

Norwich area museums committee

Date: **Tuesday, 06 March 2018**
Time: **14:00**
Venue: **Norwich Castle**

For further information please contact:

Committee members:

Committee officer: Jackie Rodger
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Norwich City Council:

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

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) and Councillor Hardy (South Norfolk Council)

www.norwich.gov.uk

Ex-officio member: Councillor Buck

Information for members of the public

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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, 1 March 2018.**

Petitions must be received must be received by the committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by **10am on Monday, 5 March 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 12 December 2017.

5 Update on Magritte discoveries

Facilitated by Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, Curator of Historic Art, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery

6 Norwich Museums briefing: December 2017 - February 2018

11 - 22

To receive the report on the activities of the Norwich museums for the period December 2017 - February 2018.

7 Friends of Norwich Museums report

23 - 24

To update members on the work of the Friends of Norwich Museums.

Date of publication: **Monday, 26 February 2018**

Norwich Area Museums Committee**14:00 to 15:40****12 December 2017**

Present:

City Councillors:

Brociek-Coulton (chair)
Jones (Tim) (from item 4 below)
Maxwell

County Councillors:

Nobbs (vice chair, in the chair)
Watkins
Ward

Co-opted non-voting members:

Brenda Ferris (Norfolk Contemporary Art Society)
Councillor Hardy (South Norfolk Council)

County Councillor Buck (vice-chairman, Norfolk Joint Museums committee)
(ex officio member)

Apologies:

City Councillors Bradford, Herries and Price; County Councillors Clipsham, Jones (Brenda) and Rumsby; and co-opted non-voting members: Amanda Geitner (East Anglia Arts Fund) and Ceri Lamb (Friends of Norwich Museums)

1. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2017.

4. Norwich Museums Briefing September to November 2017

The head of operations and learning presented the report and answered members' questions. The committee received copies of the Norfolk Museums Service Annual Review 2016-17 and members were invited to share it within their organisations.

During discussion the committee noted the exceptionally high number of visitors to the *Nelson and Norfolk* exhibition at Norwich Castle, peaking at 2,222 visitors on Wednesday, 9 August 2017. Members were pleased to note that talks and events linked to the exhibition, including the pirate themed family day, had also been well attended. The *Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness* exhibition was also proving to be

popular. Brenda Ferris expressed gratitude to Dr Giorgia Bottinelli, curator of historic art, who had facilitated a tour for members of the committee prior to the meeting. The committee noted that curators, Dr Bottinelli and Dr Francesca Vanke, had produced a catalogue to accompany the exhibition which was available in the museum shop.

Brenda Ferris referred to the recent news that the fourth and final part of René Magritte's lost masterpiece *La Pose Enchantée* had been found in Brussels and said that this news following on from the pieces discovered in Stockholm, New York and Norwich Castle would make an interesting exhibition. The head of operations and learning said that the detective story of tracking down the last quarter was an interesting one and suggested that there was an update at the next meeting.

During discussion the committee considered publicity for exhibitions and noted that this ranged from use of social media to paid advertising. Members were advised that advertising on the back of buses had been used for the Nelson and Rembrandt exhibitions. The effectiveness of advertising on the back of buses had been demonstrated in Kings Lynn. The Lynn Museum had experienced a drop in visitor numbers and, following a marketing campaign on the back of buses, the level of visitors had been restored.

The committee noted that there had been 800 entries for the Norwich Castle Open Art Show: Inheritance, which was run by the East Anglia Art Fund in partnership with Norfolk Museums Service (NMS). A shortlist of over 100 works was being drawn up. Brenda Ferris noted that the deadline for this exhibition had passed but as many members of the Norfolk Contemporary Art Society were artists it would have been useful to have circulated the details to them.

Discussion ensued on the pilot activity plan event programme for the *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England*. The head of operations and learning explained that the *Saturday Knight Fever* (7 October 2017) and the *Museums at Night – Digital Takeover!* were part of the programme and the operational arrangements and outcomes would be evaluated by the consultants.

