

## Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 13 September 2016**  
Time: **14:00**  
Venue: **Town Close auditorium, Norwich Castle**

**[Venue Address]**

### For further information please contact:

#### Committee members:

**Norwich City Council:** Councillors Brociek-Coulton (chair), Davis, Jones (T), Maguire, Price and Thomas (Vivien)

**Norfolk County Council:** Councillors Bremner, Dearnley, Morgan, Sands (M) and Hannah (vice chair), (1 vacancy)

**Co-opted non-voting members:** Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society), Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Ceri Lamb (Friends of Norwich Museums), Councillor Buck (Broadland District Council), Councillor Hardy (South Norfolk Council)

Committee officer: Lucy Palmer  
t: (01603) 212416  
e: [lucypalmer@norwich.gov.uk](mailto:lucypalmer@norwich.gov.uk)

Democratic services  
City Hall  
Norwich  
NR2 1NH

[www.norwich.gov.uk](http://www.norwich.gov.uk)

### 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.



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.

## Agenda

### 1 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence

### 2 Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public (notice to be given to committee officer in advance of the meeting in accordance with 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 14 June 2016

### 5 Norwich Museums briefing for period June to August 2016 11 - 22

**Purpose** - To update members on the work of the Norwich museums to August 2016

(Please note that a short presentation on the Teaching Museum programme will be included in this update)

### 6 Norfolk Contemporary Art Society report - September 2016 23 - 24

**Purpose** - To update members on the work of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society

Date of publication: **Monday, 05 September 2016**





## Norwich Area Museums committee

14 June 2016

Maquire

City Councillors Price and Thomas, County Councillors Morgan and Sands (M), Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Councillor Ward (ex officio member)

## Page 4 of 23

## 6. Norwich Museums briefing for period March to May 2016

The head of operations and learning and the operations manager presented the report. During discussion the officers referred to the report and answered members' questions.

The committee noted that there had been 45,000 visitors to the show *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* during its run to 30 May 2016, which equalled previous years' spring shows *Homage to Manet* and *Roman Empire*. The show had been aimed at families and children and visitor numbers had peaked during school holidays and weekends. The committee was amused to hear from Councillor Bremner that the Whifflers had fought off the Great Yarmouth Vikings to the adoration of the children in attendance.

The head of operations and learning said that there would be a procession of heavy horses at 11:30 on Saturday, 18 June 2016, from Chapelfield Park to Norwich Castle Museum and a ceremonial crate would be delivered to promote the British Art Show 8. This prestigious travelling show would include a presentation specifically tailored to reflect the East Anglian location and would open on 24 June 2016. The procession was organised in partnership with the city council's events team.

The committee noted that the current exhibition on trade tokens at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell and accompanying talks had been well attended by metal detectorists, enthusiasts and new visitors to the museum. Members welcomed the synergy between events at the museums and other events in the city, such as the Fashion Jam and the city council's One Planet Festival; and events at the Museum of Norwich and the City of Ale Festival. The chair said that the ERM CIC Norwich shoe industry community project had run an event at the Silver Rooms Community Centre. Members considered that the success of these projects and events were a credit to the enthusiasm of the curators and the learning team and provided an opportunity to engage with other interest groups and the wider community. Members also considered that specialist interest or taster events were excellent opportunities to view the collections, such as the Norwich Shawls, in detail.

During discussion the committee noted that the Friends of Norwich Museums had provided funding to support the fine art curator's research trip to Vienna researching artefacts pictured in the Paston Treasure painting that will inform the development of the Paston exhibition scheduled for 2018. Ceri Lamb said that the Friends of Norwich Museums had provided the funding for a bid by the keeper of historic art to conserve four or five works by Cloughton Pellow. The Friends has also supported the acquisition of a 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century gold pendant cross. Brenda Ferris said that The Norfolk Contemporary Art Society had contributed to the acquisition of the Andrew Dadson painting.

Members noted that Norwich Castle had been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge and was therefore an approved venue for school visits.

The operations manager explained the arrangements for commercial bookings and the use of Norwich Castle and Strangers Hall as wedding venues, which generated additional income for Norfolk Museums Service. A debate on the referendum had been filmed for Channel 4 in the Shirehall and was broadcast on 6 June 2016. In

reply to a question from the chair, the head of operations and learning said that Norwich Castle was a museum first and a wedding venue second. There was a waiting room for wedding guests so there should not be any congestion at the entrance to Norwich Castle Museum.

