

Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 11 July 2017**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Town Close Auditorium, Norwich Castle**

For further information please contact:

Committee members:

Committee officer: Jackie Rodger
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Norwich City Council:

Councillors Bradford, Brociek-Coulton,
Herries, Jones (T), Maxwell and Price

Norfolk County Council:

Councillors Butikofer, Jones (B), Nobbs,
Rumsby and Ward (1 vacancy)

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 Ceri Lamb (Friends of the Norwich
Museums) Councillor Hardy (South Norfolk
Council)

www.norwich.gov.uk

Ex-officio member: Councillor Buck

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 Appointment of chair

To appoint a chair for the ensuing civic year

2 Appointment of vice chair

To appoint a vice chair for the ensuing civic year

3 Apologies

To receive apologies for absence

4 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)

5 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)

6 Minutes

5 - 10

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2017

7 Norwich Museums Briefing February to June 2017

11 - 24

To receive the report on the activities of the Norwich museums for the period February to June 2017, including presentations on the Nelson exhibition from Curator Ruth Battersby-Tooke and the Castle Keep Project from Angela

Ripley, Keep Project Manager

8 The Friends of the Norwich Museums update 25 - 26

To receive an update from Ceri Lamb on the activities of the Friends of the Norwich Museums

9 Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS) Update 27 - 28

To receive an update from Brenda Ferris on the activities of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS)

Date of publication: **Wednesday, 05 July 2017**



MINUTES

Norwich Area Museums Committee

14:00 to 16:00

7 March 2017

Present:	City Councillors: Brociek-Coulton (chair) Davis Jones (T) Price Thomas (Vi)	County Councillors Hannah (vice chair) Bearman Bremner Morgan Sands
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Co-opted voting members:

Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society)
 Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund)
 Ceri Lamb (Friends of Norwich Museums)
 Councillor Buck (Broadland District Council)
 Councillor Hardy (South Norfolk Council)

County Councillor John Ward (chairman, Norfolk Joint Museums committee) (ex officio member)

Apologies: City Councillor Maguire

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2016, subject to item 4, Norwich Museums briefing for period August to December 2016 to insert a resolution (4) to ask officers to include committee members in the development of the environment strategy.

3. Freeman 700

(Nigel Back, chairman of the Freeman's Committee and the Town Close Estate Charity, attended the meeting for this item.)

Nigel Back gave a short presentation to the committee. He explained the origins and objectives of the Town Close Estate Charity. The charity's funding was derived from the sale of land between Ipswich Road and Newmarket Road which had been owned by the Freeman of the City. The trustees had decided that it was in the interests of

the beneficiaries to reinvest the proceeds. The charity was keen to support educational and heritage projects, such as the Keep project, and provided means tested grants to Freemen and their families for educational and welfare purposes. 2017 was the 700th anniversary of the first recorded Freeman of the city in 1317. The charity had produced a newsletter which would be circulated to members of the committee. Events to mark this occasion included school visits to talk about the history of the Freemen of the City and their role in medieval Norwich to the current day. In July, the charity would be funding free open days at the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell and Strangers' Hall to promote the history of trades in the city. The charity was also keen to promote apprenticeships for young people to take up trades. As part of the 700 anniversary events a database was being created which would list every Freeman of the City since 1317.

Dr Robin Hanley, the head of operations and learning, said that Norfolk Museums Service was very grateful for the support that it had received from the Town Close Estate Charity. Nigel Back said that the trustees recognised that a key part of the museums service was the role of the curators behind the scenes and the trustees welcomed approaches for help.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) thank Nigel Back for his interesting talk;
- (2) note that a copy of the Freemen's newsletter will be circulated to members with the minutes of the meeting.

4. Norwich Museums Briefing December 2016 to February 2017

Following on from a request at a previous meeting, Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, curator of historic art, gave a presentation with the aid of slides on the discovery made when the René Magritte painting "The Human Condition". was undergoing conservation work in preparation for display in Paris. This led to the discovery that the canvas of the painting had previously been used as one quarter of the artist's painting "The Enchanted Pose" which had been exhibited in 1927. This was an exciting discovery as previously parts of this painting had been discovered under paintings held at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm, and the Norwich quarter gave a better indication of the colours used in the original painting. There was still a quarter to be discovered. During discussion the committee noted the need of artists to reuse canvasses for economic reasons. The committee noted that "The Human Condition" was currently in Frankfurt but it was hoped would be displayed at Norwich Castle in July. A member suggested that members of the public would like postcards of the paintings.

