



AGENDA

NOTE: In the case of non-members, this agenda is for information only

- Committee - BRECKLAND AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**
- Date & Time - MONDAY, 8TH OCTOBER, 2018 AT 10.30 AM**
- Venue - GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE MUSEUM, FAKENHAM ROAD, GRESSENHALL, BEETLEY, DEREHAM, NR20 4DR**

Persons attending the meeting are requested to turn off mobile telephones

Committee Members:

Breckland Council

Councillor C. Bowes
Mr R. F. W. Brame
Mr H. E. J. Clarke (Chairman)
Mr P. R. W. Darby
Mr R.G. Kybird

Co-optees

Dr K Robinson
Mr D. Blackburn

Norfolk County Council

Mr P.J. Duigan (Vice-Chairman)
Mr F. Eagle
Mr T. J. Jermy
Mr W. R. J. Richmond
Mr M. Kiddle-Morris

Ex-Officio

Mr D. Buck
Mr J Ward

Democratic Services
Elizabeth House, Walpole Loke,
Dereham Norfolk, NR19 1EE

Date: Thursday 27 September

1. **CHAIRMAN**
To elect a Chairman for the ensuing year.
2. **VICE-CHAIRMAN**
To elect a Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
3. **MINUTES** 4 - 9
To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018.
4. **APOLOGIES**
To receive apologies for absence.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**
6. **URGENT BUSINESS**
To note whether the Chairman proposes to accept any item as urgent business, pursuant to Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972.
7. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
The duties to register, disclose and not to participate for the entire consideration of the matter, in respect of any matter in which a Member has a disclosable pecuniary interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011. Members are also required to withdraw from the meeting room as stated in the Standing Orders of this Council.
8. **GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE REPORT** 10 - 16
To receive a report from Hannah Jackson, Operations Manager West.
9. **ANCIENT HOUSE MUSEUM THETFORD REPORT** 17 - 23
To receive a report from Oliver Bone, Curator Ancient House Museum.
10. **NEXT MEETING**
To agree a date for the next meeting.

BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

BRECKLAND AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

**Held on Monday, 14 May 2018 at 10.30 am in
Ancient House, Museum, Thetford**

PRESENT

Councillor C. Bowes	Mr F. Eagle
Mr H. E. J. Clarke (Chairman)	Mr T. J. Jermy
Mr R.G. Kybird	Mr M. Kiddle-Morris
Mr P.J. Duigan (Vice-Chairman)	

Also Present

Mr D Blackburn
Mr J Ward

In Attendance

Leanne Neave	- Democratic Services Officer
Hannah Jackson	- Operations Manager
Melissa Hawker	- Learning Officer

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9/18 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

10/18 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors Darby and W Richmond.

Robin Hanley and Oliver Bone had also sent apologies.

11/18 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised he had attended the Welcome to the Workhouse event and it was very enjoyable.

He confirmed that Councillor Duigan would chair the September meeting as he was unable to attend.

12/18 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

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13/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

14/18 GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE REPORT

Hannah Jackson the Operations Manager for Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse presented the report

The Farm and Workhouse had opened for February half term with a "Spring Cleaning" event, through the week there were 936 visitors which was slightly lower than previous years but was potentially due to the poor weather.

The main season had begun with a "Welcome to the workhouse" event, this involved all those who were involved with the Voices from the workhouse project and players of the National Lottery 228 visitors attended.

The first full public day of the new season was mother's day and was supported by the "Women Reaching Women" partnership which attracted 614 visitors.

The "Gressenhall goes wild" event held on Easter Monday had 232 visitors. They wished to grow this event as it was a great way for visitors to explore site
She confirmed all the event days attracted museum pass sales.

The Chairman queried what soroptimists were. Cllr Jermy confirmed they were a Global volunteer movement to change the lives of women and girls and had been present on Mother's Day with the "Women reaching Women" partnership.

Voices from the workhouse. The latter stages of the project was launched on 10th March. Evaluation of the project and spaces used was now being done.

David Blackburn queried if the project had given the opportunity to network with other workhouses.

It was confirmed that Gressenhall had founded a workhouse forum, working with other workhouses in the country who were looking at getting heritage funding. They were not all workhouse buildings but museums that had workhouse collections.

The temporary exhibition was "beer and brewing". The team had worked with local pubs to tell their stories as they moved into community ownership and how they diversified themselves to fit into modern life.

Collaborate programme - An inspiration day had been held in March. This day involved sharing the collections and stories and enabled people to get involved and understand it. Attendees were encouraged to decorate beer mats to show their local pub showcasing them as

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community hubs where people met and socialised and played sports.

Megan Dennis Curator had been to Minnesota to spend time at the Humanities forum in Carleton College. She had worked with students to generate some digital output for the Museum iPads. Using the Darwin programming she had added to the project and the workhouse were looking to expand this.

Councillor Ward queried if the digital output would be available to people on their own devices.

