

Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee

Friends of the Norwich Museums

7th December 2021

As we approach the end of the year, we can look back on some highs and lows during our Centenary Year. The John Crome Bicentennial Exhibition stands out and was a very successful show, and given all the difficulties of the past two years, we can be very pleased with our involvement in the exhibition, being the main sponsors of this important show.

In October, Esther Morgan and her communications team invited all the volunteer stitchers of the Friends' Tapestry, to come for an event in the Town Close Auditorium. All the completed panels were on show, 9 in all, which is well over half way to the completed work. It was a wonderful occasion, and all the volunteers enjoyed meeting and talking. Also a short promotional film was made.

On the 12th November there was a Civic Reception at Blackfriars' Hall, hosted by the City Council for the Friends, in recognition of our Centenary Year, and as the speeches testified, showed the special relationship between the Norwich City Council and the Friends of the Norwich Museums. We enjoyed meeting each other and having a chance to talk, whilst appreciating a very nice tea of sandwiches and cakes. Our thanks to Councillor Jacob Huntley and Francesca Makins, Chair of the 100 Committee, FNM, and former Chairman of the FNM Council, for organising this successful and enjoyable event.

We are now making arrangements for a Centenary Luncheon at Houghton Hall, for the Friends, generously hosted by our Patron, Lord Cholmondeley, on the 20th May 2022. This event has had to be postponed from this year to next, because of the pandemic, and we are all very much looking forward to this special event.

Felicity Devonshire
Vice Chair, FNM,