The committee noted that a funding application would be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Our Heritage grant programme in 2018 to implement proposals to redisplay the toy collection at Strangers' Hall. Members also noted that the Christmas events at Strangers' Hall made it a good time to visit. The *Cecil Aldin – The Art of Black Beauty* exhibition at the Museum of Norwich had ended on 25 November and had marked 140 years since Jarrolds & Sons had published Anna Sewell's novel *Black Beauty*. During the October half term holiday, Print to the People, drawing on the exhibition, had demonstrated print techniques and visitors had the opportunity to print their own posters to take home.

The committee was pleased that learning team at Norwich Castle had been awarded the Sandford Award for Heritage Education and noted the comments of the judge.

Members noted the Architecture Day at Norwich Castle (21 October) held in conjunction with the 2017 Festival of Architecture in Norwich and Norfolk and The Big Draw Festival 2017, had been very popular and it was proposed to incorporate it into the annual visitor programme.

The operations manager presented section 7, *Other Developments* of the report. There was expected to be around 650 weddings at Norwich Castle during the current financial year, with current bookings showing an increase of 14 per cent on the previous year and bookings already accepted for 2019. Members were advised that there was a continuity plan in place to ensure that wedding events would not be affected by works on the Keep Project. Members noted that 200 people had attended the Genome 10k event in August, which was traditionally a quiet month for corporate bookings. In contrast September was a busy month in terms of events held at Norwich Castle and Strangers' Hall. In October, there had been a number of business breakfast and lectures associated with the Rembrandt exhibition. Other events which had taken place this quarter included the Big Boom fireworks and 900 visitors to the Museums at Night event.

Members were pleased to learn of the OWL – Opportunities in Work and Learning scheme; a joint project being pioneered with Adult Social Services Department at Norfolk County Council to provide supported work experience opportunities for young people and adults of 18 to 24 years' old, with additional needs. The first placement would commence at Norwich Castle on 10 January 2018.

Discussion ensued on the review of catering operations across all NMS. Members discussed the need to meet demand at peak times and to accommodate increasing visitor numbers at Norwich Castle. Capacity could be increased by reviewing the size of the food preparation area and the food offer and considering the use of a pop-up café in the Rotunda area when the museum was busy. Specialist consultants had been appointed to review all of the business operations of Norwich Castle as part of the Keep Project.

In reply to a question, the operations manager explained that during the works on the replacement and refurbishment of the Castle's external lift, signage would be erected to direct people to routes which avoided the steep slope. Parking spaces on the mound were limited. The part of the works requiring the closure of the lift would be kept to a minimum. The second stage of the infrastructure project comprised improvements to the environmental controls for the temporary exhibition galleries would be implemented by 2020.

The operations manager circulated the attendance figures for the last quarter at the meeting. There was an upwards trend of increased visitor numbers building on the success of the Nelson and Rembrandt exhibitions. Strangers' Hall had seen an increase in visitors sparked by the Freeman free access days. The committee noted that there had been an increase in visitor numbers across the service as a whole. This was due to investment of time and resources in core offers like the Nelson and the Rembrandt exhibitions at Norwich Castle, the touring Titanic exhibition at the Time and Tide Museum and the *Voices from the Workhouse* at Gressenhall, together with good supporting programmes comprising lectures, school and family friendly events, increased visitor numbers and the sustainability of the museums.

The chair introduced Dr John Davies, Project Director and Chief Curator to provide an oral update to the committee on the progress of the Norwich Castle Gateway to Medieval England Project. The chair said that she had agreed that the committee would receive an oral report rather than a written one because the project was developing so fast that it would be out of date by the time the committee received the report. Dr Davies said that applications for building and listed building consent would

be submitted to the city council for consideration by the planning applications committee. Preparation was being made for the Heritage Lottery Fund's mid stage review to ensure that the project was on track and to provide assurance that it was deliverable and sustainable. The external client team had been appointed. An archaeological exploration of the basement would commence in January. A digital model of the keep had been produced. This state of the art 3D model provided accurate measurements for the architects, structural engineers and exhibition engineers. There would be an energy workshop to develop the carbon strategy for the project after stage 2, which would be evaluated under the Green Tourism Programme which was more appropriate for historic buildings than BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method). The fund raising strategy was going well which included some innovative methods including corporate sponsorship, sponsoring an object and crowd funding. In the New Year there would be a workshop with all contractors to increase awareness and identify the risks to the implementation of the project.