The committee noted the visitor numbers had met performance targets and that the difference for attendances for May and April in 2015 and 2016 reflected where Easter fell and later half term holiday this year.

The committee agreed to the head of operations and learning's suggestion to invite the curators at the Museum of Norwich to give a presentation on the Dementia Friends project and the action plan.

The committee noted that the Museum of Norwich was the first museum in the region to host 150 artefacts on the Google Institute Website. Members sought reassurance that Norfolk Museums Service would retain the copyright of the images and, rather than deter potential visitors, virtual tours would promote and raise awareness of the collections to a broader audience.

The committee welcomed the news that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had awarded an initial development grant of £462,400 for the Keep Project. This was the first round and a further bid would be made for an earmarked £8.7 million at a future date. The first round bid supplemented by a £1 million government grant had been a strong bid and there was still a lot of development work and discussions with the HLF, the city council and English Heritage. The committee would be part of the process and it was suggested that Dr John Davis, should be invited to attend a future meeting to update the committee on the progress. The medieval exhibition would be contained within the keep where it was proposed to replace an additional floor at balcony level and other exhibitions and galleries in the museum would be largely unaffected. The 1960s extension would be replaced with a glass atrium, which would improve the flow of visitors to the shop, café and main part of museum and the sight lines to the keep. Members noted that at this early planning stage the works were anticipated to last around 12 months and the museum would remain open during that period. The development stage would consider the operational arrangements, including taking museum services out into the community and the need to review entrance fee arrangements to take account of any significantly reduced offer. The committee would receive regular updates at its meetings and it was suggested that Dr John Davis to give a presentation to a future meeting. The Paston Treasures exhibition would be on while the keep was unavailable to visitors.

Discussion ensued on staffing and the importance of retaining good quality curators and museums officers to ensure funding from the Arts Council and to ensure the success of projects such as the Keep Project, which was predicated on a high quality curatorial and learning expertise. Nine employees in the museums service were currently undertaking professional training to become Associates of the Museums Association. Training opportunities for museums staff was co-ordinated across all museums in the East of England through the SHARE workforce development programme and there were other subject specialist networks which benefited the organisation.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note the Norwich Museums briefing for the period November 2015 to February 2016;
- (2) record the committee's appreciation of the invaluable support and financial assistance provided by the Friends of Norwich Museums and the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society;
- (3) invite the curators at the Museum of Norwich to give a presentation on making the committee more dementia friendly museum;
- (4) note that there will be regular updates on the Keep project at meetings and to ask Dr John Davis to give a presentation to update members at a future meeting.

(The chair agreed to take the following items as urgent business. The committee officer noted that Norfolk Contemporary Art Society and the Friends of Norwich Museums should be invited to submit a written report to be included on the agenda for each meeting.)

**7. Norfolk Contemporary Art Society**

Brenda Ferris, the chair of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS), presented an oral report to update members on the activities of the society and its preparations for its sixtieth anniversary. She confirmed that the exhibition of the paintings in Norwich Castle's collections which the society had either lent, gifted or part-funded would be held in September. Sir Timothy Colman would open the exhibition.

A copy of the society's summer programme was circulated at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**8. Friends of Norwich in Bloom**

The chair reported that the international judges of Communities in Bloom would be judging Norwich on 7 July 2016 and would start their tour at Norwich Castle. She said that she considered that the history of the castle and its history would make an impression on the judges, one of whom was American.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**9. Friends of Norwich Museums**

**RESOLVED** to receive the spring edition of the Friends of Norwich Museums newsletter, which was circulated at the meeting.

## **10. Dates of meetings**

**RESOLVED** to ask the committee officer to circulated dates of meetings for the civic year 2016-17.

(As agreed at the city council's annual council on 24 May 2016, meetings of the Norwich area museums committee will be held at 14:00 on:

Tuesday, 13 September 2016;  
Tuesday, 13 December 2016;  
Tuesday, 7 March 2017.

CHAIR





Norwich Area Museums Committee 13 September 2016

## Norwich Museums briefing for period June to August 2016

### A. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

#### A1. *British Art Show 8* (24 June – 4 Sept 2016)

*British Art Show 8*, one of the most prestigious contemporary art exhibitions in the country, is for the first time in its history currently in East Anglia. Hosted by Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery and Norwich University of the Arts and, *British Art Show 8* opened to the public on 24 June 2016, with three venues across the City of Norwich. Norwich is one of only four UK venues for this show and is the closest location to London.