The head of operations and learning presented the report and answered members' questions.

During discussion on the exhibitions members commended the Olive Edis exhibition and were pleased that there would be a permanent exhibition at Cromer Museum. Brenda Ferris commented on the current Sixty Years On – Highlights from the Norwich Castle's Collection which opened in September 2016 and said that the collection included an unusual LS Lowry painting of a rural landscape. The

committee noted that the Nelson and Norfolk exhibition, which included loans from the National Maritime Museum and other Norfolk Museums was being curated by Ruth Batterby-Tooke in Norwich. The committee also noted that visitors to the Small Stories : At Home in a Doll's House exhibition would be signposted to the toy collections at Strangers Hall. The head of operations and learning said that the curators would be producing a catalogue for the Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness exhibition which was expected to sell well. Temporary exhibition programmes like this were critical to encourage new visitors to Norwich Castle, supported the educational programme and were a key part of the service. Officers would be working with partners to promote the exhibition, including to visitors from the Netherlands, and were grateful for the support given by the East Anglian Arts Fund and the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society.

Members of the committee noted that the Rowdy Romans event had been popular with families and children over the February half term holiday. This was an opportunity for the museums service to test out events as part of the Keep project. A member said that his son had particularly enjoyed the interactive elements of the event. During discussion members commented on the RSPB Big Castle Birdwatch event which was hosted by Norwich Castle in January. It was noted that the museums service had hosted similar events at Gressenhall in partnership with the RSPB.

Discussion ensued on the conservation work on the Ensign of Le Généreux (details as set out in 4.1 of the report) and that this was possible because of funding from the Costume and Textile Association, which would be supplemented by a Just Giving campaign; and also a contribution for the lining fabric from the Nelson Society. The committee had an interesting discussion on the remarkable size of the flag and the origin of the saying "nailing your colours to the mast". A member pointed out that the flag had been gifted to the people of Norwich and therefore it should remain in the city. Stuart Garner, the operations manager, said that the museums service was keen to make the flag as accessible as possible. A more detailed presentation could be made to the next meeting.

The head of operations and learning referred to the report and said that the museums service was very grateful to the team of volunteers who carried out the deep clean at Strangers' Hall after Christmas. This included a group of recent asylum seekers as part of the New Routes collaboration with Norwich's City of Sanctuary initiative, which helped refugees with constructive work experience whilst making connections with the local community and provide an understanding of the city's history.

(Councillor Bremner left the meeting at this point on other council business.)

The head of operations and learning then presented the rest of the report. A member of the county council congratulated the museums service on the work that they did with youth offenders. The committee noted that the museums service also worked in partnership with the YMCA and provided activities for young homeless people and looked after children, and its dementia friendly status. The committee considered that this was a good use of resources and asked for a detailed report of the work of the learning team at a future meeting.

The operations manager circulated the attendance figures for the last quarter at the meeting. He pointed out that figures for February were slightly down on the previous year because of the unseasonably warm weather during the half term holiday and a small gap in the exhibition programme. Members also noted that figures were affected by Easter being early last year and later this year which meant that Easter did not fall within the current financial year. The committee was satisfied that taking this into account the visitor numbers were in the right direction.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report;
- (2) record the committee's gratitude to all the organisations, volunteers and the officers of the museums service for their invaluable contribution to the work for the Norwich Museums, and to invite Ceri Lamb to present a report to the next meeting on the work of the Friends of the Norwich Museums;
- (3) ask the head of operations and learning to arrange for the committee to have detailed presentations on the following two items:
 - (a) the conservation work being undertaken to the Ensign of Le Génereux;
 - (b) the work of the learning team with hard to reach groups;
- (4) ask Dr John Davis for an update on the Keep project at the next meeting.

5. Collections Review and Rationalisation Programme 2015-18

Samantha Johns, the collections development manager, presented the report and explained that there was a strict protocol in place for the disposal of items from the collections.

