

Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Date: Friday 2 February 2024

Time: 2 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich NR1 2DH

Supplementary Agenda

- 6. Great Yarmouth Area Museums Working Group minutes from 8 January 2024 Page A2
- 7. King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee minutes from 8 January 2024 Page A20

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GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Great Yarmouth Area Museums Working Group

Minutes

Tuesday, 09 January 2024 at 14:30

Councillor Freeman (in the Chair), Councillor Galer, Councillor Kybird, County Councillor Ward

Also in attendance at the above meeting were:

Andrew Smith (NMS), Dr Robin Hanley (NMS), Colin Stott (NMS) Hannah Woodruff (Cultural Support Officer) and Andrea Krout (Democratic Services Officer)

1 QUORACY OF MEETING

The Chairman explained that the meeting was inquorate but it was agreed that Members would have an informal discussion on the items in the agenda.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Robinson-Payne, Councillor Green, Councillor McMullen, Councillor Mogford, Councillor Lawn and Councillor Kybird.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

4 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023 were noted.

5 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the above Minutes.

6 GREAT YARMOUTH AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Working Group received and considered the report which was jointly presented by Andrew Smith, Robin Hanley and Colin Stott.

The contents of the report are reproduced as follows: Great Yarmouth Museums briefing for the period: October to December 2023.

1. COVID-19 & infection control update

1.1 Infection control procedures

A number of the COVID-secure systems and procedures implemented across Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) sites during the pandemic remain in place. Infection control priorities remain:

- Ventilation
- Cleaning regimes
- Hand sanitisation

CO2 monitors provided through Norfolk County Council (NCC) continue to operate in a number of spaces across NMS where there is more limited natural/mechanical ventilation. These CO2 detectors are monitored locally by staff and they also link into the LoRaWAN network, facilitating the use of monitoring dashboards to track live data and trends.

At Time and Tide the CO2 monitors are located in the 1920's Row, Temporary Exhibition Gallery (an air purifier is also in use due to no natural or mechanical ventilation available), Education Room, Education Office, Duty Managers Office, Blackfriars Meeting Room, Collections Archive, Exhibitions Office and War Years Gallery. In the Tolhouse Gaol the monitors are sited in the Cells and the Sarah Martin Room whilst at Elizabethan House they cover the Conspiracy Room and the Dining Room.

2. Exhibitions at Time and Tide

2.1 *Crossings, Constructions and Connections: JMW Turner and Bridges Old and New* (21 October 2023 to 25 February 2024)

In 2019, thanks to the generosity of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Art Fund and a private donor, Norfolk Museums were able to save *Walton Bridges*, an early work by JMW Turner, for the nation. It is the only oil painting by Turner in public ownership in the East of England.

As part of that National Lottery Heritage Fund project to purchase *Walton Bridges*, the museum is hosting the painting alongside many other stunning images of bridges as it completes its tour of Norfolk and Suffolk before returning to the Castle to be permanently exhibited there.

Because of the size of our temporary exhibition galleries, visitors get a unique opportunity to view the Turner quite closely, alongside the original preparatory

sketch for the painting which we have on loan from Tate Britain; possibly the first time these works have been shown together since the painting was completed over 200 years ago. Other Turner items on loan from Tate Britain include the Norfolk and Suffolk sketchbook, last seen here during our *Drawn to the Coast* exhibition in 2018, displayed alongside some relevant ephemera from the wider NMS decorative arts collections and a beautiful etching of *Little Devils Bridge* in Wales.

The *Construction Zone* in the outer exhibition gallery has proved very popular with our younger visitors and we have seen some impressive structures built in this space. The exhibition was originally planned to celebrate the opening of the new Herring Bridge in Great Yarmouth which has unfortunately been delayed. This has meant that we have not been able to promote the exhibition's links to the new bridge as actively as we would have hoped, but feedback on the show so far has been very positive.

2.2 Forthcoming Exhibitions

***Dinosaurium* (16 March to 21 September 2024)**

We are looking forward to the *Dinosaurium* exhibition coming to Time and Tide Museum on loan from the Hampshire Cultural Trust. The show will be supplemented by some of our own collections of fossils and animal bones. We are also finalising loans from the impressive collections at the Sedgewick Museum of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge and looking forward to displaying them alongside our own objects.

This exhibition explores the long history of our relationship with dinosaurs, from ancient legends of mythical winged beasts in the deserts of central Asia, to the creatures brought to life in Jurassic Park.

The exhibition includes a stunning *tarbasaurus* skull (shown above) and several detailed models, including the *protoceratops* (shown below).

This *family friendly* exhibition looks like it will be extremely popular, and we plan to work with local dinosaur themed businesses to help promote it.

2.3 Community Displays and Exhibitions

The Red Herring Gallery, on the first floor of the museum, continues to showcase the work of our young people from the National Saturday Art Club. The current display continues to attract attention and the video of the 1953 floods is proving popular viewing, especially by our older visitors who may remember this tragic event.

2.4 Other displays

As part of the Arts Council England funded *Stories from the Sea* partnership with Royal Museums Greenwich, we are pleased to have secured the painting *The Wreck of the Gloucester off Yarmouth* by Johan Danckerts on long term loan from the RMG team. The painting, which dates to 1682, is now on display in our ground floor Fishing Gallery.

The Wreck of the Gloucester painting formed part of the very successful exhibition *The Last Voyage of the Gloucester: Norfolk's Royal Shipwreck, 1682* at Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery during the summer of 2023. Over the coming weeks we will be adding a new graphic panel explaining the significance of the wreck and a screen showing the story of its rediscovery by the Barnwell brothers. Our Learning Team will be using the painting as part of a guided session for school groups looking at the wreck and its story.

3. Events

3.1 October Half Term 2023

The annual *Herring Day* at Time and Tide Museum saw the return of a fisher girl to the museum, discussing her life and work travelling with the fishing

fleets and demonstrating herring gutting during the day. Local artist Donna Thompson delivered a drop-in clay fish-making workshop that was attended by over 100 visitors. Many groups and families worked together to create their fish. The atmosphere was very collaborative and groups applauded each other for their work. A long-term museum volunteer, Morris, also held rope-tying demonstrations and handling collection sessions. This proved a popular activity, with one child stating that Morris explaining knot tying and showing her how to do it was her favourite part of the day. The café had complementary herring canapes for museum visitors to sample and see what herring tasted like, with over 80 people giving it a try, to mixed reviews.