Colly Mudie, Norwich museums learning manager gave a power point presentation on the work of the learning team. This included information about a pilot project *Babies in Museums* and a proposal to establish an early years' gallery to welcome families and provide facilities for 2 and 3 year olds. An event had been held for looked after children. This had been targeted at children aged 10 to 12 who were at a vulnerable age as they were moving from primary to secondary school. The team had, in partnership with Norfolk Youth Offending Team, reviewed the 10 week programme by breaking it down into five two week programmes which was better suited to the service and young people. The learning team had also arranged a number of activities which included the Autism Awareness Weekend, the ST*ART Junior Masterclass: Drawing on the Lines of Rembrandt and master classes for A'level students in textiles; and the historic re-enactments by Spring Board East of trials aimed at A'level law students.

(The committee showed its appreciation of the learning team with a round of applause.)

In reply to a question, the museums learning manager said that NMS worked closely with the Norwich University of the Arts (NUA). Undergraduates had free admission and there were specific activities linked to courses around exhibitions and the textile collection.

The head of operations and learning referred to the report and explained that the objectives and expected outcomes of the *Norfolk Journeys* project which was funded under the Heritage Lottery Fund's new Kick the Dust programme. The project was a consortium of NMS (as the lead), Norfolk YMCA and Creative Collisions and had been one of twelve projects selected for the first stage of funding. During the presentation, the head of operations and learning said that the submission with details on how the project would be delivered would be submitted by the start of February 2018. The four year project would have a county wide reach and focus on young people aged 11 to 24 years' old. The project would create a range of activities relevant to young people. Members noted a number of activities linked to NMS exhibitions where young people had been engaged in photography, drama and even making a float for the Lord Mayor's parade. The project would commence in the summer of 2018.

In reply to a question, the head of operations and learning confirmed that the project would be county wide. Creative Collisions was based in Great Yarmouth and had engaged young people in activities in the area. Recruitment to the new posts to run the project would be for posts in Great Yarmouth, Norwich and the West of the county.

Brenda Ferris reported that the Contemporary Art Society had raised £7,000 at this year's auction. The society was disappointed that this was £2,000 less than the amount raised at the auction last year but put this down to the effect of the current austerity and financial uncertainty.

The vice chair commented that compared to the museums service 12 years ago NMS had improved beyond recognition. Members of the committee joined him in thanking the head of operations and learning and colleagues for their contribution which was very much appreciated.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report and thank the officers for their presentations;
- (2) congratulate Colly Mudie, Norwich museums learning manager, and her team on being awarded the Sanford Award
- (3) thank Brenda Ferris for her update on the Contemporary Art Society's auction and thank the society for its work;
- (4) note that at the next meeting there will be an update on the discovery of the fourth and final part of René Magritte's lost masterpiece *La Pose Enchantée* in Brussels

CHAIR

Norwich Area Museums Committee 6 March 2018

Norwich Museums briefing: December 2017 to February 2018

1. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

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



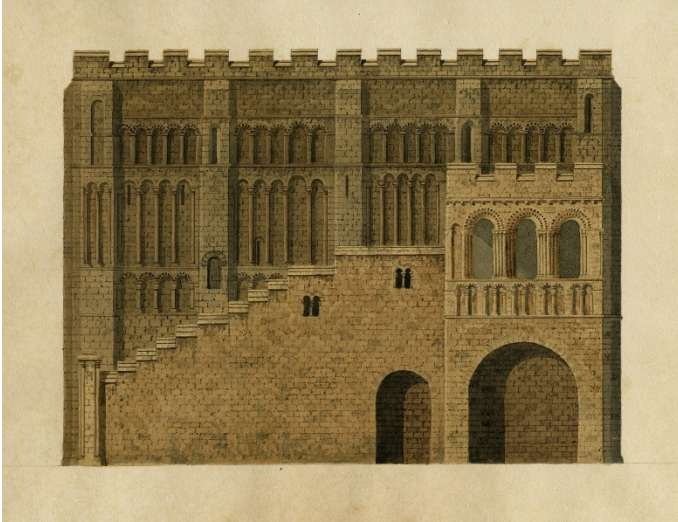
Rembrandt van Rijn, *Self-portrait* c 1634. Etching, ©Norwich Castle Museum