During discussion the collections development manager referred to the report and answered members' questions. As part of the rationalisation programme the collections team were undertaking an audit of the collections and updating the database with the relevant information to ensure that items were properly catalogued and that an effective audit trail was in place. In reply to a question about how this was undertaken she explained that they worked to national ethical guidelines and used a tool-kit produced by the Museums Association. The curators were the first point of call and identified items which either did not fit in with the collections or had deteriorated according to the Norfolk Museums Service Collections Development policy. The rationalisation programme meant that retained items were stored in better condition and enabled access to stored collections. There was a hierarchy of organisations which would be approached in order with an offer of an item. If the item could not be disposed of in this way it was often returned back into the store.

Discussion ensued on the deterioration and risk of explosion from the nitrate film. Members were assured that the film canisters had been offered to East Anglian Film Archive and the Norfolk Record Office. Neither could store the film canisters safely and officers had been assured that the film was either a duplicate of film already held or could not be identified and therefore was of little merit. The film would be disposed of safely by the British Film Institution. The collections development manager undertook to ensure that there was no other nitrate film in store. A member asked if digital photographs could be taken to record items such as the Chinese wedding dress and collar to record before disposal to record that they had been part of the collections. The collections development manager confirmed that that this would be done as part of the rationalisation documentation and resulting audit trail.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) approve the rationalisation of the Norwich social history items listed in annex 2 of the report and recommend to the Joint Museums committee the disposal of these items as set out in the report;
- (2) ask the collections development manager to report back to the committee on whether the Norfolk Museums Service has any other nitrate film in its store.

6. The Norfolk Teaching Museum Programme

Sarah Gore, teaching museum programme manager, gave a presentation on the Norfolk Teaching Museum Programme, which included a video. The programme employed trainees on a paid one year fixed term basis and provided an opportunity for them to specialise in a particular role and attend one day a week training on the full range of the museums services activities. There was now a new traineeship in business development in response to the current economic climate and funding in the public sector. Seven new trainees had been recruited and would start in April. The programme had a minimum entry requirement of A' level or equivalent and was therefore open to trainees from a whole range of backgrounds and different ages.

The teaching museum programme manager said that the scheme had received awards both externally and internally. Trainees went on to get good jobs in museums across the country.

Councillor Bearman said that he was a young person's champion and considered that members of the economic development subcommittee would be interested in the programme.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) thank the teaching museum programme manager for the presentation;
- (2) note the report.

7. Schedule of meetings

The chair commented that this meeting was the last in the civic year and took the opportunity to thank the members of the committee and officers for their support. Members of the committee also thanked any members who were standing down from the committee. Councillor Hannah said that he had thoroughly enjoyed being on the committee.

RESOLVED to agree the schedule of meetings for 2017 to 2018 (all meetings to be on Tuesdays at 14:00) as follows:

11 July 2017
12 September 2017
12 December 2017
6 March 2018

CHAIR

Norwich Museums briefing: February to June 2017

1. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

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

Selected as one of only two UK regional venues, Norwich Castle Museum hosted this major international touring exhibition from the V&A Museum of Childhood. Showcasing a stunning collection of twelve of their best dolls' houses spanning 300 years, the exhibition proved popular for both families and doll's house enthusiasts from across Norfolk and beyond. The main exhibition was enhanced by the *Dream House 2017*, an installation of miniature dream rooms created by Norfolk artists, architects, makers, community groups and school children.

1.2 Colman Gallery temporary displays

A display of drawings and prints by the artist Claughton Pellew (1890-1966) was on show in the Colman Project Space until 11 June. This exhibition explored the harmony of country life on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the artist's death.

The new 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. This discovery occurred whilst conservation of the painting was taking place in preparation for a recent loan to the Pompidou Centre.



La Condition Humaine by Rene Magritte

1.3 *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.

2. Forthcoming exhibitions

2.1 *Nelson and Norfolk* (29 July – 1 October 2017)

A major exhibition drawing on some of the most extraordinary objects connected to Admiral Lord Nelson, reflecting his naval victories, his relationships and above all, his affection for his native county of Norfolk. The focal point for the exhibition will be the 16x8.3m Tricolour Ensign of the French warship *Le Généreux*, which will take up one half of the whole exhibition, filling the first temporary gallery space. Major loans will include the Nile Coat from the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich and the bullet which killed Nelson from the Royal Collection. Other objects in this exhibition will be drawn from NMS's own collections, including stored collections from Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Strangers' Hall, the Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell and Norwich Castle Museum. Curators are also working in partnership with the Norfolk Record Office and Norfolk Heritage Centre to display some fascinating documents and books including letters from Nelson and the Parish Register in which Nelson's baptism is recorded.