Flower Piece at Elizabethan House Museum was a still life drawing workshop based on the *Flower Piece* painting on display in the entryway by Flemish still life painter, Gaspar Pieter Verbruggen II (1664-1730).

A few visitors had never tried drawing with oil pastels before and enjoyed experimenting with colours on the dark background. Some had come specifically for the workshop and were interested in drawing, but many had a specific interest in the flower theme. Families participated together and people were interested in learning what kinds of flowers they were. Most people stayed for around 45 minutes immersing themselves in the activity and completed detailed works.

The Tolhouse Gaol Museum held a *Witch Trials* event day with three main elements; a costumed witchfinder during the day; a talk by Dr Danny Buck on Miles Corbet and the organisation of witch trials in Yarmouth; and finally an early evening performance of WITCH by The Feathered Thorns. This performance was a mixture of music, spoken word and projections inspired by the history and ideas of witches.

Feedback from the day:

'It felt so powerful to be learning more about the town's trials in the building where they took place.'

'The Feathered Thorns were incredible! And the Tolhouse was the perfect location for the piece to be performed – a great combination of subject matter and historical building.'

These responses showed that people enjoyed the 'atmospheric' setting and the connection between the performance and the site. Visitors were very positive and described the event as a 'wonderful experience' and 'perfect performance'. Some suggested they would like to see The Feathered Thorns again and enjoyed their connection with the Tolhouse Gaol and the way this subject was delivered sensitively.

On the same day the Elizabethan House Museum hosted a *Witch-Craft Fair* with local makers and self-proclaimed witches selling their creations such as crystal jewellery and tarot readings. *Norfolk Folklore* were also there to share and collect stories of supposed witches and magic folklore. This was enjoyed by many visitors and we had positive feedback from stallholders who wished to return for this event if held again another time.

3.2 Winter Talks – Time & Tide

The latest Winter Talks series began in November, with a fascinating talk on hedgerow dyes and where you can find them by Fay Jones the Woodland Haberdasher. This linked in to some of the history of cloth and wool dyeing and merchants in Great Yarmouth.

3.3 Christmas Events

This festive period we held the *Calm Before the Storm* event co-produced with Make Yarmouth, a Kick the Dust young people's group and working with *Play, Produce, Promote* from Freshly Greated. Showcasing young local musicians Arthur Black, Mickey Gilham and Eleanor Yates, the artists were chosen by the young people from Make Yarmouth, and they also took roles of artist liaison and welcoming stewards.

As a refresh of previous free entry winter evening events promoted to local audiences, this event was a good opportunity to welcome local families into the museum to experience it in a different way. Elizabethan House hosted *Victorian Festivities* on 21 and 22 December, highlighting traditional Christmas activities from the Victorian era.

4. Other Museum Projects and Developments

4.1 Time & Tide Museum - *Changing Tides* redevelopment project

The *Changing Tides - Shaping Our Great Yarmouth* project Grants for Heritage Round One funding application was submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund on schedule in November. A decision on this application is expected in the spring.

As part of this project, as well as new approaches to using digital interpretation, many of the galleries - especially those on the first floor - would be redisplayed in new and engaging ways giving us the opportunity to showcase different collections and explore new maritime themes.

Creative Core, a leading museum and heritage interpretation consultancy, have been supporting the museum team on developing a new interpretation strategy for the upper floor galleries to support this application. It is generally accepted that the maritime displays and story of the smoke house and herring industry are told well and sympathetically to the historic building, however, the upper floor 'early years' galleries which tell the story of the development of the town through archaeology and art displays, are interpreted in a slightly dated fashion with an object rather than person-centred interpretation approach.

The co-produced concept, based on hundreds of visitor survey responses and direct public consultation, is a new gallery called *Our Town – What Makes Great Yarmouth great* which explores the stories of people who have lived here over thousands of years, up to the present day. Existing key collections will be redisplayed and reinterpreted to create an immersive and tailored journey accessible for all.

All of our visitors learn differently so we hope to create a journey through the history of the town that will allow everyone to engage fully in our heritage in a way suitable for them. This will include placing more of our stored collections on display in new accessible ways, increasing interactive opportunities and displaying objects and cases at the height of children to allow them to engage fully with the heritage. Through the use of digital technology - something the existing displays are lacking in due to their age - we hope to keep the stories highlighted in the museum relevant to new generations of visitors.

The redisplay will also allow us to open up hidden heritage assets of the building, such as increasing the number of exposed original smokehouse doors currently hidden behind text panels, revealing Victorian ironwork currently hidden behind bulky display cases and using new lighting technology to reduce our carbon footprint and to also showcase the collections to the highest possible standard.

We have also been working on a partnership gallery concept with Royal

Museums Greenwich to bring the collections of the National Maritime Museum – a long established NMS partner - to Great Yarmouth. A pilot project as part of this national partnership was installed in October, with the high-profile long-term loan of *The Wreck of the Gloucester off Yarmouth* by Johan Danckerts now on display in the maritime galleries. This highlights this important local and nationally significant story and ensures there is a Gloucester presence in Great Yarmouth for an interim period following the end of the successful Norwich Castle exhibition, which featured this artwork.

4.2 Collections Management

Since the last curatorial update in September work has continued on the stores move and audit project at Time and Tide, reviewing stored collections which have not been utilized in recent times and checking their relevancy to the story of Great Yarmouth life. Many of these objects were previously held at the Tolhouse Gaol Museum and Great Yarmouth Library prior to the 2004 collections move to Time and Tide Museum. The digital images of the audited items will be uploaded to the NMS public facing collections website, enabling service users all over the world to view these interesting historical documents. This process was highlighted at the Great Yarmouth and District History Fair held at St Georges Theatre in late September, which the Time and Tide Museum Curator attended with handling objects and information about the collections review as well as providing an update on our ongoing application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund to update and redevelop the museum. We have also been looking at international partnerships over the past few months, with some exciting partnerships with Dutch museums in train. We also hosted a visit from Francesca DuBrock, Chief Curator at Anchorage Museum in Alaska, who was on a fact-finding trip in preparation for an exhibition currently being curated there and which may feature loans from our collections, taking the story of Great Yarmouth 4,300 miles across the Atlantic and highlighting our shared heritage within the fishing industry. The coin and medal collections held in the museum are currently being audited and where necessary re-catalogued and moved to a more secure storage area away from the general archive. As part of this process some interesting finds have come to light, where historical documentation had only listed these collections simply as 'Roman Coin' or 'Trading Token' we have been able to expand upon the descriptions of these items, photograph them and upload them to our public searchable database for the first time since being donated, in some cases over 100 years ago.