This major exhibition at Norwich Castle showcased the extraordinary NMS collection of 93 prints and one drawing by Rembrandt, alongside national loans from the British Museum, National Galleries of Scotland, National Gallery and the Royal Collection. Rembrandt's preoccupation with light and shade is seen throughout his work and this exhibition revealed how Rembrandt created unsurpassed effects of light and darkness. The exhibition saw strong attendances throughout its run. An illustrated catalogue was produced to accompany this important show, with good sales of some 900 copies.

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

Norwich Castle has dominated the City's skyline since the 12th century, but what is the story of this iconic and much-loved building? Built as a royal palace, Norwich Castle was a Norman showpiece with lavishly decorated interiors fit for a king. By the 14th century, it had become the County gaol confining Norfolk's prisoners within its walls. With the opening of the new prison at the end of the 19th century, the Castle's fate was uncertain, until its conversion into a public museum, which it remains to this day. This current exhibition explores Norwich Castle's history, illustrated through a stunning mixture of prints, photographs,

paintings, architectural plans, memorabilia and archives, many of which have never been exhibited previously. The exhibition also enables visitors to find out more about the latest plans for the HLF-supported *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England* project.



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

1.3 Colman Gallery temporary displays

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 We Came Here to Conquer: Eleven artists respond to the print collections at Norwich Castle (Timothy Gurney Gallery until 25 March 2018)

This exhibition forms part of the 3 year *New Geographies* project funded by Arts Council England which sees NMS working in collaboration with nine arts organisations across the region. This exhibition showcases new work by eleven

artists involved with print and printmaking, each of whom has explored and responded to the print collections at Norwich Castle. For more information about the project please see: www.newgeographies.uk

2. Forthcoming exhibitions

2.1 Norwich Castle Open Art Show: Inheritance (3 March – 20 May 2018)

Delivered in partnership with the East Anglia Art Fund, the Norwich Castle Open Art Show 2018 provides artists resident in East Anglia with the opportunity to both show and sell recent work, with artists responding to the theme of *Inheritance*. This theme was inspired by the *Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England* project and complements the *Square Box on the Hill* exhibition in the adjacent gallery. Over 800 submissions were received for this show which will feature a captivating range of work including painting, sculpture, sound, textiles, film, printmaking and photography.

2.2. 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 will gather together some of the extraordinary treasures depicted in the mysterious *Paston Treasure* painting for the first time in three centuries, featuring a number of very significant national and international loans. The first leg of this exhibition has recently opened at the Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut – for more information please see <https://britishart.yale.edu/exhibitions/paston-treasure-microcosm-known-world>



Anonymous, Dutch School, *The Paston Treasure* c.1665 ©Norfolk Museums Service

2.3. Armistice: Legacy of the Great War (20 October 2018-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.

3. Norwich Castle Events

3.1 Winter Wildlife Weekend (20-21 January 2018)

On Saturday 20 January and Sunday 21 January Norwich Castle hosted a Winter Wildlife Weekend coordinated by NMS Natural Sciences Senior Curator Dr David Waterhouse and Adult Learning Officer Patricia Day. The event gave visitors the opportunity to discover more about the wildlife in their own gardens, explore the NMS natural sciences collections and learn more about local wildlife groups and organisations. Over 3,600 visitors attended this event, one of the strongest event attendances ever recorded at the Castle. Visitor evaluation indicated that social media – especially Facebook – was the key means by which people had heard about the event.

3.2. Rembrandt events

To complement the *Rembrandt: Lightening the Darkness* exhibition a range of printmaking demonstrations and workshops were organised for adults. These included demonstrations of *Alternative Printing Techniques* with artists Adam Bridgland and Flora Parrott on 2 December and introductory workshops in *Drypoint Printing* on 9 December with artist Laura White and *Lino & Collagraph Printing* with artist Aaron Scott Griffin and NUA's Carl Rowe on 16 December.