A complementary programme of talks and activities will run alongside this major exhibition.



2.2 Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness (21 October – 7 January 2018)

An important new exhibition featuring the nationally significant collection of Rembrandt etchings held by NMS, alongside selected loans from the National Gallery, the Royal Collections, the British Museum and the National Galleries of Scotland.



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

3. Norwich Castle Events

3.1 Museums at Night, Saturday 20 May

Museums at Night at Norwich Castle explored the unusual viewpoints of Small Stories and welcomed almost 1800 visitors to view the building from a different perspective. Admission was free for this event, which ran from 5pm to 10pm.

Costumed characters and musicians presented an upside down wonderland world as a magician revealed his sleight of hand illusions while stonemasons from the Guild of St Stephen and St George revealed tricks of the eye as they played with the architectural perspective of the Keep. The central rotunda transformed into an intriguing space as visitors were able to manipulate a soundscape according to where they placed themselves on the video screen; thankfully their specially concocted 'drink me –shrink me' potions didn't affect their positioning! The teapot collection was brought into focus as visitors searched for the biggest teapot, which in turn inspired the creation of the smallest teapot ever!

The evening concluded with a dramatic fire breathing finale.



One of the smallest teapots created at M@N

3.2 February half term events - Rowdy Romans (11–18 February)

This year's half term theme was Rowdy Romans, taking a light hearted look at life in Roman times linked to our Boudicca Gallery. Actor Neil Paris performed *A History of the Roman Empire* in 20 minutes which was specially written for us and included lots of interactivity. Brutus the Roman soldier took visitor through weapons and tactics that were used in the Roman army and Belona's Battlestar Training Academy showed how the Romans kept fit. Visitor learned about how gladiators fought with fight expert Keith Wallis and how to make themselves beautiful the Roman way. Visitor feedback was excellent, many saying that it was our best programme yet. There were lots of activities and something for everyone. Visitor comments included: *Fantastic, the children loved it!; Really enjoyed the talk (Recline with Me about Roman manners) and I've expanded my knowledge of the Romans.*



3.3 May Half Term events – Homes within Houses (29 May – 3 June)

The May half term programme focussed not on houses for dolls, but on wildlife habitats made in and around human homes. The RSPB brought examples of bird nests and, along with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, demonstrated how we could all make small adaptations to our homes and outbuildings to support local flora and fauna. However, Sarah Norcross-Robinson and David Harvey, from the NMS Conservation Team, revealed just how much damage could be wrought if creatures chose to take up residence inappropriately; the post on Facebook generated much interest. Natural History Curator Dr David Waterhouse brought out some of the more unusual habitat specimens from the Natural History Collection including a great favourite, a duck's nest - built in a tree.

The Norfolk Bee Keeping Association displayed an observation hive, buzzing with honey bees. Young visitors enjoyed spotting the Queen and were fascinated by the honeycomb structure of the colony. The Hawk and Owl Trust were on hand to share information relating to the Castle's live link up with the Norwich Cathedral and fortunately did not encroach too much on the territory of the Norwich Bat Group who had the challenging aim of trying to raise the positive profile of resident bat communities.

3.4 Architecture Weekend

A celebration of architecture took place over Spring Bank Holiday at Norwich Castle as the historic keep was filled with modern building designs created by students from Norwich University of the Arts. There were some striking creations and innovative solutions to the project brief of 'Outside In'. In contrast, the Guild of St Stephen and St George shared their knowledge of more traditional building techniques and gave a great insight into the castle's medieval craftsman. Visitors were invited to contribute to the theme by making a castle conurbation of their own; the inclusion of a fast food outlet was one of the less subtle additions.



3.5 Small Stories Writing Workshops

Visitors were given the choice to participate in two completely different creative writing workshops to complement the *Small Stories* exhibition. Both were led by published authors currently teaching at the UEA, but each focussed on different aspects. 'Dreamstorming in Kaleidoscope House' looked at how to use the voice in prose writing, while 'In the Parlour with the Candlestick' explored character development and scene setting in fiction. Feedback from both of the workshops was very positive and has encouraged the learning team to introduce a monthly Castle Writers group to begin in the autumn.

