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**KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

9 October 2023

Item No.

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Assistant Head of Museums

**This report provides information on King's Lynn
Museum activities in the period from March 2023 –
August 2023**

1. COVID-19 and Infection Control service update

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 also link into the LoRaWAN network, facilitating the use of monitoring dashboards to track live data and trends.

2 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

2.1 Hoards: Archaeological Treasures from West Norfolk

Until Saturday 11 November 2023



The Hoards exhibition continues to prove popular at the museum as it enters into the last few months of its run, with the last chance to see the exhibition on Saturday 11 November.

The display explores the stories of ancient hoards in West Norfolk, their significance and burial. The exhibition features hoards buried in the area from the Middle Bronze Age until the time of the English Civil War.

The exhibition has also been an opportunity to display examples of coin hoards from the Iron Age and early medieval periods purchased in recent years with the support of the Museum Friends, the V&A/ ACE Purchase Grant Fund, the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Headley Trust.



The above image shows medieval coins from one of the archaeological hoards on display in the Lynn Museum's current exhibition. This hoard illustrates trade links of the medieval port of Lynn. The English coins were minted in London, York, Canterbury and Bury St Edmund's. Others were imported from Scotland, Dublin, Brabant and Cambrai. These silver pennies were found on the building site of Boots Pharmacy in Purfleet Street they date from 1272 to 1292. When the coins were excavated, they were heavily corroded and many were stuck together. Conservators at the British Museum were able to separate and clean them.



The Hoards exhibition at Lynn Museum includes this hoard of Roman glass and pewter buried at the Hockwold Roman temple site

The museum team continues to draw upon the theme of the exhibition for other public programming, including the monthly adult talks programme. For example Adrian Marsden, numismatist with the NCC Historic Environment team has spoken at the museum about the Dersingham English Civil War hoard and NCC Finds Liaison Officer Helen Geake has spoken about the Sutton Hoo finds in the light of new discoveries of Anglo-Saxon goldwork.

In October, Professor Michael Lewis FSA MCIfA Head of Portable Antiquities and Treasure at the British Museum will be giving a talk entitled *Treasuring the Past: recording archaeological finds made by the public*.

Recent talks at the museum with attendance (in brackets) are listed here:

31 March

Tales from the Crypt: Fifty Years Amongst the Dead Julian Litten (25)

26 May

The Sutton Hoo Gold Objects in the Light of New Discoveries of Anglo-Saxon Goldwork Helen Geake (30)

30 June

The Dersingham Hoard: The English Civil War in Norfolk and Beyond Adrian Marsden (33)

27 July

Norfolk's Latest Treasures Adrian Marsden (21)

25 August

Exploring Norfolk's Deep History Coast John Davies & David Waterhouse (26)



Afternoon talk at Lynn Museum

The Museum team is working with NCC colleague Adrian Marsden on a publication about hoards in west Norfolk. This will serve as a legacy for the exhibition and should be available to purchase in the museum shop in time for Christmas.

Further information about Hoards on the Norfolk Museums service website:
[Hoards: Archaeological Treasures from West Norfolk - Norfolk Museums](#)

The Hoards exhibition has featured in local media including the KL Magazine:
[Exploring Norfolk's historic hidden hoards | KL Magazine](#)

The BBC news website for Norfolk:
[Lynn Museum: Unearthed treasure hoards go on display - BBC News](#)

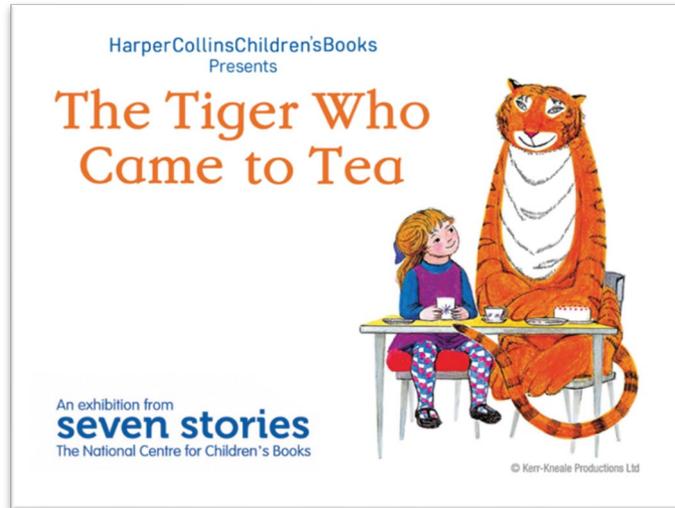
And the EDP:
[The treasures found buried beneath Norfolk fields | Eastern Daily Press \(edp24.co.uk\)](#)

2.2 Forthcoming exhibition: *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* 24 November 2023 - 20 January 2024

The next exhibition at Lynn Museum is a touring exhibition supplemented by material from the museum collections. *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* celebrates the life and work of Judith Kerr, one of Britain's best known children's book author-illustrators.

