

Area Museums Committee

Minutes

Monday, 08 October 2018 at 14:30

Present :

Councillor Mavroudis (in the Chair); Councillors Cordiner-Acenbach, Drewitt, Lawn, Walch.

County Councillor Smith-Clare

Mr A Smith (Area Operations Manager); Mr R Hanly (Assistant Head of Museums), Mrs J Jones (Curator), Mr C Stott (Learning Manager) and Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer).

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jeal, K Grey and Robinson-Payne.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 January 2018 were confirmed.

4 GREAT YARMOUTH MUSEUMS BRIEFING

The Operations Manager reported on the Museums Briefing for the period February 2018 to September 2018.

Exhibitions at Time and Tide

1.1 Drawn to the Coast: Turner, Constable, Cotman (26 May 2018 – 9 September 2018)

The major summer exhibition, Drawn to the Coast: Turner, Constable, Cotman, was on display until the end of the summer holidays at Time and Tide Museum. This exhibition marked the culmination of the Sea History Differently project, funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund and administered by the Museums Association. The project's aim was to transform engagement with maritime collections through the heritage and cultural history of Great Yarmouth through working with local people. An active group of eight local Community Curators worked with individuals, groups and organisations including East Norfolk Sixth Form College students, from across the local area to co-curate this exhibition. These Curators played an influential part in the selection and placement of more than 70 artworks, which charted how our coastal town has been depicted by British artists over the last 200 years.

The Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex Sketchbook by J.M.W Turner was a key item, on loan from Tate Britain for the first time since its creation. The exhibition was also supported with loans from the Fitzwilliam Museum, Colchester & Ipswich Museums Service and the East Anglian Traditional Art Centre, reinforcing Time & Tide Museum's position as a leading exhibition venue in the East of England. The exhibition also featured works from the NMS Norwich School collection held at Norwich Castle and local paintings and objects from our vibrant Great Yarmouth collection.

1.2 Forthcoming Exhibitions

Circus! Show of Shows (6 October 2018 – 3 March 2019)

Our next exhibition, Circus! Show of Shows, is a collaboration between Museums Sheffield, Tyne and Wear Archives and Museums and the National Fairground and Circus archive at the University of Sheffield. This partnership project has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Opening on 6th October, our exhibition will be the second of three themed exhibitions held in the UK to mark the 250th anniversary of modern circus. The partnership is creating an inspirational exhibition and engaging events programme throughout 2018 that will take place in Sheffield in the first instance, then at Time & Tide museum, and finally Tyne & Wear. Great Yarmouth has strong

links with circus tradition which continue to the present day, and as such it is the ideal venue for this exhibition.

Circus! Show of Shows was co-curated with one of the UK's foremost experts in circus, Professor Vanessa Toulmin from the University of Sheffield's School of English as well as leading local figures in the history of Circus in Great Yarmouth, including Peter Jay at the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome.

The exhibition will feature loaned posters from the NFCA in Sheffield, a series of loans from private lenders and objects drawn from our own collections to celebrate this important national anniversary. As well as working collaboratively with external partners the museums have also linked up with other teams from across the county, including the Norfolk Record Office and the Norfolk Heritage Centre within the Library service.

Medieval Medicine (30 March 2019 – 22 September 2019)

Medieval Medicine will run through the 2019 summer season and is a touring exhibition from the Jorvik group in York. We are the first venue to host the exhibition, which is based around some key medical characters of the period.

There will be interactive family friendly activities throughout the exhibition. Other additions such as audio and atmospheric smells will be included where appropriate. There will be skeletal material and replica items relevant to each character displayed alongside them. The themes will be plague, leprosy and poverty.

2. Events

2.1 Easter and summer events

Easter marked the final weeks of the Only in England exhibition and the theme of British eccentricity was carried on with the Egg-cellent Easter Fair events on Wednesday 4th and 11th April. The fairs attracted 372 visitors across the two event days with classic activities like Easter bonnet making, egg decorating and face painting. There was also an Easter Chick Arcade with a wide range of games; test your strength, elastic band shooter, skittles and a labyrinth game - all with a poultry theme.

