

Norwich Area Museums Committee 14 June 2016

## Norwich Museums briefing for period March to May 2016

### A. Exhibitions at Norwich Castle

#### A1. *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* (6 February – 30 May 2016)

The most recent show at Norwich Castle Museum was *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons*, a national touring exhibition from *Seven Stories* – the National Centre for Children's Books. The exhibition explored the creation of the stories and artwork for author and artist Cressida Cowell's hugely popular series of *How to Train Your Dragon* books. Featuring Cressida's original illustrations, the exhibition gave visitors the chance to get up close to the author's notebooks and watch filmed interviews. There were opportunities for creative play, dressing as a Viking, visiting the Hooligan village and wild dragon cave. The exhibition opened shortly after the release of Cressida's latest book, *How to Fight a Dragon's Fury*.

Cressida Cowell attended the exhibition launch event and participated in a workshop for thirty children including Museums Passholders and Looked After Children. To complement the exhibition there was a packed programme of dragon-related events and activities for visitors of all ages. NMS worked closely with the NCC Libraries and Information Service to utilise the opportunity presented by the *Deadly Dragons* exhibition to support children's literacy. The collaboration includes a specially decorated mobile library which was parked on the Castle mound on key dates throughout the show's run.

The exhibition launched for February half term and saw record-breaking attendances, with 2,150 paying visitors recoded on a single day and 13,055 visitors across the week. Across the exhibition run over 45,000 visitors were recorded entering the gallery, representing a very similar total to the previous exhibitions occupying the spring slot - *Homage to Manet* and *Roman Empire*.



Cressida Cowell with the Deadly Dragons mobile library van

## **A2. 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, coming to East Anglia. Hosted by Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery and Norwich University of the Arts and, *British Art Show 8* will officially open to the public on Friday 24 June 2016 in three venues across the City of Norwich. Norwich is one of only four UK venues for this show and is the closest venue 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.

In addition East Anglian audiences will be particularly interested to see 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**. Aside from his opening procession, **Alan Kane** also

contributes a range of unusual gallery seating constructed from granite gravestones.

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

Entitled *The History Train*, the event marries East Anglia's rich past with brand new contemporary art. A parade of heavy horses – including Suffolk Punches from Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse - will pull six wagons which will deliver both *British Art Show 8* art works and related material to the key venues. This inspired event has been specially 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.

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."*



One of the Gressenhall Suffolk Punches

### **A3. Colman Gallery temporary displays (from 26 March)**

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. *Collecting in East Anglia* (Timothy Gurney Gallery 6 October – end May)**

The Collection of Fine and Decorative Arts at NCM has seen some outstanding acquisitions. This display explored those works of art acquired in the last five years, set within the context of the Lady Adeane Bequest, which greatly enhanced the modern collection in 1993. Recent additions included paintings by Edward Seago, Graham Sutherland and Frank Auerbach.

#### **A5. Ana Maria Pacheco, *Enchanted Garden* (continuing in the Castle Keep)**

Pacheco's series of eight alabaster reliefs have been on display on the balcony level of the Keep since March 2015 and continue to be enjoyed by visitors.

Pacheco is a former resident of Norwich and from 1985-89 was Head of Fine Art at Norwich University of the Arts (then Norwich School of Art). The series *Enchanted Garden* was designed with NMS in mind.

#### **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 will be curated by NMS staff and complements the HLF funded project at Cromer Museum that will transform access to the work of this influential female photographer.



Olive Edis – self portrait

##### ***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**

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

This Trade Tokens exhibition opened on 22 March, curated by numismatist Adrian Marsden and designed by Holly Bessel. The tokens were issued by traders in the city in the seventeenth century at a time of an acute shortage of small change. Researchers, led by Adrian, have been working on the collection as part of the Norfolk Token Project for the last couple of years, and the exhibition, and a published catalogue are the culmination of that work. The exhibition was the focus of Easter holiday activities at the museum with a competition running for children to design their own token. Adrian has so far delivered three talks to coincide with the exhibition, attracting over 100 attendees, many of whom are metal detectorists or enthusiasts and new visitors to the museum.



Visitors enjoy the trade tokens display



Trade token for Jeremiah

Hovell, NWHCM : 1954.112.50

Staff from the MoN are currently in discussion with a number of local organisations regarding future exhibitions and events including the Norfolk Freemasons, the Freeman of Norwich and The YMCA

## **B. Events**

### **B1. Film Stars! Norwich Castle reads Cressida Cowell**

This event was delivered as part of the visitor programme supporting the *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* exhibition. Children, families and adults of all ages read a word, a sentence from Cressida's picture book *How to be a Viking*. These have been edited together to create a charming demonstration of the joy and enchantment of reading. This very short film can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/NsoVKRYNclY>

