

Area Museums Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 02 March 2017 at 10:00

PRESENT :

Councillor B Lawn - Borough Councillor of Great Yarmouth (Chairman)

Councillor K Grey - Borough Councillor of Great Yarmouth

Councillor Jeal - Borough Councillor of Great Yarmouth

Councillor Mavroudis - Borough Councillor of Great Yarmouth

Councillor Robinson - Payne - Borough Councillor of Great Yarmouth

Dr R Hanley - Norfolk Museums Service

Mr A Smith - Norfolk Museums Service

Mr C Stott - Norfolk Museums Service

Mrs J O'Donoghue - Norfolk Museums Service

Mrs S Wintle - Members Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Cutting and County
County Councillor Castle.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Robinson-Payne declared a Pecuniary Interest in her capacity as Curator at the Nelson Museum.

Councillors Jeal and K Grey declared their Personal Interests in thier capacity as Trustees at the Nelson Museum.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16 November 2016 were confirmed subject to the addition of Mr C Stott as those present at the meeting.

Some concern was raised in relation to item 4 the Sea History Differently Project. Reference was made to Councillor Jeals question raised at the last meeting with regard to the Nelson Exhibition due to be held at the Norwich Castle Museum and the lack of communication and engagement that had been made with the Nelson Museum to advise of the exhibition. The Head of Operations and Learning summarised the proposed exhibition to Members and advised that it was due to be on display from 29 July to 1 October 2017, he reported that following the last meeting he had discussed the matter with the Curator at the Norwich Castle Museum who had stated that they would be requiring the return loan of 2 objects from the Nelson Museum to be used for the duration of the exhibition.

Councillor K Grey asked why such exhibition was not being displayed at the Nelson Museum and she was advised that the exhibition would be too large to display at the Nelson Museum as it was to use objects from all over Norfolk, including the very large ensign from Le Genereux.

Further concern was raised in relation to the Time and tide running a Nelson themed learning event with local school because this might affect school visits to the Nelson Museum. The Learning Manager explained the events that had taken place to date were organised at short notice to prepare children for a visit to the National Maritime Museum as part of the Stories from the Sea literacy project. This would be a temporary arrangement. Learning staff at the Time and Tide had contacted the Nelson Museum in January 2017 to explore the possibility of working in partnership to develop this event to include visits to both museums.

The Head of Operations and Learning advised that the exhibition curator from Norwich Castle Museum and members of the Time and Tide learning team planned to meet the Nelson Museum curator to discuss issues raised and confirm opportunities for future partnership working, to include a potential loan of a Nelson exhibition in 2018 and the delivery of a joint schools event. It was pointed out that the Nelson Museum felt disappointed that they had not been contacted prior to the exhibition proposals being developed. The Head of Operations and Learning noted that the lead in time for this exhibition was shorter that would normally be the case and apologised for any perceived lack of communication.

4 MUSEUMS REPORT FOR GYAMC

The Area Operations Manager presented the report which provided Members with information on Great Yarmouth Museum's activities for the period November 2016 - January 2017.

1) Exhibitions at Time and Tide

1.1) Never Had It So Good (22 October 2016 - 5 March 2017)

Never Had It So Good continues to be a highlight for museum visitors. The Never Had it so Good exhibition reflects on a period of national belonging, drawing together the cultural landscape of the 1950's and traces the design experience of an average, young British couple through the end of austerity and the disappearance of rationing. Re-created room settings and 150 authentic artefacts evoke the atmosphere of the decade.

The exhibition at Time and Tide incorporates photos of Great Yarmouth's post-war re-building and voice recordings of residents who remember the rapid change in fortunes which the 50s brought to the town.

1.2) Forthcoming exhibitions

Titanic - Honour and Glory (1 April - 24 September 2017)

The "Titanic Honour & Glory" national touring exhibition 'docks' into Time and Tide museum on Saturday 1st April for the Easter holidays. The exhibition is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the White Star Line and their fleet of ships which included, Titanic, Olympic and Britannic.

The exhibition will feature many rare and previously unseen artefacts, including chinaware from the Titanic. Stories will be told of Norfolk survivors, and local links to the ship displayed, the Titanic menu which featured Great Yarmouth bloaters will also be on display.

A private viewing event is booked for Tuesday 18th April and John Balls, who is the chair of the Norfolk Titanic Association and has written several books on the disaster including 'Norfolk Survivors', will be the key speaker.

1.3) Endeavour Project

The loan of a Pocket watch from the Titanic is being arranged from Royal Museums Greenwich as part of the HLF- funded Endeavour Partnership. This watch belonged to Robert Douglas Norman who perished in the Titanic disaster on the morning of April 15, 1912.