The summer holidays started off with an annual Seaside Family Fun Day on the 1st August which celebrated everything great about the British seaside. From the classic Punch and Judy show playing every hour, face painting to our classic fairground games, the Coconut Shy and Tin-can Alley, for visitors to try. The courtyard was full for all of the Punch and Judy shows and 163 people attended the event day.

Teaching Museum Trainees Ruth and Nicole helped visitors create some amazing flags and fish to take away as souvenirs. The good summer weather ensured all our event activities could take place in the courtyard.

Another highlight of the summer programme was the Drawn to the Coast day on the 8th August (154 visitors). This was one of the exhibition themed events exploring the local landscape through the mediums of drawing and painting.

Summer events finished with Become Turner for the Day drawing on the Drawn to the Coast theme again. This was the most popular and best attended event day of the season (258 visitors) and not even the rain on the 29th August could stop the budding artists. They explored the world and work of this famous artist by learning how to create a 'Turner-esque' landscape with colour pastels, making beautiful markings and shading.

Giant landscapes were created for those who wanted to produce art on a large scale and the Great Yarmouth Teaching Museum Trainees, Nicole and Ruth, delivered activities making herring and other sea creatures from the sea.

2.1 Heritage Open Days and Maritime Festival

Heritage Open Days ran from Thursday 6th to Sunday 9th September at Elizabethan House and the Tolhouse Gaol again this year, whilst the Time and Tide museum held an open day on the Sunday. This national initiative runs every year in September. Venues across the country open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's an opportunity for people to visit museums for free and try out new experiences. Across the four days 2,971 visitors enjoyed our museums, an increase of 13%.

Great Yarmouth Museums was also represented, for the second year running, at the Maritime Festival within the Heritage Quarter Tent alongside the Norfolk Record Office and Heritage Guides.

3. Other museum developments

3.1 Record year 2017/18

The Time & Tide attracted a record 45,219 people in 2017/18, an increase of 22 per cent on the previous year, boosted by the *Titanic* show and also *Only in England*, a photographic touring exhibition from the Science & Media Museum Group. Visitor numbers have increased by 48 per cent over the last five years, demonstrating a strong programme of activities that have been developed and delivered by the NMS team in the museum. Admissions income was equally as strong for the museum with a 37 per cent uplift whilst retail income posted 18 per cent on the previous year. The Learning team at Time and Tide has also achieved a record for school visits in the last year with 10,226 school pupils taking part in the learning offer from across Norfolk and beyond.

3.2 Only in the East Photography competition.

The competition, which had two age categories, was inspired by the *Only in England* exhibition which featured the work of two of Britain's most influential photographers, Tony Ray-Jones and Martin Parr. The competition attracted

over 500 entries across the age groups, with the top two entries in these categories – adult (17+) and young person (16 and under) chosen from a shortlist by none other than Martin Parr himself. The first prize winning entries from each category are on temporary display at Time and Tide Museum. All twelve shortlisted finalists were invited to a competition prize giving on 14 April 2018.

The winning entry in the young person's category was '*Washed up at Waxham*' by Rebekah Turner, whilst the adult category winner was John Thompson with '*Points of View*'. They both received a prize of a digital camera. The prizes were kindly donated by the London Camera Exchange shop in Norwich as sponsors of the competition.

On Monday 20th August, an official Heritage Lottery Fund visit to the Time & Tide Museum was hosted. Sir Peter Luff (HLF Chairman), Drew Bennellick (Head of Landscape and Natural Heritage) and Robyn Llewellyn (East of England Head of HLF) met with members of the NMS team for a tour the site. They learnt more about our vibrant programme of learning activities, events and exhibitions in Great Yarmouth and were joined by representatives from Great Yarmouth Borough Council, including Cllr. Graham Plant (Council Leader) and Sheila Oxtoby (Chief Executive), along with Cllr. John Ward, who attended in his capacity as the chair of the Joint Museums Committee.

3.4 British Museum Delegates Visit

The *Drawn to the Coast* exhibition was also a highlight for visitors to Time and Tide from the British Museum's International Development Programme. The three delegates, joined by the NMS Teaching Museum Manager, had a go at dressing up in our "selfie station" section of the exhibition and learnt more about the how the exhibition was curated by the community.