Cressida Cowell herself was delighted with the result and sent this lovely response: *What a wonderful video! Please thank Norwich Castle for yet another very imaginative idea. One of the many wonderful things about writing for children is that you know that these are stories that are going to be read aloud and enjoyed by whole families together.*

### **B2. Striking Vikings Easter**

The 'Striking Vikings' programme at Norwich Castle linked the exhibition *A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons* the museum's collections and elements of the national school curriculum to deliver an exciting and varied schedule of activities to almost 13,900 people over the Easter holidays. Visitors were invited to crack the runic code and write their own secret messages on stones to take home, or to try their hand at weaving Viking braids and plaits. Visitors also enjoyed demonstrations of arms and armour and were keen to make their own Viking Longships which were placed on the 'Sea of Adventure' in the Castle Keep; on return they were delighted to discover the fruits of Viking plunder which had found its way into the back of their boat!

Norwich Castle was also pleased to work with partner organisations to deliver the Easter programme: Norfolk Library and Information Service attracted readers to their mobile van which was sited on the Castle mound throughout the holidays and the RSPB, Norfolk Wildlife Trust and Norfolk Adult Education Family Learning Team all delivered high quality activities for our visitors to enjoy. The British Museum's film *Vikings Live* was screened.

### **B3. The Norwich Fashion Jam**

The Norwich Fashion Jam was an eco-fashion extravaganza at Norwich Castle, organised by MoN Curator Jenny Caynes and Teaching Museum Trainee Kate Cooper, which took place on Monday 14 March. To celebrate Norwich Fashion Week 2016, the museum was transformed into a catwalk with a difference, as the galleries provided the setting for a unique spectacle of sustainable style!



Models posed and paraded alongside the backdrop of the museum collections, in avant-garde, upcycled creations.

The event was to showcase the results of a 24-hour challenge, taking place at The Forum as part of Norwich City Council's One Planet Norwich Sustainable Living Festival, to create a catwalk-ready collection from recycled charity shop clothing, donated by Age UK Norwich. Twenty teams entered to reimagine, reconstruct and repurpose second-hand garments to create their designs. The evening fashion showcase was complemented by site-responsive performances from City College Norwich Dance, and musical entertainment from Old Feathers. A film was also shown in the auditorium by local videographer Adam Jackson which told the story of the Norwich Fashion Jam, following the journeys of participants during The Challenge.

The finale for the evening was a show-stopping dance piece from City College Norwich and the awarding of prizes by the evening's judges, Chrissie Jackson, BBC Radio Norfolk broadcaster; and Susan Ringwood, CEO of Age UK Norwich. The event was covered extensively in the local media; EDP, Evening News, Radio Norfolk and Mustard TV, and raised awareness and much-needed funds to support the work Of Age UK Norwich, as well as showcasing Norwich Castle in

all its glory as an atmospheric events venue. Jenny and Kate are planning for Norwich Fashion Week 2017, and if possible plan to use the Castle as the venue for the show once again.

More information on the continuing project can be found at the Norwich Fashion Jam website: [www.norwichfashionjam.co.uk](http://www.norwichfashionjam.co.uk)

## **B7. Events at the Museum of Norwich**

### **If the Shoe Fits**

This year, for the first time MoN supported Norwich Fashion Week and partnered with Van-Dal for an evening celebrating the city's proud shoe-making heritage. On 16 March designers and shoe makers were on hand from Van-Dal to talk to visitors about the process of making their Spring/Summer shoe collection from concept right through to production and marketing. The shoes were worn by models around the galleries, with room settings providing the perfect backdrop. Visitors were also able to have a close up look at some of the reserve collections, and the scene was set with a series of artworks inspired by the shoe collections painted by pop artist Simon Pritchard.



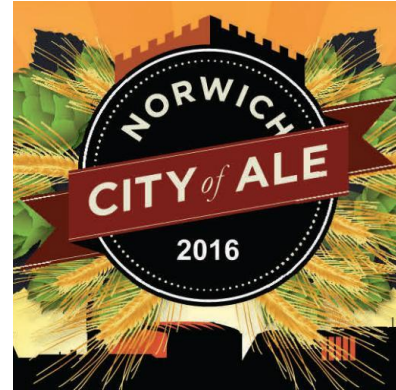
### **Norwich shoe industry community project**

MoN staff have been working with the social enterprise organisation ERM CIC who have secured Big Lottery funding to run a project recording the memories of people who worked in the shoe industry. At the end of April, the museum hosted an event where ex-shoe workers were invited in to share their memories of their working lives. Potter Anne Funnell was commissioned by Van-Dal to make ceramic versions of some of their shoes for displays in their shops in the 1980s and she was pleased to see her work on display in the Shoemakers Gallery.



