

The Friends of the Norwich Museums (FNM)

The FNM is the second oldest museum support group in the country. We are an independent charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission and run by trustees elected annually by our members. An updated Constitution was approved in 2011 under which the objects of the Trust were defined as ***‘the education of the public by promotion, support, assistance and improvement of the Norwich Museums...’***

One of the most important ways in which the FNM helps the Norwich Museums today is by what we call ‘priming the pump.’ Quite often museum curators do not have an acquisitions budget, so in order to acquire items for the collections they have to apply to national organisations such as the Arts Fund or the HLF. However, they cannot get that funding unless they have been promised a percentage of local funding, therefore they apply to the FNM Council for this funding.

We also help pay for conservation of objects which are already in the collections as well as helping to fund larger projects such as the refurbishment of The Bridewell.

As examples of recent funding, the FNM has helped to acquire a rare Delft plate with a Norwich inscription. Four new benches have been provided for the Colman Art Galleries so that weary visitors can rest while they contemplate the Norwich School pictures.

The Friends have provided £31,500 towards the refurbishment of The Bridewell, which consisted of £25,000 originally promised by the Friends and also an extra £6,500 which was generously provided via the FNM by three other local charities: The Town Close Charity, The John Jarrold Trust and The Parson Woodforde Society.

Also, over the past five years the FNM has given £2,000 per year to Norwich Castle’s Collecting Cultures scheme which was set up to acquire important items for the Archaeological collections.

This year we are providing the funding to keep Strangers Hall open for an extra two days a week from the end of May until the end of September so that this wonderful building can be enjoyed by a greater number of people.

FNM Volunteers also act as Room Stewards at Strangers Hall as well as helping in the Castle and The Bridewell. There is also a team of Volunteers who work hard to keep the garden at Strangers Hall looking wonderful.

This is just a short resume indicating some of the various ways in which the FNM has supported the Norwich Museums – ‘Pump-priming,’ conservation, acquisitions, refurbishment, public accessibility and volunteers - a wide range of activities of which we feel justly proud.

Ceri Lamb