3.5 Sea History Differently project – Esmee Fairbairn Collections Fund

The *Sea History Differently* project extended its community outreach work to Norwich and delivered a pop-up museum at Intu Chapelfield over the first May Bank Holiday weekend. Despite very warm weather across the weekend, the team were able to engage with more than 300 individuals to promote the *Drawn to the Coast* exhibition and the more unique objects within the collections, including smoked red herring from the 1960's.

3.6 Making Waves – Seaside Heritage project

The Seaside Heritage project, based at the Time and Tide museum, is part of the larger *Great Places Making Waves Together* project. This is a 3 year project funded by Arts Council England and Heritage Lottery Fund and is led jointly by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council.

The project will raise the profile of coastal community heritage in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft and create interpretation points for key sites in both towns using museum collections as a starting point. The project will enable

young people and volunteers to co-curate events and activities inspired by museum collections and the stories they hold.

A feasibility study to investigate the viability for co-curated content to be displayed in the Lowestoft partner museums, as well as designating the Time and Tide Museum as a centre for collecting, conserving and studying the material culture of coastal community heritage in all its forms will be undertaken. The feasibility study would result in outline plans to reconfigure displays and galleries across several areas within Time and Tide.

With, Patricia Day, the dedicated HLF funded Seaside Heritage project officer was now in post, themed collection boxes for outreach events or group visits to Time and Tide or Lowestoft Museums are being created. These are being co-curated by community members and potentially available for their use to deliver to peers (which will involve structured training and then shadowing during initial delivery). The themes might include: Maritime, Seaside Entertainment, Man's East Coast Journey or Trade and Travel. We are currently consulting with groups from Great Yarmouth Mind, Age Connected, Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind and GYROS to focus on the favoured themes. Discussions have taken place with Kaavous Clayton from *Great Yarmouth Makes* to agree initial plans for a Time and Tide heritage display within Great Yarmouth railway station with a potential to showcase artefacts to station users.

4.1 Learning

4.2 Schools

The **Learning** Manager reported on the following :-

The Time and Tide Museum has had another strong year for school pupil visits. An incredible 10,299 young people visited the museum in 2017-18, with the large majority taking part in one of our immersive workshops. The summer term was also very busy at the museum with 3881 students visiting between April and July.

4.3 Stories from the Sea

Pop Up Projects - In the spring term we teamed up with Pop Up Projects, a national organisation that works to inspire a love of reading in children by sending writers out to work in schools. We worked with the years 2 & 4 classes from St Georges Primary school to bring to life the Swashbuckle Lil stories created by writer Eli Woolard. When the children came to Time and Tide Museum they teamed up with the books' heroine Swashbuckle Lil who enlisted them to help her foil a plot by the loathsome Captain Stinkbeard to steal valuable artefacts from the museum. Needless to say the children saved the day and the villainous pirate left empty handed. The day's adventure gave the children a wealth of material to turn into their own stories and poems with help from Eli. It was clear that the children had gained a lot from their visit and this was confirmed by pupil and teachers surveys which demonstrated a marked improvement in their engagement with writing.

National Conference - In March learning staff worked with partners from Royal Museums Greenwich to stage a conference at the National Maritime Museum to explore ways in which museums are working to support schools literacy teaching. Over sixty delegates from museums and schools across the country came to take part in a full day of workshops showcasing work by Time and Tide Museum, Royal Museums Greenwich, National Literacy Trust, National Portrait Gallery and Tees Valley Museums as well as soap box presentations from Emergency Exit Arts & Corelli College, Linton Mead Primary, Goldsmiths University, Bradford Museums and Engage.

St Georges Primary - Work has continued closely with the nearest primary school (St Georges). The school has been actively involved in the project since the start, helping to develop and pilot new events as well as presenting at the recent conference at the National Maritime Museum. The school has now formally integrated regular visits to Time and Tide into their curriculum plans. All of the teaching staff have taken part in a CPD event in June to support them to make independent visits to the museum. This was followed with a history day at the museum involving all of the students at the school visiting throughout the day to take part in workshops co-delivered with their teachers. The partnership work between the museum and the school was also flagged up during a recent OFSTED inspection.

Drawn to the Coast - During the summer term a new event was developed focused on creative responses to the fine art collections at Time and Tide - using the *Drawn to the Coast* temporary exhibition as inspiration.

