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

17 June 2024

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 – May 2024

1 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

1.1 Current Exhibition: *The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour*

2 February – 15 September 2024

This touring exhibition explores Earth's natural satellite – the moon. A key exhibit is a large moon model suspended above the exhibition, making use of the museum's high chapel ceilings. As part of the exhibition visitors have the opportunity to touch a real piece of moon rock. Other artefacts include ephemera from the 1969 moon landing. These displays, 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 administered by the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.



Publicity material for the Lynn Museum's current exhibition

The Moon theme has informed our event programming. The exhibition is proving very popular with visitors and has received excellent publicity including:

[BBC Radio Norfolk - BBC Radio Norfolk, Moon landing in King's Lynn](#)

[The Moon: Meet Our Nearest Neighbour - Exhibition at Lynn Museum \(whichmuseum.co.uk\)](#)

[Giant model Moon in major new exhibition at Lynn Museum | Eastern Daily Press \(edp24.co.uk\)](#)

[Museum in King's Lynn launches new moon exhibition which is free until the end of March \(lynnnews.co.uk\)](#)



Model of the Moon on display at Lynn Museum

1.2 Forthcoming Exhibition - *Woof! A Celebration of Dogs* Tuesday 1 October 2024 – Sunday 29 June 2025

The curatorial team is currently working on *Woof!*, the dog-themed next exhibition at Lynn Museum. This will be curated in-house, drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history collections. The majority of the items exhibited will come from the Lynn Museum reserve collection, supplemented with internal loans from other NMS sites, national collections and private individuals. The Tate Gallery has approved the loan of three artworks for the exhibition including a piece by David Hockney. The Kennel Club has also provisionally approved the loan of *England Expects* a painting by Maud Earl of two toy Bulldogs.



The White Dog by Vivian Crome, shortlisted for display in *Woof!*

The exhibition will be aimed at a family audience, with an emphasis on objects rather than text. The themes of *Woof!* include:

Origins of the dog - a natural history focus, featuring a taxidermy wolf and semi-fossilised wolf remains.

Early dogs - archaeological collections including the Legend of Black Shuck and global jackel headed Anubis in Ancient Egypt. Star objects include an Egyptian painted panel.

Working like a dog - dogs as working and competing animals.

Canine companions - domesticated dogs.

1.3 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. The Easter Holiday event *Spring into Space* attracted 148 visitors including 38 children.

1.4 Family Trails

Trails are provided at the museum for children and families to support their exploration of the museum. Trails offered at the Lynn Museum in the reporting period have included:

02/04/24 - 07/04/24 *Meet the Moon* - 188 participants

1.5 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. These have included:

21/03/2024 *Old Macdonald had a Farm* - 38 visitors including 19 children

18/04/2024 *The Moon and The Stars* - 43 visitors including 19 children

1.6 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum. These offer a chance for people to enjoy the museum with an informal activity. The coffee mornings take place on the last Friday of the month. Topics have

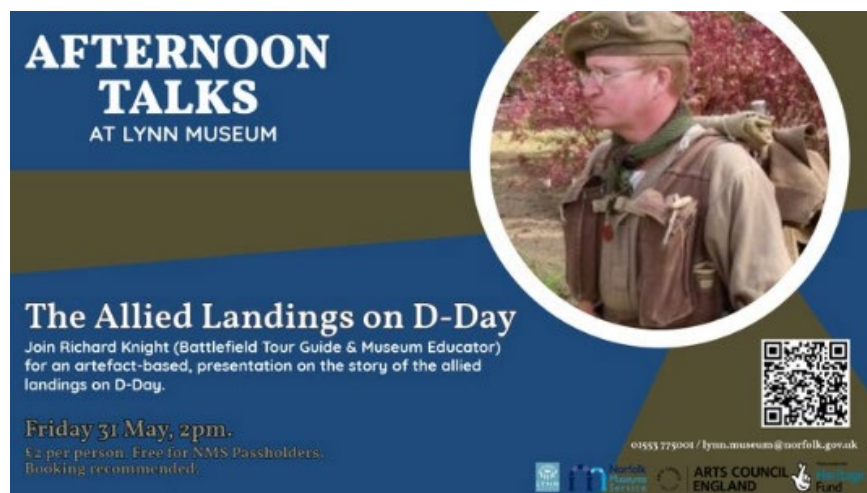
included spring terrariums, the Bronze Age, basket weaving and medieval tiles. In this reporting period:

