

Area Museums Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, 29 January 2019 at 10:00

Present :

Councillor Mavroudis (in the Chair); Councillor Cordiner-Achenbach. and Robinson-Payne.

Also in attendance :

Mrs S Wintle (GYBC); Mr A Smith, Dr R Hanly, Mr C Stott, Mrs J Jones, Mr P Miles and Mrs S Johns (Norfolk Museum Service)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Drewitt, K Grey, Jeal, Walch and County Councillor Smith-Clare.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 8 October 2019 were confirmed.

4 GREAT YARMOUTH MUSEUMS BRIEFING

The Committee received and considered the Operations Manager's report which presented the Great Yarmouth Museums briefing for the period October 2018 to January 2019.

The Operations Manager's report advised Members of the following exhibitions at the Time and Tide Museum :-

Circus ! Show of Shows which had been running from the 6 October 2018 and would be in place until the 3 March 2019.

This exhibition had been in the planning stages for nearly two years and is a collaborative show created in association with Museums Sheffield, The National Fairground and Circus Archive at the University of Sheffield and Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums. The Exhibition was in response to the 250th Anniversary of the creation of Circus by Philip Astley and formed part of the national events programme lead by the 'Circus 250' group.

The partnership project has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The exhibition was the second of three themed exhibitions to open in the UK to mark the 250th anniversary along with inspirational and engaging events programmes. The Project was 50% funded by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in addition to the gratefully received GYBC, NCC and Arts Council England funding. It was designed to tackle the hidden histories of circus and highlight key local stories in each of the three partner venues. These included Women in Circus, Black Circus performers and owners, Animals in Circus, among others.

As well as being able to draw heavily on the national archive held in Sheffield, borrowing key works not normally on public display, the museum were fortunate to be able to work with Peter Jay and the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome in ensuring that the local story of this iconic circus and building was told against the backdrop of the national celebrations. Great Yarmouth's circus story began in 1845 with the first recorded visit to the town by a circus, Cookes Equestrian Circus, whose performance was held in a wooden building on Theatre Plain.

Medieval Medicine - 30 March 2019 to 22 September 2019

'Medieval Medicine' is a touring exhibition from the York Archaeological Trust and the Jorvik Viking Centre. Designed to be family friendly yet addressing serious subjects, this exhibition follows the story of five key medieval medicine practitioners – A Plague Doctor, Religious figure, Cunning Woman, Apothecary and Barber Surgeon. Although curated by York, the exhibition has some strong links and themes to the history of Great Yarmouth.

A section of the exhibition will tell a local story which will be incorporated into the main exhibition design. We have chosen the devastating effect of the 1348 plague on the town where over 7,000 of the estimated 10,000 population died of the disease.

Tattoo: British Tattoo Art Revealed (19 October 2019 – 8 March 2020)

Following Medieval Medicine we will be hosting 'Tattoo: British Tattoo Art Revealed' an exhibition on a UK wide tour produced by the National Maritime Museum Cornwall. The Museum is the only venue in the East of England showing the exhibition. It is estimated that about one in five of the UK population as a whole is tattooed and this figure rises to one in three for young adults. The exhibition explores our historical and contemporary relationship with tattoos and shows that while the word tattoo may have come into the English language following Captain Cook's voyage, this was not the start of the story of British tattooing. While showcasing the rich maritime heritage of tattoos, the exhibition also shows how people from all areas of society have always been tattooed.

Events

October Half Term events

This year October half term started with the Magic of Circus to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition. Visitors had a chance to try out some circus skills with SeachangeArts, creating a circus persona with costume and face painting as well as making miniature tight-rope walkers.

October half term also featured the Herring Day event, celebrating everything fishing-related along with our maritime heritage. Shanty songs by the Rogue Shanty Buoys gave an accompaniment to Fisher Girls busily gutting herring and preparing their equipment. Family-friendly activities like making an exhibition related clown fish, the herring in costume, along with a Crazy Coast game and object handling were delivered.