Requiem Project

The Creative Collisions & Orchestras Live led *Requiem* project was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots project and commemorated the experiences of Great Yarmouth people in WWI.

Since January 2018 the *Requiem* project has delivered: One text panel workshop, two creative writing workshops, one steering group meeting, one spoken word rehearsal, ten music workshops, three visual arts workshops with three hundred and six children and young people from local schools and colleges all filmed by students from East Coast College supported by the team at BBC Voices. The *Requiem* project Exhibition has been created and launched at Great Yarmouth library before going on tour to the Time and Tide Museum and participating schools. Unfortunately the commemorative concert that was scheduled to take place at the Hippodrome Circus on the 2nd of March had to be cancelled due to the effects of the 'Beast from the East' which led to schools being closed due to adverse weather and the BBC Concert Orchestra stranded in Skegness. Fortunately it was possible to reschedule the event to the 27th June so that the young performers got the chance to take part in the project's grand finale, performing alongside world class professional musicians conducted by composer Sarah Freestone who worked with young people to create a bespoke score of entirely original music for the project.

Project Partners: Creative Collisions, Orchestras Live, Norfolk Music Hub, BBC Concert Orchestra, Norfolk Youth Orchestra, Norfolk Museums, Norfolk Libraries, Norfolk Record Office, BBC Voices, Norwich Writers Centre, Historic England.

Schools and Colleges: East Coast College, East Norfolk Sixth Form, Ormiston Herman Academy, Edward Worledge Ormiston Academy, Great Yarmouth Primary Academy, Woodlands Primary, St Mary & St Peter's Primary, St George's Primary, Northgate St Andrews Primary, Cliff Park Ormiston Academy, Benjamin Britten High School, Ormiston Victory Academy, Flegg High School, Charter Academy, Trafalgar Academy.

Saturday Art Club – Commenced in the New Year in January with a trip to the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Art, Norwich. Led by artist Kate Munro and Head of Learning Alex Woodall, we were inspired with hands-on making activities to explore the *Russia Season* exhibition. The young people worked in the galleries to create instant creative responses through collage. After a visit to the Tatlin's Tower in the SCVA grounds, the group worked in the studio with Kate Munro to create 3D sculptural towers from recycled and unusual.

In the following session, work was undertaken with Kaavous Clayton from Original Projects; Continuing with the Russia theme and introducing a new theme of 'resourcefulness', Kaavous guided the young people through design, construction and branding. The group produced a "multi-functional" and "animal friendly" bench- desk-den, called SKOEBMACKAG, from recycled wood. In February, the young people were awarded their Bronze Arts Award certificates in a ceremony attended by their family and Arts Award Voice Magazine reporters at East Coast College Great Yarmouth. The day was a celebration of all the exciting achievements and creative ideas explored by the Club, and it was fantastic to see them confidently share their newly developed skills with their family too.

The final Saturday sessions were delivered with Time and Tide Museum's *Sea History Differently* project. Local artist Katarzyna Coleman hosted a Club visit to her art studio and guided the young people with observational drawing skills around Nelson's Monument. In the following session, the drawings were translated from charcoal and pencil sketches into acrylic paintings on canvas. The young people picked up lots of useful skills from Katarzyna. The artworks created by the young people were displayed in the community gallery at Time and Tide as part of the *Drawn to the Coast* exhibition.

Young Communicators - A grant from Arts Council England to develop a new team of Young Communicators in Great Yarmouth has been received. Creative Collisions will collaborate with project partners Young Norfolk Arts Trust who have run a Youth Communications team in Norwich for five years. They'll work closely with local further education colleges and youth workers to organise training for a team of 16 – 25yr olds in photography, writing for blog, podcasting and designing a zine. A team of student film makers will be led by the East Coast College. The team will work with artists and high profile

creative organisations, National Centre for Writing & BBC Voices, before reporting on Enjoy – Cultural Education Partnership activities for children and young people. The team will also work with local arts organisation Original Projects to curate a pop up exhibition using a variety of art forms to showcase their work and celebrate the diverse cultural offer for children & young people in the town. This seven month project will act as a pilot and a consultation for a more permanent team.

