relationship with Chatterbox News who create recordings for the visually impaired community in Norwich. Alongside their talking newspapers they conduct interviews on a variety of topics including local history. Recently Chatterbox News contacted NMS regarding their contributing to this series. As well as creating their own magazine podcast, individual interviews are also made available to Future Radio, hospital radio and other talking newspapers. NMS Visitor Programme Manager Anna McCarthy met

with one of the Chatterbox team who came to conduct an interview about The Paston Treasure exhibition and events programme. There are now plans in place to contribute regular museum-based interviews. The podcast will appear in the next few weeks at: <https://www.cbtn.org.uk/listen-now/chataround-magazine>

6.5 A-level Biodiversity Conference at Norwich Castle

This conference has been designed for us and it provided an excellent message, commented one of the A-level delegates

In 2010, the UN International year of Biodiversity, NMS learning staff met with colleagues from the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) to plan an A level conference, with support from UEA, Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT), the Broads Authority (BA) and others. The endeavour has continued for nine years (all within the UN International decade of Biodiversity) and has gone from strength to strength, with the exciting recent addition of a Nobel laureate as a keynote speaker. On his second appearance in this role, Dr Jeff Price's keynote speech, 'Biodiversity – why should we care?', was a gallop through the topic, including remarks on the important role of museum Natural History collections and the vital (but endangered) status of traditional practices of Natural History in the academic study and practice of maintaining the earth's biodiversity. After his keynote, the 70 A level students from all over Norfolk, attended workshops led by Dr David Waterhouse, as well as colleagues from key partner organisations.

One teacher said: This event inspires sixth formers, opens their eyes to the truth beyond the curriculum and gives them inspiration ready for university applications. It was the first time I've seen the historic collections – they were mind blowing – a modern resource rather than Victorian legacy... This event has no accessible equivalents and is therefore invaluable to our students.

6.6 Courtroom Dramas

The partnership between NMS and the Springboard East Theatre Company has strengthened during 2018. Springboard have researched and scripted real-life trials that occurred in the historic Shirehall courtroom. Three dramas have been produced to date: the 1829 murder trial of John Stratford, the Dumpling Poisoner; the 1820s Downham Market food rioters; and a new drama featuring local suffragette Miriam Pratt who was accused of arson.

Feedback from visitors has been excellent and the performances have been very popular. In September we have project funding for a series of dramas for secondary schools.



6.7 HLF Kick the Dust programme

The Heritage Lottery Fund has now confirmed a grant of £776,500 for the project Norfolk Journeys, under the HLF's new Kick the Dust programme, with formal Permission to Start being issued on 17 July 2018. This consortium project is being delivered in partnership with YMCA Norfolk and Creative Collisions (a youth arts network based in Great Yarmouth). The project aims to engage with 11-25 year olds – including those most hard to reach - during a four year period from 2018-22. Through the project the young people will be able to participate in a range of structured heritage activities that will develop their skills, experience and confidence.

Recruitment of the HLF- funded Project Coordinator and x3 Project Worker posts is currently underway.

A summary of what the project aims to achieve:

“This project will create a model that will facilitate sustained engagement with the young people of Norfolk, including those most hard to reach. NMS will work with YMCA Norfolk and Creative Collisions, two organisations with a strong record of engaging the most vulnerable young people. Young people will create an individual journey into active engagement with Norfolk's heritage, using structured progression pathways based around a menu of options, tailored to meet individual needs. Specialise mentoring and the support of NMS will ensure young people reach their potential and achieve their aspirations. Outcomes for young people will include certificated skills and training, enhanced employment opportunities, active involvement in programming and a chance to shape the direction and governance of heritage organisations.”



The new project logo being used on social media accounts

6.8 Norwich Learning Manager

Colly Mudie is retiring from her role as Norwich Learning Manager following 17 years of service to NMS, based at both Norwich Castle and Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse. The recruitment process for her successor will commence during September.

7. Other Developments

7.1 Registrars wedding offer at Norwich Castle

The Registrars weddings offer at Norwich Castle continue to perform strongly with the number of bookings being up year on year. 2017-18 saw a total of 622 ceremonies conducted at Norwich Castle. This was an increase of 5% against the previous year.

7.2. History Mystery Escape Room games at the Museum of Norwich

NMS commenced its new working relationship with local company History Mystery in June this year, with 'escape room' games being hosted at the Museum of Norwich. The bookings started off being available during normal museum opening hours only. However due to demand, games are also now being booked for Saturday evenings. It is anticipated that in the coming months Friday evenings and Sundays will also be made available for bookings.