Copies of Kerr's original artwork will be on display alongside her notes and sketches. Children can also enjoy stepping into Sophie's kitchen to have tea with a life-size tiger. Published in 1968, Kerr's first picture book *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* began as a bedtime story for her own children. It became a classic. By the 40th anniversary in 2008, the book had 11 language translations and had sold over five million copies.

The exhibition celebrates 100 years of Judith Kerr and her incredible contribution to children's literature. It has been developed by Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books, and introduces the beloved picture book to a new generation of family audiences.



Taxidermy tiger exhibit at Lynn Museum

Reading the story was a popular online event during lock-down in 2020. The story and exhibition make a connection with the taxidermy tiger known as 'Horace' on display in the museum entrance area. The exhibition has been popular at other venues and is created by 'Seven Stories' the National Centre for Children's Books. Staff plan to add local tiger-related exhibits to the exhibition.

2.3 Forthcoming exhibition: *The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour* opening Monday 3 February 2024.

This touring exhibition explores earth's natural satellite – the moon. A key exhibit is a gigantic moon model which will be suspended above the exhibition

making use of the museum's high ceilings. Also, as part of the exhibition visitors will have the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to touch a real piece of moon rock. Other exciting artefacts include ephemera from the 1969 moon landing. The display together with an associated programme of events and activities has been supported by a grant of £10,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding for West Norfolk for arts cultural heritage and creative activities.

2.4 Forthcoming Exhibition *Woof, a Celebration of Dogs* opening Autumn 2024. This will be a Lynn Museum-curated exhibition drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history.

2.5 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods.

Poster for summer holiday events at Lynn Museum

Discovery Days family event days over the period of the report ran as follows (with attendances in brackets):

- 6 April - *Easter Crafts* (55 children)
- 13 April - *English Civil War* with soldier characters (40 children)
- 1 June - *Viking Archaeology* with Viking characters & objects (48 children)
- 3 August - *Celtic Warriors* with warrior character/object handling (52 children 104 total)
- 10 August - *Medieval Lynn* (23 children, 57 total)
- 17 August - *Victorian Fairground* (21 children, 48 total)
- 24 August - *1940s Home Front* (41 children, 82 total)

2.6 Family Trails

Trails are provided at the museum for children and families to enjoy an exploration of the museum.



Poster for a Coronation Trail from May 2023

Trails offered at the Lynn Museum (participants in brackets):

- April - Easter (109)
- April - Civil War (61)
- May - The Coronation Trail (11)
- May - Norse Runes (67)
- July - Taylor's Seeds (56)
- August - Find the Treasure (78)
- August - Medieval Hunt (78)
- August - Coconut Shy (43)
- August - Spitfire Search (62)
- August - Dinosaur Detective (47)

2.7 Mini Museum

Lynn Museum continues to provide regular activities for our youngest visitors through the monthly mini museum programme. Activities are delivered by the museum's learning team (attendances in brackets):

- 16 March - *Buried Treasure* Coin Striking (22 children)
- 20 April – *Transport* Zeppelin balloons (20 children)
- 18 May - *Cave Baby* Mammoth masks (12 children)
- 22 June - *The Seaside* Toilet roll telescopes (19 children)
- 20 July - *Water, Water, Water* Bubble Painting (9 children)

2.8 #ThanksToYou Tours

The Museum staged a special open day as part of the #ThanksToYou promotion by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a key partner for Norfolk Museums Service. Two free Seahenge tours were given on 26 March, with 20 and 24 members of the public attending.



Museum Learning Assistant Hayley Simmons giving a tour of Seahenge

2.9 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum. These offer a chance for people to enjoy the museum and participate in an informal activity. The coffee mornings take place on the last Friday of the month. Topics have included spring terrariums, Bronze Age handling, basket weaving and medieval tiles.

2.10 Heritage Open Days

The Lynn Museum once more contributed to the annual celebration of King's Lynn heritage for the Heritage Open Day on Sunday 10 September organised by the King's Lynn Civic Society. Lynn Museum offered free admission with opening between 10am and 4pm, with visitors having the opportunity to meet a Viking costumed interpreter. The day went very well, with 552 people visiting the museum. The St George's Guildhall was also open for visitors with support from NMS staff, with 1,903 people in attendance.

3 Newman Legacy

The Lynn Museum has benefited from a legacy given specifically for the museum's use and provided by the late Eric and Rita Newman. The Newman's were siblings who had retired to Congham near King's Lynn with interests in local history and helping children learn. The museum service is very grateful for the Newmans' generosity.