## City of Ale festival

For the first time, the MoN supported the City of Ale festival in May and June. This new initiative has been led by Bethan Holdridge, Curatorial Assistant, who has pioneered a Pop up Museum project as part of the festival. Bethan took a capsule collection of brewing items to three city centre pubs on the evening of the 28 May. The museum is also planning a 'Behind Bars' evening event in June, which will include beer tasting in the courtyard by Woodforde's Brewery, tales from local landlords about running city centre pubs and a close up look at some of our brewing collections. The City of Ale is growing year on year, and is attracting national recognition. It is appropriate that the MoN is focusing on the heritage of city pubs, which are at the heart of their local communities.



Capsule display on tour at a local pub

## 120 Years of Norfolk Chamber of Commerce

The MoN has been working in partnership with the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce to help celebrate 120 years of the organisation. An evening event was held in the Keep on 19 May, featuring a small display curated by MoN staff who were on hand to chat to members about their memories.. Caroline Williams, CEO Norfolk Chamber of Commerce, thanked the team saying, "just to say we had a brilliant event yesterday. Please thank all your staff for all their hard work."

## B8. Events organised by the Costume & Textile Department

The C&T team have run a series of Norwich Shawl inspiration days for textile artists keen to submit their work to the Costume and Textile Association's forthcoming contemporary textiles exhibition 'Past Glory, Present Inspiration'

The Costume and Textile Department participated in the NUA University Development Day run by the Learning Team to show tutors the collections and resources both to provide research sources for their own work but also to advocate for collections access to their students. The department has already had a follow-up research visit from a BA Fashion tutors who is writing a paper for the Costume Society Journal on Crimplene.

[illegible]

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The regular 'Talking Textiles' events at the Norwich Castle Study Centre have proved very popular and fully booked. These sessions provide a very close look at a group of objects selected around a theme to enable the team to show a range of collections, so far this year sessions have looked at outerwear and protective garments in 'The Great Big Cover Up', clothing and domestic textiles based around food production preparation and eating in 'From Farm to Fork' and a dazzling collection of fancy and ceremonial clothing in 'Dress Fancy'

### C. 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. Curatorial work at the Museum of Norwich

## Julian of Norwich - BBC 4 Documentary

The museum's copy of Julian of Norwich's Revelations of Divine Love will be featured in a BBC4 documentary being created by local production company Tin Can Island.



Revelations of Divine Love,  
Julian of Norwich, NWHCM :  
1949.82

## St Mary's and St George's Works Project



Over the past few months, the team has been working with London architecture practice Architekton, to support their plans for a proposed large mixed use building development on two former shoe factory sites. The firm are using the 'Beauty in My Back Yard' model,

pioneered by The Princes Trust. The architecture practice have been keen to learn more about the heritage of the site, using MoN archive photographs on their hoardings, publications and website and exploring other ways to engage the local community. Some of the team attended our 'If The Shoe Fits' event, with an outreach worker, and during another recent visit, they brought a commissioned journalist, who was keen to see the treasured Uncle Mac's scrapbook, featuring thank you notes from children across the UK from the 1940s and 1950s. (Local brand Kiltie's was well known for sending a gift to child customers on their birthdays, hence the thank you cards!) Whilst the MoN team are often involved in helping people develop a sense of what a place was like in the past, it is certainly very exciting to play a small part in how a place is imagined, and then developed, for future generations. See: <http://stmarysworks.uk/>

### 'What the Victorians Threw Away' - UEA research project

The MoN team has been working with researchers from UEA and The Norfolk Industrial Archaeology Society to enable access to the Hobrough Collection, on a current project about waste disposal in the city. The project examines the history of East Anglia through the rubbish it produced between 1870 and 1950. The project brings together researchers, student diggers, and local history societies in the shared delights of exploring old rubbish dumps. Dr Derwin Gregory is considering proposing a future research study to help us better understand this fascinating industrial archive. <http://www.whatthevictoriansthrewaway.com/>

### C3. Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum

#### Norwich Roll of Honour

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





The Roll of Honour

As the City memorial was not large enough to contain the 3,544 names of the Norwich men who had died in the war, it was decided that Sir Edwin Lutyens should also design a Roll of Honour to be made of oak panels on which the names would be painted. 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 was removed from the Keep in February and 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.

Meanwhile a dedicated group of volunteers at the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum are gathering and inputting information about all the men listed, for a new mobile-friendly website to be launched this summer, funded by HLF.

### **Forthcoming display: 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. It accounted for almost a third of the men killed from the Regiment during the whole War. Open from 1 July, this is the third of a series of rotunda displays commemorating the centenary of the First World War.

### **C4. Costume and Textile Department**

The C&T department has received the donation of a smock dating from the early 1900s. With many of the C&T collections there is rarely information about the wearer, but not in this case. The original owner of the smock was a gentleman farmer, a squire named Thomas Henry Burroughes who was a keen amateur natural historian with a passion for the bird life on his land just outside Lingwood. He was affectionately known as 'Old Redneck', presumably he was sunburnt from the many hours spent birdwatching from his punt.