It was confirmed that there was a version visitors could download but currently it was a fixed offer, and the Museum would need to look at funding to update that. At present it was available on museum in house iPads, the Museum could update their devices but not the app.

Councillor Kiddle-Morris asked how the college in Minnesota became involved with creating a 3d model of the Workhouse.

The Operations Manager advised their course tutor was interested in workhouses and houses of industry and it was borne from a like minded dream from both sides to create the workhouse in a digital format.

Three further Autism Anglia Earlybird sessions were booked for the year to allow visitors to explore the site with the projections switched off.

Mother's day had been very successful and the Collections centre saw 81 visitors taking part in their printing activity.

Social media. The Museum was very active on Facebook and Twitter. There was a blog for the Voices from the Workhouse project.

Farmer's foundry engine boiler the Museum was waiting for the result of a funding application to enable the engine to be restored.

Volunteers - over the first three months of 2018 volunteers had contributed over 800 hours on site. During 2017 volunteers gave just over 10,000 hours to the Museum.

The Chairman asked how other workhouses utilised their volunteers. The Operations Manager advised the nearest comparison Workhouse was in Southwell which was run by the National trust that used volunteers. A Workhouse in Wales was run by volunteers.

David Blackburn advised SHARE Museums East, which supported Museum Development in the East of England, worked across the region, and one activity was to support volunteer groups and gave annual awards. Megan Dennis was heavily involved with them. The Chairman believed it was good to recognise volunteers and repeat visitors.

Councillor Ward queried if Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse held an event to recognise volunteers.

The Operations Manager advised that at the end of summer there

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was a social event and the held a “thank you” event at Christmas.

School visits - over the last financial year over 10,600 children had visited the site.

The Learning team were working in partnership with NCC to devise days for different groups.

A discussion was had regarding School visits and the struggle some Schools faced not with the cost of entry to the Museum but the coach to get them to the site. There was a degree of flexibility in the amount of activities each school booked for and free resources were available to teachers to use at the school with no fee. There were travel bursaries available to schools to assist them with the cost of travel.

Visitor numbers of 66021 for the year 2017-2018 had been recorded which was almost 5000 up on the previous year.

It was requested that the visitor figures be attached to the minutes.

15/18 ANCIENT HOUSE MUSEUM OF THETFORD LIFE REPORT

Melissa Hawker presented the report.

Thetford remembers three heritage bids were being looked at for a WW1 then and now project. Thetford Town Council were holding events for Armistice. The aim was for 3000 knitted poppies to be draped on the Guildhall and the knit and natters group were heavily involved. The display would form part of “battles over” a national event with beacon lighting. It was hoped the Museum might be a stop off point for the torch.

Some items would be donated to Norwich Castle for their exhibition and these could highlight Thetford’s role in the war.

Thetford and Punjab festival. A fortnight of activities was planned for Punjab links with Thetford. This would include Cultural Fusion and would see Morris dancing and Bangra dancing performed together. The collection donated from Prince Frederick would be highlighted and the plaque from Prince Frederick which had been in storage would be unveiled.

A funding bid was being worked on which would allow the upstairs room to be changed to a Duleep Singh room. Both the funding bid and subsequent display were being worked in consultation with the Sikh community.

Councillor Duigan queried whether there would be an issue with a Duleep Singh room as Thetford Library already had one and the two sites were very close to each other.

Melissa Hawker advised it actually helped visits. Large groups visiting Thetford could be split and visit both sites.

Teenage history club. The group had asked to do a temporary exhibition. “Pride of the people: helping history out of the closet” the

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club would explore collections and stories and present them in display. They were also creating a queer history tour of Ancient House, picking up objects that had links to queer communities and would use the formula used by guides at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. They were working with comedienne Iszi Lawrence who performed historical comedy, this would culminate in a stand up routine of their own which would be performed in the Autumn.

Learning activities. Discover Tuesday were running where visitors could meet characters and handle objects. May half term theme was to be Tudors. The family trails encourage local people to visit more regularly to do all the different trails.

The Teenage History Club and Mini Museum for the under fives were still popular and the Junior History club were doing a project about suffrage. They had performed a play and would be performing at the Mayor making event.

Volunteers – The Museum was soon to recruit new volunteers to produce resource boxes.

Visitor numbers – It was reported that 2017-2018 had been a strong year with 9654 visitors.

16/18 NEXT MEETING

The details for the next meeting were confirmed.

It was requested that an Agenda Item for September's meeting be for SHARE and David Blackburn would liaise with Councillors Clarke and Duigan to arrange a presentation on their work.