Part of Hayward Touring's comprehensive exhibition programme, designed to showcase and celebrate the country's leading role in the international art scene, *The British Art Show* is a five-yearly exhibition. For its eighth incarnation 42 established and emerging contemporary artists are represented and the show features more than 100 works – many of which were commissioned or made especially for the exhibition.



Detail of Diagrams of Love: Marriage of Eyes, 2015  
© Linder Sterling/Dovecot Studios Ltd. 2015  
Courtesy the artist, Stuart Shave/Modern Art and Dovecot Studios Ltd.

Norwich is the third venue of *British Art Show 8*'s tour and curators Anna Colin and Lydia Yee, together with curators from both Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery and Norwich University of the Arts, have devised a special presentation for the City. This, together with works, which have been developed over the run of the exhibition tour to date, plus totally new additions, makes the Norwich showing unique and distinct from previous versions in Leeds and Edinburgh.

All the artists were selected based on their work and significant contribution to the British and international art scene over the past five years.

The exhibition includes works by Ryan Gander, who lives and works in Saxmundham, Suffolk, together with the atmospheric sea paintings created on Dunwich beach in Suffolk by NUA alumna Jessica Warboys. Alan Kane has contributed a range of unusual gallery seating constructed from granite gravestones.

## **A2. The History Train (Saturday 18 June)**

To celebrate the exhibition's arrival in the City, Great Yarmouth and London-based artist Alan Kane, whose work is also featured in *British Art Show 8*, devised a spectacular public event which took place on Saturday 18 June.

Entitled *The History Train*, the event married East Anglia's rich past with brand new contemporary art. A parade of ten heavy horses – including Suffolk Punch Trojan from NMS's Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse – pulled a range of decorated wagons which delivered both *British Art Show 8* art works and related material to the key venues. This inspired event was conceived to combine vivid spectacle with a practical purpose, raising fundamental questions about the nature of art and audience engagement as well as providing a memorable public occasion.

A video of the event can be viewed at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89vmUnbSk5Q>

Commenting on the inspiration behind the project, Alan Kane said: *"The horses and their tack and wagons never fail to draw a gasp from almost everyone when they are on show or working. Here we celebrate the very newest art from Britain by delivering it in one of the most traditional and spectacular ways imaginable, making an art history and transport-history collision."*

A significant part of the event were the striking and highly polished horse-brasses attached to the horses' harnesses which were specially designed by members of the public following an invitation to submit designs. Twenty six designs were sent in, ranging from a bird in profile, a compass, a fish, snowdrops and a wheelchair to a depiction of Great Yarmouth races and an RAF badge. The brasses were cast by Alan Kane in the bronze foundry at Norwich University of the Arts.



The History Train in Norwich city centre

### **A3. Colman Gallery temporary displays (until Jan/March 2017)**

A display of drawings and prints by the artist Claughton Pellew (1890-1966) is currently on show in the Colman Project Space, exploring the harmony of country life on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the artist's death.

A selection of works by the priest, artist and antiquarian Edward Thomas Daniell (1840-1842) is also currently on show in the Colman Watercolour Gallery, featuring watercolours from his travels across Europe and the Middle East.

### **A4. *Sixty years On – Highlights from Norwich Castle's Collection* (Timothy Gurney Gallery from 24 September 2017)**

This exhibition showcases the modern and contemporary art acquired over the last 60 years with the support of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society. The show includes a range of works by artists including Prunella Clough, Graham Sutherland, Keith Vaughan and Frances Kearney.

### **A5. The Battle of the Somme and the Norfolk Regiment**

Four battalions of the Norfolk Regiment fought in this bloody battle between 1 July and 13 November 1916. Opened in July, this is the third of a series of rotunda displays commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

## **A6. Forthcoming exhibitions**

### ***Fisherman and Kings: The photography of Olive Edis (8 Oct – 22 Jan 2017)***

This exhibition will celebrate the pioneering and important work of Olive Edis, a Norfolk photographer based in Sheringham whose unique and arresting images, often immortalising local people, place her at the forefront of modern photography. This show is being curated by Alistair Murphy, the Curator at Cromer Museum who is an expert on the life and work of Olive Edis. The Norwich exhibition of her work complements the HLF funded project at Cromer Museum that will be transform access to the work of this influential female photographer. A catalogue is being produced to complement the show.