29/03/2024 Easter Pom Poms - 23 participants

26/04/2024 Glow in the dark jars – 10 participants

31.05.2024 The D Day landings – 27 participants

1.7 Talks Programme



Publicity for afternoon talk at Lynn Museum as part of the commemorations of D-Day

Recent talks at the museum have included:

26/04/2024 - *A Journey Beyond Our Solar System to the Edge of the Universe* with Alan Gosling/KLAS - 26 attending

31/05/2024 - *The Allied Landings on D-Day* with John Richard Knight - 26 attending

2 Newman Legacy project

As previously reported, 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.

Newman Assistant Curator Jan Summerfield joined the team in February and Newman NMS Teaching Museum Trainee Alice started in April. The team has made a good start on cataloguing and documenting material in the museum stores, as part of a planned programme of collections management work supported by the Newman legacy.

3 Other Museum developments

3.1 Publicity and promotion

The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with X (Twitter), Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and

maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

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

[Facebook](#)

[King's Lynn Museum on Instagram • Photos and videos](#)

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

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.

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

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



Museum Learning Assistant Hayley Simmons featured in the King's Lynn magazine

3.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

Year-long paid traineeships are offered as part of the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum scheme, principally funded through the NMS Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation programme. For 2024-25 we have Newman Teaching Museum Trainee Alice Ochocka working on the Newman collections project at the museum. We are also joined by Anna Heffron as Curatorial West Trainee, working across both Thetford and Lynn Museums. Both trainees started work in early April 2024.



This year's Norfolk Museum Service Trainees including Anna Heffron and Alice Ochocka who are based in King's Lynn

3.3 Building Work at Lynn Museum

Following a period of structural monitoring of the Victorian former Union Baptist chapel building, a programme of remedial structural works to the schoolroom building (the current Seahenge Gallery) is taking place, involving the installation of tie rods at roof level. This work started after the Easter holidays and will run into the summer. The museum has remained open for visitors, although the Seahenge Gallery is closed for safety reasons during this period. A reduced admission charge is in place to reflect the more limited visitor offer.

3.4 Retail offer at Lynn Museum

The museum team continues to develop the retail offer at Lynn Museum working with the NMS Retail Manager Harriet Johnson. New lines include a revised Seahenge mug and greetings cards using designs from the Taylor's seed packets.

3.5 Support for National Lottery Open Week

The Lynn Museum once again participated in the national programme of openings and events at sites that have received National Lottery Funding up and down the country. This included a programme of free tours of the Seahenge Gallery.

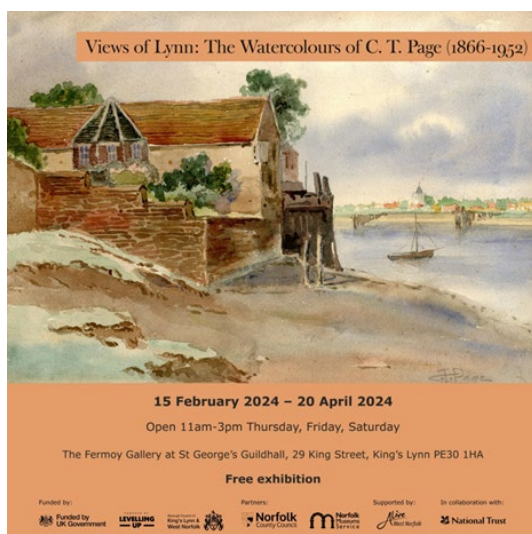


Publicity for the free Seahenge Tour offered at Lynn Museum in support of the National Lottery and as a thank you to lottery ticket holders

4 Borough Council partnership working

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.