It was requested to be noted that the committee sent its best wishes to Oliver Bone and Robin Hanley for a speedy recovery.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

CHAIRMAN

**NORFOLK MUSEUM SERVICE
2016/17 Visitors by Museum and County Total**

		2016/17												YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL	
		APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR			
NORWICH	Castle Museum	2016-17	18,693	17,197	15,585	18,603	23,545	16,342	20,328	14,042	11,892	14,305	17,873	16,818	18,693	205,223
		2017-18	19,160	16,321	15,070	19,727	31,268	23,469	20,792	15,550	12,831	16,393	16,498	15,181	19,160	222,260
		2018-19	18,477												18,477	18,477
WICHAM	Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)	2016-17	414	422	335	436	309	566	429	404	282	346	401	424	414	4,768
		2017-18	319	331	400	271	258	450	322	337	114	0	232	340	319	3,374
		2018-19	286												286	286
HITCHAM	Museum of Norwich	2016-17	1,124	830	1,504	970	1,441	2,107	1,221	1,021	929	1,174	1,130	820	1,124	14,271
		2017-18	1,008	1,198	1,142	2,598	3,346	2,175	1,074	1,116	485	853	1,423	910	1,008	17,328
		2018-19	1,010												1,010	1,010
ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION	Strangers Hall	2016-17	530	573	1,284	1,012	1,182	1,642	775	665	842	0	371	859	530	9,735
		2017-18	643	746	1,029	2,110	2,598	1,637	610	574	610	12	348	443	643	11,360
		2018-19	670												670	670
ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION	Tolhouse Museum	2016-17	200	641	282	331	693	838	329	180	90	0	21	21	200	3,626
		2017-18	419	757	71	358	1,120	816	315	137	1	66	0	87	419	4,147
		2018-19	562												562	562
ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION	Elizabethan House Museum	2016-17	1,030	1,325	955	1,122	1,452	1,958	1,117	65	187	0	60	157	1,030	9,428
		2017-18	1,164	1,557	938	1,304	2,001	1,744	1,381	75	63	32	164	135	1,164	10,558
		2018-19	1,411												1,411	1,411
ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION	Time and Tide	2016-17	3,088	3,703	3,842	3,523	3,559	3,106	3,626	2,829	1,362	1,825	3,194	3,422	3,088	37,079
		2017-18	4,101	4,265	3,925	4,587	6,207	5,782	3,283	3,031	1,903	2,342	2,717	3,076	4,101	45,219
		2018-19	3,320												3,320	3,320
ELIZABETHAN ASSOCIATION	Cromer Museum	2016-17	1,375	1,541	2,054	1,850	2,429	1,694	1,583	44	91	16	130	1,396	1,375	14,203
		2017-18	1,838	1,530	1,846	2,036	2,464	1,614	1,515	75	57	7	264	1,147	1,838	14,393
		2018-19	1,585												1,585	1,585
WILTSHIRE	Lynn Museum	2016-17	1,018	884	1,235	1,663	986	1,486	1,560	1,271	727	1,110	1,666	1,169	1,018	14,775
		2017-18	624	721	827	1,657	1,497	1,671	2,005	1,270	1,014	1,344	2,137	1,636	624	16,403
		2018-19	960												960	960
WILTSHIRE	Ancient House Museum	2016-17	974	719	683	671	1,261	613	853	1,459	528	553	876	1,219	974	10,409
		2017-18	919	737	763	1,038	959	1,095	798	797	620	573	737	618	919	9,654
		2018-19	604												604	604
WILTSHIRE	Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse	2016-17	4,576	7,292	6,147	6,676	12,160	7,331	7,183	1,698	1,275	56	1,776	5,027	4,576	61,197
		2017-18	7,692	7,857	9,115	6,869	12,526	6,433	7,878	1,764	714	73	1,598	3,502	7,692	66,021
		2018-19	5,933												5,933	5,933
WILTSHIRE	Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA	2016-17	39	550	582	1067	115	20	168	159	31	10	98	57	39	2,896
		2017-18	80	456	213	755	295	2,088	71	279	59	0	552	545	80	5,393
		2018-19													0	0
	2015-16	33,061	35,677	34,488	37,924	49,132	37,703	39,172	23,837	18,236	19,395	27,596	31,389	33,061	387,610	
	2016-17	37,967	36,476	35,339	43,310	64,539	48,974	40,044	25,005	18,471	21,695	26,670	27,620	37,967	426,110	
	2017-18	34,818												34,818	34,818	
	TARGET	30,007	30,438	29,576	33,780	48,499	35,985	33,774	19,849	14,950	16,626	22,115	24,497	30,007	340,095	



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Hannah Jackson on 01362 869254 and we will do our best to help

**BRECKLAND
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

10 September 2018

Item No.

GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE REPORT

Report by the Operations Manager – West

This report provides information on activities at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse from May to July 2018.