A small exhibition and interactive area to highlight and promote this unique piece will be on show by the Wreck and Rescue gallery in the Time and Tide museum from April 2017 to coincide with the main Titanic exhibition.

2) Events

2.1) Christmas Events

On the 9th December the Museum held their Christmas Time and Tidings event. Father Christmas came in to visit for one night only in the Rows. Wreaths on the doors and candles in the windows created a festive atmosphere for visitors. The pawnbrokers was turned into the elves workshop, a place in which the children could collect their gifts after visiting Santa's grotto.

In the fishing galleries, Artlike helped visitors create Christmas decorations and other craft items. Philip Harvey used his shadow puppet screen and had people making festive shadow figures. In total, 115 visitors enjoyed the evening event with 43 children seeing Father Christmas.

2.2) Never Had It So Good events

The first exhibition event, a 1950's print making workshop, took place on Sunday 27th November. A keen group of 14 people were introduced to the art of lino print making, taking some of the designs from the exhibition as inspiration. This workshop was so popular that there was a reserve list of 20.

The second 1950's printing workshop group again made patterns inspired by the new exhibition introducing them to lino and block printing. Some amazing patterns were created that would not look out of place in a Sanderson's Catalogue. The next event will be a vintage dress making workshop on Sunday 26th February.

2.3) Winter talks (7 October 2016 – 31 March 2017)

The Friday talk's schedule continued. Tim Pestell, Senior Curator of Archaeology gave an update on the Castle Keep Project (42 attendees). Next historical interpreter Kindra Jones, talked about Costumes through the Ages (41), this covered how fashion and design had changed from the Norman Conquest to the early 20th century. Gareth Davies, a local writer talked about the Yarmouth Suspension Bridge Disaster (51) which happened in 1845. Lastly the fashions of the fifties, which are reflected in the Never Had It So Good exhibition, were discussed with Norwich vintage fashion writer Karen James Welton, New Look and Beyond (51). This was a hands on talk with lots of clothing being passed around as well as photos and accessories. January has posted the highest attendances so far this winter with a total of 185 people attending for talks. Previous months totals were 167 in November and 126 in December.

3. Other Museum Developments

3.1) Rationalisation

The Museums have started the selection for the next round of rationalisation for objects from the Great Yarmouth collections that are stored at Gressenhall in the Collections Centre.

Objects that are chosen have no Great Yarmouth provenance or are in very

poor condition / vulnerable to pest infestation. For example, many of the generic brand name singer sewing machines have been selected as the Museum has over 105 machines in the service.

3.2) British Museum Trainee

The Museums were successful in their application to the British Museum to work in partnership with their HLF Skills for the Future Learning Museum programme. This coveted partnership is always oversubscribed, with only 12 places available across the UK which provides young people from diverse backgrounds with high quality entry-level vocational training.

The Museums British Museum trainee Mauro Maia started with in September on his 12 month secondment. Mauro has been posting on the museums social media sites and even had a successful post of a picture of Marine Parade in the 1960's which reached almost 3,500 people. He has also been working on collections audits and documentation.

3.3 Sea History Differently Project

The Museum Service have been awarded a grant of £90,500 to deliver this exiting project at Time and Tide. Permanent displays will be refreshed as well as touring outreach projects and exhibitions. The project will provide a focus for skills sharing and working with local communities in all aspects of its development.

Throughout the project the Museums aim to transform access to the important maritime and historic boat collections. Specialist boat conservation and enhanced collections documentation and research will provide a starting point for community co-curation of a maritime fine art exhibition at Time and Tide that will be delivered for Summer 2018.

Jonathan Catherall, Programmes Manager, Museums Association stated 'We are excited to welcome Time & Tide Museum of Great Yarmouth Life to the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Network.'

The Museum are pleased to welcome Jennifer Hooker to her new position in Great Yarmouth as the Project Assistant for the Sea History Differently project across the next 18 months. Jennifer was recruited from the current cohort of NMS trainees and she was previously based at Norwich Castle.

3.4 Deep Cleans

Each year a deep clean is completed at the Time and Tide and other Great Yarmouth Museums. The deep clean was a joint effort with all staff helping to clean the buildings and displays. Elizabethan House and the Tolhouse Goal have cleaning dates set for late March. Time and Tide deep clean took place just before Christmas.

3.5 East Anglian Conservators visit

At the very beginning of December Time & Tide hosted the East Anglia Conservators forum to see the collections and visit the archive. A talk was organized which covered the conservation aspects of the Sea History Differently Project.