'Belcher' Johnson & autochrome self-portrait images from the NMS Oliver Edis collection

### ***Small Stories: At Home in a Doll's House (4 Mar – 25 June 2017)***

Selected as one of only two UK regional venues, NCM will host this international touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood. Showcasing a stunning collection of twelve of their best dolls' houses, this exhibition will attract families and doll's house enthusiasts from across Norfolk and beyond.





Kaleidoscope House  
Laurie Simmons, Peter Wheelwright and Bozart, USA, 2001  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London

## **A7. Exhibitions at the Museum of Norwich**

### **A celebration of the YMCA in Norwich & Norfolk (6 Sept – 15 Oct)**

This exhibition has been developed and assembled by young people from the YMCA as part of an HLF project supported by the MoN. The exhibition marks mark 160 of the YMCA organisation working in Norwich.



### **Token Traders (March-July)**

The Trade Tokens exhibition was curated by numismatist Adrian Marsden and explored the tokens were issued by traders in the city in the seventeenth century at a time of an acute shortage of small change. The exhibition was the focus for a number of events and activities including children's competitions and specialist talks.



Visitors enjoy the trade tokens display



Trade token for Jeremiah Hovell

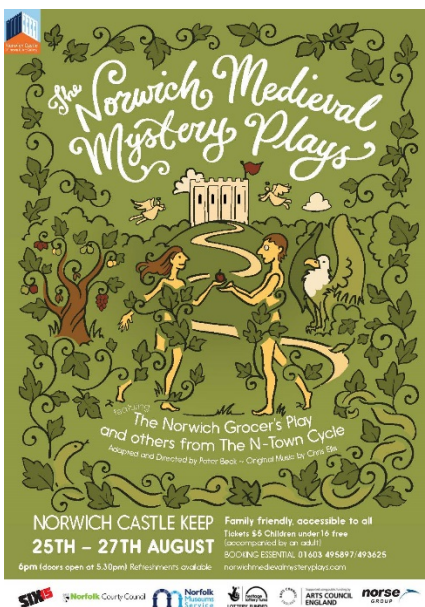
## B. Events

### B1. *Medieval Madness* at Norwich Castle

The *Medieval Madness* family events programme ran at the Castle throughout the school summer holidays and will also form part of the evaluation for the Keep project Activity Plan. Activities included crafts, arms & armour demonstrations, Shakespeare's Soapbox, Medieval fighting and stonemasonry demonstrations. There was also a programme of guided tours of the Keep fighting galleries.

### B2. Norwich Medieval Mystery Plays

On three evenings 25-27 August Norwich Castle hosted the Norwich Medieval Mystery Plays, adapted and directed by Peter Beck. The performance featured the Norwich Grocer's Play and N-Town Cycle, using original music by Chris Ellis. The Keep provided an atmospheric setting for the three performances, all of which were sold out.



### **B3. BAS8 Takeover days**

To celebrate the arrival of BAS8 in Norwich, members of the Young Norfolk Arts team joined forces with students from Norwich University of the Arts and the Sainsbury Centre Young Associates group to produce two special takeover events. The event at Norwich Castle on Saturday 9 July was a considerable success, attracting many visitors for a free evening of BAS8 related entertainment. NUA hosted its own takeover event on Saturday 6 August.

### **B4. Chocolate City!**

The Museum of Norwich ran a programme of chocolate-themed events during the school summer holidays exploring the story of chocolate-making in Norwich.

### **B5. City of Ale festival**

The Museum of Norwich supported the City of Ale festival in May and June. This new initiative has been led by Bethan Holdridge, Curatorial Assistant, who developed a Pop up Museum project as part of the festival.

### **B6. A Shakespearean summer**

A series of events with a Shakespeare theme were organised over the school summer holidays at Strangers' Hall. Visitors were able to discover life in Shakespeare's time including a puppy theatre with Hurdy Gurdy, writing with a quill pen, deciphering old documents and taking an "Elizabethan selfie" using a range of props. Some events were delivered in partnership with the NCC Lifelong Learning team and the Library Service.

### **B7. How the Horse Became**

On Saturday 18 June 2016, to coincide with BAS8's spectacular History Train event in Norwich, the NMS Natural History department (Curator David Waterhouse and Teaching Museum Trainee John Holdaway) held a 'How the Horse Became' handling session in the Bird Gallery at Norwich Castle Museum. Through the use of different horse-related objects, the story of horse evolution was explained to curious visitors. These included a Hippopotamus skull, a Zebra skull and Zebra leg bones, and a one million-year-old fossilised horse tooth and hoof bone! There were descriptions of how hippos and horses shared a common ancestor some 55 million years ago, and how horse's legs have evolved over many millions of years to enable them to move quickly and efficiently. Other objects on show were specimens from the Natural History collections that have the word 'horse' in their name, such as a Horseshoe Crab, Seahorses, Horse Chestnut leaves and Horseshoe Vetch. Visitors were able to discover how these organisms came to bare their 'horsey' names.