At the Tolhouse Gaol and Elizabethan House, a little Halloween magic was added to the mix with the Double Bumper History Day: Wicked Witches and Furry Familiars. Here visitors could explore both museums and find the real stories of witches as well as the folk tales that evolved around them to then design their own familiar.

Christmas Events at Time and Tide

Visitors enjoyed the Christmas spirit at Time and Tide with *Christmas Time and Tidings* (Friday 8th December 5-8pm) a free evening event. Father Christmas made a visit and families could enjoy children's activities like our Christmas craft station, making angels and miniature Christmas trees. Adults

could indulge in some retail therapy as local crafters hosted festive stalls in the galleries with their handmade decorations, jams, honey and much more. To add to the atmosphere festive tunes and carols were heard throughout the museum, played by the enthusiastic Great Yarmouth Future Brass Band from the fishing gallery.

Over the Post-Christmas weekend (Friday 28th-Sunday 30th) the Clowning Around at Christmas activity was held in which visitors could make their own custom clown face. On the Saturday added another great activity with our Tightrope character, in which visitors could make figures which balanced and moved across a line. This weekend Christmas event attracted 171 visitors in total.

Winter talks program

The Friday Winter talks schedule started with two special speakers. Historical author Charles Nicholl explored the fascinating life and works of Elizabethan playwright Thomas Nashe and his link to the town, as part of the Thomas Nashe Project. The other special guest speaker was Professor Vanessa Toulmin, one of the leading experts on Circus History and co-curator of our 'Circus: Show of Shows' exhibition. Through this illustrated talk Professor Toulmin explored the history of Circus in the UK from its development in the early 1770s onwards. Tracing the first circuses of Astley, Hughes and others to the peak of Victorian showmen such as Lord George Sanger, Barnum and Pablo Fanque. Professor Vanessa shall be returning during February Half term to deliver another talk, Women in Circus.

Two other Circus related talks had been held; one by Jack Jay about the history and the productions of the Hippodrome Circus, another by the entertaining Cosmo Foolhardy of Foolhardy circus as he talked about his life as a clown as well as the "subtle" art of clowning. Other talk topics have included Signs of Norfolk, Feminist Children's Literature, Sir Astley Cooper-Great Yarmouth Surgeon, The Seven Stages of Women and Bog Bodies. Audience numbers have increased by 11% to 439 compared to the same period last year and the average audience size is 44 people.

February Half Term

This half term will see the embracing of everything circus as part of our 'Circus: Show of Shows' exhibition. Every day there will be a circus-themed craft activity inspired by famous acts of the ring. The museum shall have activities on Monday, Wednesday and Friday hosted by SeachangeArts who shall be teaching mini classes in juggling, diablos and hula hooping. We will be also visited by Print to the People who shall be helping people create their own Circus posters. These shall be accompanied by face painting and dressing up and other circus themed craft activities which shall be running everyday over the Half Term break. Also, The museum have the leading circus expert Professor Vanessa Toulmin back to give another special exhibition talk on Thursday 21st on Women in Circus. This has already proved hugely popular and is nearly fully booked.

Other museum projects and developments

Curatorial update

The centenary of the end of the First World War, 2018 saw a refresh in the Time and Tide War Gallery, with a new display honouring the courageous actions of local war hero, Walter Poll OBE.

Teaching Museum Trainees Nicole Hudson and Ruth Stanley increased collection access and interpretation, organising a Kids in Museums Teen Take Over Day for ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) students from East Coast College. The students were given the opportunity to handle collections, learn conservation techniques, and reinterpret the exhibition text in *Circus! Show of Shows* in their first languages.

A crocodile was also welcomed back into the collection, returning from Norwich Castle where it had been displayed on loan in the Paston Treasure Exhibition.