4. Strangers' Hall

4.1 Annual Deep Clean

From Christmas until February half term Strangers' Hall was closed for its annual Deep Clean, with 21 volunteers contributing time to carry out a major conservation clean across the whole museum. This equated to 61.5 working days of five hours, or 229.5 hours in total. Out of those 21 volunteers, six were also employees of NMS, coming in on days off to help, ten already volunteer at Norwich museums, and two were Aviva workers. All textiles were frozen and vacuumed under conservators' supervision, and ceilings, walls, floors, furniture and delicate objects carefully cleaned using conservation vacuums. Store 5 was fitted with additional racking, allowing some of the fragile ornament collection to be stored more safely.



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 undertaken and plans are currently being developed. It is anticipated that a funding application will be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Our Heritage grant programme in 2018.

4.3. Christmas at Strangers' Hall

A range of tailored Christmas-themed events were delivered at Stranger's Hall in the run up to Christmas including *After Hours Christmas Specials* on 13 and 20 December and *A Strangers' Traditional Christmas* on 16 and 20 December. Staff and volunteers transformed the museum with traditional greenery, fruit and nuts, lights and Christmas trees for the Christmas season. The museum hosted three Christmas parties, schools events, two traditional family Christmas days and two evenings of seasonally-themed tours. For the well-attended family days, Father Christmas was in residence to greet younger visitors in 'Santa's workshop' with his sleigh and presents in the Coach House. Dragon Hall Mummers and Auriga Capella choir also entertained. The annual Facebook virtual advent calendar, showcased the beauty and wide variety of the wonderful collection of scent bottles attracting a lot of interest. Feedback was extremely positive, and the evening tours were particularly well-attended.

4.4 Feast of St Valentine event

The museum reopened on 14 February with a family event celebrating 'The Feast of St Valentine'. 'Young visitors tried their hands as servants and helped 'Cook' prepare a Salgamundi dish, before they folded elaborate napkins to take home with Bethan, the Parlourmaid. Visitors also enjoyed the new 'Object of the Month' display, displaying some of the perfume bottle collection that they may have read about in the Advent Calendar.



5. Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell

5.1 Samson fundraising campaign

In February staff at the Museum of Norwich launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds towards the creation of a new display for the recently renovated figure of Samson. The Friends of Norwich Museums have already generously agreed to support this campaign with a grant of £2,500.



Samson and Hercules were removed from their home in Tombland in 1993 and taken into the care of NMS, as there was growing concern for their safety. It was discovered that the Samson figure dated from the 17th Century, whilst his partner Hercules was a much later copy, having been replicated in the 1890's by George Cubbitt, an antiques dealer who owned the property at the time.

The Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund supported Shine a Light project included the conservation of this important piece of Norwich history. In 2014, the statue was transported to the London conservation studios of Plowden and Smith. Over the last three years, Samson has emerged from behind the sixty layers of white paint which has protected him for centuries to reveal a well preserved wood carved figure. NMS conservators and curators believe Samson is a unique survivor from this period. Samson remains fragile and requires a bespoke, state of the art display case to enable his return to the Museum of Norwich.

Public fundraising towards the new display began with an Art Fund online crowd funding campaign which commenced on 13 February, with the aim of raising £15,000 in six weeks. In the first week, over £1,000 was raised thanks to over 50 generous donors. The campaign launch saw extensive media coverage including ITV Anglia, BBC Radio Norfolk and the EDP. The BBC will shortly launch their 'Civilisations' series, presented by David Olusoga, Mary Beard and Simon Schama. Samson has been scanned by the BBC and will feature on an app which will accompany the series to highlight a range of significant objects in museums and galleries across the UK. BBC Look East will also feature his story.

The campaign to Save Samson was launched on Valentine's Eve. The museum captured the mood of loving and giving, and ran a successful special evening of 'Love and Chocolate' where the city's chocolate heritage, and the story of Jack Valentine were marked.



6. Learning Team activities and projects

6.1 Childminders Day at Norwich Castle

Over the past year the NMS learning team has been linking with Norfolk County Council Children's Services Early Help and Early Years teams to explore how we can work more strategically together. A key priority for Children's Services in 2017 was to support and raise the standard of childminding. *The Uniqueness of Childminding*, a small pilot event, was held in May 2017 and was well received.