Make Yarmouth - NEACO funding has been received for a project to encourage young people into higher education. Collaborations with Original Projects have been ongoing since June on a project consisting of 5 design modules introduced by inspirational speakers followed with practical sessions that will include skill-sharing and production (portfolio preparation, making) and presentations of the work. Each project has been designed to take place over a month on Saturdays and Wednesday evenings. Projects focus on; Fashion & Wearable Technology, Furniture, Architecture, Product Design and Graphic Design. The project will culminate with an exhibition at the Original Projects studio on King Street in October.

4.5 Enjoy - Great Yarmouth

A King's Ransom - Enjoy provided funding to support a King's Ransom, a collaboration between Into Opera and four Norfolk primary Schools.

A King's Ransom provided a great introduction to opera for the participants; over 15 weeks key stage two pupils worked regularly with the composer, librettist, orchestra, stage director, designer and choreographer, and then performed the opera at OPEN, in Norwich on the 1st and 2nd of February.

In addition, the schools taking part (Avenue Junior School, St George's Primary, Sprowston Junior and St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary) were able to use this experience to contribute to their Arts Mark and Arts Awards. Children from St Georges Primary also took part in a celebration event in Norwich in July as well as a summer school in August.

Part funding for a second project with Into Opera to turn the children's story booked 'Gobollino the Witch's Cat into an opera. Children from St Georges Primary and St Mary and St Peter Primary will work with writers and composers throughout the autumn and spring terms. During this development phase further funding will be sought to enable performances to be staged during the summer term.

Making Waves Together – Enjoy is taking part in an ambitious project using Heritage Lottery funding from the new Great Places scheme. The *Making Waves Together* project is being led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council supported by local cultural organisations who will work together on linked project to re-imagine a brighter future for the Seaside Towns of Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Arts and cultural activities will be used to engage communities, support regeneration and raise aspirations.

Enjoy is working closely with Lowestoft Rising to use project funds to develop the two Local Cultural Education Partnerships and foster more collaborative working between them. A central ambition in Great Yarmouth is to grow the network of schools linked to Enjoy and we are very pleased that we have already signed up five primary schools and one high school to our new 'Culture Schools' program with strong interest from several others. Culture Schools will work with us to identify aspects of the cultural provision that they would like to develop with our support. They will also appoint 'Cultural Champions' to work closely with us and will be able to benefit from regular CPD sessions for teaching staff. We started with a workshop in June to promote schools engagement with the HLF Funded Venetian Waterways restoration project. This was delivered in partnership with Ali Fisher from the project team and Kate Argyle from Historic England.

Project Officer Phoebe Wingate is currently working with partners to organise one day youth arts festivals during the October half term. 'Ness Fest' will happen in Lowestoft on the 23rd October and 'Young at Arts' will take place in Great Yarmouth on 24th October.

The Area and Operations Manager reported on the total Visitor Numbers, income and Retail across the Time and Tide, Elizabethan House and Tolhouse Goal.

RESOLVED :

That the Committee note the contents of the Area Museums for the period February to September 2018.

5 PRESENTATION - SEA HISTORY DIFFERENTLY AND DRAWN TO THE COAST

Johanna Jones, Curator provided the Committee with a presentation that had been created by Students on the Sea History Differently Project. The short video showed works that were being undertaken on the project.

Members were advised of the community outreach work that had been undertaken in respect of the project and it was hoped that the event showed how museums could become more mobile and adventurous. It was reported that the exhibition was amended during the period it was on show in light of community comments.

6 HANDLING COLLECTIONS AND COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT RATIONALISATION OVERVIEW

Members were given opportunity to look at some of the Museums handling collections which included :-

- Coral

- Eel trapper
- Illustrations
- Manby trailer

The Curator reported that a collections rationalisation programme would be brought to future meetings of the Committee where certain collections would be brought forward for rationalising, it was suggested that if Members had questions prior to the rationalising these be submitted prior to the meeting.

Members discussed ideas around rationalisation such as swapping items with other museums and insurance that is held by the museum for collections. Members were advised that a Collections Care Policy was available on the Museums website.

7 TOUR OF NEWLY OPENED CIRCUS ! SHOW OF SHOWS EXHIBITION.

Members were invited to view the newly opened Circus Exhibition.

The meeting ended at: 15:55