***Sea History Differently* project – Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund**

The Touring Maritime Beach Hut is a pop up exhibition package which has been developed as part of the working partnership between the Time & Tide Museum and Esme Fairburn Foundation. Under the *Sea History Differently* banner, the project is devoted to increasing access and engagement with maritime heritage.

The finished beach hut has spent the Christmas holidays in the Fishing Gallery at the Time & Tide to test its robustness before it goes out on location, and is now fully booked through until the end of June, which is exciting news for the project as a whole.

***Making Waves – Seaside Heritage* project**

As part of the Making Waves Together project, work began recently to co-curate a set of History Handling Boxes on behalf of the Time and Tide Museum. The Making Waves Together project aims to broaden access to cultural heritage in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. One of the ways to achieve this is to create a selection of themed objects boxes which reflect what members of the community identify as important to their own past. The boxes will be used as an outreach resource or as the basis for a supported museum visit so must be accessible and inviting to all, including those with differing physical, mental, cognitive or cultural awareness. To this end, consultation was undertaken with Great Yarmouth MIND where several members wanted to develop a handling box with a maritime theme.

The project was so popular that it has been extended to allow participants to put their learning into practice and assemble the completed boxes.

Colin Stott, Learning Manager provided Member with a detailed presentation on the learning that had taken place at the Time and Tide.

The schools offer continues to be very popular. By the end of January 2019 7,714 students will have visited Time and Tide Museum, 541 to the Elizabethan House Museum and 222 to the Tolhouse. A new event has been developed for the Circus exhibition at Time and Tide where children will learn about the fascinating stories of people who performed at the Hippodrome in the past and learn some circus skills. Some of our forthcoming circus schools events will include activities at the Drill House with circus performers from Seachange Arts.

These circus events were funded by HLF as part of the NMS Circus 250 project and will have seen 700 students visiting by the end of the exhibition. The schools team are now working on two new events for the forthcoming 'Medieval Medicine' exhibition that will be on show at Time and Tide from Easter.

Clare Parker has recently been recruited to the role of Learning Officer leading the schools team. Clare has over 20 year experience teaching in local schools and is a governor at St Georges Primary School.

Early years

Little Kippers

Little Kippers under 5s sessions restarted in the autumn with some new children joining the group. These sessions provide a fun introduction to the Time and Tide Museum with themes such as *Work, Work, Work* and *Flying Things*

Magic Aycorns

Time and Tide hosted a week long residency by a group of artists for an ACE funded action research project led by Great Yarmouth Community Trust, AYCORN (Arts and Young Children Regional Network) East and the Festival Bridge (FB). The Magic Aycorns project enabled artists, early years specialists and museum staff to work together to explore new ways to make museums more engaging for children aged 0-5. The artists used creative approaches and technology to enable the children to investigate the galleries, including interactive playdough, remote cameras and pressure pads triggering sound effects. Two members of the museum learning team then attended a weekend residential training weekend at Snape Maltings led by Paulo Rodrigues Musica Teatral from Portugal exploring the theme of 'Tuning, People, Birds and Flowers'. A research report will be published shortly and we will be working with AYCORN East to seek funding to use this to inform the development of the early years offer at Time and Tide.

Youth Engagement

Requiem Concert Film

Following the success of the Requiem First World War centenary project we are pleased to announce the completion of the full film of the evening orchestral concert at the Hippodrome in June.

Kick the Dust – Norfolk

Work has started on the Kick the Dust – Norfolk Project which is funded by a new HLF fund designed to test innovative new ways to engage young people with heritage. The project will work across NMS and will create a model that establishes radical new ways of working for heritage organisations. It will facilitate impact and sustained engagement with the young people of Norfolk, including those most hard to reach. Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) will deliver this programme with YMCA Norfolk and Creative Collisions, two organisations with a strong record of engaging the most vulnerable young people.

Young people will create their own individual journeys through active engagement with Norfolk's heritage, using structured progression pathways based around a menu of options, tailored to meet individual needs. Outcomes for young people will include certificated skills and training, enhanced employment opportunities, improved self-confidence, active involvement in programming and projects, and a chance to shape the direction and governance of the service.