Building on the lessons learned from this pilot event, a new larger-scale event for childminders and the children they care for was held at Norwich Castle on Monday 5 February. The day included singing, dancing, craft and story-telling around the theme of animals – plus time to get to know the museum. The day was promoted by Children's Services and was fully booked in 24 hours – one of the fastest-selling events ever, with 60 children and 25 childminders booked in.

Sian Welby and Jane Taylor-Currie from Children's Services supported the day, providing information for childminders and giving feedback to NMS. The day was a great success and comments included:

I liked the variety of activities and being able to pick and choose what we did

I liked being a black panther (child aged 3)

The learning team now plan to run a day for childminders on a regular basis, once a term. NMS is also working on a pilot 'Babies in Museums' event after Easter, another area identified as priority by Children's Services Community workers.

This event was coordinated by Colly Mudie, Learning Manager and Steve Arber, Learning Officer, at Norwich Castle.



6.2 Norfolk Youth Offending Team partnership

Norwich Castle has worked with young offenders and children/young people at risk of offending in partnership with Norfolk Youth Offending Team (YOT) since 2004. The annual 10-12 week programme is jointly delivered by the NMS learning team and Norfolk County Council YOT team. This unique programme helps the young people to develop team working and inter-personal skills, to participate in meaningful activities in a safe inspiring setting and to re-assess some of their behaviours. Many have low self-esteem and the programme aims to improve this.

The 2017-18 YOT project was a series of five, two-hour workshops for five cohorts of young people with the outcome of making an object out of clay inspired by the museum's collections. The YOT worker, Niccy Mills invited YOT young people with time spent on the project going towards their allocation of hours spent working with the team. Niccy focused on approaching high ability but disenfranchised young people who were negative towards education or authority. The hope was that a more positive learning experience in an unusual setting like the Castle might help to widen their view of education in general. The Castle sessions were developed and run by Susie Childerhouse from the NMS learning team at Norwich Castle and artist Rachel Daniel.

The young people worked with clay to make an object inspired by the museum collections, it was the first time most of them had worked with clay. The sessions also provided a good opportunity for the YOT workers to talk to the young people in a neutral environment.

Highlights:

- ★ Ollie waiting and watching until there was only 15 minutes left, then creating an amazing bowl inscribed with a quotation from Tupac Shakur "For every dark night there is a brighter day". He was thinking about what he could do for a long time, and only committed to creating something when he knew what he wanted to do.
- ★ Buster's beautiful mosaics that he was secretly proud of even though he denied it. He was smiling broadly as he collected his certificate from the head of YOT.
- ★ Charlotte's amazing dog figurine. As she was shaping it, she was telling us how she wouldn't be able to do it, how she was "rubbish at art", how it was "no good", despite her hands shaping and moulding the clay.



6.3 School Library Van

In 2017 NMS worked in partnership with Libraries & Information to design and decorate a mobile library van for Norwich Castle. Libraries ran a competition in November-December to name the van and chosen the winning name as *Sir Learnalot*. The library van was parked outside Norwich Castle on Thursday 21 December to award the prize-winner. There was good press coverage of the event and the chosen name has been painted on the front of the van.



6.4 HLF Kick the Dust programme

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded Norfolk Museums Service a Round 1 pass for a grant of £776,500 for the project Norfolk Journeys, under the HLF's new Kick the Dust programme. This is a consortium project 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. The Round 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund was submitted to the HLF in early February 2018, accompanied by a detailed Activity Plan. The HLF final decision should be known at the end of June 2018, with project activity commencing in September 2018.

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.”

7. Other Developments

7.1 Registrars wedding offer at Norwich Castle

The Registrars weddings at Norwich Castle continue to perform strongly with bookings up on the previous year. The actual number of ceremonies over the past 3 months are as follows:

December	29
January	16
February	22 (TBC)

7.2. OWL – Opportunities in Work & Learning

NMS continues to support this project in partnership with NCC Adult Social Services. OWL –Opportunities in Work and Learning aims to provide supported work experience opportunities to young people (aged 18-25) with additional needs. Placements are open to all young people and adults of 18 years and above in receipt of a personalised budget. The young person is supported by a job coach or support staff who accompany them to the placement. The first NMS placement commenced work at Norwich Castle in January 2018.