1. Events and Activities

- 1.1 The 2018 main season commenced on Sunday 11 March. The museum is currently open daily 10am to 5pm, until Sunday 28 October.
- 1.2 Gressenhall continues to offer a broad programme of events based around the four operational models:
 - Special Event days – major events which require full event staffing and set up, including the use of large parking fields. For 2018, these are: *Retro Revival*, *Village at War* and *Apple Day*. A premium ticket price applies on these days to reflect the high level of activities taking place. Free admission continues to be provided to Norfolk Museums Pass holders.
 - Days with a Difference – smaller themed events including *Mothering Sunday*, *Futuristic Farming* and *Horse Power*. These require smaller staffing complement and utilise core parking. They are aimed at attracting audiences of 500-800 visitors. Again, they are offered free to Norfolk Museums Pass holders.
 - Norfolk School Holiday activities – extra themed activities delivered each day of the Norfolk School holidays, with minimal increase in staffing. Free to Norfolk Museums Pass holders.
 - Ticketed Events – pre-booked and pre-paid events. For 2018, these include the murder mystery event *The Devil at the Door* and *Victorian Family Christmas*. These events, held outside of standard opening hours or of the main season, offer a reduced charge to Norfolk Museums Pass holders.
- 1.3 During the period covered by this report, these events have included:
Special Event Days:

- *Retro Revival* (1,490 visitors)

Days with a Difference:

- *Futuristic Farming* (496 visitors)
- *Father's Day* (472 visitors)
- *Story Festival* (225 visitors)

Norfolk School Holiday Activities:

- May Half Term - *Create! - Toys and Games* (2,008 visitors)
- Summer holidays – *Walk in the Woods* (1,258 visitors from 25-31 July only)

- 1.4 These events continue to attract Norfolk Museums Pass holders and to act as a driver to further pass sales. Throughout the 2018 programme, an additional push on promoting this scheme to event day visitors has been made, leading to sustained and healthy sales of these passes.
- 1.5 In addition, Gressenhall organises a number of leisure learning short courses. During the period of this report, these have included Willow Garden Sculptures with basketry worker Sue Kirk and Collograph Printmaking with popular Norfolk printmaker Amelia Bowman. Both courses were fully sold out.
- 1.6 The costs of delivering and marketing the Gressenhall event programme continues to be subsidised with funding from the Arts Council England (ACE) as part of the NMS 2018-22 National Portfolio Organisation business plan.
- 1.7 The Gressenhall events programme is promoted via a specific piece of print, as well as an increased programme of digital marketing including Facebook and Google adverts and the museum's own social media presence.

2. Other Museum Developments

- 2.1 Following the successful grant award of £1.47m (79%) from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the *Voices from the Workhouse* project, the redeveloped workhouse spaces were formally launched July 2016. The final new displays within the first floor Collections Gallery were formally launched on 10 March 2018, with the gallery having been opened as a 'work in progress' since May 2017. This gallery incorporates over 2,000 objects from the museum's rural life collections. This event marked the end of the main activity plan relating to the *Voices from the Workhouse* project although, a number of discrete projects have continued over the summer following conversations with the Heritage Lottery Fund. These include a digital marketing campaign, additional interactives for the Collections Gallery and some minor display improvements to the Transport Gallery in the Back Hall, adjacent to the new Workhouse Galleries. The latter will

enhance interpretation within this space, allowing it to complement the other displays within the main building.

- 2.2 As part of the new Collections Gallery, a dedicated temporary exhibition space has been created to house an annual show. The 2018 exhibition *Beer and Brewing - Norfolk's Rural Pubs* opened for the start of the 2018 season. This exhibition explores the changing roles of pubs and the relationships they have with their local communities. Family visitors are able to play traditional pub games including the Norfolk favourite 'twizzler' and a plaster panel created by the artist John Moray-Smith is one of the objects on display.
- 2.3 Building on the success of the 2016 and 2017 *Collaborate* programmes, which saw the museum working with a wide range of creative individuals and groups, *Collaborate 2018* is themed around the temporary exhibition's subject of pubs and brewing. This programme was formally started with an inspiration day on Friday 23 March, to enable interested individuals and groups to explore more of the museum's collections and stories. An informal meeting was arranged for participating groups and individuals in early July, to allow them to share their ideas and increase their knowledge and understanding of the subject and museum collections. Their creative outputs will then be displayed within the museum in October. An accompanying programme of outreach to local groups and pub quizzes has been delivered to enable more individuals to engage with the theme, to be inspired, and to create their own beer mat to add to the displays. Updates are available through the *Collaborate* blog <https://collaboratewithgressenhall.wordpress.com/share/>
- 2.4 The use of cutting edge technology allowing visitors to 'meet' real people from the workhouse's history have been well received. However, for some visitors they have the potential to cause sensory overload. Following the successful pilot project in 2017 when adjustments were made for autistic visitors during "early bird" openings, delivered in partnership with Autism Anglia, further openings have been held in 2018 on Sunday 29 April and Monday 30 July, with a final one planned for Tuesday 23 October.
- 2.5 During recent years, the Norfolk Collections Centre has opened more frequently to support Gressenhall events and activities, following the reorganisation of these large object stores during the *Shine a Light* project funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund. During the period covered by this report, the centre was open for three days during May half-term and as part of the museum's Father's Day event. In addition, the centre has held tours of the West Runton Mammoth on Tuesday 10 April and Tuesday 12 June, with the opportunity to hear more about this spectacular object from Dr David Waterhouse, Senior Curator of Natural History with NMS. Further tours are planned for Tuesday 16 October.