Norfolk Journeys is an ambitious trailblazer project. It is the first of its kind to offer complete opportunities for young people outside of formal education, and it has the ambition to support young people encountering significant barriers to engage in wider society to access and enjoy new opportunities and challenges in life.

A Project Co-ordinator has been appointed to work with new Project Workers based with learning teams around the county including Time and Tide Museum. The project will run until March 2022

Saturday Art Club

It is the third year of The Saturday Club and began this year with 10 returning and 5 new members, producing colourful screen prints inspired by our Circus 250 exhibition and led by Tutor Donna Harold. This was followed by a double session of dynamic figure drawing of acrobat Tia from Seachange and run by local artist Kate Coleman, the results were then displayed in the community gallery.

A trip to London saw the group meet up with other Saturday Clubs from around the country at Central Saint Martins art school where their collective 'Portrait' exhibition was on show. They were formally welcomed by Sir John and Lady Frances Sorrell and spent the day taking part in group activities with

the other club members.

Some of the highlights for this coming spring term will be the 'Masterclass'; a session run by an industry profession artist or designer, two local artists running workshops in glass and sculpture, both taking inspiration and looking to feed into our 'Medieval Medicine' exhibition.

Young Communicators Yarmouth

Creative Collisions has been awarded an Arts Council England Project Grant of £11,290 to set up a brand new creative media team for Great Yarmouth. Creative Collisions are collaborating with project partners Young Norfolk Arts Trust who have run a Young Comms team in Norwich for five years.

Games Design at Great Yarmouth Museums

Time and Tide Museum is working with level 4 Games designers at East Norfolk Sixth Form to create four new games interactives for Time and Tide, Tolhouse and Elizabethan House and forthcoming temporary exhibition 'Medieval Medicine'. Thirteen students have made two research trips to all three sites and to the Lydia Eva before presenting their initial proposals to a museum panel. The games will be installed in May 2019 and will represent the students' final major showcase before they move on to university and Games Design careers.

Make Yarmouth

Creative Collisions was awarded £19,000 from NEACO (Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach) to deliver 'Make Yarmouth', a project designed to encourage young people into higher education. Throughout the summer of 2018 Creative Collisions and Original Projects delivered thirty free artist led design workshops for teenagers. Five mini art and design projects were introduced by inspirational designers (Furniture by Martino Gamper, Architecture by Hana Loftus from HAT Projects, Product Design by Will Shannon and graphic design with Maki Suzuki from Abake).

Twenty six teenagers took part in one or more workshop and many attended regularly. The project was very successful in reaching local young people who are living in NEACO target postcodes. Relationships with Children's Services and youth charities such as Prospects and MAP were consolidated and this helped to engage and support young people. In order to maintain these relationships and continue to offer skills workshops to local young people the project will be funded for another year by Norfolk Museums HLF-funded *Kick the Dust Norfolk* Programme. Make Yarmouth sessions will continue throughout 2019 on Tuesday evenings in term time and the group will focus on creating retail products inspired by museum collections.

Takeover Day

Our annual Takeover Day event took place on the 22nd November at Time and

Tide Museum. This year it was led by our two Teaching Museum trainees Ruth Stanley (Learning) and Nicole Hudson (Curatorial). They worked with 28 ESOL (English as a Second or Other Language) students from East Coast College taking part in three main activities: an object handling workshop, including mystery objects. The collection of artefacts included hand lamps from the Second World War, a mammoth tooth, a Tudor watering can and an eel trap. The session also included an "Archaeology Bin", an activity the young people found enjoyable but challenging, where students were given various groups of objects from different periods of history: the Stone Age, Iron Age, Roman and Viking, to Tudor and Victorian which they then had to identify and place in chronological order. In a lost property activity the students were given a handbag containing personal items and tasked with trying to deduce, in as much detail, who the handbag might belong to. Head of conservation for NMS, Man-Yee Liu gave a presentation about conservation and then led an active session where the young people learned reconstruction techniques using broken flower pots. Exhibitions Officer, Philip Miles, gave a guided tour of the Circus exhibition and spoke to the students about the history of circus.