Painting of Thomas Henry Burroughes and newspaper clipping Private Collection

The Department gained a new member of the team with the arrival of Louise Turner, Museum Trainee. Louise will be supporting the busy programme of visits and events and will also be involved in the re-display of the costume case in the Arts of Living Gallery at the Castle Museum and getting involved with a series of events around the forthcoming Punks exhibition at the Museum of Norwich.

The team have also been working with Norwich University of the Arts on an ACE-funded project to develop new and innovative products inspired by the Costume and Textiles collections. A range of objects were shown and explained to a group of students who, with the support of NUA's Business Development Manager Sarah Steed, have created prototype products which will be shown in a pop-up exhibition in the Royal Arcade this June.

## C5. Art Department

The art department, as well as preparing for the British Art Show, are busy researching for future exhibitions. Harriet Loffler is working on putting together an exhibition of works by the iconic twentieth century Norwich-born artist Michael Andrews for summer 2017, including the loan of seven hauntingly beautiful paintings of balloon flight, the *Lights* series, to bring these together for their first ever showing in the UK.

Francesca Vanke and Giorgia Bottinelli are working on a major loan exhibition about Rembrandt for autumn 2017. They have already secured promises of a painting from the National Gallery and the Royal Collection respectively, and are hoping also to borrow drawings and prints from the British Museum and the Courtauld Gallery. 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.



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

Francesca Vanke is also working with the Yale Center for British Art on an internationally important loan show for 2018, based around our painting of *The Paston Treasure*. This unique and enigmatic painting is known worldwide, and a group of scholars from Europe and America are collaborating on this ambitious project, to research the picture's meanings, the treasures it portrays and the world of the Paston family which commissioned it. 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.



Nautilus shell and silver-gilt cup  
Holland, c1630  
Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam



Silver-gilt flagons  
London, c1595  
Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

As part of this project, *The Paston Treasure* has been subject to technical examination from an international team of conservators. It was the Castle's great privilege recently to host a group of conservation scientists from Italy, who brought the most advanced x-ray equipment yet used in the examination of paintings. Together with conservators from Yale, and from the Hamilton Kerr Institute in Cambridge, they spent a week analysing the painting. We now know a great deal more about the work than we did before, and the results will form part of the catalogue.

Technical examination of one of our other paintings has also recently resulted in exciting discoveries. Our Magritte painting *La Condition humaine* was examined in advance of a loan to the Pompidou Centre. In the course of its examination we discovered that this picture is painted over one quarter of a 'lost' work by Magritte, which was last seen in 1932. Its possible location has puzzled art historians ever since, but we now know that Magritte cut it into four pieces and painted over them, probably in preparation for a major exhibition in 1936.

This is a very important find: two of the other quarters of the work have also been discovered recently – one is at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the other in the Moderna Museet in Stockholm. The last quarter remains missing, but this discovery opens up the possibility of collaboration with both these prestigious institutions in the future.

## **C6. Stranger's Hall**

Curatorial work has focused 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 March – June 2017. Our own 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. Curatorial volunteers have also started work on auditing and improving storage in the picture and print collection.





Easter holiday events focused on the garden at Strangers' Hall, with special tours explaining the way it has evolved thanks to the efforts of our volunteer gardener team. Examples from the collection of early housekeeping books were selected to reveal the use of culinary and medicinal herbs and flowers by the able housekeepers of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century. Younger visitors were offered the chance to make floral corsages to take home.

During the spring repairs NCC Norse have carried out a number of repairs to roofing and bargeboards and a hitherto unknown ancient chimney flue in what is now the lavatories was revealed as part of dealing with a damp dividing wall, providing an interesting discussion point for visitors.

Venue hire at Strangers' Hall is proving popular with a Mayor's reception, Sistema Business breakfast and three weddings to the end of May. High Season hours resume on 1 June with Friends of Norwich Museums generously funding Thursday and Friday opening from June to September.



Business breakfast at Strangers' Hall

## **C7. New Acquisitions**

Every four years the Art Department is able to acquire a work by a leading international artist for the modern and contemporary collection at Norwich Castle by being a museum member of the Contemporary Art Society in London. The work we have chosen to acquire is by Andrew Dadson, an emerging Canadian artist who has shown across the US and Europe. His recent paintings share concerns with sculpture, and his photography captures site-specific paintings he has made within the landscape or built environment. This is an important acquisition as it will mark the first time a work by this artist has been acquired by a UK public museum or gallery. It also marks an important international addition to our expanding collection of landscape photography by artists such as Mark Edwards and Frances Kearney.