3.6 Visitor experience

Time and Tide Museum won an award at the EDP Hseasons Tourism Awards held in November 2016. We are the Norfolk Tourist Attractions Association Best Small Visitor Attraction of the Year.

4. Learning

The Museums have had another very busy autumn term across the Eastern Area museums and this trend is continuing into the spring term.

There was a marked dip in visits in December. This was due in part to the education room being unavailable to schools for parts of the month and the figure also compares unfavourably with the previous year because unusually high number of visits were seen in December 2015 due to the huge popularity of writer led workshops that ran for the 'Beastly Machines' exhibition at Time and Tide. However, this variation should be viewed against a trend of sustained growth in the popularity of our schools programme.

The steady increase in visits reflects the sustainability and quality of the museums learning offer.

The Crime & Punishment school workshop has been re-vamped at the Tolhouse Museum. As the oldest standing building in Great Yarmouth, the Tolhouse is packed with plenty of atmosphere so a few additional resources were needed to give the workshop a lift. Teachers from Edward Worlledge have booked the event for 2 years running and commented on how much the workshop 'had improved greatly' since the recent changes. The visitor total has already surpassed last year's pupil visit at the Tolhouse.

4.1 Stories from the Sea

This year to date 1,672 students from 26 schools have attended Stories from the Sea events. This is 84% of the target for the year of 2000 pupil visits and represents a significant contribution to the increasing visit numbers at our museums in the east of the county. The funding for this project, which comes from the Department for Education and Arts Council England, has provided the staffing capacity and resources to significantly increase the schools programme by developing a number of new literacy events. These provide immersive experiences and use collections to really engage students with writing.

Last term a research project looking at ways to make the museum schools events more accessible for students with English as an Additional Language (EAL). The Museums have been working with Inderjit Soor who is an advisor for Norfolk County Council's 'Educator Solutions' team, working with Norfolk

Schools to improve attainment for EAL students. The Museum also worked with a local writer, Greta Healey, who came to us via the Writers Centre Norwich. Inderjit provided a really useful training session for museum staff and teachers to kick start the project. She helped review the event and develop additional resources such as visual prompts for story-telling and vocabulary mats to share with schools prior to visits.

Inderjit also worked with teachers to plan their visits with particular focus on preparatory work to give additional support for EAL students. Two events were run in October and November for Year 1 students from St Georges Primary School and Year 4 students from Alderman Swindell Primary School. These were followed by workshops in schools led by Greta to help maximise the impact of the museum visits and provide starting points for writing. Assessment data from Alderman Swindell Primary shows that 91% of pupils with English as an Additional Language demonstrated significant improvement in writing due to the museum project.

4.2 World War One Event

In response to numerous enquiries from local schools a World War One event had been developed, aimed at upper KS2. Pupils meet three characters: a soldier who is on duty in the trenches, a nurse who is working in Seafields auxiliary hospital in Great Yarmouth, and Major Cadbury, the local pilot who shot down two Zeppelins in World War One.

4.3 A Sailor's Life for Me

This term the Museum are taking groups of children from schools in Great Yarmouth to the National Maritime Museums and Cutty Sark as part of our partnership work with Royal Museums Greenwich for the Stories from the Sea project. To prepare them for their visits new events have been created to learn about life in the navy in the nineteenth century. The highlight of one trip came when one of our local children interrupted a session at the National Maritime Museum to show the staff how to properly load a cannon.

The following feedback came from the year 2 teacher at Stradbroke Primary Academy whom recently took part in the event at Time & Tide: 'The enthusiasm and energy the staff showed helped to keep the children focused and energized. Each session was very well prepared and flowed very well. The staff were very good with the children and I observed lots of positive praise and encouragement from them towards the children. The costumes and resources were fabulous. You have set up fun packed, hands on learning sessions for the children to gain so much new knowledge about life on board a ship'.

Because such positive feedback had been received from schools the curator at the Nelson Museum has been approached to see if they would like to join us in offering this workshop as part of a joint, whole day event with schools visiting both museums. This model has proved to work successfully with the Lydia Eva in Great Yarmouth and the RNLi Henry Blogg Museum in Cromer.

4.4 Little Kippers

It has been another successful and enjoyable term for the monthly under-fives group. In September a treasure hunt was undertaken where children pretended to be pirates using telescopes and compasses. In October they looked for big and small things in the museum displays and measured them using till roll. In November the rows were explored and spotting cards were used to find objects in each house. One of the parents commented that she really liked this activity because it encouraged her son to spend a lot longer looking at things and noticing things they might not ordinarily have seen. In December tools from the different maritime trades were looked at and they worked really hard at boat building and basket weaving. The children who attend have really grown in confidence. It has also been encouraging to see families who come to Little Kippers attending other public events.