4. Curatorial work

4.1 Nelson exhibition conservation work

Work for the forthcoming *Nelson & Norfolk* exhibition is currently a key focus for the NMS Conservation Department. In particular, the Ensign of the French ship *Le Généreux* captured in 1800 by Captain Berry, Nelson's flag captain— is the subject of hundreds of hours of dedicated work. Evidence suggests that it is, quite possibly, one of the earliest, if not the earliest, Tricolour in existence. It will go on display in the summer for the first time in over 100 years. The logistics of conserving this enormous textile, which is 16 metres by 8.3 metres, has been a major challenge, but the team had access to a large, temporary space where they were able to lay out and work on the flag partially rolled. Phase one of this complex conservation project saw the assessment, investigation, and initial cleaning of the Tricolour, and also the removal of a much deteriorated section of previous lining which was detrimental to the long-term preservation of the flag itself. Phase two involved the re-lining and repair of the blue section of the flag. There were numerous holes and weak areas, broken seams and all the problems associated with a textile that is over 200 years old.



A small team of volunteers from the Costume and Textile department, led by Ken Smith, have completed work on a replica of the Ensign of Le *Généreux*.

The Costume and Textile Association is provided a grant of £5,000 towards this conservation work and hosting a Just Giving campaign to enable people to donate and match the C&TA grant. The Nelson Society have also given a grant of £1,500 which has paid for the new lining fabric so that the Nelson Society will always be closely woven into the life story of this object.

5. Stranger's Hall

5.1 Exhibition developments

Strangers' Hall Curator Cathy Terry provided the curatorial lead role for the V&A touring exhibition *Small Stories: at Home in a Dolls' House*. Staff at Strangers' Hall also worked with the NMS display and conservation teams to create new displays at Strangers' to complement the main exhibition on show at Norwich Castle Museum.

Small Stories at Strangers has provided an opportunity to refresh the toy collections on show and augment the existing room displays with installations from Strangers' own collections. In the Toy Room, a modest improvement to case lights and installation of new graphics have allowed the newly conserved Norwich Baby House to take pride of place complete with AV interpretation to illuminate the house, and tell the stories of the dolls that now reside within it. Adjacent cases feature new selections of children's games, models including pedlar dolls and toy shops and the wonderful fortress and farm set from the Todhunter collection. During the months ahead, staff will be carrying out consultation to establish public reaction to the Toy Room with the aim of applying for funding to support the replacement of the outdated cases and lighting and for the display of a wider selection from the very extensive reserve collections, such as children's books and dolls. The joint ticketing offer for the two *Small Stories* exhibitions, together with the new trails and dolly craft activities are helping boost visitor numbers.



5.2 Events at Stranger's Hall

A new programme of craft workshops commenced with a straw-work furniture making session based on a fabulous Victorian 'fancywork' style model parlour from the collections, and will be followed by two more— creating feather-work furniture and miniature books. Behind the scenes curator tours were also on offer. The busy months of March and April included a Paranormal night and a very successful wedding and reception. Staff have organised training for the Strangers' volunteer team and planned the delivery of a Refugee Week event. Alongside the Museum of Norwich, Strangers' Hall will be supporting the Freeman's 700 Summer activities.

6.0 Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell

6.1 Exhibitions at the Museum of Norwich

The exhibition *300 Years of Freemasonry* is on show at the museum from 9 May to 22 July. Marking the tercentenary of Freemasonry, the exhibition explores the mysteries and symbolism of Freemasonry and has been created by Norfolk Freemasons.

The next exhibition will mark the 140 years since Jarrold & Sons first published Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty*. The museum will be displaying thirteen beautiful watercolours by the artist Cecil Aldin who was commissioned by Jarrolds to illustrate a later edition, published in 1915. The exhibition is part of Visit England's 'Year of Literary Heroes' campaign and is being promoted by visit Norwich.



6.2 Free Days from the Freeman 25 July – 6 August

Free admission will be available at the Museum of Norwich and Strangers' Hall from 25 July to 6 August thanks to the generous support of the Norwich Freeman. 2017 marks 700 years of the Freeman of Norwich and the open days

at the Museum of Norwich and Strangers' will sit alongside a wide programme of activities throughout the city over the summer months.