*Black Barbed Wire*, 2013 (142.2 x 170.2 cm) is a photograph of a painting made by Dadson in the post-industrial outskirts of Vancouver. In much the same way as Cotman or Crome did in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, Dadson works 'en plein air' but in a completely different way. The way he paints the landscape is by taking water-based paint and a spray gun and covers hedges, bushes and borders in black paint. Evoking a shadow or scorched earth, the black rectangle recalls both the history of monochromatic painting and tagged graffiti. Channelling the spirit of the land artists of the 1970s this work can be understood as documenting an intervention into the landscape. The sites chosen by Dadson are frequently edgelands or places on the periphery. This idea of enclosure resonates too with the collections at Norwich given that the Norwich school painters were depicting the very effects of the Enclosure act on the Norfolk landscape. The inclusion of the barbed wire in the photograph also speaks of contemporary issues around migration and the idea of a promised land lying beyond the border. The work will be on display in the Colman Project Space in 2016/17.

The Archaeology Department has recently acquired two important pieces. The first is a lovely Late Anglo-Saxon cloisonné disc brooch with gold and enamelled centre. This was found in Great Witchingham and is only the second enamelled item of this date we have in our collections, and far superior to the first piece, which is only a component of a brooch. This example is of a type widely known from southern England in particular. The item was found by an American metal-detectorist and declared Treasure.

The second item is a gold pendant cross of a particular style known from the Baltic areas and in use between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is of interest in showing the use of culturally-distinct artefact types from this area coming and being used in Norfolk, reflecting the marine trading links with the Baltic and the region. It is perhaps also the reason it was found near the coast at Field Dalling. Again, it was declared Treasure and valued at £1,000. We were able to raise the

funding through generous grants from the Friends of Norwich Museums (£500) and the V&A/MLA Purchase grant Fund (£500).



## **D. Formal Learning**

### **D1. Schools visits**

Norwich Castle saw record 20,000 schools visits in 2016-17.

### **D2. Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge Award**

Norwich Castle has been awarded the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge Award for the third time. This demonstrates that the museum provides quality learning provision for schools and young people to approved standards of Health & Safety. The award lasts until 2018 and is widely recognised by Norfolk County Council, teachers and governing bodies as being an approved venue for schools visits.



### **D3. A Viking's Guide to Deadly Dragons - success with schools**

The exhibition has been a huge success for the learning department. We have had over 1,500 school children from Reception to year 7 take part in our two Dragons' events: *Dicing for Dragons* and *A Day of Dragons*. The events have given us the opportunity to support schools in developing their pupils' creative

writing skills with an emphasis on the use of figurative and descriptive language. Whilst also instilling an interest in historical enquiry, an understanding of the importance of the culture of storytelling and of course the opportunity to get up close and personal with our fantastic Viking handling collection and the Natural History Galleries.

The events were delivered by costumed characters, as most of our schools programme. The back story for the day is that two young Viking have been boasting about their courageous, but fictional, defeat of a deadly dragon and this has sparked the interest of the tribe's storyteller who fancies a night off and suggests the heroes should tell their story that evening. The challenge for the children is to help the Vikings come up with a tale good enough to entertain the tribe on a cold winter's eve in the Great Hall.



The feedback we have received has been very positive *"A superb visit, excellent facilities and very welcoming staff .... Learning brought to life is always a highlight."* Kilby Primary School. White Woman Lane Junior school were simply *"inspired"*. Whereas Wreningham made it clear in their evaluation why they bring their pupils to our events stating that *"enrichment activities such as the castle trip make learning fun, purposeful and real....such trips develop the whole child – personal, social, emotional and academic and impact positively on attainment and the sense of self-worth."* The exhibition has also given us the opportunity to work more closely with our partners in the school library service to as we developed and delivered a joint book awards celebration in March. We plan to build the events into our core programme in the future. Lisa Hewitt, Learning Officer deserves praise for developing and delivering such a successful programme.



#### **D4. Take One Picture and Teacher Training at Norwich Castle**

For the 7th year running Norwich Castle has taken part in a partnership initiative with the National Gallery in London and UEA to offer a group of 11 trainee primary teachers an opportunity to learn more about the Take One Picture approach. Trainee teachers attended a week at Norwich Castle and the National Gallery. They had the first day at UEA, the second day at Norwich Castle then travelled to London for two days at the National Gallery. A member of National Gallery staff travelled to Norwich to see the students' presentations at the Castle on their final day.

Feedback was excellent. Most had not worked with visual art before and found themselves out of their comfort zone. The trainees are now back in their teaching placement schools with an invitation (and expectation) that they will make a visit with their class to Norwich Castle. It is a good way to build awareness of the museum sector at a crucial time in new teachers' careers.