## **B8. Snapdragons**

A programme of activities tailored for 2-4 year olds ran monthly at Norwich Castle during term time. Toddlers and their carers had the opportunity to meet 'Snap' the dragon puppet and take part in a range of activities inspiring imagination and conversation through stories, trails, museum objects and hands-on crafts.

## **B9. Talking Textiles**

These monthly talks for adults took place at the Norwich Castle Study Centre in Shirehall. Each talk was illustrated with objects from the important costume and textile collection. Subjects included *Dress Fancy* exploring party wear, and *Life's a Beach* considering seaside and nautical fashion.

## **Curatorial update**

### **C1. Major Loans**

A major group of fourteen objects is currently on loan for the prestigious exhibition *The Celts*, previously at the British Museum and currently on show at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh until 25 September 2016. The items include a stunning drinking horn-terminal in the form of a bovine head with flaring nostrils, which shows incredible design and attention to detail.



### **C2. Art Department Research**

Curators Francesca Vanke and Giorgia Bottinelli are currently researching a major loan exhibition about Rembrandt scheduled for autumn 2017. The theme of this show is *Lightening the Darkness* – and, focusing chiefly on Norwich Castle's magnificent but little-known collection of over 90 of Rembrandt's etchings, will explore the artist's physical and metaphorical uses of light and shadow, used to such stunning effect in his works in both print, painting and drawing. Francesca Vanke is also working with the Yale Center for British Art on an internationally important loan show for 2018, based around the painting of *The Paston Treasure*. The exhibition will bring together as many pieces from the Pastons' extensive collections of gold and silver as can be located, together with a dazzling array of paintings, musical instruments, jewels, and other objects from the seventeenth century.



Rembrandt van Rijn  
*Self-portrait with Saskia*, c 1636  
 Etching, Norwich Castle Museum



Nautilus shell and silver-gilt cup  
 Holland, c. 1630  
 Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam

### C3. Norwich Roll of Honour

The conservation and relocation project for the Norwich Roll of Honour is ongoing, funded by the Town Close Estates Trust, Geoffrey Watling Trust, Carters and the War Memorials Trust.



The Roll of Honour

The wall mounted case about 9' high and almost 11' long with folding oak panels listing the names, was installed in the Keep of Norwich Castle on 13 January 1931. Over the years the oak panels had warped, and become scuffed and dirty. It is now in the conservator's studio, from where it will be re-installed in the front entrance of City Hall ready for 11 November 2016.

#### **C4. Stranger's Hall**

Curatorial work has continued to focus on the assessment and identification of the extensive doll's house furniture as part of preparations for the *Small Stories* exhibition of doll's houses from the V&A which Norwich Castle Museum will be hosting 4 March – 25 June 2017. The 18<sup>th</sup> century doll's house Norwich Baby House is being conserved and redisplayed as part of the programme for the exhibition as a whole, to form the highlight of 'Small Stories at Strangers' element, which will also offer a display opportunity for star items from this significant collection and provide a service-wide trail for doll's houses on display across the county.

#### **D. Formal Learning**

##### **D1. GCSE History conference**

On 18 July the Norwich Learning Team ran a day conference for GCSE History teachers. The day was organised by Learning Officer Jenni Williams and builds on a number of initiatives aimed at growing the level of usage and engagement at KS3 and GCSE. Over 20 teachers attended the day from across Norfolk and beyond. This event was well attended and further sessions are planned. A number of new offers are being developed at the Castle to support the new History GCSE syllabus and the increased importance being placed on visits to heritage and cultural sites.

##### **D2. Group for Education in Museums Conference 2016**

The Learning Manager and Head of Operations & Learning attended the GEM conference in Edinburgh in August, contributing a workshop on effective advocacy for learning services.

#### **E. Other Developments**

##### **E1. Corporate activities**

Norwich Castle has seen a very busy period, hosting events ranging from civic receptions to weddings and corporate hires and events. The Castle hosted an EU Referendum debate on 6<sup>th</sup> June, aired live on Channel 4, hosted by Jon Snow and focussed on the views of the under 25 voting age group.