Free-entry
to Strangers' Hall and
The Museum of Norwich

from Tuesday 25 July to
Sunday 6 August 2017

Strangers' Hall, Charing Cross:
open on Wednesday, Thursday and
Friday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 1pm to 4.30pm

Museum of Norwich, Bridewell Alley:
open Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 4.30pm



6.3 Stores Audit Volunteer Team

The museum has welcomed a new batch of recruits to the stores audit volunteer team. The new team have received training in MODES, object handling and marking, as well as a hands-on session with conservator David Harvey. In addition, the museum has hosted a UEA MA Heritage Studies student, who is based in Norwich and at The Collections Centre at Gressenhall. This work is providing essential practical collections experience, which is an excellent counter-balance to their academic course.

7. Learning Team activities and projects

7.1 Increasing visits from secondary schools at Norwich Castle

Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery has seen an increase in Secondary school and student visitors over the past four years – bucking national trends. In 2013 NCM offered two KS4 events to support the History GCSE– Medicine Through Time and Crime and Punishment. In 2012/13, 9 secondary schools with 506 students visited the Castle. The museum also offered four KS3 events – Storming the Castle (a Maths and Medieval History event), a Norman Conquest day, a Geography event and a History of Slavery day. These events brought in a total of 15 schools and 1120 students. At that time staff found that an increasing number of secondary schools were no longer re-booking or cancelling events.

To address this decline, learning staff developed a range of events closely knitted to the national curriculum and exam board specifications, with activities that could not be delivered in the classroom and that would impact positively on

students' attainment. The KS4 programme increased to four events, two updated (Medicine and Crime and Punishment) and two new (Anglo-Saxon and Norman and Historic Environment) as well as refreshing the four KS3 events. This has led to a significant increase in the number of secondary schools and students in academic year 2016-17, with 39 Secondaries bringing 2636 students – 15 more schools and 1010 more students than in 2013. Of this total, 20 schools brought 1608 KS3 students in total – an increase of 5 schools and 488 students. For KS4 visits, NCM hosted 19 schools and 1028 GCSE students – an increase of 10 schools and 522 students.



7.2 Learning events in the Shirehall Courtroom

On Saturday 18 March Springboard East Theatre Company actors and volunteers delivered the first performances of *Victorians on Trial*. Springboard East were successful in obtaining a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to work with NMS to research the courtroom itself and notable trials that took place there in the past, and to develop both a tour and an enactment for groups and visitors.

Trials took place in the courtroom from 1822 to 1988 and there are many exciting cases from the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So far audiences have been able to relive the trial of John Stratford who was hanged for murder in 1829. The trial of the Downham Market Rioters has been prepared and will be the next enactment this summer. With a combination of character re-enactments and audience participation, the trials are explored and examined with audiences being given the opportunity to express their opinions on the defendant and the outcome.

The feedback has been extremely positive. The enactments are not simply dramatic interpretations of past trials however, but also an exploration of the history and development of the English criminal legal system. Group bookings

include A level Law students, Fakenham Society, UEA School of History as well as visitors to Norwich Castle on 18 March and 17 June.



7.3 New Anglo saxon and Normal schools event

Around 50 GCSE History students participated in the new Anglo-Saxon and Norman event at Norwich Castle on 24 April. The Year 10 students, from Attleborough Academy, met four costumed characters—two Anglo-Saxon and two Norman.

Students re-enacted the Battle of Hastings, met an Anglo-Saxon rebel, toured the Keep, explored the Anglo-Saxon and Viking Gallery and handled Anglo-Saxon objects as part of the event. The topic Anglo-Saxons and Normans was included as one of the new History GCSE topics this year.



7.4 Childminders Day

The NMS Learning team has been working with Sian Welby from the Norfolk County Council Home Learning Environment (HLE) team looking at how our two departments can work more closely together. Conversations started with a focus on Early Years provision but developed into a more strategic look at how NMS

can work with Norfolk Children's Services. Childminding is a priority in Norfolk, with more families eligible for 30 hours free childcare from September. In partnership with the HLE and Family Information Service (FIS) teams, Norwich Castle hosted a special day for childminders and the children in their charge on Monday 15 May. Children took part in a special music session and sang songs about leopards' spots and tigers' stripes; castle-themed stories involving a knight falling off his horse and made their own cardboard castle. The activities were delivered by NMS staff and supported by members of the HLE team.