This is a lengthy process, with over 1,000 items within the museum collection being listed as a coin, medal, token, badge or medallion, but one that should enrich the understanding of our collection and benefit the public hugely.

5. Learning

5.1 Early Years

Our Little Kippers sessions for under-fives and their carers have resumed after the summer break. During the autumn term the group explored *Giants, Fishing and Shipwrecks* and this was followed by lots of fun discovering a retro 1980s Christmas complete with music on cassette and all the most sought-after toys of the time. A total of 50 children attended four events over this period and recent feedback included:

'The two sessions Freddie and I joined were brilliant. Amazing level of engagement and enthusiasm for the children. Also, Freddie loves King Kipper!'

5.2 Schools

The academic year has begun well with school visit numbers looking positive. From April 2023 - December 2023 a total of 6,656 pupils visited the Great Yarmouth Museums. We continue to deliver a solid and extensive curriculum offer to both local schools and those further afield, with several schools travelling for over an hour to reach the museums in Great Yarmouth. Our offer continues to be popular not only with schools but older age groups. Recently we have had East Coast College Year 12 Criminology students book our *Tolhouse Trials* event, exploring the history of witch trials in Great Yarmouth. East Norfolk Sixth Form College will also be visiting in the New Year for this event.

We have recently recruited new Relief Learning Assistants to keep our staffing levels buoyant in order to maintain and meet the demand from schools for our events. We have also been running training sessions for the whole team to ensure we keep standards of delivery high, whilst provide opportunities for skills sharing and professional development.

We are always looking at ways to make our school sessions vibrant & relevant. This year we have offered a more contemporary period for our Retro Christmas event. Pupils 'visit' the 1950s and the 1980s and help prepare for the festivities, comparing and contrasting both periods with the modern day. Pupils get to play with games and toys from the past, as well as looking at popular culture, fashion, music and dance. Much fun has been had in this event.

We now have the Danckerts painting, depicting the Gloucester shipwreck, on loan from Royal Museums Greenwich, displayed at Time and Tide and we are busy preparing for the launch of a linked schools event. To compliment this we are offering a teachers CPD workshop in February, focusing on shipwrecks off the Norfolk Coast. We will be joined on the day by Julian Barnwell, one of the diving brothers who discovered the Gloucester, as well as by Kate Argyle from Historic England. Both will share their knowledge with an overall aim of demonstrating to teachers the value in studying local marine archaeology.

5.3 Youth Engagement

Young Communicators Team

The Young Communications Team (YCT) are a team of L4 Creative Enterprise students, all aged 18 years or above, from East Norfolk Sixth Form College (ENSFC), who have been invited to receive specialist support and training from ENSFC, Creative Collisions, and other creative professionals. Through this training the YCT will develop their skills and practice in the workplace, building valuable work experience to help them on their route to employment. The YCT have a particular interest in digital media, marketing and creative enterprise. As part of their professional development, they are assigned to work on a range of creative briefs and to cover events run by Enjoy Cultural Education Partnership (CEP) partners. YCT provides important youth-orientated perspectives on local events and performances, devising ambitious and original content which helps promote cultural events to new audiences. So far this year the team have been commissioned to make:

- –A short film in collaboration with Francesca Vanke the curator of *Crossings Constructions & Connections: JMW Turner and Bridges, Old and New*.
- –A behind the scenes' promotional film linked to the *Making the Rounds*

exhibition – a textile art exhibition at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse.

- –A written review of the *Calm the Storm* ‘gig’ at Time and Tide which was produced by our Make Yarmouth youth group in collaboration with Freshly Greated and Play Produce Promote programme.
- –Develop brand identity and promotional campaigns for the *New Noise* series of gigs delivered by Freshly Greated, Norfolk Music Hub and Access Creative College.

–An article about *Robin Hood: Live Stream Panto* for Norfolk Music Hub and St Georges Theatre.

The team is participating in a training programme, led by industry professionals, which has, so far, included funding, partnership working and interview techniques.

We are delighted that YCT 2022 alumni, videographer Joshua Chapman, is now regularly receiving paid commissions by the Freshly Greated project and writer/content creator Zoe Chapman has been awarded a prestigious BBC journalism apprenticeship.

The approach developed for the YCT has been used to shape a project bid to Arts Council England for a £150,000 Place Partnership grant, to develop a programme of multi-arts activities across schools in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. The bid is being led by East Norfolk Sixth Form College and If successful will be delivered via the Enjoy and Lowestoft Rising CEPs, with college students developing, delivering and evaluating activities with creative and cultural professionals. The young people will gain invaluable work experience and skills development as part of a strategic programme to develop the cultural workforce in the two towns. The bid has received an EOI pass with a full bid being prepared for submission by 15 January 2024.

Not Made in Great Yarmouth

We are developing a new digital gallery called *The Smokehouse Gallery* within an industrial heritage space at Time and Tide Museum. This atmospheric setting located in one of the former herring smoking rooms offers a unique opportunity to create a truly multi-sensory experience. The intervention will be transformative, creating a world within a room without changing the fabric of the walls. Two artistic residencies have been set up at the museum. Digital artists Tracy Satchwill and Grace Lee have been working with project teams (comprised of artists, museum staff, teachers and young people) at East Norfolk Sixth Form and East Coast College. Together the teams are creating an inaugural exhibition for the gallery. ‘*Not Made in Great Yarmouth*’ will take as its starting point museum collections, people and stories that did not originate in the town, exploring historic and contemporary international connections and reflecting on legacies of colonialism and migration.