- 2.6 Maintaining and growing a strong Social Media presence remains a key priority for Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse and the site has four Social Media Champions to ensure the regular publishing of interesting content on Facebook and Twitter. All staff are encouraged to support this, supplying content and images. These Champions also respond to enquiries and reviews made via these channels, Trip Advisor and Google Reviews. As of the end of July, the museum had 4,416 Facebook likes and 5,440 Twitter followers. A Pinterest account is also supported with a wide range of boards including 'Weddings at Gressenhall' and an Instagram page is established and currently has 988 followers. Furthermore, Gressenhall continues to generate regular blogs about work taking place at the museum. The site has been awarded a Certificate of Excellence from the influential TripAdvisor website.

To connect with Gressenhall, please visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/GressenhallFW>

<https://twitter.com/GressenhallFW>

<https://www.pinterest.com/gressenhallfwh/>

https://www.instagram.com/gressenhall_fw/?hl=en

<https://gressenhallfw.wordpress.com/>

[http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Gressenhall_Farm_and_Workhouse)

- 2.7 Gressenhall continues to develop a range of commercial activities as a means of generating income, including room and venue hire. Five weddings have successfully taken place during the 2018 season, organised by the museum team, and negotiations continue with an events management company to develop this offer further. The aim is to deliver a high quality offer whilst ensuring that such bookings do not detract from key museum activities.

3. Friends and Volunteers

- 3.1 The Friends of Gressenhall remain active, with bi-monthly Committee Meetings held at the museum. The Friends of Gressenhall continue to support a range of activities across the site including significant levels of funding towards the upkeep of the Suffolk Punch horses.
- 3.2 In 2017, the Friends generously agreed to support a project to restore the Farmers' Foundry engine boiler (formerly part of the Bygones Collection at Holkham) back to working use. This was in addition to a grant of £19,788 from the Arts Council England Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material PRISM fund. This engine was manufactured by the Farmer's Foundry Company, Great Ryburgh, just seven miles from Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse. The portable steam engine was used to power a range of different processes including threshing work, corn-mills, centrifugal pumps, stone-crushers, dynamos, chaff-cutters, hay-balers and saw benches. Initial conservation work identified that additional resources were required to make the engine fully operational. An application has

been submitted to Arts Council England for the additional conservation work and to support a project to create a portfolio of volunteering opportunities, creating more diversity within the teams working with this engine.

3.3 The Friends continue to operate the Gressenhall second hand bookshop, generating income for the Friends. Recruitment of a team of active Bookshop volunteers has helped to ensure that new donations are processed daily and the shelves tidied. As a result, income from this shop continues to grow.

3.4 The Gressenhall Curator Dr Megan Dennis continues to co-ordinate, manage and develop the volunteer teams at Gressenhall. Around 120 volunteers are currently active on site, organised into a number of specialist teams. Volunteer hours are currently being recorded to provide HLF contribution in kind match funding for the *Voices from the Workhouse* project. During May to July the volunteers gave over 653 hours of time on site to support the museum, with additional volunteers working from home on digitalisation projects.

4 Learning & Outreach

4.1 School visits have held up well, building on the success of 2017-18 when 10,600 children visited. This is a strong performance in the light of continued financial pressures on schools, illustrated by the fact that during 2017-18, for the first time in ten years, three schools cancelled bookings due to a lack of funds.

4.2 On Saturday 9 June, the Gressenhall Learning Team organised a Mental Health Wellbeing Day for young people. *Pause for Wellbeing* was delivered in partnership with a range of local service providers including NCC Early Help, CAMHS and the YMCA. YMCA delivered Wellbeing workshops, Gressenhall staff facilitated art activities and the marquee was used as a marketplace for LSPs to meet with young people and families. This was the first time that this event had been held. There was positive feedback from the providers, alongside participating individuals and their families.

4.3 As a follow up to the *Pause for Wellbeing* event, a mental health wellbeing training session is being provided by the YMCA to key staff at Gressenhall in September. The course aims to raise awareness and understanding of mental health issues in young people and to provide training about ways to assist in a first aid situation.

4.4 The 12th annual 'Family Fun' event in partnership with NCC Family Placement and Adoption Services was held on Saturday 23 June. A record 592 family members attended. This increase in numbers was assisted by the favourable weather, the efforts of NCC staff and a new Foster Family Facebook group to publicise the event. Furthermore, it

seems clear that, for many foster and adoptive families, the event has simply become a date for the diary. The Learning Team, assisted by freelancers, delivered a range of magic-related activities and the NCC Libraries Service introduced visitors to magical story books. A communal picnic in the courtyard gave visitors a chance to meet each other and members of Family Placement and Adoption Services in a relaxed and safe environment.