#### **D5. Professional Development with Academic Staff from Norwich University of the Arts**

A large group of academic staff from NUA visited Shirehall on 21<sup>st</sup> March for a series of workshops looking behind the scenes at the museum. 50 staff took part in four workshops looking at the work of the conservation team, star objects from the decorative arts collection, an introduction to the natural history collection and tour of the stores, and key items from the costume and textile collection. This was part of NUA staff's regular 'teaching and learning' days. Each staff member took part in three workshops which gave a good introduction to our collections and curator colleagues. Many people had not used the museum collections before and there were lots of comments about new and creative links that can be made to units of study. The afternoon ended with a visit to the Shirehall courtroom and an exit through the prisoners' tunnel.

We had good feedback from NUA staff and hope that this will become a regular feature of the university's staff training programme.

*The museum visit was both informative and enjoyable, it got me thinking about potential projects for my students.*

NMS has a formal agreement with NUA to encourage tutors and students to use the Norwich museums in their studies. Colly Mudie, Learning Manager meets regularly with course leaders to promote the museum collections and exhibitions.

**D6. Partnership Work with UEA School of Translation Studies** Since 2000 Norwich Castle has worked together with the University of East Anglia's School of Politics, Philosophy, Language and Communication Studies. Students have translated a range of documents including gallery information, visitor leaflets and star object trails for our website. The results of their work can be seen in, for instance, the Keep and Anglo-Saxon and Viking gallery. Their work is done in the context of the *Professional Practice Translation Work Experience* module and this year we received translations in Spanish, Japanese and Chinese. In the past other languages have included Russian, Italian, German, Greek, Swedish and Polish.

This has proven to be an excellent partnership: UEA are pleased to work on real-life professional documents and we are very pleased to receive regular translations. Students visit the museum during their module to familiarise themselves with the objects and the site – and often remark how different museums are in their own country.

## **E. Other Developments**

### **E1. Corporate activities**

Norwich Castle has seen a very busy few months in the period of March to May 2016, hosting 13 separate events. These events have ranged from civic receptions to weddings and corporate hires and events. On May 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted an Archant EU Referendum Debate, held within the Victorian Courtroom at the Shirehall. 50 entrepreneurs were invited to hear both sides of the Leave/Remain debate. The debate was chaired by Annabelle Dickson (Political Editor at Archant) and the case for and against remaining in the EU was debated by George Freeman MP and Steve Baker MP. Norwich Castle will also be playing host to another EU Referendum debate on 6<sup>th</sup> June, aired live on Channel 4. The veteran news presenter Jon Snow will preside over the debate that has been organised by ITN and is focussed on gaining the views of the under 25 voting age group. NCC purdah procedures were followed for both events.

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

The 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2016 saw the first registry office weddings take place within the Benefactors Room at Norwich Castle, delivered in partnership with the Registrars Service. Since then we have seen a very healthy rise in bookings for 2016/17 and beyond. In April we played host to 46 individual ceremonies of which were attended by a total of 1500 guests. May saw 45 ceremonies with guest numbers totalling over 1500. The busier summer wedding months are still to come and we can expect some strong levels of bookings and added visits to Norwich Castle.



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

At Strangers Hall we have also started the year well having played host to two weddings in May and a further two weddings in June. Bookings are also looking very healthy for the year ahead with another 4 confirmed bookings and a further 5 provisional bookings.



### **E4. Other initiatives**

#### **Dementia Friendly Museum**

Over the past year staff at the Museum of Norwich has been assessing how we can make the museum more dementia friendly. Earlier in the year, working in partnership with NCC Social Services and Adult Education, we hosted a

consultation day and invited local practitioners, colleagues from organisations such as the Alzheimer's Society and Age UK, as well as people from local day care centres, to share their thoughts on our current and future services. We are currently preparing to welcome three day-care centre groups, led by Creative Arts East, for an afternoon of activities and a cup of tea. These groups will enjoy a great day out and lessons learned throughout these sessions will also feed into our action plan. The next step will be to provide Dementia Friends training for our team and volunteers.