Forty students from the two colleges have been taking part in a series of artist led workshops to carry out research into the collections, archives, the town itself and key ‘sites of cultural exchange’. ECC students have experimented with analogue and digital collage to create mythical talking characters and using AI software. They have also been documenting the project in photography and film. ENSFC have used Luma software on their mobile phones to create 3D scans of museum objects that will feature in a collaborative produced virtual reality environment.

Time and Tide Development Consultation

Over the course of the year, seven different groups and a total of 114 young

people have participated in practical workshops to feedback on the proposed Time and Tide development plans. In October we consulted 40 English as a Second Language Students (ESOL) from East Coast College. They were enthusiastic to find out about work experience & volunteering opportunities, the potential to get involved with multi-lingual museum interpretation, language exchange and conversation clubs, collections and histories from their own countries of origin and events to celebrate multi-faith festivals and international cultural activities such as music and dance.

East Coast College students (Progression to Employment)

Over the autumn/winter season, we have been working with students at East Coast College to support them with employment skills, and work experience. Twelve students, who face barriers to employment and have additional learning needs, have explored maritime history, zine making, social media and event planning. This short but eclectic creative programme has inspired gains in the confidence of students – a willingness to present to the group, speak to museum colleagues and try on all the costumes at Elizabethan House. Wearing the pinny and bonnet in the photograph above is Ryan, college course leader.

Each year we partner with a work experience cohort and support their progression as young adults - signposting jobs in the creative sector and providing tangible experiences students can include in job applications. The benefits are reciprocal, as the students bring enthusiasm and new perspectives to our museums.

During the course of the programme, an Ofsted inspector commented they were 'blown away' by the strong relationship between college and museum.

National Saturday Club

Since September, club members who attend National Saturday Club (Art & Design) have been responding to an upcoming British Library exhibition *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination*, as part of a new Kick the Dust partnership with libraries. Using plastics, paper and recycled fabric, members have designed a collection of outfits that speak to our maritime heritage and local folklore, such as mermaids and sea monsters.

Along the way, we were privileged to experience a session delivered by a club alumnus, who is preparing for GCSEs and who runs an environmental campaign group, Earthling Action. Kit highlighted ecological issues affecting the North Sea, such as oil pollution, over-fishing, and the potential for seagrass to sequester carbon – helping us investigate our blue spaces.

Our imaginative fashion collection helps address these issues by repurposing waste (including ghost nets) and features technical details to help us thrive at sea - waterproof jackets, lucky charms, utility belts.

Thanks go to all the club members for their enthusiastic contribution; to trainee Jasmine Dack, who introduced us to Grout's fabric swatches, and to Yarmouth Oil Skins who lent us mannequins.

A colourful display of self-portraits by Club Members, made spontaneously with fabric and t-shirts, can also be seen here on the National Saturday Club website: [Saturday Club Self Portraits \(saturday-club.org\)](https://saturday-club.org)

Our National Saturday Club have also been the successful recipients of an Adnam's Community Trust grant award, supporting the museum's youth-led creative programme with £200. This grant will provide materials for a new project next year exploring health and wellbeing; *How to Thrive in a Storm*.

New Navigators

This group continues to support young adults (16-25) with transferable skills and offers a meaningful platform for young people to shape the future of the museums service. After some consultation, the group will now be referred to as *New Navigators: Climate Action Youth Board*, or New Navs for short. This means we will often focus on issues that relate to sustainability, the environment and support Norfolk County Council's plan to be net-zero by 2030. Next year New Navs will visit East Norfolk College in January to recruit more members and we will have a series of exciting sessions led by the NMS Gressenhall Environment Hub.

Great Yarmouth Heritage Collective (YMCA)

Kick the Dust has continued to work with the YMCA in Great Yarmouth to support young people aged 19-25 to gain transferrable skills and confidence through positive activities. We have continued to create an engaging weekly programme of activities for young adults who struggle with their mental health and wellbeing. These sessions are held every Wednesday throughout the year.

During the Autumn Term, the YMCA clients continued to work on the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) HUMAP Mapping Project and decided to focus on retro arcade games, including the history of the Great Yarmouth arcade industry, as their heritage topic.

As part of this project, the participants visited the vintage arcade at the Merrivale Model Village in Great Yarmouth where we learnt about Allwins, One Armed Bandits, and Fortune Teller arcade games, and the history of Barrons Amusement Arcade – the first permanent arcade in the UK. We then used this research to inspire the creation of two working pinball machines using recycled materials.

To finish the project, the YMCA clients hosted the '*Great Arcade Game Bake Off*'. The clients created recipes inspired by retro games they had researched throughout the project including Tetris, Air Hockey, Pac Man and Gameboys. After calculating their ingredients, we hosted a day of baking where each client was given the opportunity to bake something delicious to present to a panel of YMCA judges. It was so popular that we ended up with six cakes to eat.

From December, the YMCA clients will be researching the topic of Folklore in preparation for the *Fantasy: Realms of Imagination* exhibition which will be visiting Great Yarmouth Library in January. The YMCA clients will be working closely with the staff at the Great Yarmouth Library to curate an event inspired by Fantasy games, for the public to take part in over the February half-term holiday.

Make Yarmouth

Make Yarmouth works with the Shaw Trust to engage vulnerable teenagers in positive activities. We use a variety of light-touch, creative arts approaches and museum collections to generate a fun programme of weekly activities. These sessions run every Tuesday evening in term time.

Make Yarmouth have continued to work with the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in Norwich on the *Coastal Connections* project. Since visiting the SCVA in August, the participants tablemats and binoculars have been displayed in the Sainsbury Centre's main exhibition *The Stuff of Life/The Life of Stuff* which runs until the 14 January 2024. We will continue to work with Julia Devonshire, who works as an Associate Artist at the SCVA and co-runs Original Projects in

Great Yarmouth, to collaborate on future projects at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts in the new year.

We continued to work with Gary Standley and Lucy Grubb from Play, Produce, Promote to hold a gig as part of the Winter Special event at the Time and Tide Museum on the 8 December 2023. Play, Produce, Promote is a local organisation that is aiming to create a team of young people aged 14-18 who will help to rebuild the young local music scene in Great Yarmouth. They equip young people with specific musical skills, as well as skills in lighting, promotion, photography, and stage promotion, whilst giving them a safe space to perform.