Dayna Woolbright has been appointed as Newman Curator, a post designed to develop projects in the Newman's' name, with a particular reference to collections management, building collections knowledge and sharing this with audiences.

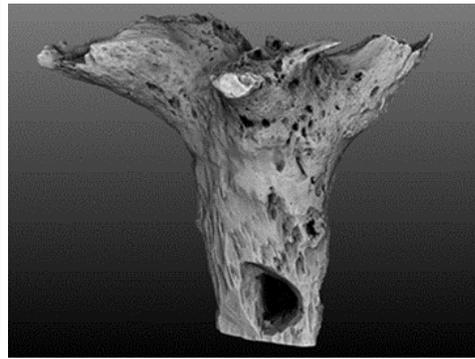
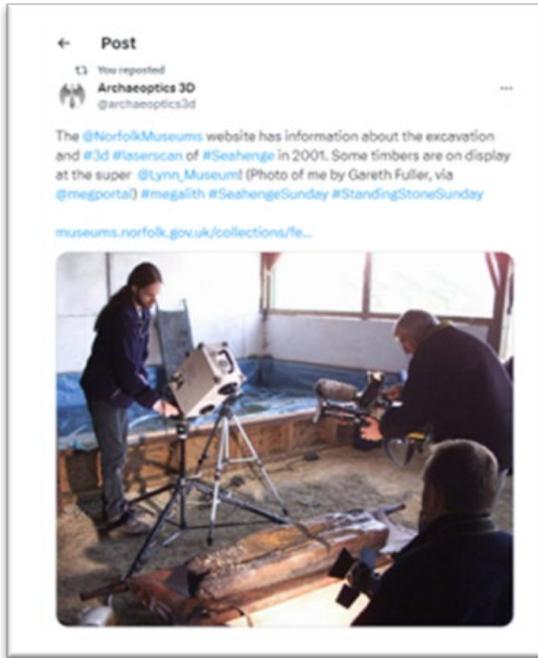
4 Other Museum developments

4.1 The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being actively used and maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter) and Facebook accounts may be seen here:

[\(20\) Lynn Museum \(@Lynn_Museum\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

Popular social media features have continued to include *#SeahengeSunday*. This series of tweets has enabled the museum team to link up with Archaeoptics 3D who scanned the timbers from Seahenge as part of the detailed study of the Bronze Age monument. The scans revealed the axe marks on the timbers which showed that over 50 different Bronze Age axes were used.



Tweet from the team who scanned the Seahenge Timbers. The illustrations provide a new perspective on the monument on display at Lynn Museum. (image credit: Archaeoptics 3D)



Social media post in the popular #OnlineArtExchange series featuring a juvenile sketch by King's Lynn-born artist Thomas Baines

4.2. It is planned to revisit on site volunteering in the coming months as part of a Connected Communities bid the museum team is working on.

4.3 NMS Learning Officer Melissa Hawker has continued her regular slot for Radio Norfolk to discuss local history and promote forthcoming events.

4.4 As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.



Example of a *Picture This* column in the Lynn News, a fortnightly series featuring pictures from the museum collections. This example shows the Victorian Athenaeum building with the chapel (now the museum) beyond

4.5 YouTube films. A variety of films linked to Lynn Museum are available on the museum's You Tube Channel, here: [Lynn Museum - YouTube](#)

4.6 Online exhibitions are available through the Google Arts and Culture platform: [Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#)

5 Partnerships

5.1 The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues to provide curatorial and conservation advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia.

5.2 NMS staff continue to support Borough Council colleagues with the development and delivery of relevant cultural and heritage project across the Borough, including ongoing support for Towns Fund projects including the Guildhall. Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright has contributed to the work on the St George's Guildhall project Interpretation Strategy and the events and exhibitions programme working with Rachael Williams. Jane

Hamilton has now joined the Guildhall Team as Learning and Engagement Officer.

- 5.3 The Lynn Museum free admission period started in October and runs until the end of March. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.
- 5.4 NMS continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the NLHF-funded *Stories of Lynn* project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. NMS manages the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer post, which is co-funded by the Borough Council and the NLHF Kick the Dust: Norfolk project. The postholder Rachael Williams works closely with colleagues from the Borough Council and the Norfolk Record Office.
- 5.5 NMS Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright leads on supporting the Borough Council on collections management advice and support. Recent contributions have included advice on the safe use of the civic regalia, and delivery of temporary displays at Stories. An example is the current exhibition *Retro Games* using content and collections developed by the Norfolk Museums Service's Time and Tide Museum. The *Retro Games* exhibition charts the rise of video gaming. Starting with the early days of arcades in the 70s, the show moves through the decades of gaming development taking in some of the key vintage consoles.
- 5.6 The restoration of the displays in Stories of Lynn at the Town Hall following an emergency caused by torrential rain is another example of partnership working in support of the town's heritage. The reinstatement of the displays was completed during the period of this report.