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 project. Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright has contributed to the work on the St George’s Guildhall project Interpretation Strategy and to various events and exhibitions, working with Jane Hamilton Learning and Engagement Officer at the Guildhall Team. Other work has included curating an exhibition of watercolours for the Fermoy Gallery by CT Page. Christopher Page was Curator of Lynn Museum and Art Gallery from 1902 to 1931 and painted local scenes in watercolour.



Publicity for ‘Views of Lynn: the Watercolours of C.T. Page (1866-1952). Displayed at the Fermoy Gallery King’s Lynn

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 ACE-funded Kick the Dust: Norfolk project. Recruitment has recently taken place for this post, which has been vacant for a number of months. The new postholder Elizabeth Joice started in post at the end of April.

NMS Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright leads on supporting the Borough Council and Festival Office on collections management advice and support. Recent contributions have included advice on the safe use of the civic regalia and the programming of temporary exhibitions at Stories of Lynn.

Recent examples have included support for the conservation of an historic mirror at the Town Hall and support for a Borough Council event to mark the donation of a painting of the Custom House by Walter Dexter.

The Lynn Museum free admission period started in October and ran 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.



Publicity for event at St George's Guildhall supported by Norfolk Museums Service

5 Learning & Outreach

School visits

Lynn Museum continues to offer a broad range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate teachers' needs. Typical sessions include the 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 undertaken by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

The following link provided for teachers shows what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

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

Lynn Museum learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn colleagues in the running of 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.

6. Kick the Dust Norfolk – 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, 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.

During 2023-25 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 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. Feedback from young people shows that they value the skills they develop as part of the project with the top five skills being cited as: problem solving, digital, communication, team working and creativity.

The following data is based on the period 1/5/23 to 29/5/24.

Number of interventions with young people:

Between 1/5/23 and 29/5/24 there have been **1,749 interventions** involving **822 individual young people** taking part in **1,551 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:

- 18% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 64% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 18% at Leader level (long term engagement – young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 87% of all activity involved young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 35% (117 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Gressenhall),
- 22% (74 opportunities) in Thetford
- 21% (70 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 18% (59 opportunities) in Norwich
- 6 opportunities were offered to young people at alternative venues outside of Norfolk
- 46 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with 3 young people taking on the role of Digital Buddy and 8 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 Summer terms to include SEND and Mental Health First Aid training. The team accessed the 'Childhood Adversity and Creating a Trauma Informed Environment' in October 2023 and March 2024 and 'I'm a teenager get me in there' training in January 2024 at Ely Museum (as part of the new '*Your Heritage Your Future*' National lottery heritage Funded project) which will inform future delivery. Safeguarding training has been delivered to all team members through NMS.

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 29/5/24 data shows that **43%** of the individual young people who have taken part in the new programme of activity identify as having a **mental health issue** 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 and this will be reported upon in September 2024.

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 and Norfolk Public health 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 who bring a different perspective to the meetings. 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 29/5/24

- FE/HE – 41%
- YMCA clients – 16%
- Secondary schools – 31%
- Young people with mental health issues – 43%
- SEND – 3%
- Outside of mainstream education – 21%
- NEET – 33%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 2%
- Care Leavers – 2%

- Young Carers – 2%
- New arrivals and refugees – 7%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 1%

In terms of how young people find out about Kick the Dust, the Kick the Dust website is being used effectively with 33% of young people finding out about the project through the updated web pages ([Kick the Dust - Norfolk Museums](#)); 18% through a family member, 18% coming via one of our partner organisations and 12% having already taken part in a previous Kick the Dust project.

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 developed the new framework alongside Norfolk Public health, and this allows us to measure impact in this key area. In addition, we are implementing a narrative evaluation model working with a smaller number of young people who are part of a long-term project group which will be reported on at the end of the summer to provide a richer story to accompany the raw data.

From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in Kick the Dust, **62%** strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing with a further **38%** agreeing that their involvement in Kick the Dust has helped them have more positive mental health. An additional question has been added to identify young people with neurodivergent tendencies and is showing that since March 66% of young people engaged in Kick the Dust identify as neurodivergent which is significant when designing new activity in terms of additional barriers these young people may face.