During the Autumn Term, the participants were put into the driver's seat to design promotional material, audition musicians within the museum, email Play, Produce, Promote staff to organise interviews with musicians at Drill House events and create flyers to hand out on the evening.

Five Make Yarmouth participants volunteered at the sold-out '*Calm Before the Storm*' Winter Special event on the evening of 8 December. They worked in artist liaison, front of house and photographer/videographer roles and they were able to develop their skills in assisting events, as well as their digital and communication skills with the guidance of museum and PPP staff. Around 200 people attended the event, and it was a real success.

Stitchers

The Great Yarmouth Stitcher's group have been busy making costumes for the Education team's 1950s-1980s Christmas event. This has included everything from skirts and ties for school children, to 1950s dresses and 1980s neon coloured power suits. They have also crocheted and stitched mini sea creatures to go into the nets that decorate the Silver Darlings café at the Time and Tide Museum.

5.4 Kick the Dust: Norfolk – countywide project update

Background

The first Kick the Dust project delivered by Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and ran from October 2018 to March 2023.

The target audience for Kick the Dust activity is young people aged 11-25, with a particular focus on young people aged 16-25 who do not normally engage with the heritage or consider it relevant to their lives. Priority participants are young people facing multiple challenges and barriers, including YMCA clients and other young people engaging with NCC and partner organisations specialist support services. Key project partners include YMCA Norfolk, Creative Collisions (Great Yarmouth) and NCC Children's Services, Libraries and Public Health.

Kick the Dust provides a progression pathway for young people, enabling them to use heritage to develop their confidence, skills and routes into employment using the *Player, Shaper, Leader* model.

For this original project, total participation numbers from October 2018 to March 2023 were **13,905 interventions**, involving **4,527 individual young people** taking part in **7,039 hours of quality activity**, taking us beyond the initial project target of 8000 interventions. As the project developed, more young people took the lead in projects, shifting the percentage of activity at each of the 4 levels.

- 25% of all activity was at Player level

- 40% at Shaper level
- 35% at Leader level
- 86% of all activity in March 2023 involved young people in leading and designing projects, taking on the role of Young Ambassador and playing a leading part in the Youth Board.

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area from October 2018 to March 2023:

- 47% (1,449 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Thetford and Gressenhall),
- 27% (825 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Sheringham)
- 26% (771 opportunities) in Norwich
- 331 volunteering opportunities have been provided to 180 individual young people.

In total 420 staff took part in training, with 151 having taken up opportunities in lockdown. In addition, 45 young volunteers took part in training. Kick the Dust has supported 7 young people on its bursary traineeship programme, the last cohort finishing in May 2022, all of whom have secured permanent employment within the heritage sector. A further 6 young people completed the pre-traineeship programme. One Kick the Dust participant progressed onto the NMS Teaching Museum traineeship programme with 3 others applying for the role and being shortlisted. Two Young Ambassadors have progressed onto teacher training programmes. Our 7 Young Ambassadors have supported Institutional Change within NMS on the strategic Youth Board and Project Board. Staff from our Front of House (FOH) and Visitor Services teams have engaged in training such as mentoring and coaching, mental health first aid and creating autism friendly spaces which played a key role in supporting the new pre-traineeship pilot programme for YMCA clients and other vulnerable groups.

Current activity

Following the successful conclusion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded Kick the Dust project, NMS has secured additional funding through an Arts Council England National Portfolio Funding (NPO) Uplift award for the period 2023-26. This will enable NMS to continue to support young people in the three Levelling up for Culture places of Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford. This additional funding will enable young people to participate in high quality cultural and heritage activities that develop their creative and digital skills and potential, as well as prepare them for the workplace.

During 2023-24 NMS is also receiving funding from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Public Health to support Kick the Dust activities that focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Norfolk young people.

NMS is partnering with Norfolk Library & Information Service (NLIS) to deliver this exciting programme of activity enabling us to strengthen partnership working between museum and library staff and increase levels of cultural engagement by young people in a sustained way, employing the successful Kick the Dust approach to youth engagement that uses the three-stage progression model *Player-Shaper-Leader*. The programme will be aimed at those in the three priority places aged 16-25 years, with opportunities for 13–16-year-olds to engage as part of the progression framework.

The key aims of the new Kick the Dust project are to:

- develop transferable work-related skills with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning.
- develop digital skills linked to creative industries to address the digital skills gap in heritage and cultural sectors.
- increase young people's creative skills and for young people to gain a range of new cultural experiences.
- encourage an appreciation of the history and culture of their local communities.

Young people will work alongside professionals to develop their transferable work-related and creative skills, through the co-production of activity and events, volunteering and work experience operating at a level that meets their needs.

The following data is based on the start of this new project covering the period 1/5/23 to 18/12/23.

Number of interventions with young people:

Between 1/5/23 and 18/12/23 there have been **1,098 interventions** involving **446 individual young people** taking part in **747 hours** of quality activity. **92%** of the activities were face to face, the other sessions being offered online with young people in the principal target areas.

This blended approach offers a wider range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage:

- 20% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 58% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 22% at Leader level (long term engagement – young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 74% of all activity involved young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 45% (87 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Gressenhall),
- 18% (36 opportunities) in Thetford
- 19% (37 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 16% (31 opportunities) in Norwich
- A further 3 opportunities were offered to young people at alternative venues outside of Norfolk
- 36 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with 3 young people taking on the role of Digital Buddy and 7 as Young Ambassador.
- Of all delivery, 84% involves young people being part of a long-term group, providing them with a deeper understanding of heritage and allowing them to explore their identity, develop their skills and confidence and embed themselves more in their local communities, a key aim of ACE.

The young people have access to all of NMS sites and can visit with a friend or family member for free during their engagement for that year. Free passes were issued to those beginning on the programme in June 2023. Data shows that passes are being used outside of the times the young people would attend a session in their home museum.