4.5 Planning is currently underway for two further events for children in receipt of support from NCC Virtual School Sensory Support, building upon an event for older children in April at which VSSS staff re-emphasised the importance for families and children to have a safe space in which they can meet each other and their support staff. The events are planned for 3 and 4 September 2018, with different dates for different ages of young people.

4.6 Gressenhall continues to be registered with NCC as a Care Farm. The site is currently offering funded work-based placements to a number of adults with learning difficulties.

5 Visitor numbers

5.1 Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting.

6 Resource implications

(a) Finance

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse receives funding to support core operations and activities from Norfolk County Council. A number of activities are financed as part of funding to Norfolk Museums Service from Arts Council England as a National Portfolio Organisation under the terms of the current 2018-22 Business Plan. Project activities are funded from a range of external sources including the Heritage Lottery Fund. The source of these funds are detailed within the report. The above report includes no additional or unfunded financial implications.

(b) Property

Unless specified, the above activities relate to the Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse and Norfolk Collections Centre site. The above report includes no additional implications relating to property.

(c) Staff

The team at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse are supported by a wider team of colleagues within Norfolk Museums Service. Some current posts are funded by external project funding. The above report includes no additional implications relating to staffing and personnel resources.

(d) Information Technology

Digital operations at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse are supported by Norfolk County Council's IMT department. Social media is delivered by the

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse team. The above report includes no additional implications relating to Information Technology.

7 Recommendations:

7.1 That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Originator of report:

Hannah Jackson

Operations Manager – West, Norfolk Museums Service

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**BRECKLAND
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

10 September 2018

Item No.

ANCIENT HOUSE, MUSEUM OF THETFORD LIFE REPORT

Report by the Operations Manager - West

This report provides information on activities at Ancient House, Museum of Thetford Life from May to July 2018

1. Exhibitions and associated events

1.1 Duleep Singh Special Exhibition

As part of July's Thetford and Punjab Festival and with financial support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Ancient House team created an exhibition about Maharajah Duleep Singh and his family. This exhibition included the loan from National Museums Scotland of an important painting by renowned contemporary artists, the Singh Twins of the Maharajah entitled 'Casualty of War'. In addition to the loan of the painting, the museum team worked with Nanaki Bance to create a series of pop up display panels in the Hall which tell the Duleep Singh story. Other interventions around the Museum include the display of original printed portraits of the Maharajah and his son Prince Frederick, loans of Sikh miniatures from Lynn Museum in King's Lynn and the loan of items from the First Anglo-Sikh wars by the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum. Items on display that were donated to Thetford's Museum by the Duleep Singh family are indicated with stickers, the carved oak panel acknowledging the gift of the museum to the people of Thetford by Prince Frederick Duleep Singh has been re-instated and an interactive touchscreen display has been loaned by the Sikh Museum Initiative.

The exhibition opened on 7 July as part of the launch of the town-wide Thetford and Punjab Festival. The Singh Twins were able to be part of the exhibition launch. The exhibition runs from until 1 December.

1.2 Handmade, Millennia of Making Exhibition

The current exhibition, *Handmade, Millennia of Making*, opened at the Museum on Friday 15 December with a 'Takeover event' by the children from the museum's after-school History Club and the young people from the

Teenage History Club. The display was officially opened by Cllr Phillip Duigan from the Area Museums Committee. The exhibition focusses on the craftsmanship of artefacts in the museum collections, exploring different materials with sections on textiles, ceramics, wood, metal and stone. Objects on display include a wooden nurse and child doll from the 1840s, an intricate and colourful patchwork quilt, prehistoric flint tools, a mantrap once used on the Kilverstone estate near Thetford and a 17th century acoustic jar which was once built into a wall at the former Central Hotel on the Thetford Market Place.

The titles of the different sections include contributions by volunteers who made the Textile and Paint headings. The display was curated by the Ancient House team supported by collections volunteers. As well as 'taking over' the opening event, the History Club children feature on the introductory graphic panel pictured with some of the objects on display. The exhibition continues until 8 September 2018.

1.3 Thetford Remembers 1914 – 1918 Commemorative events

Following the Museum's delivery of a town-wide programme of commemorative events focussed on the anniversaries of 1914, 1915 and 1916, the Ancient House Museum will be contributing to the Town Council's plans for *Battle's Over* - a nation-wide evening beacon event to mark the centenary of the Armistice on 11 November 2018 - with a display of the knitted 'Field of Poppies' exhibit, with one poppy representing each of Thetford's fallen. The Museum is also involved in early plans for an event in the summer of 2019 to mark the peace and aftermath of the First World War. A major Armistice exhibition at Norwich Castle running from October 2018 will address Norfolk's experience of the First World War. The Ancient House will be lending material for this exhibition including a mask worn by tank drivers and a fragment of a zeppelin.

In addition, the Museum continues to display a First World War kitchen and a display of finds from the Thetford Camp, a military base during the war.