Feedback was excellent— childminders valued the fact that the day was especially for them and that there were lots of opportunities for children to choose. The HLE and FIS teams have both had team meetings at the museum and were excited at the prospect of working in a new setting. This was a pilot event and it is intended to make them a regular feature of the programme at Norwich Castle. A partnership event is planned with NMS and Children's Services on 20 September to look at how the two services can work more strategically and effectively together.



8. Other Developments

8.1 *New Geographies of the East* project

Norfolk Museums Service is one of nine organisations that are part of the East Contemporary Visual Arts Network (ECVAN) that have been successful in an application to Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence strategic fund. Receiving a grant of £600,000 over three years will enable ECVAN to deliver a new project: *New Geographies of the East*. This is an ambitious programme that

will deliver 10 major site-specific visual arts commissions, developed with and for communities in the East of England and with international partners from the Netherlands. The first stage of the project is for a widespread open call to be announced inviting communities and members of the public to nominate places in East Anglia that are overlooked or undiscovered. These will then become the long list for the locations for the 10 new commissions.

8.2 NPO Funding

Norfolk Museums Service has secured major investment from Arts Council England for the next four years totalling £6,557,808 following two successful bids announced on 27 June 2017.

As one of the Arts Council's 831 National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs), NMS will receive £4,812,680 for 2018-22. This will enable the Service to move forward with its ambitious plans for the transformation of Norwich Castle Keep as well as continue to enhance the programme of temporary exhibitions and permanent galleries, extend the events' programme across all museums, create opportunities for skills development, lifelong learning activities and increase its work with schools and young people.

NMS was also successful in its bid to be one of the Arts Council's Sector Support Organisations (SSOs) with a separate grant of £1,745,128 to continue the regional museum development programme SHARE Museums East that provides leadership and support for museums across the six counties that make up the East of England.

8.3 Teaching Museum programme

The new cohort of NMS trainees funded through the ACE MPM Business Plan 2015-18 started their jobs in April 2017. The recruitment process began in December 2016 with briefing sessions at Norwich Castle culminating in the recent assessment centres on 22 and 23 February carried out by a team from NMS and County Hall. Forty shortlisted candidates participated in activities and exercises which were assessed against a range of criteria. The trainees and posts for 2017 are:

Costume & Textiles: Andy Bowen

Keep Project: James Lumbard

Business Development: Nicoletta Foden-Hall

Community History (Museum of Norwich): David Holgate-Carruthers

Exhibitions & Event (Time and Tide): Alanna Baker

Learning (Time and Tide): Phoebe Wingate

Curatorial (Western area): Sam Bellotti



9. Visitor Numbers

Detailed visitor figures up to the end of June 2017 will be circulated at the meeting.

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Friends of the Norwich Museums (FNM)

Report to Area Museums Meeting July 2017

It is two years since I last spoke to you about FNM. Since then we have been busier than ever.

One of our main objectives, you may already know, is to provide a percentage of local funding for curators who wish to acquire artefacts for the collections in Norwich Museums, thus enabling them to apply to national funding bodies such as the HLF, the V & A Fund or the Art Fund. We only respond to requests from the curators; we do not buy things on our own initiative which may not be wanted for the collections.

During the last two years we have funded Keeper of Art, Francesca Vanke, to do research in Vienna on the artefacts in the Paston Treasure Painting for the forthcoming exhibition in 2018. (FNM funding £400).

FNM paid for the conservation of five of the artworks by Claughton Pellew, so that small, but exquisite exhibition could take place last year. (FNM funding £1,980). We also gave advice so that the works were donated to the Castle Museum, instead of being only on loan.

We have recently helped to acquire three miniature Dutch oil paintings attributed to the Dutch painter Aert Van Der Neer. FNM paid £1,687.50 towards the cost of acquisition which was 25% of the asking price.

We have made several donations to the Archaeological department for the acquisition of an Anglo-Saxon hoard (£2,000) and another Anglo-Saxon bracteate pendant. (£1,000). FNM also funded a finger ring with an incised picture of St George & the Dragon (£400) and a 13th century gold cross of Baltic design (£500).