### **Google Art Project – Museum of Norwich goes live!**

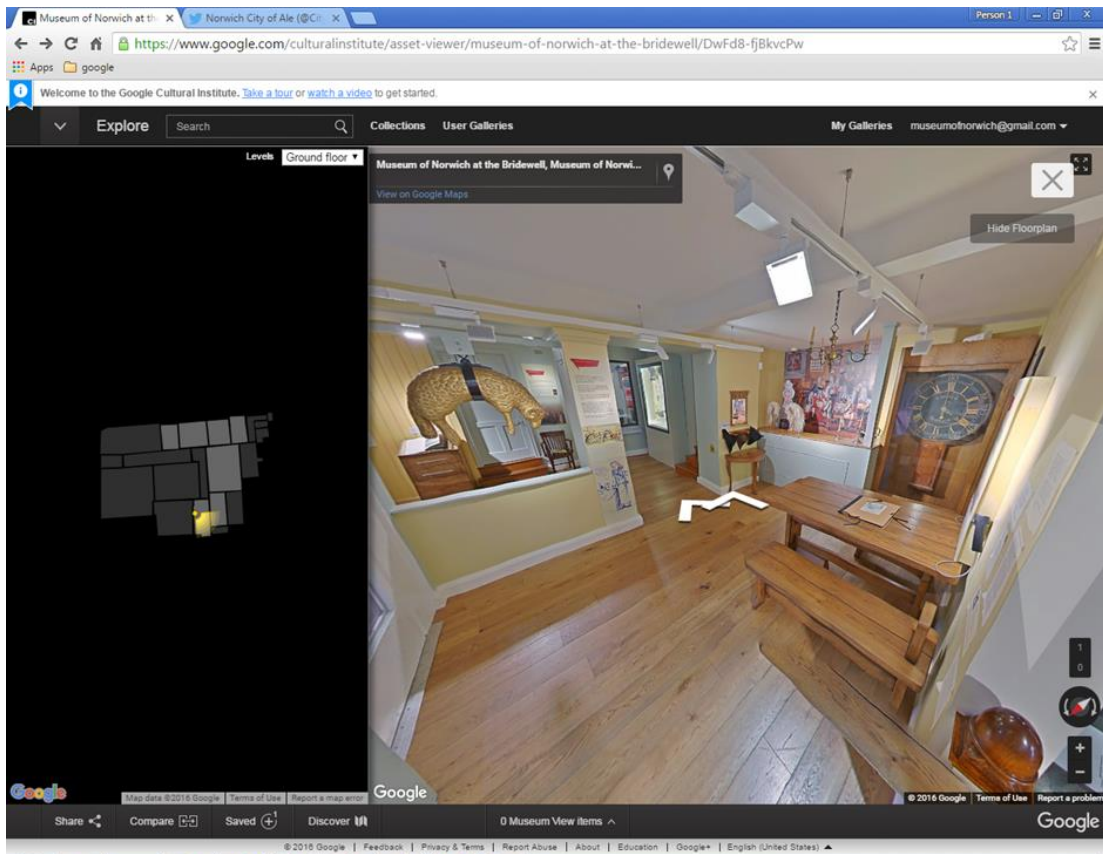
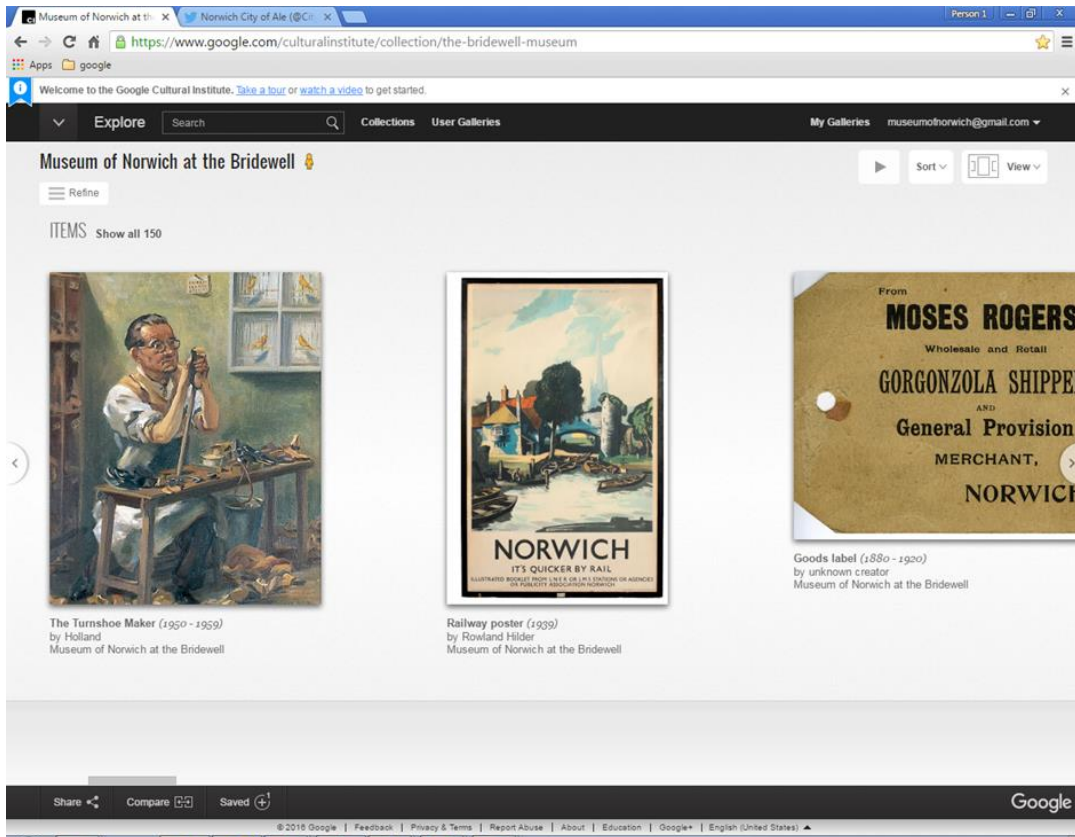