The Museum of Norwich game, called The Merchants' Vaults, is linked to the collections within the museum and sees players, 'trapped' in the past with no money. Thankfully, Norwich has a long history of thriving industries and it's up to the team to find a way to use them to survive and make it back to the present. Teams of between two and eight players have exactly one hour to master the secrets of Norwich's industrial past before time runs out. A series of puzzles and challenges are scattered through four evocative underground rooms, each

focused on a different industry, reflecting the themes of the museum above. Fantastic settings and authentic looking props add to the atmosphere and intrigue.

All participants have thoroughly enjoyed the games and there have been positive reviews on Trip Advisor.



7.3 Norwich Castle external lift improvements

After a lengthy spell out of commission due to a major fault, the external Castle lift is currently operational. Following the tendering process for the full refurbishment of the lift funded through the NCC capital programme, there will be a 4 month lead time on the fabrication of the new lift carriage. Work to undertake the refurbishment of the lift will commence in early winter, with completion scheduled for January/February 2019. The refurbishment project will include a new lift carriage, new electric motor operating control systems to replace the current hydraulic systems, improvements to both entrances of the lift and works to eradicate water ingress.

7.4 Twilight Tickets analysis at Norwich Castle

Following discussion at the last meeting of the Area Museums Committee, a basic analysis of the *Pop in for £2 Twilight Ticket* at Norwich Castle was undertaken in summer 2018, with 195 visitors who purchased Twilight Tickets being sampled over two months of the summer. The analysis was as follows:

54% of Twilight Ticket purchases were from visitors from NR postcodes

Of those within the NR postcodes:

73% had visited before
27% had not visited before
69% were from the Greater Norwich area
31% were from the wider County

Of those who had visited:

78% had previously visited within the last year
22% had not

51% were in groups of 2 or more visitors
49% were single visitors

46% of Twilight Ticket sales were from visitors outside of Norfolk.

Of those visitors outside of Norfolk:

82% had not visited before
18% had visited before
20% were international visitors
80% were UK visitors from outside Norfolk

Of those who had visited before:

98% had not visited in the last year
2% had

84 % were in groups of 2 or more visitors
16% were single visitors

7.5 Opportunities in Work and Learning

The Opportunities in Work and Learning (OWL) initiative which has been pioneered at Norwich Castle has been very successful. Harlan, who has been on placement at Norwich Castle since January, has been the focus of a front page article in the *Independence Matters* publication.

A copy of the article will be circulated during the meeting.

7.6 Conservation of the Winfarthing Anglo-Saxon Pendant

A nationally-significant Anglo-Saxon gold treasure found in a Norfolk field has been saved for the nation following a fundraising appeal. The grave assemblage was unearthed by a metal-detectorist in a field at Winfarthing, near Diss, in 2014.

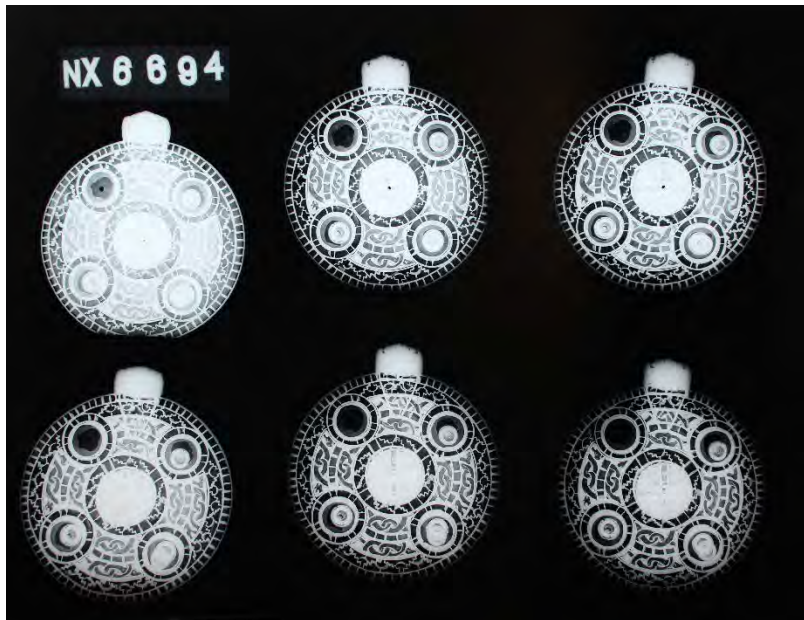
The grave included a necklace made up of two gold beads, two pendants made from identical Merovingian coins and a gold cross pendant inlaid with delicate filigree wire. Most remarkable was a large pendant worn lower down on the woman's chest. Made of gold, it has hundreds of tiny garnets inlaid into it, with interlacing beasts and geometrical shapes.

