

Report to the Norwich Area Museums Committee – 5th June 2018

This is my second report as FNM Representative to the Norwich Area Museums Committee. The main event that has taken place since the last meeting has been the Friends of Norwich Museums AGM on the 14th May 2018 in the Town Close Auditorium at the Castle Museum. There was a full Agenda and was well attended by the Membership. The Meeting was Chaired by our President, Richard Jewson and we were pleased to welcome The Lord Mayor and Mayor's consort and other dignitaries from both the County and City Councils.

We were also very pleased that our Patron, Lord Cholmondely, was able to attend. The Guest Speaker at the end of the meeting was Sir Nicholas Bacon, who spoke about the history of the Bacon family and gave us an excellent presentation of some of the pictures from his family's art collection. Sir Nicholas' Talk was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Chairman of FNM, Francesca Makins gave her last report to the Members, as she is standing down after five years of outstanding service to the Friends. Happily, Francesca is staying on as Chairman of the FNM 100 Committee, which has been formed to mark 100 years of the Friends of Norwich Museums, which will be celebrated in 2021. Of that, much more later!

During the AGM, the David Mawson Award was presented by the Mawson family to Mr. Mike Cuddeford for his excellent contributions of artifacts made over a period of time to the Archaeology Department. This is a biennial award given on the recommendation of Departmental Curators of the Norfolk Museums Service, in this case Tim Pestell. Tim also gave Members and Update on the Castle Keep Project, and brought to the meeting a long roll of paper depicting the design of the Tapestry which will be displayed in the newly refurnished Keep, which the Members found very interesting, as the Friends are financially committed to supporting the production and display of the Tapestry.

Head of Museums, Steve Miller, gave an address to the Friends and the Members enjoyed hearing Steve give an overview of the NMS's activities over the past year, including the successful Saving of Samson initiative and how the plans for finally putting Samson on display in the Museum of Norwich are now complete.

Steve Miller also talked about the next exhibition, The Paston Treasure, which is opening in June and promises to be one of the most popular exhibitions in recent years. It has been put together by a very successful collaboration with Yale Museum, and we all look forward to seeing it very much.

Felicity Devonshire
Representative, Friends of the Norwich Museums

24th May 2018