On 17 May the Museum of Norwich became the first museum in East Anglia to host its collections on the Google Cultural Institute website. Over 150 artefacts from the museum can now be viewed online by people around the world due to this new partnership. As well as a virtual exhibition of key highlights from the collections, the Google platform also provides a virtual tour of the Museum of Norwich, bringing the museum and its treasures to a global audience. Thanks to this new virtual exhibition, users will be able to see highlights of the collections including the last surviving Jacquard loom in the city, a selection of exquisite Norwich shawls, the world's first wire netting machine and a sample of the museum's extensive boot and shoe collection. These and many other treasures of the museum can now be accessed in just a few clicks at

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/thebridewell-museum>

The Google Cultural Institute and its partners are putting the world's cultural treasures at the fingertips of Internet users and are building tools that allow the cultural sector to share more of its diverse heritage online. The Google Cultural Institute has partnered with more than 1,000 institutions giving a platform to tens of thousands of artworks and a total of 6 million photos, videos, manuscripts and other documents of art, culture and history.





## **Digital exhibition**

Alongside these collection's highlights a specially curated virtual exhibition has been developed by experts at the Museum of Norwich. This digital exhibition highlights examples of the wide ranging photographic collection relating to the working life of Norwich.

## **Virtual tour with Street View**

Using the Street View feature, people can move around The Museum of Norwich virtually. A specially designed Street View 'trolley' took 360 degree images of selected galleries which were then stitched together, enabling smooth navigation of 15 rooms within the Museum, including the development of the city, the recreated pharmacy, the shoe gallery and galleries related to Norwich trades and industries. This is a tremendously exciting development for the Museums Service. Google's global reach and expertise will generate new audiences for our collections, and provide existing ones with a new way of exploring the city's heritage. Norwich has a long history of technical innovation which continues to this day, some of which is reflected in the collections at the Museum of Norwich, so it's particularly appropriate that the museum is the first in the Service, and indeed the region, to be featured as part of this project. Further NMS sites will follow. The MoN project has received some great feedback on social media – it has attracted 159 likes and retweets on twitter, and one post alone on FB has reached over 7302 people with 19 shares and 45 likes.

## **E5. Keep Project**

NMS has successfully achieved earmarked funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards plans to transform Norwich Castle's iconic Keep into the region's premier heritage attraction. We have been awarded an initial development grant of £462,400, with a further £8.7 million earmarked towards the project, following a second round application at a later date. This is all in addition to the £1 million awarded from HM Treasury in 2015. The initial grant provides development funding to enable us to develop and progress plans which were prepared last year. It will allow us to undertake a further programme of study, recording and interpretation in order that we can initially understand the Keep as fully as possible. We shall also be able to identify essential repairs and conservation work in order to safeguard the building for posterity. In terms of energy efficiency, the project also aims to bring the latest environmentally sustainable technologies into the building, ensuring that it is fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The proposals for the development have been achieved as a result of extensive public consultation and analysis of previous studies dating back to the 1990s. A key element of our plans involves a special partnership with the British Museum to create an outstanding museum of the medieval period. We shall also be providing full access to all 5 levels within the historic structure, for the appreciation of all visitors, including to the battlements.

The successful delivery of the project is important for the safeguarding of jobs across the NMS. We are also looking to significantly increase visitor numbers to Norwich Castle. The scale of the project is such that it will provide economic support to the local economy and support hundreds of jobs in the wider regional economy. In partnership with the City, Cathedral and other bodies we are looking to rejuvenate the cultural heart of Norwich.

Over the next year we shall be producing a dozen major studies as part of the Development Phase. These will include architectural and structural plans, a 3D survey of the Keep interior, interpretation plan, business plan, activity plan and digital reconstructions. This programme of study will be accompanied by a further round of intense consultation on all aspects.

## F. Visitor Numbers

Norwich Museums have continued to perform well in 2015-2016 and build upon the successes of 2014-15..

<b>Castle Museum</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>214,726</b>
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>209,061</b>
<b>Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>4,445</b>
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>4,322</b>
<b>Bridewell Museum</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>14,880</b>
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>15,059</b>
<b>Strangers Hall</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>9,473</b>
	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>9,501</b>

Numbers for April 2016 are very slightly down. This dip is attributed to Easter falling within March this year against it having been in April last year.

		<b>APR</b>
<b>Castle Museum</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>21,114</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	18,650
<b>Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>293</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	414
<b>Museum of Norwich</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>1,359</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	1,124
<b>Strangers Hall</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>675</b>
	<b>2016-17</b>	530

Detailed visitor figures will be circulated at the meeting.

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