We continue to deliver a blended training offer for all staff and volunteers who support youth engagement in NMS. Staff input to the training programme will be formulated as the project progresses and needs are identified. Social media training working with a specialist from Libraries has been embedded into team

meetings which include three of our Young Ambassadors who are acting as Digital Buddies. Further opportunities are being planned for the Spring term to include SEND and Mental Health First Aid training. The team accessed the 'Childhood Adversity and Creating a Trauma Informed Environment' on 31 October (as part of the new *Your Heritage Your Future* National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project) which will inform future delivery and they will also join the '*I'm a teenager get me in there*' training in January 2024 at Ely Museum.

Our offer to support young people around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and this will be measured through the new evaluation framework using data from the young people's feedback forms as well as the new narrative evaluation which is being rolled out from September 2023 to September 2024.

At the end of the NLHF funded project in March 2023, 26% of young people identified as having a mental health issue. Up to 18/12/23 data shows that 47% of the individual young people who have taken part in the new programme of activity identify as having a mental health issue (although this is from a smaller number taking part) showing the need for this programme. Through a systematic approach to evaluation, in partnership with Libraries, the team will be able to demonstrate impact on mental health on those taking part and the young people will be able to monitor their progress through the programme in relation to skills, confidence and mental health. Narrative evaluation will further demonstrate impact.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group, chaired by the Kick the Dust Project Coordinator, where members from across Children's Services identify ways to engage the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people through a joint effort. The group continues to play a key part in the delivery of activity as part of the DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) project through the Big Norfolk Fun programme ([Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)) and through our own contributions through our Kick the Dust offer. The focus is on mental health and wellbeing and has representation from the NCC Public Health team. This group acts as the vehicle to share best practice, ideas and resources and its membership continues to grow.

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category) as of 18/12/23

- FE/HE – 44%
- YMCA clients – 8%
- Secondary schools – 39%
- Young people with mental health issues – 47%
- SEND – 3%
- Outside of mainstream education – 25%
- NEET – 31%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 0%
- Care Leavers – 1%
- Young Carers – 6%
- New arrivals and refugees – 6%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 1%

In terms of how young people are finding out about Kick the Dust, it is clear that the Kick the Dust website is being used effectively with 50% of young

people finding out about the project through the updated web pages ([Kick the Dust - Norfolk Museums](#)); 17% coming via one of our partner organisations and 17% having already taken part in a Kick the Dust project in the past.

Impacts on mental health and well being

The new young people's feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale for assessing a populations' mental well-being. The Young Ambassadors worked alongside the Norfolk Public Health team to devise the questionnaire, and this will be used in addition to the other measures to show impact in this key area.

From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in Kick the Dust, 50% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing with a further 50% agreeing.

Of the 22 responses to 18/12/23, the following data chart highlights how young people were feeling before taking part in Kick the Dust:

QUESTION – pre engagement	All of the time	Some of the time	Often	Rarely	Most of the time
I've been optimistic about the future	7%	43%	28%	21%	0%
I've been feeling useful	14%	57%	21%	7%	0%
I've been feeling relaxed	14%	57%	14%	14%	0%
I've been dealing with problems well	7%	36%	50%	7%	0%
I've been thinking clearly	14%	28%	50%	7%	0%
I've been feeling close to other people	7%	36%	36%	21%	0%
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	28%	21%	43%	7%	0%

The following data chart highlights how 8 young people were feeling following their engagement in Kick the Dust between June and October 2023 (no further forms have been completed between Oct and Dec):

QUESTION- post engagement	All of the time	Some of the time	Often	Rarely	Most of the time
I've been optimistic about the future	13%	50%	38%	0%	0%
I've been feeling useful	25%	38%	38%	0%	0%
I've been feeling relaxed	25%	50%	13%	0%	13%
I've been dealing with problems well	25%	25%	38%	13%	0%
I've been thinking clearly	25%	38%	38%	0%	0%
I've been feeling close to other people	13%	13%	63%	13%	0%
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	25%	13%	63%	0%	0%

From the additional questions asked of the young people taking part, it is clear that the programme is meeting their needs and helping them see themselves in a museum or heritage setting.

- 100% of all young people strongly agreed that the museum was a safe space for young people like themselves who were struggling;
- 100% strongly agreed they were given a voice that was listened to;
- 63% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part with a further 25% agreeing;
- 63% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant with a further 25% agreeing. The same numbers stated that they felt heritage represented young people like themselves;
- 85% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the job roles available with 50% strongly agreeing that they could see themselves working in the sector;
- 63% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future with a further 38% agreeing;
- 43% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously with a further 57% agreeing;
- 72% agreed that their involvement had helped them to explore and feel more connected to their own identity and heritage.

Summary

The NLHF funded Kick the Dust project ended in March 2023 with evidence clearly demonstrating the impact on young people and staff engaging in activity. The programme is now moving into a new phase, with funding support from ACE and NCC.

Kick the Dust is a three-stage journey, with young people developing transferable work-related skills including digital skills and gaining experiences that they would struggle to find elsewhere, to support them in securing employment. Whilst young people cite being involved in curation and creating exhibitions as the main areas they have enjoyed, it is through these activities that they hone their skills and understanding of the workplace, which will help them secure employment longer term.

Our aim as we move forward is to support more working age young people to progress into employment, training, or further learning and long-term volunteering.

The strong partnerships that have been developed through Kick the Dust provide a strong base on which to build, bringing new young people into museum and library spaces.

Success comes in many guises and this month we have had one of our YMCA young people progress into independent living and gain a place on a Level 3 Access course, with the Kick the Dust programme and pre traineeship giving her the confidence to take these steps. She has also secured a role in the NMS Visitor Services team for Norwich Castle. Another participant is now a core member of staff on the NMS Visitor Services team at Gressenhall. Another young person has progressed from being a Young Ambassador to gaining a L4 Apprenticeship with Channel 4 in London and two others have secured places on the MA in Museum Studies in Norwich. One former Kick the Dust participant has secured an internship with the United Nations.