For more information on the discovery please see:

<http://www.edp24.co.uk/features/amazing-anglo-saxon-pendant-joins-the-ranks-of-major-treasures-discovered-in-our-region-1-3972534>

The find was declared Treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act and was valued by the government's independent Treasure Valuation Committee. This prompted a public appeal by the Friends of Norwich Museums to raise the money to save it. With help from a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF), Art Fund and the Friends of Norwich Museums, the money was been raised and it is currently on display at Norwich Castle Anglo Saxon gallery before it goes on loan to the British Library Anglo Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War 19 October- 19 February 2019.

The assemblage was received by the Conservation Department following excavation in 2015. Initially this was to pack the object appropriately for storage and transportation for its safe journey to the Treasure valuation committee. A radiograph was taken of the assemblage in our first stage of investigative work to assist in the valuation process. This helped ascertain the technology of the object which eventually assisted in the cleaning and conservation on purchase in the summer of 2018.



Radiograph of the pendant

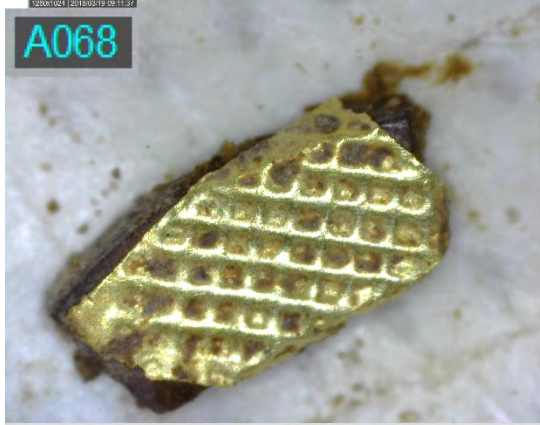
The pendant is a gold disc inlaid with garnets, with a garnet inlaid central boss and four radiating bosses. On the reverse are corresponding garnet inlaid studs. The pendant was covered with hardened soil, sand and iron corrosion

product. The grave goods had not been cleaned or over handled prior to conservation treatment. Initial assessment of the pendant revealed how crucial this minimal initial intervention had been, as many of the garnets, which sit in individual cells often measuring less than 1x1 mm, were only held in place by dry and sandy soil from which the pendant was excavated. This was also the case for the central boss, which sat loosely on the surface of the pendant. Loss of many of the garnets would surely have been the case if cleaning had been attempted immediately on discovery.



The pendant before conservation

The pendant was cleaned cell by cell under the microscope, using very fine tools. Small quantities of alcohol were introduced using brushes and purified cotton wool swabs to soften or remove residues of soil. The majority of the loose garnets, some broken, had 'collapsed' into their cell, which had then filled with soil. This resulted in the waffled gold foil under the garnet being either loose or crushed. In order to re-secure the garnet, the garnet and the gold foil had to be lifted out, cleaned and replaced. Some garnets had foil wrapped around their underside, pinched around the edges, probably to help wedge the garnet in its cell. This accentuates the importance of working under high magnification, understanding the technology of the object being worked on and the importance of a conservator's steady hand. The garnets were painstakingly adhered in situ. Once the obverse was stabilised, the object could be turned over and the reverse worked on.



Garnets 'wrapped' in gold foil.



Object conservator Jonathan Clark ACR working under high magnification and using a further digital microscope to aid the assessment and stabilisation



Conservation completed and all garnets secured

Meticulous record keeping is essential during a conservation treatment process



The reverse of the pendant cleaned and stabilised

7.7 New Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art

Dr Rosy Gray has recently been appointed to the post of Curator of Modern & Contemporary Art. Prior to joining NMS, Rosy worked for the Ferens Art Gallery

in Hull and as a freelance curator. Rosy has previously worked for NMS, based in the Fine Art department.

8. Visitor Numbers

After an exceptional year in 2017/18 with record breaking visitor numbers of 222,260 at Norwich Castle, this financial year sites have seen a decline in visitor numbers when comparing year on year. The heatwave experienced across summer 2018 has also been impactful, resulting in a 7% decrease in visitor numbers at Norwich Castle to the end of July.

The Museum of Norwich and Strangers Hall have seen a 20% decrease in visitor numbers compared to last year. This is largely as a result of a 32% reduction in visits across the two sites for the Freeman event in July and this is mainly attributed to the weather.

Detailed visitor numbers will be circulated at the meeting.

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