##### **E2. Norwich Registrars Weddings**

Since the commencement of registry office weddings at Norwich Castle on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016, we have seen an ever increasing number of ceremonies take place. So far this financial year up to the end of July, over 250 ceremonies have

been completed within the Benefactors Room. The wedding parties for these ceremonies have culminated in additional visitor numbers at Norwich Castle of 7,661 for the first third of 2016/17.



The Benefactors Room dressed for a wedding

### **E3. Strangers' Hall weddings**

Strangers' Hall has seen a good number of ceremonies take place, with eight weddings booked in 2016. A review of wedding provision at Strangers Hall is currently underway.

### **E4. Mystery shopping and visitor feedback**

Norwich Castle Museum is participating in a regional programme of Mystery Shopping organised by SHARE Museums East. Visitor feedback is also being collated through evaluation being conducted for the Keep project and related to individual formal and informal learning activities. Social media channels and online sites are regularly monitored for visitor feedback including TripAdvisor. Staff across NMS also receive regular comments and suggestions from visitors regarding services, facilities, collections and exhibitions. One of these visitor comments will be tabled at this meeting for consideration by Members.

### **E5. Keep Project**

The Keep team received official Permission to Start from the Heritage Lottery Fund on 14th July and have now embarked upon the Development Phase of the project. Since then, activity has been focused on the appointment of a Client Team, who will initially include a Project Manager and Cost Advisor. Preparations are underway for a metric survey of the Keep interior, scheduled for the end of October. Other work continues around fundraising and delivering initial events and activities, both in the Castle and at the Cathedral. Teams have been formed to progress the Activity Plan, Interpretation Plan and Communication and Marketing Plan.

## **F. Visitor Numbers**

Detailed visitor figures up to the end of August will be circulated at the meeting.

### **Report contact:**

Dr Robin Hanley  
Head of Operations and Learning  
Norfolk Museums Service  
Shirehall,  
Market Avenue,  
Norwich NR1 3JQ.  
Tel: 01603 493663  
Email: [robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk)

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society

Report to Norwich Area Museums Committee, September 13<sup>th</sup> 2016

### 60 years of NCAS

As I reported to the Committee in March, 2016 marks the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society, which was set up in 1956, initially chaired by Lettice Colman, in order to encourage the Castle Museum to acquire work in the modern idiom to balance its fine collection of the nineteenth-century Norwich School of painters. Since then the Society has acquired its own art collection which forms the basis of holdings in post-war art in the Castle. Among the items the NCAS has lent to the Castle are works by Edward Barker, Jeffrey Camp, Prunella Clough, Eduardo Paolozzi, Graham Sutherland and Colin Self. Pieces that the Society has purchased and then given to the Norfolk Museums Service include works by Derrick Greaves, Howard Hodgkin, L.S. Lowry, Mary Mellor and Derek Morris. In addition other works have been part-funded by the NCAS, the latest being a contribution of £3,000 in January towards the acquisition of an Andrew Dadson photograph, now in the Castle collection.

I mentioned in March that we were hoping to stage an exhibition of those NCAS-funded works in the Castle collection to mark our 60<sup>th</sup> and I am very pleased to tell you that this exhibition will now be taking place - and here I would like to take the opportunity profoundly to thank the dedicated Castle staff who have made this possible. In fact the exhibition is due to be opened by a descendant of its first Chair in the Timothy Gurney Gallery on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. At the same time we shall be launching an updated version of the Society's history, *Sixty Years On*, which I'll be distributing to committee members at your next meeting, when hopefully we shall also be able to tour the exhibition, since it is due to run well into next year. You may be interested to know that some of the early work in particular is now quite valuable, and is regularly on demand for loans to exhibitions elsewhere. For instance the Allen Jones painting, *Thinking about women*, will not feature in the Castle exhibition because it will be travelling to the Kunstmuseum in Wolfsburg, Germany, for a major exhibition on British Pop Art (from 30 October 2016 to 19 February, 2017). For anyone who is interested there is a full inventory on our website ([www.n-cas.org.uk](http://www.n-cas.org.uk)) of all the artworks in our 'Castle collection', including other works visible around the City, such as the George Fullard *Mother and child* sculpture in the Cathedral Close and Bernard Reynolds' *Parrot head* in the Castle Gardens.

Brenda Ferris DL,

Chair, Norfolk Contemporary Art Society