The next step is to build the numbers again as lots of the older children have now left to start school. The Museum is planning to visit other pre-school groups in the area, meet parents and tell them about sessions.

4.5 National Art & Design Saturday Club

Great & Yarmouth College and Time & Tide Museum's partnership was formed to deliver free workshops to 13-16 year olds at colleges, universities or museums as part of the nationwide programme run by the Saturday Club Trust. The overall aim being to inspiring creativity, nurture talents and ultimately increase knowledge and understanding of the creative sectors and possible career paths.

Term 1

14 young people from Great Yarmouth and surrounding areas began with the theme of self-portraits and took part in sessions from mark-making and weaving to fashion couture and pin-hole photography, Dada- inspired collages and 3D relief casting to Photoshop, finishing with woodwork construction to build a 'Constructivist' Christmas tree for the annual GY Minster fundraising competition.

On November 19th the group went to renowned Central Saint Martins Art College for a national exhibition of their 'portrait'-themed work and met all the other clubs. It was amazing to see the amount of national Club members, showcasing the distance that it covers and the creative interest in the arts that this represents and our group put on an exciting and inspiring exhibition. The group then had a guided tour of some of the TATE's collections by arts organisation 'Q-Art'. The group had a private view of the first term's work at Great Yarmouth College, which then moved to its current location in our Community Gallery at Time & Tide museum. One parent commented that her daughter had really grown in confidence during this term

Term 2

At present 15 young people regularly attend, with the possibility of another 5 joining soon. There has been 3 weeks of drawing so far, moving into animation

last week.

The comic drawing session run by local artist Stuart Paterson was brilliantly received and inspired the young people. The Museum are also in the stages of planning our masterclass which will be with an industry professional and introduce the group to the idea of site-specific work and product design, they will hopefully be responding to the museum space.

4.6 Crafting History

The HLF funded 'Crafting History' project is in its final stages with artist residencies in basketry, woodwork & glassmaking. Tension plates, Japanese knots and a God's Eye are just some of the many techniques that were learnt in October with Basketry Artists Clare Pastorious and Sarah Dybal. They taught skills used traditionally to create Swill Baskets and Crans for use in Great Yarmouth's historic fishing industry. Fourteen students from four schools and colleges used their new found skills to make imaginative pieces inspired by our collections. The artists also delivered a professional development day for teachers.

The the residency programme was extended to deliver four additional outreach workshops at East Norfolk Sixth Form and Great Yarmouth College. More than sixty 'A' Level and Foundation diploma students in Art and Design, Textiles and Design Technology are using the workshops to develop their portfolios and apply for prestigious university courses both here and in Holland.

Woodwork Artist in Residence Jill Brewster taught teachers, technicians and students woodcarving skills. It was amazing to see what they managed to achieve in three days, their own piece to take home and a beautiful carved panel. Eleven students from four different schools became competent woodcarvers and collaborated to make a stunning panel for the final exhibition.

Our final residency was led by glass artist Alex R who ran a CPD session for tutors and technicians and we are currently in the middle of the three workshop days for 17 local students. The group took their initial inspiration from the museum and brought these ideas back into the workshop at Great Yarmouth College.

The work of the six artists in residence will feature alongside art created by young people in an exhibition at Time and Tide Museum that will open in April. This project has been made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme.

4.7 Grant Success for Wide Angle Young Volunteers

The Wide Angle documentary photography group who have been awarded a grant of £4,685. The money has been awarded as part of the Youth Social Action Fund by Norfolk Community Foundation. For this project, young volunteer photographers will receive masterclasses and mentoring from professional photographers before offering their services to cultural and community groups in Great Yarmouth.

Creative Collisions will work in partnership with Voluntary Norfolk to provide these exciting 'live' work experience opportunities for the young photographers and help local third-sector organisations to identify their 'marketing' needs. At the end of the year the group will create an exhibition and a publication, which will provide a visual record and celebration of the great work being done by cultural and community organisations in the town.

Twelve young people signed up, the last of the five masterclasses approaching, have included Photo-journalism, events photography, promotional photography, photography for social media and photo-editing. The group have received their first live brief from Great Yarmouth Arts Festival for a display in the town center in June and two of the group members have been out photographing for the library's Harry Potter event.

4.8 Take Over Day

Time and Tide Museum was delighted to take part in National Museums 'Take Over Day', in partnership with GYROS, an organisation which facilitates social and community integration for migrants coming to Great Yarmouth from other countries.