2 Forthcoming Displays

2.1 *Pride of the People* Teenage History Club Exhibition Project

Learning Officer Melissa Hawker is currently working with the museum's Teenage History Club on a project to curate an exhibition. As part of our Arts Council England programme as a National Portfolio Organisation, the museum is committed to supporting the Arts Council's Creative Case for Diversity, diversifying both the audiences to the museum and also those voices within its displays.

The teenagers are leading on the content and direction of the exhibition which will explore the history of LGBT+ communities and connections with local history. This links with the 50th anniversary of the partial decriminalisation of homosexuality, drawing on the collections of the museum. As part of their investigation the young people visited the V & A in London in November

where they went on a special tour of the museum with curator Dan Nouveau and his team of volunteer guides.

The resulting exhibition will be open to the public from 15 September to 1 December 2018.

2.2 Duleep Singh Gallery Feasibility

Feasibility work continues for creating a new display in one of the upstairs rooms at Ancient House to make more of the unusual connections between the Museum and the Maharajah Duleep Singh and his family, especially his son Prince Frederick Duleep Singh. A number of private donations have already been received towards this project.

The Museum plans to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund when their new funding framework is in place, probably in 2019.

3 Learning with Adults, Children and Young People

3.1 Thetford and Punjab Festival

The Ancient House team worked with Indi Sandhu and Giles Waterfield from the Essex Cultural Diversity Partnership on a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Thetford and Punjab Festival, which took place in July 2018. A series of town-wide events were delivered over this period covering various art forms and cultural connections.

At Ancient House in addition to the special exhibition (see item 1.1), there were public events on Saturday 7 July relating to the Duleep Singh family members. On Saturday 14 July there was an event about the life of the Maharajah and on Saturday 21 July a Takeover Tour by the Museum's History Club. A family trail was available throughout the festival period.

Another Festival event at the Museum was a pair of talks and book signings by author Fraser Harrison, 'Casualty of War, Casualty of Peace: Ways of seeing Duleep Singh'. The talks were attended by 54 people and a number of his new book 'The Maharajah's Statue' were sold.

An evening talk was given by the curator to members of Hardingham W.I. and members of the public about Maharajah Duleep Singh

As part of the Festival children at the Museum participated in a puppet making workshop on Wednesday 11 July and then took part in the grand Festival Parade on Saturday 21 July as part of the Festival Finale. The Festival Finale day included open-air dancing and music by the river, linking to the annual River Day organised by Thetford Town Council. The Museum welcomed 353 visitors on that Saturday.

One of the themes of the Festival was cross cultural connections and collaboration. An example of this was the link between the Ancient House's textile groups and the Guru Nanak and Milan Day Centre, Gravesend. The

groups visited one another and a joint window display at the Ancient House of textile work was created.

Two more events arranged by the Museum team at alternative venues were the outdoor theatre performance in King Street of a drama about the Last King of Punjab and a Comedy Night with Iszi Lawrence Z List Dead List championing obscure people from history.

In addition to the funding of event, the Heritage Lottery Fund grant also facilitated a project to further enhance the digital catalogue of material at Ancient House relating to Maharajah Duleep Singh, Prince Frederick Duleep Singh and family.

3.2 Activities for children and Families

The Ancient House Museum continues to offer a popular programme of themed gallery discovery trails, with a new trail available for each week of the school holidays. Recent trail themes have included 'House for a Mouse', 'Chocs Away' (World War Two themes), and Spot the Khanda

During May Half Term a 'Meet the Tudors' family discovery day was delivered and the first of the summer holiday family event days followed a Second World War theme.

3.3 Museum Clubs

The Mini Museum Club aimed at those under 5 remains popular. During the period of this report, themed sessions for this age group have included Garden, Mini-beasts, and Dragons and Knights.

As part of events across the county to mark a century of suffrage, members of the Museum's History Club gave a performance of the short drama about the lives of Princesses Sophia and Catherine Duleep Singh at Thetford's annual Mayor Making event in May. Their story was told by members of the Museum's after school History Club, who had been studying the history of the Duleep Singh family.

3.4 Textile groups

The Museum continues to hold Knit and Knatter sessions at the Museum. A spinning group also meets at the Museum on a regular basis and offers demonstrations to visitors. The knitting group assisted with the *Handmade* exhibition by making letters in textile to make a title for this section of the display. Examples of their work are also on display and a knitted tricycle has formed a popular aspect as one of the museums' changing window displays.

The textile groups have been involved in the Thetford and Punjab Festival (see 3.1 of this report) and are participating in the Town Council project to commemorate the Armistice in November by knitting poppies.

3.5 Silver Social Partnership event

Ancient House Museum is pleased to be a community host within Breckland Council's Silver Social partnership. The Silver Social is an exciting new programme of daytime arts events in the heart of Norfolk, promoting engagement and participation among older people in rural communities. With funding from the National Lottery Arts Council strategic touring fund, Silver Social brings 'something a little different' to daily life in rural Breckland, in the form of creative workshops and live performances.