7.3 Norwich Castle external lift improvements

Detailed planning is underway for the major improvement works scheduled for the Norwich Castle external lift during 2018. This project is being delivered with £150,000 funding from the Norfolk County Council capital programme. The works will commence in early summer and will include a new lift carriage, new electric motor operating control systems to replace the current hydraulic systems, a refurbishment of both entrances of the lift (top and bottom) and improved signage and interpretation.

7.4 Teaching Museum Recruitment

Recruitment is currently underway for the latest cohort of Teaching Museum trainees who will take up their 12 month paid posts from April 2018. All interested candidates were invited to attend a briefing event prior to application. Shortlisted candidates were then invited to an Assessment Centre run by NMS staff across

two days in February. This programme is funded by Arts Council England as a key part of the NMS National Portfolio Organisation Business Plan 2018-22.

8. Visitor Numbers

Detailed visitor figures up to the end of February 2018 will be circulated at the meeting.

Report contact:

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Head of Operations and Learning
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Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee – 6th March 2018

This is my first report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee. I am very pleased to be the new representative of the Friends of the Norwich Museums attending the Norwich Area Museums Committee Meetings.

As you know there have been some changes on the FNM Council in recent months, with the resignation of John Knight, who represented the FNM at the Area Museums Committee for some years. Also Ceri Lamb, Secretary of the FNM has stood down after 8 years in the post.

Our AGM takes place in the TCA at the Castle Museum on Monday 14th May, when the new members of the FNM Council will be introduced to the Membership and they will be officially ratified. These members are – Beulah Dutton – Secretary
Janet Duncan – Treasurer
Ashley Bliss - Membership Secretary

As the Committee is aware, the main function of a Friends organisation is to support the curators at the Museum. We assist them when they wish to purchase objects, art works and artifacts to add to their collections, by providing an initial amount of money, which means that they can go on to apply to larger bodies, e.g. the HLF and the Arts Council for further support. This we continue to do and have been pleased to help, particularly the Archaeology Department with some important Anglo Saxon pieces, e.g. a gold bracteate, gold coins and a gold brooch with garnets.

Four of our favourite items in recent years have been the glass roundels which had been dispersed after a medieval house in Norwich was demolished and the Museum was able to bring together this important group of medieval secular glass pieces, entitled 'Labours of the Seasons'. Examples of all these can be seen on our website.

The FNM is also keen to help in other ways i.e. for conservation and displays, particularly for objects which are due to be displayed in exhibitions. An example of this are the Three Dutch Miniature Landscape Paintings attributed to Aert van der Neer. They were also the subject of our most recent illustrated talk in the TCA on 22nd February by Timothy Benoy of the de Brecy Trust and Georgia Bottinelli, NMS Curator of Historic Art.

The FNM Talks are a monthly event and are always popular in the Friends' calendar, to which guests are also invited. Our next talk is on 29th March at 2.30p.m. to be given by Mr. Clive Slater, Research Associate, NMS. 'Searching for Birds Names in Honour of John Henry Gurney'. The nineteenth century banker, philanthropist and ornithologist has had seven magnificent birds named in his honour and is one of the founding fathers of the Norwich Museum. More information about the FNM Talks can be found on our website.

The FNM Council continually promotes the organisation to raise the profile of the Friends in order to gain more members and thereby help the Museum as much as we can. We are committed to supporting the Castle Keep development and we are

very excited at the prospect of it becoming again the Royal Palace that it was between the 11th Century and the mid 14th century.

In 2021 the Friends of the Norwich Museums will be 100 years old! When we reached our 90th birthday, Richard Fair of the Forum in Norwich, put together a cd depicting 90 objects that the Friends had given over the years, and he has kindly agreed to create another cd showing 100 objects for our centenary. This 90 objects cd is very useful when promoting the Friends and we have found it invaluable when giving talks to Societies and groups. We look forward to the new one.

I will be able to tell the Committee more about what we are planning for 2021 over the next 2 years, and will continue to keep you updated about our plans, activities and events.

Felicity Devonshire
Representative, Friends of the Norwich Museums.

23.02.2018