Quotes from our Young Ambassadors regarding their engagement in Kick the Dust and their involvement in the 'Done and Dusted' celebration event, show the impact that the programme has had on them:

'Kick the dust gave me hands on experience of the industry I want to work for while becoming more proficient in the skills I need to get me there.' Chloe, Young Ambassador

'The most important thing that Kick the Dust did for me was increase my confidence through representing the voices of other young people, inspiring me to pursue a career in the museum sector by showing me that it's a place where I'm able to make positive institutional change.' Emily, Young Ambassador

'A fantastic opportunity to develop my confidence, experience and skills for future employability, and learning more about different opportunities in the heritage sector, as well as the next steps I want to take and my future aims' (Emily following her engagement in Kick the Dust)

'Kick the Dust has played such a key part in my life and helped me secure employment when most doors were closed to me, giving me the skills and confidence to move forward. It is like being part of a family'. Jazz, Young Ambassador

'My experience has been highly positive. It has allowed me to connect with other young people with a similar interest in the industry. It has also provided me with varied work experience that will contribute significantly to my search for employment in the sector. I have learnt so much more about the heritage sector and the abundance of roles at play, which has led me to new interests and career goals. Engaging with people currently working in the sector has been invaluable and deepens my understanding of the importance of the work the museum services do in the local community.' (Marr, Young Ambassador)

'Can I thank you again for the guide to the museum which details all the sensory issues and what to expect etc. We used the booklet before her last school trip in January. I wish more places had something like that.' (Parent of an autistic child using the booklet prepared by Teenage History Club)

New funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund

A successful National Lottery Heritage Fund Grants for Heritage Round 1 application was submitted to the NLHF for the Your Heritage Your Future project. The application was submitted by YMCA Leicester, with NMS as Lead Partner. This complex application was put together by a joint project team of staff from YMCA Leicester and NMS, who are now working on the Development Phase of this application, ahead of a Round 2 bid submission in May 2024. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery would commence in later 2024.

6. Participation numbers

6.1 Visitor figures are shown below for the year to date up to the end of November 2023. They will also be circulated with the meeting minutes.

Councillor Ward commented on the changes at Gressenhall Museum and asked if similar changes would be made at Time and Tide during the redevelopment project.,

Andrew Smith advised that new and ground-breaking techniques would be used including avatars telling stories and visitors being able to choose their own route through the museum.

Councillor Ward queried whether contact had been made with the Nelson Museum.

Andrew Smith advised that it was a private collection which was currently in

storage but the Time and Tide Museum would be prepared to have some items from the Nelson Museum collection displayed and this was something that could be looked into.

The Chairman stated that he hoped that an agreement could be reached with the Nelson Museum and asked when work would start on the redevelopment should the NLHF application be successful.

Robin Hanley advised that the application was a two-stage process and if successful, work would hopefully be started in 2026/2027.

Councillor Ward commented on the wonderful work that the museum is doing with local youth engagement and asked if there were other projects for the more elderly.

Colin Stott advised that there was a gap which was partially due to the funding received by the museum, however community engagement work would be widened with the proposed redevelopment.

Robin Hanley commented that demographically, volunteers are older and make a positive contribution and there is a dedicated volunteer co-ordinator who works out of Norwich and covers the whole county, visiting the various groups. Robin also mentioned Herring House who had been shortlisted for awards for their work with predominantly older men.

The Chair thanked Andrew, Robin and Colin for their comprehensive report. The Committee noted the Great Yarmouth Museums report.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that there was no other business being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration at the meeting.

8 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

The following dates were agreed for meetings for the remainder of 2024 :-

Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 2.30 pm

Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 2.30 pm

The meeting ended at: 16:30

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 8th January, 2024 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT:

Borough Councillors

Councillors P Bland, A Bubb (Chair), M de Whalley, A Kemp (Vice Chair) and Mr B Davison

County Councillors

Councillors L Bambridge and M Chenery of Horsburgh

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Councillor J Ward, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Co-opted Non-Voting Members

Lindsay Bavin, True's Yard Museum

Officers

Oliver Bone, Lynn Museum
Robin Hanley, Norfolk Museum Service

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Kybird, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record, subject to County Councillor J Ward being added to the list of attendees.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Bland and County Councillor Bambridge declared an interest in item 6 as Trustees of True's Yard Museum.

5 **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Curator of the Lynn Museum presented the report on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from September to November 2023. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- Covid-19 and Infection Control service update.
- Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum.
- Forthcoming Exhibitions: The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour and Woof - a Celebration of Dogs. The Curator confirmed the opening event for The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour exhibition was on Tuesday 6 February at 2.30pm and explained Committee Members were welcome to attend the event.
- Family events.
- Family Trails.
- Mini Museum.
- Heritage Open Day.
- Coffee Mornings.

The Curator of the Lynn Museum invited the Committee to ask questions in relation to section 2 of the report.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh, the Curator explained they would be featuring a Taxidermy Wolf in the Exhibition Woof - a Celebration of Dogs and confirmed they would have further information on wolves in Norfolk as part of that.

County Councillor J Ward referred to the Exhibition Woof - a Celebration of Dogs and asked whether they would allow people to bring their dogs to the opening of the Exhibition. In response, the Curator explained assistance dogs would be allowed. The Assistant Head of Museums explained they would need to have a conversation with their Conservation colleagues. He confirmed they would ask the question.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb commented that his local library was not aware of The Tiger Who Came to Tea Exhibition and raised concerns around advertising. In response, the Curator agreed with the Chair and commented that they could always do better at advertising and added they should have good information at libraries around the district.

Councillor A Kemp referred to the coffee mornings and asked whether there was a diverse of people attending the coffee mornings, particularly people from care homes. In response, the Curator explained they had good links with some local care homes and confirmed they had had residents come in the past. He added they would work on and try to encourage more visits in that way.

County Councillor L Bambridge commented that she really enjoyed the Exhibitions. She added she loved the Hoards Exhibition and thought the displays were excellent and the illustrations at The Tiger Who Came to Tea Exhibition were beautiful.

Councillor M de Whalley asked whether there was anything included in the Woof - a Celebration of Dogs Exhibition about early beliefs. In response, the Curator explained they had incorporated a number of different aspects such as the natural history of dogs, companion dogs, working dogs and added if they weren't able to incorporate it in the exhibition, they would look into including it as part of their talks programme or through social media. The Assistant Head of Museums added there was the potential to explore that and explained he was sure that would feature within the Exhibition.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- Newman Legacy.
- Other Museum developments.
- Teaching Museums Trainees.
- Partnerships.

The Chair invited questions and comments in relation to those areas of report.