Enjoy Great Yarmouth Local Cultural Education Partnership

The museum are continuing to lead the Enjoy LCEP with additional capacity and funding provided by the HLF-funded Making Waves Together project. Since the beginning of the autumn term the museum programme have supported 41 school staff with CPD workshops; launched 4 Culture school programmes; trained 6 young volunteers for the first Great Yarmouth Youth Arts Festival, and coordinated the equivalent event in Lowestoft; festivals that saw a combined audience of over 200 young people attending creative workshops during October half-term.

Teachers CPD

In September a teacher training day for all the staff at St George's Primary school was held. The training focused on using drama techniques, as well as museum objects and paintings, to enable teaching staff to inspire creative writing from their pupils. Even those without a penchant for amateur dramatics threw themselves into the day, creating characters, using paintings to inspire poetry and multisensory approaches for storytelling.

A circus themed CPD workshop was held, linking in with the temporary exhibition at the Time and Tide museum. With 7 schools represented, including Red Oak Primary in Lowestoft, it was a good turnout thanks in part to the growing Enjoy and Lowestoft Rising teaching networks.

The session started at Seachange Arts with an introduction to circus skills that help develop pupil's concentration and resilience. Then an exploration of the circus exhibition at Time and Tide museum with Genevieve Rudd, who then supported a session on mono-print that saw the attendees creating their own circus posters. Kate Argyle highlighted potential curriculum links with circus as a theme and finally all were treated to a tour of the Hippodrome museum, an extraordinary place brimming with circus paraphernalia and tales of daring do.

Enjoy's *Culture School* programme moved on apace this term with 4 new projects; St Nicholas Priory CEVA Primary had an after school drama club delivered by their arts partner, St George's Theatre; St George's Primary and St Mary St Peter Catholic Primary schools started their exploration of Gobbolino with Into Opera, a 2 year project that will see this well-loved children's story transformed into an opera; and at Edward Worlledge Ormiston Academy children from year 4 worked with a local visual artist exploring the theme of journeys

October half-term was all about two brand new Arts festivals for 11-19 year olds. NessFest in Lowestoft was pulled together in a very short period of time to deliver 10 workshops from 6 venues to over 80 young people who attended the afternoon of free arts and cultural activities.

Young@Arts Festival

That week the museum also helped to develop and deliver the inaugural Young@Arts festival in Great Yarmouth. Led by Mancroft Advice Project the festival for 11-19yr olds was steered by teenagers and engaged 140 of their peers in a fantastic variety of workshops and performances. We staged festival themed T-Shirt printing at Time and Tide and horror film *Woman in Black* at the Tolhouse where screaming and laughter were generated in equal measure. Both museums were free entry for young people with a festival wrist band, attracting over 50 young people. A real highlight was the National Art & Design Saturday Club, Silver Arts award group YOMA who staged an exhibition of youth art at Skippings Gallery.

The Operations Manager hereby presented the Visitor Numbers year to date for the Time and Tide, Elizabethan House and Tolhouse Goal.

5 RATIONALISATION REPORT

Samantha Johnss (NMS Collections Development Manager) summarised the great Yarmouth Museums Associations Rationalisation report which links into and conforms with the Arts Council Accreditation standards.

The Committee discussed a visit to the Gressenhall Collections Museum to be able to see the vast amount of items stored at the Museum. It was agreed that this visit be looked into.

RESOLVED :

The Committee supported the proposals set out in the Rationalisation report.

6 TIME AND TIDE EXHIBITION PROGRAMME FOR 2019-20

The Committee received a presentation from Phillip Miles on the upcoming

exhibition programme for 2019-2020.

The meeting ended at: 12:00