Archaeological artefacts of lesser value, but of historical importance, were featured in our Newsletter so that FNM members could fund them if they wished. Five artefacts were funded in this way, the most recent being another bracteate, part-funded by FNM members.

With regard to Strangers' Hall, we are doing everything we are asked to do in support of that delightful museum and I would mention the part Strangers' Hall played in the wonderful *Small Stories* exhibition because we are very concerned that Strangers' Hall (and for that matter the Castle museum itself) retains its primary purpose as a museum and not just an events venue.

We helped to fund a modern glass sculpture called Dragon Boy which is currently on display in the Castle Keep. (£800).

FNM is a key supporter of the Castle Keep Project. A letter confirming FNM support for the Keep Project was submitted with the first HLF application by Norfolk Museums Service. FNM has agreed £35,000 funding over three years. We have already given £5,000. The rest of the money will either be spent on digital resources for the refurbished Keep, or it will go on displays for the new Medieval Gallery.

Last year we funded Tim Pestell, at short notice, when he wanted to acquire for the Castle collections, some books and papers being auctioned in the Morningthorpe Sale. Although Tim was unable to acquire the book he wanted, he was able, with FNM funding to bid for some Norwich prison records and one or two other things (£282 FNM funding spent, but more was offered at the time).

We won a national award for our Newsletter from BafM (The British Association of Friends of Museums).

Through the Jane Thistlethwaite Arts Travel Bursary, which FNM oversees, we have funded Danny Buck in his research into The Religious Controversy in Great Yarmouth during the English Civil War. We have also funded Sarah Cassell's research into Angel Roofs and research into the History of Kettle's Yard by Lizzie Fisher.

Our talks are going well; we have just had a very popular one on Angel Roofs in East Anglian Churches, and have a forthcoming one in July on Nelson, which will complement the Castle exhibition on Nelson which will be open then. Any profits from our talks go towards funding Museum applications.

We are very supportive of BafM and as one of the largest and oldest Friends' groups we are approached from time to time from other Friends' groups for advice and support.

Thank you.

Ceri Lamb

Norfolk Contemporary Art Society (NCAS)

Report to Norwich Area Museums Committee, July 11th 2017

NCAS update

When I last reported to the Committee in September last year I concentrated largely on the fact that 2016 marked 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.

To mark our 60th there has also been an exhibition, opened in the Timothy Gurney gallery last year on Monday, 26th September, by James Colman, a descendant of our original chair, of those NCAS-funded works in the Castle collection. This has proved very popular and remains open for several more months - if you haven't already seen it, do go! For anyone who is interested there is a full inventory on our website (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.

Throughout the year, though, we have continued our programme of events and exhibitions which are aimed at pursuing the object of the Society, namely, 'to advance the education of the public in the appreciation of the arts and in particular the creative art of the present day in all its branches'.

Over the past year our talks - usually in the Auditorium at the Forum - have included, to name but a few, last November, Simon Dell on the status of land art in the British Isles from the 1960s onwards, with particular reference to the work of Richard Long (currently on view at Houghton), then in January, in association with Norwich 20 Group, Eamonn McCabe on his life in photography, plus, more recently, among others, Rosie Snell (whose work *Stalker 2005* is in the 60 Years On exhibition), on her work and her interest in militarised landscapes and, most recently, a fascinating talk on Kettle's Yard, Cambridge by its director Andrew Nairne.

Exhibitions have included our biennial members' art exhibition last September in the Forum, while this summer you can still enjoy two lovely outdoor exhibitions in beautiful

settings, namely, the NCAS exhibition *Abstracted* in the cafe and grounds of Mannington Hall by five local artists, and, in partnership with the National Trust, *The Makers*, a contemporary art exhibition at Felbrigg Hall. Details of these and all our events can be found on our website: www.n-cas.org.uk. Still to come this year are more talks and then, in November, our biennial auction - an event not to be missed if you're looking for good contemporary art at reasonable prices (and our major source of funding for the grant-aiding of Castle purchases, for example, awards to outstanding NUA students, etc).

And finally, my thanks on behalf of the Society for all the help we've received from the Museums Service officers, especially with our 60 Years On exhibition, and congratulations on the recent award of Arts Council funding: we know how hard everyone's worked to achieve this, it's truly richly deserved!

Brenda Ferris DL,

Chair, Norfolk Contemporary Art Society