6 Learning & Outreach

Lynn Museum continues to offer a range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate teachers' needs. During this period topics have included Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans and Iceni, Bronze Age and Seahenge, Stone Age, the Second World War, Ancient Egyptians, and Homes Long Ago.

School sessions normally follow a pattern of a carousel of different activities with children learning in a variety of styles. Delivery of sessions is normally by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

This link for teachers explains what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

[Key stage 2 education at Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums](#)

Lynn Museum continues to work closely with Stories of Lynn, running joint school workshops on topics such as Maritime Life, Lord Nelson, Captain

Vancouver, Crime and Punishment, Frederick Savage and the Lynn Mart, the Great Fire of London and Floods and Flooding.



Promotion on social media to encourage educational visits to the museum

7 Kick the Dust Norfolk – project update

The Kick the Dust: Norfolk project, initially funded through the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and delivered in partnership with a range of organisations including YMCA Norfolk, continues to engage with young people aged 11-25. The project provides a structured progression pathway for young people: Player-Shaper-Leader.

Following the successful conclusion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded Kick the Dust project, Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) has secured additional funding through an Arts Council England 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. Additional funding has also been identified to support continuing Kick the Dust activity in Norwich.

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 an 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 the 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 the project covering the period 1/5/23 to 9/8/23.

Number of interventions with young people:

Between 1/5/23 and 9/8/23 there have been 282 interventions involving 149 individual young people taking part in 374 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:

- 17% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 63% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 20% at Leader level (long term engagement – young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 82% of all activity involved young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 60% (50 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Thetford),
- 19% (15 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 19% (15 opportunities) in Norwich
- A further 2 opportunities were offered to young people at alternative venues outside of Norfolk including attendance at the ‘Young People and Skills’ conference in London at the Houses of Parliament and Norwich City Hall in May 2023.

- 18 volunteering opportunities have been provided to 10 individual young people.

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. To the end of July, 8 young people had used their free pass – 1 at Gressenhall, 1 at Ancient House Museum, 3 at Time and Tide, 1 at Elizabethan House and 2 at Norwich Castle.

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 new project progresses and needs are identified. Training around safeguarding was delivered in-house in June, two of the new Project Workers took part of a Mentoring in Museums course, the team attended the Library Living Networks event on video making in July and further opportunities are being planned for the Autumn term to include SEND and Mental Health First Aid training as well as social media working with a specialist from Libraries and the Young Ambassadors.

Our offer to support our 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. At the end of the NLHF funded project in March 2023, 26% of young people identified as having a mental health issue. Up to 31 July 2023 data shows that 24% of the individual young people who have taken part in the new programme of activity identify as having a mental health issue (an increase of 1% on June data), 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 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.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group where members from across NCC 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 now has representation from the NCC Public Health team.

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category)

- FE/HE – 18%
- YMCA clients – 6%
- Secondary schools – 15%
- Young people with mental health issues – 24%
- SEND – 3%

- Outside of mainstream education – 9%
- NEET – 15%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 0%
- Care Leavers – 0%
- Young Carers – 0%
- New arrivals and refugees – 6%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 0%

Impacts on mental health and wellbeing

The new young people’s feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing scale for assessing a population’s mental well-being. The Young Ambassadors worked alongside 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.

Of the 8 responses to 31/7/23, 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	14%	43%	14%	28%	0%
I’ve been feeling useful	28%	43%	14%	14%	0%
I’ve been feeling relaxed	28%	43%	0%	14%	0%
I’ve been dealing with problems well	14%	28%	43%	14%	0%
I’ve been thinking clearly	14%	28%	57%	0%	0%
I’ve been feeling close to other people	14%	28%	28%	28%	0%
I’ve been able to make up my own mind about things	20%	0%	43%	14%	0%

The following data chart highlights how 4 young people were feeling following their engagement in Kick the Dust:

QUESTION- post engagement	All of the time	Some of the time	Often	Rarely	Most of the time
I’ve been optimistic about the future	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%
I’ve been feeling useful	25%	25%	50%	0%	0%
I’ve been feeling relaxed	25%	25%	25%	0%	25%
I’ve been dealing with problems well	25%	0%	50%	25%	0%
I’ve been thinking clearly	25%	25%	50%	0%	0%

I've been feeling close to other people	0%	0%	75%	25%	0%
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	25%	0%	75%	0%	0%

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 Visitor Services team for Norwich Castle. Another young person has progressed from being a Young Ambassador to gaining a L4 Apprenticeship with Channel 4 in London.

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

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 will now work on the Development Phase of this application, ahead of a Round 2 bid submission in early 2024. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery would commence in later 2024.

8 **Visitor figures** for the period will be circulated at the meeting

9 Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

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