A free workshop with award winning poet Martin Figura to explore writing from personal memory was held at the museum on Monday 4 June and the museum hosted a performance by Martin on Friday 20 July.

3.6 Talks programme, in association with the Friends of the Museum

A programme of illustrated talks continues to be offered at Ancient House Museum on Tuesday afternoons. Attendances average 15-25 and a number of talks are often delivered by NMS staff. Recent speakers and topics have included: Rik Hoggett exploring Excavation and Experiment: 50 years of archaeological work at West Stow, Nigel Amies on the Civil War and Elaine Rushin speaking about East Harling Church Art and Mysteries.

3.7 Schools

The Museum continues to offer a wide range of learning opportunities for schools. Delivery of the sessions is typically by a combination of museum staff, experienced freelancers and volunteers. A tried and tested format is to offer a 'carousel' of activities around the building with groups of schoolchildren moving between the activities such as object handling, drama, craft and food.

3.8 Young Persons' link with the Archaeology Museum in Nagawa, Japan

The Museum has continued the links with the community in Nagawa, central Japan where there is a museum exploring the prehistoric mining and use of obsidian. A party from Nagawa including 8 teenagers visited Thetford in July and early August.

They joined the Museum's Teenage History Club for participation at the Flint Festival at Grimes Graves and a week of activities including visits to Norfolk Museums Service museums and other sites in Norwich, Cromer, Gressenhall, King's Lynn and Thetford. The group was received by the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk at the Town Hall, King's Lynn and in Thetford they met with the Mayor at King's House where the town's civic regalia had been displayed for them to see.

When in Thetford, the Japanese youngsters stayed with host families and also had two sleepovers at the Ancient House Museum where they ate food prepared in the old kitchen, played games and experienced a tour of the museum including the cellar.

3.9 Museums at Night event

On 19 May, the Museum staged an evening performance of 'Rebel Queen', a story telling event about Boudica who was probably associated with the Thetford area.

4 Ancient House and the Media

4.1 Thetford in 100 Artefacts, regular column in Thetford and Brandon Times

Staff at the Ancient House continue with their project in partnership with the EDP's *Thetford and Brandon Times* to write a monthly column entitled *Thetford in a Hundred Artefacts*. The article provides an opportunity to highlight objects from the museum collections and to promote forthcoming museum events.

4.2 Coverage of Festival of Thetford and Punjab

The Museum's participation in July's Festival of Thetford and Punjab was covered in the local papers, the Radio Norfolk Breakfast Show, BBC Look East and ITV Meridian News.

4.3 Social media

The museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being maintained by staff. The Ancient House Museum accounts continue to grow with the Twitter account having 2,773 followers while the Facebook account has 698 follows.

5 Other Museum Developments

5.1 Volunteers

A small team of volunteers meet on a weekly basis in the Museum. Volunteers have continued with a programme of documentation work involving the photographing and cataloguing of some of the recent acquisitions. The team's work enhances and illustrates the museum catalogue available online through the museum service's collections website.

Volunteers also contribute to learning activities through delivery of the Mini Museum Club for the under 5s, the delivery of sessions for schools and preparing resource boxes for learning activities.

5.2 Friends of the Museum

The Friends of the Museum continue to support the Museum through fundraising and promoting the Museum in the town. The Friends enjoyed a visit to West Stow with a tour of the site from Richard Hoggett in May. The Friends Summer Social in June was also well attended.

5.3 Teaching Museum Trainee Scheme

During 2018-2019, the Ancient House is hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeships provided through the NMS *Teaching Museum*

programme. Samantha Parker is the new Curatorial Trainee, based at the Ancient House and Lynn Museum. Her traineeship is funded through the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation 2018-2022 Business Plan. Amongst a range of other activities, Sam is supporting work on exhibitions, volunteers developing educational resources, museum events and she plans to work with colleagues to support visitors with autism to explore the museum.

5.4 Staff Development

Melissa Hawker, Learning Officer has delivered a programme for the Museum Learning Assistants to help them deliver events for families and schools. In addition, the Ancient House team recently undertook customer service training as part of a programme of work across Norfolk Museums Service.

5.5 The Theodford Hare

As part of GoGo Hares 2018 a large model of a young hare was painted by artist and museum volunteer Dan Morgan to reflect Thetford's heritage. The decoration of the hare was partly carried out at the Ancient House and visitors enjoyed meeting with Dan and hearing about the meaning of the motifs used. The decorated hares are in support of the Break Charity and the 'Theodford Hare' joined others at Pensthorpe and then at Chapelfield in Norwich.

6 Visitor Numbers

6.1 Up to date visitor figures will be circulated at the meeting.

7 Resource implications

(a)	<u>Finance</u>	None
(b)	<u>Property</u>	None
(c)	<u>Staff</u>	None
(d)	<u>Information Technology</u>	None

8 Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

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