Of the 37 responses to 29/5/24, the following data chart highlights how young people were feeling before taking part in Kick the Dust:

QUESTION – pre engagement	None of the time	Rarely	Some of the time	Often	all of the time
I've been feeling optimistic about the future	0	19	40	27	14
I've been feeling useful	0	7	43	40	10
I've been feeling relaxed	0	22	30	30	19
I've been dealing with problems well	0	5	43	43	8
I've been thinking clearly	0	10	36	38	16
I've been feeling close to other people	0	16	24	43	16
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	0	8	22	41	30

The following data chart highlights how 13 young people were feeling following their engagement in Kick the Dust between March and May 2024 (NB: Part 2 is only completed once a young person has finished a group/ activity and has had a 121 session with the Project Worker)

QUESTION – post engagement	None of the time	Rarely	Some of the time	Often	all of the time
I've been feeling optimistic about the future	0	0	38	54	8
I've been feeling useful	0	0	31	38	31
I've been feeling relaxed	0	2	40	26	32
I've been dealing with problems well	0	15	15	55	15
I've been thinking clearly	0	0	31	54	15
I've been feeling close to other people	0	8	15	46	31
I've been able to make up my own mind about things	0	0	16	46	38

From the additional questions asked of the young people taking part, the programme is meeting their needs and helping them see themselves in a museum or heritage setting, with 80% stating the programme went above their expectations.

- 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;
- 69% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part with a further 23% agreeing;
- 62% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant with a further 31% agreeing. 62% strongly agreed that heritage represented young people like themselves;
- 99% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the job roles available with 93% strongly agreeing that they could see themselves working in the sector;
- 62% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future with a further 38% agreeing;
- 58% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously with a further 42% agreeing;
- 84% 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 its second year of the ACE funded project.

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 another of our YMCA young people has progressed into independent living, with another taking on a part time role, with the Kick the Dust programme giving them the confidence to take these steps. Another former YMCA client who was part of Kick the Dust has completed her first year of studies whilst working in the Visitor Services team for Norwich Castle. Former participants and Young Ambassadors have since progressed into employment or onto further and higher education, having gained the confidence to move towards their goals. Another Young Ambassador secured a bursary to run her own project through Norfolk and Norwich Festival Bridge and has been working with groups in Norwich and the Library on a creative wiring project linked to heritage. She has since applied for funding from English Heritage to run a similar project this summer in Kings Lynn.

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 (Chloe is now on a Level 4 Apprenticeship working in London for Channel 4)

'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 (Emily is now studying for an MA and remains an active Young Ambassador)

'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 (Jazz has worked on another KTD project and is an active Young Ambassador, presenting at the NLHF and GEM webinar in March 2024)

'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 (Marr is studying an MA at UEA and remains an active Young Ambassador)

'I've really enjoyed being part of Kick the Dust and it's given me so many amazing opportunities that I'd never get otherwise. I loved the opportunity to go behind the scenes at museums and learn about objects and collections from experts. It felt like I was being taken really seriously as a young person and that my voice mattered. The project was really well planned and executed and there was always something new to learn. I met people who had really different skills and backgrounds to me and it was so fun to work with a new group of people. It felt like the staff really cared about me and were always trying to support me and provide me with new opportunities. Without Kick the Dust, I don't think I'd have been able to get my first job in the heritage industry and feel confident in my own knowledge and skills.' (Rosa – Young Ambassador and participant in Knights of the Sound Table)

'I have very much enjoyed my time as part of the Kick the Dust work experience program. I feel a bit more confident in social situations than I did before, and I have a much firmer idea of what jobs are available in the museum service.' (Amy – work experience)

'Being part of this organisation, have given me a boarder view of where I see myself in the future and the career I want to go into. It has given me confidence and developed me as a team player when working together. It has given a boost of independence which I keep on achieving.' (Emily – online work experience and 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 (YHYF) 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 then worked together on the Development Phase, ahead of a Round 2 bid which was submitted on schedule in May 2024. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery will commence in later 2024.

7. Visitor figures

Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting

8. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

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