Over six weeks the Museum worked with a group of seven young people between the ages of eight and seventeen, who have English as an Additional Language (EAL). The young people were from a variety of different backgrounds speaking, Portuguese, Lithuanian, and Slovakian. Over the six weeks the young people identified objects from the collections that connect them with or reflect parts of their own heritage to create a museum trail. The community gallery was also taken over by the group who curated a 'pop-up' temporary exhibition showcasing objects brought in from home that mean something to them or represent their cultural background and heritage. All text produced for the trail and exhibition were interpreted into both English and their first languages to promote wider access.

This project was a fantastic opportunity for the young people at GYROS to engage with museum collections whilst practising their spoken and written English. Further the museum has been inspired to continue working with EAL groups from the local area on future projects such as 'Endeavour'.

4.9 YMCA Project

The Museum have been working with Great Yarmouth YMCA on a project to try and discover the history of the organisation during and after World War II. Workshops are being offered in conjunction with Art Award to help the young people gain further insight and understanding of what life was like during this time of real austerity and yet such influential design.

A group of young people have taken part in general research and object handling at Time & Tide museum as well as reviewing the 'Never Had It So Good' exhibition for inspiration of materials and design from the 40's & 50's,

and further researching a practitioner in response to this. A visit to archives at the local library was next, to see how much information they could find locally for the YMCA, and the group have just completed a session on surface pattern design with a tutor from Great Yarmouth College. Next time the focus will be on Make, Do and Mend and they will be looking at utility wear and learning the art of rag-rug making. The group will then spend two week developing an idea and final piece in their preferred field ready for a group exhibition.

4.10 Endeavour

'Endeavour' is a partnership project with the National Maritime Museum (NMM) Greenwich, linked to the forthcoming 'Titanic' exhibition at Time and Tide Museum in April 2017. Starting in January 2017 Time and Tide museum has been working with ESOL entry level 1, 2 & 3 students from Great Yarmouth College, to capture migration stories that will be edited into a short film to be played alongside the 'Titanic' exhibition.

5. Partnerships

5.1 Cultural Heritage Partnership

Great Yarmouth museums continue to actively support a range of local partnerships. The Head of Operations & Learning & the Operations Manager – East attend the Great Yarmouth Cultural Heritage Partnership meetings and also sit on the steering group.

5.2 Cultural Education Partnership

The Learning Manager continues to chair this network, branded Enjoy – Great Yarmouth.

The Museum are continuing to lead this cultural education partnership, working with schools and cultural organisations in the town to create more opportunities for children and young people. The Music Hub has been very active, setting up a new music forum and allocating funds for a music week for young people in May 2017. The Minster and St Nicholas Priory School have also set up a new director of music role that will also help to develop music provision for children and young people. CEP funds have also been awarded to 'Flipside' to run a series of 'Big Draw' activities as part of the Arts Festival in June 2017. 'Creative Collisions' youth arts network will once again be working with young people to create artistic elements for the GY Arts Festival carnival in June. Enjoy partners have been actively engaged in working with counterparts in Lowestoft to submit proposals for a funding bid to the Great Place scheme, led by Great Yarmouth and Waveney councils.

Councillor Robinson-Payne stated that she commended the work that had been undertaken by the Museum Service and asked whether a visitor breakdown could be produced at the next meeting.

The Area Operations & Museums Manager reported on the Visitor Numbers for the Museums as follows :-

Time and Tide

- Admissions Year to Date - 6%
- Income Year to Date - 17%
- Retail Year to Date - 19%

Elizabethan House

-

- Admissions Year to Date - -4%
- Income Year to Date - -2%
- Retail Year to Date - 11%

Tolhouse Gaol

-

- Admissions Year to Date - -11%
- Income Year to Date - -15%
- Retail Year to Date - -3%

5 RECENT ACQUISITIONS, COLLECTIONS AND EXHIBITIONS UPDATE

The Committee received a presentation from the Museums Curator Jo O'Donoghue on Collections and Exhibitions which advised Members of the following :-

- Digitising our collections
- Collections Management, New Acquisitions & Rationalisation
- Potential Loans
- Exhibitions update
- Sea History Differently

The following recent acquisitions and collections were circulated to Members :-

- 1900 Fan with hand painted decoration
- Great Yarmouth Racecourse 1932 - Race Day Programme
- 1940's Scrap Book
- Beer Bottle
- April 19, 1865 Photo, Giles & Son
- Mourning silk black apron (Zeppelin Raids)

The meeting ended at: 12:00