Councillor M de Whalley referred to the Kick the Dust and getting young people to work alongside professionals and enhancing their digital skills. He added he understood there was a backlog of archive work and asked whether this would be included in those opportunities. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained as part of the programme they were planning to improve the collections information about the collections in King's Lynn and added they were looking at opportunities to involve both volunteers and young people in that programme.

In response to a question raised by the Chair, Councillor A Bubb, The Assistant Head of Museums confirmed they did not derive any income from the YouTube channel and added it was more of an advocacy marketing route for them.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- Learning & Outreach.
- Kick the Dust Norfolk - countywide project update. A verbal update was given following publication of the agenda.

Mr B Davison commented that it was an excellent report but explained he felt the report lacked information on industrial heritage in relation to King's Lynn and West Norfolk. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained that King's Lynn's industrial heritage is really important and added he felt in the displays within the Lynn Museum this was reflected on. He went on to explain an area of work which would focus on that work was the Savages collection. He explained they had discussions with the Curator leading the project about the opportunities to engage young people and new audiences with the Savages story as part of the project to improve the collections documentation and make it more accessible. The Assistant Head of Museums agreed that there were always opportunities to promote King's Lynn's heritage.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb asked whether there was any assistance for those people from Kick the Dust that do not have their own transport to get to Gressenhall. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained they were very aware for the need to facilitate access and added they were working closely with libraries and using those locations to make it more accessible.

County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh referred to the Victorian Christmas event at Gressenhall and asked how successful it was and whether it could be done in King's Lynn. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained to the Committee that Gressenhall Farmhouse Museum hosted a Victorian family event before Christmas where people could come to the site and celebrate a Victorian Christmas and he confirmed the event was sold out and added they were looking to run it again next year at Gressenhall. The Assistant Head of Museums explained in terms of a Gressenhall type Victoria Christmas event, the Lynn Museum would not be ideally suited but suggested venues such as the Town Hall or the Guildhall would be better to hold an event of a similar nature. County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh went on to ask whether the Christmas tree at Gressenhall was lit with candles. The Assistant Head of Museums explained the Christmas tree was artificially lit to try to create the right atmosphere but to prevent incurring risks.

In response to a question raised by Councillor A Kemp, the Assistant Head of Museums explained they worked really closely with colleagues in Childrens Services. He went on to explain there was a regular working group chaired by the Kick the Dust Project Coordinator which brings together colleagues from Childrens Services and other parts of Norfolk County Council to look at opportunities and added he felt confident they had the right connections but explained they could always improve.

County Councillor L Bambridge commented on Savage and explained that last year whilst the Mart was in King's Lynn on the Tuesday Market Place, that there was an Exhibition held at the Corn Exchange which she went to and someone had come along and brought photographs and boards of Savages and added there were opportunities like that there to look into to have pop up Exhibitions.

The visitor figures for the period September to November 2023 were circulated to the Committee at the meeting and noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes. The Committee were advised that during the financial year of 2023-2024, the visitor figures were looking very good for the Lynn Museum. He added the figures were up significantly from where they were this time last year and explained he felt this was because of the greater interest from schools, success from the Exhibition programme and the team at the Lynn Museum. The Curator commented that they hoped that December, January, February and March would also show improvements.

County Councillor J Ward referred to the Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA within the visitor figures and asked what else it included. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums confirmed it captured activity on site at Stories of Lynn which is managed by the Norfolk Museums Service.

The Assistant Head of Museums responded to questions from the Chair, Councillor A Bubb relating to how far back the attendance figures went.

County Councillor L Bambridge asked for a reason as to why there was a drop in the figures for the Exhibitions compared with 2022-2023. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums commented that they felt this coincided with Rachael Williams' departure but added they expect the figures to increase as soon as the post is filled.

In response to a question raised by Councillor M de Whalley, the Assistant Head of Museums explained the majority of sites around the service were almost back to where they were pre pandemic in terms of overall attendances.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor J Ward, the Assistant Head of Museums explained targets were reviewed on an annual basis working with the statistics team and added he expected to see the targets increase for the next financial year.

Councillor A Kemp asked what activities would be on offer for young people and families in the February half term within Museum settings. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained all their sites focused activities on February half term as historically it was a peak time but added all of their sites would be offering family friendly programmes during the February half term period. The Curator of the Lynn Museum confirmed there was a family event day, Museum Trail

for families and the forthcoming Exhibition, The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour scheduled for the February half term.

Mr B Davison commented that he was pleased to see the attendance figures were getting back to pre-covid levels.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6

TRUE'S YARD REPORT

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb thanked the Museum Curator at True's Yard for the visit to the True's Yard Museum which they attended prior to their meeting.

The Committee received the report of the Museum Curator at True's Yard. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- Temporary Exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum.
- Learning and Outreach.

The Museum Curator at True's Yard invited questions and comments from the Committee in relation to the report.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb referred to the Summer Art Exhibition and asked whether some of the pictures in the warehouse would be let out to take part in the Exhibition during the summer. In response, the Museum Curator at True's Yard and the Assistant Head of Museums Service explained concerns had been raised that small organisations would not be able to do loans. The Assistant Head of Museums highlighted to the Committee that they do whatever they can with the pressures which sites like True's Yard face and do what they can to mitigate costs. The Assistant Head of Museums added with certain partners that they have wanted to support where the loan of an original work of art has been prohibited in terms of insurance, they have been able to facilitate really good digital versions and explained there were other routes they could explore.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb suggested to the Museum Curator at True's Yard that they could approach their Borough Councillor who has a fund of £1000 to distribute for Community use and that this could possibly be applied to this. In response, the Museum Curator at True's Yard explained they were fortunate to receive funding from that and spent it on a defibrillator.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor J Ward, the Museum Curator at True's Yard explained the visitor figures met the previous year but did not exceed.

County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh referred to NHS Wellbeing Dungeons and Dragons and asked whether they were working with the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust. The Museum Curator at True's Yard confirmed this was specifically with Norfolk and Welney.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7 **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

In the absence of the Senior Tourism Support Officer, the Committee noted the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee would be held on 18th March 2024 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb asked if the Democratic Services Officer could arrange a tour of the Stories of Lynn for the Committee prior to its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm