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

**16 September 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 June 2024 – August 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. Also, 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 through the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.

The Moon theme has informed the museum's event programming. The exhibition has proved 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 at Lynn Museum.

## **1.2 Forthcoming Exhibition *Woof: A Celebration of Dogs* Tuesday 1st October 2024 – Sunday 29th June 2025.**

The curatorial team is currently working on *Woof* the dog-themed next exhibition at Lynn Museum which opens shortly. This show is curated in-house drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history



collections. The majority of the items exhibited will be from the Lynn Museum reserve collection, supplemented with internal loans from Gressenhall, Norwich Castle and the Norfolk Costume and Textile collections, national collections, and from 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 approved the loan of 'England Expects' a painting by Maud Earl of two Toy Bulldogs, an extinct breed.

*Pom*, by Andy Warhol (above), an exhibit in *Woof* at Lynn Museum from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 on loan from the East Anglian Art Foundation.

The exhibition will be aimed at a family audience with themes including:

- *Origins of the dog* - a natural history focus, featuring a taxidermy wolf and dog skull.
- *Early dogs* - archaeological collections including a Roman gold ring with blue glass intaglio and an Egyptian painted panel.
- *Working like a dog* - dogs as working and competing animals.
- *Canine companions* - domesticated dogs.



Picture: 'A Distinguished Member of the Humane Society' oil painting by William Henry Ruggles (active 1833-1846) after Edwin Henry Landseer (1802–1873), an exhibit in *Woof..*

### 1.3 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. Over the summer of 2024 the museum events were:

On 01/08/2024, Dinosaurs & Fossils with 167 children and a total of 307 attending. On 08/08/2024 the theme was Egyptians with 71 Children and a total of 176 attending. On 15/08/2024 the theme was Romans with 42 children and a Total of 161 attending. The final event on 22/08/2024 was Vikings with 80 Children and a total of total: 216 attendees.





Event at Lynn Museum.

#### **1.4 Family Trails**

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

25/05/24 - 02/06/24 'Whizzy Space Inventions' with 106 participants,  
20/07/24 - 28/07/24\* 'Eric the Archaeologist (for the Festival of Archaeology)  
with 43 participants.  
30/07/24 - 04/08/24 'Dinosaur Dinner' with 163 participants  
06/08/24 - 11/08/24 Egyptian Gods with 112 participants  
13/08/24 - 18/08/24 Mistake Mosaic with 80 participants  
20/08/24 25/08/24\* Viking Adventures with 121 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:

20/06/2024 Space Explorers 11 children; 23 total  
18/07/2024 The Mart Fairground 13 children 31 total  
25/07/2024 Dinosaurs\* 18 children 41 total



Publicity poster for minimuseum at Lynn Museum for autumn 2024.

### 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. In this reporting period:

- 28/06/2024 Summer Flower Pots with 13 participants.
- 26/07/2024 GI/Friendly Invasion with 18 participants.
- 30/08/2024 Vintage Badges with 10 participants.

### 1.7 Talks Programme

Recent talks at the museum have included:

- 28/06/2024 Roman Fashion & Beauty: Colour, Height, and Status by Hayley Simmons with 23 attending.
- 26/07/2024 The Friendly Invasion of Norfolk in WW2 by Mark Taylor with 25 attending.
- 30/08/2024 Werewolves, witches and weather: how the Moon helps to shape Norfolk Folklore by Siofra Connor (Norfolk Folklore Society) with 21 attending.



### 1.8 Finds Identification and Recording Day on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July

On the 27<sup>th</sup> July the Museum worked with our colleagues at the Finds Identification and Recording Service to offer an archaeology finds day. This proved to be a successful event with 41 people interacting with the archaeologists with many bringing in finds for identification.

**Finds Identification and Recording Day**



**Saturday 27th July 2024 11am to 4pm**  
**Kings Lynn Museum**

**Found an archaeological object?**

Have you found something interesting like a metal object, coin, piece of pottery or flint? Bring it along to show us!

The Finds Identification and Recording Service from Norfolk County Council will be at the Museum to take a look at your material and talk to you about recording.



[www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.heritage.norfolk.gov.uk)
[www.lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk)
[www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk)

### 1.9 Pewter Pilgrims Adult Workshop

Museum Learning Assistant Hayley Simmons delivered a series of three events this summer at Lynn Museum for people learning how to make and cast pilgrim badges. 25 people participated in these two-hour long workshops.

**New dates added!**

## Pewter Pilgrims Adult Workshops

at Lynn Museum

Learn how to create and cast your own pewter souvenirs in our 2 hour workshop and go on a Pilgrimage Walking Tour around King's Lynn

**Wednesday 10th July**  
**Friday 19th July**

10.30am-2.30pm  
Ticket £5  
Booking Required



This programme has been supported by Norfolk County Council and King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council - Love Your Market Town programme





Carved cuttlefish moulds and pewter badges from the workshop at Lynn Museum

## **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 Newmans 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 been working on the cataloguing and documenting material in the museum stores, as part of a planned programme of collections management work supported by the Newman legacy. The team has enhanced 4705 object records in recent months.

## **3 Other Museum developments**

### **3.1 Publicity and promotion**

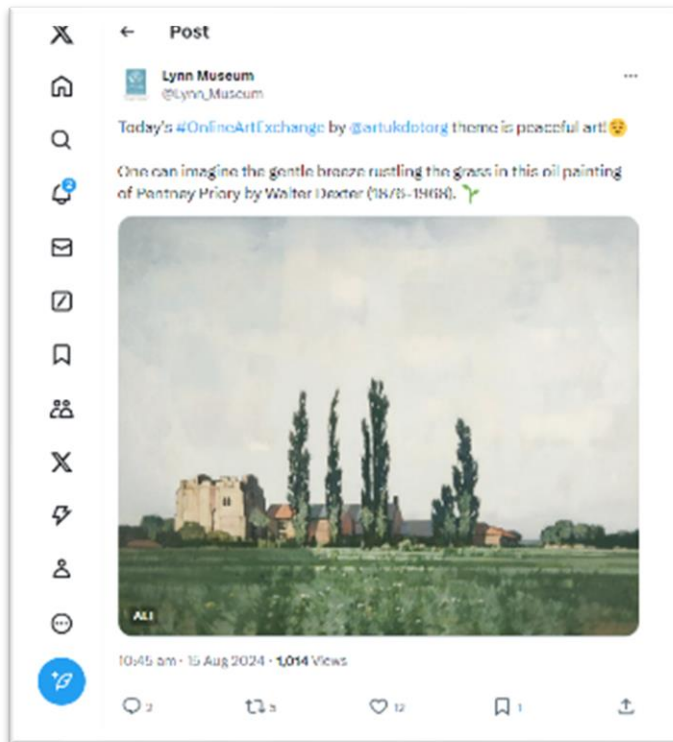
The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

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

[Facebook](#)

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





Example of a social media post from the museum featuring a painting of Pentney priory by Walter Dexter.

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, 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](#)

### 3.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

One 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 also have the Curatorial West Trainee working at both Thetford and Lynn Museums, Anna Heffron. Both trainees started work in early April 2024 and have proved valuable members of the team.

### 3.3 Building Work at Lynn Museum

Following a period of structural monitoring of the Victorian chapel building, a programme of remedial works to the schoolroom building (the current



Seahenge Gallery) has taken place, involving the installation of tie rods at roof level. This work started after the Easter holidays and ran until late June. The work went well and the gallery reopened on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June.

### 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 Hat Johnson. New lines include a revised Seahenge mug and greetings cards using designs from the Taylors seed packets.

### 3.5 Cultural Strategy Development consultation event at Lynn Museum

Lynn Museum was a venue for community consultation for the development of a new Cultural Strategy for the town. Local people were asked to imagine King's Lynn in the future, then draw, 'What should it look like?'

## 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 organising and installing 'The Magic of Middle Earth' exhibition displaying collections relating to *Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*.



(left) publicity image for The Magic of Middle Earth exhibition on display at the St George's Guildhall.

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. Elizabeth Joisce, the postholder goes on maternity leave shortly and recruitment for her cover is underway.

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 delivery of temporary displays at Stories.

Recent examples have included support for the maintenance of displays at Stories of Lynn and care for the historic collections in the Town Hall during the sanding and sealing of the wooden floor upstairs.

The Lynn Museum's free admission period starts again in October and will run until the end of March 2025. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.

## **5 Learning & Outreach**

### **School visits**

Lynn Museum continues to offer a 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 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 learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn 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 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, Norfolk's 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.

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 (ACE) NPO Uplift award for the period 2023-27. This enables 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 countywide 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 Page 19 of 40 10 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 31/7/24.

**Number of interventions with young people:** Between 1/5/23 and 31/7/24 there have been 2,056 interventions involving 888 **individual young people** taking part in 1,804 hours of quality activity. 98% 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:

- 16% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 62% 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)
- 67% of all activity involves young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 34% (140 opportunities) in Kings Lynn,
- 26% (104 opportunities) in Thetford
- 20% (83 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 18% (71 opportunities) in Norwich
- 2% (8 opportunities) outside of area and 3 other opportunities for our online work experience programme targeted at Thetford and Kings Lynn young people.

57 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with 3 young people taking on the role of Project Assistant and 11 as a Young Ambassador. Of all delivery, 86% 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.

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. Mental Health First Aid training with the YMCA Norfolk team will be delivered in September and October as an accredited course, Mentoring and Coaching will follow in November and December 2024. Autism training will take place online on 31 October 2024. Three of the team are undergoing Arts Award training to add additional value to the programme. Page 20 of 40 11 Our offer to support young people around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and will be measured through the evaluation framework using data from the young people's feedback forms as well as narrative evaluation which will be reported on in September / October 2024. Working with colleagues in Public Health NCC team we will be able to interrogate the data around impact on mental wellbeing and match this to the interviews with the young people engaged in the narrative evaluation programme. Up to



31/7/24 data shows that 36% 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, although this has dropped slightly in the last quarter from 43% as we work with a larger number of young people. Through a systematic approach to evaluation, in partnership with Norfolk Library and Information Service, the team will be able to demonstrate the impact on mental health on those talking 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, 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. 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 31/7/24**

- FE/HE – 37%
- YMCA clients – 12%
- Secondary schools – 28%
- Young people with mental health issues – 36%
- SEND – 4%
- Outside of mainstream education – 25%
- NEET – 31%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 1%
- Care Leavers – 1%
- Young Carers – 3%
- New arrivals and refugees – 5%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 1%
- Other groups – 17%

In terms of how young people find out about Kick the Dust, the Kick the Dust website is being used effectively with 38% of young people finding out about the project through the updated web pages (<https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/join-and-support/kick-the-dust>); 18% through a family Page 21 of 40 12 member, 19% coming via one of our partner organisations and 16% 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 population's mental well-being. The Young Ambassadors developed the new framework alongside Public Health NCC, 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 September/ October 2024 to provide a richer story to accompany the raw data. From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in Kick the Dust, **41%** strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing with a further **44%** 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 **52%** 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 48 responses to 31/7/24, the following data chart highlights how young people were feeling before taking part in Kick the Dust:

**Part 1 Wellbeing statements** % 48 responses None of the time Rarely Some of the time Often all of the time I've been feeling optimistic about the future 0 17 33 29 19 I've been feeling useful 0 6 33 48 10 I've been feeling relaxed 0 19 33 29 17 I've been dealing with problems well 0 6 38 48 6 I've been thinking clearly 0 8 29 46 13 I've been feeling close to other people 0 13 21 46 19 I've been able to make up my own mind about things 0 8 19 44 27

The following data chart highlights how 33 young people were feeling following their engagement in Kick the Dust between March and June 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) Page 22 of 40 13

**Part 2 Wellbeing statements**

% 33 responses None of the time Rarely Some of the time Often all of the time I've been feeling optimistic about the future 3 6 34 44 13 I've been feeling useful 0 0 24 45 30 I've been feeling relaxed 3 13 34 34 16 I've been dealing with problems well 0 9 21 45 24 I've been thinking clearly 3 3 27 39 27 I've been feeling close to other people 0 9 15 45 30 I've been able to make up my own mind about things 0 3 18 39 39

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 94% stating the programme went above their expectations and 100% stating they felt welcomed and respected by staff and volunteers.

- 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;

- 84% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part
- 78% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant and 78% strongly agreed that heritage represented young people like themselves;
- 85% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the job roles available with 84% strongly agreeing that they could see themselves working in the sector;
- 91% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future with a further 38% agreeing;
- 72% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously;
- 50% 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 in its second year of the ACE funded project. Kick the Dust is a three-stage journey, with young people developing transferable workrelated 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. Page 23 of 40 14 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 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 former YMCA young people has progressed onto an Access Course at Norwich College with a view to applying for university in 2025, others have secured employment with one former YMCA young person now working in the Norwich Visitor Services team whilst studying both citing the Kick the Dust programme giving them the confidence to take these steps. 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 writing project linked to heritage and is starting a new project in Kings Lynn through funding from English Heritage entitled 'Rise Up! Hidden Histories of the Castles'.

**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) ‘I have now been offered a place on an access course to help me realise my dream of going to university next year’ ‘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) Page 24 of 40 15 ‘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) Responses to the Curator Camp in Thetford held in summer 2024 included statements such as ‘this project made me feel happy’, ‘this project has increased my confidence’, ‘I now work better with other people’.



### **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. Following the completion of the Development Phase, a Round 2 application was submitted on schedule at the end of May 2024. This complex application was put together by a joint project team of staff from YMCA Leicester and NMS. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery will commence in late 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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