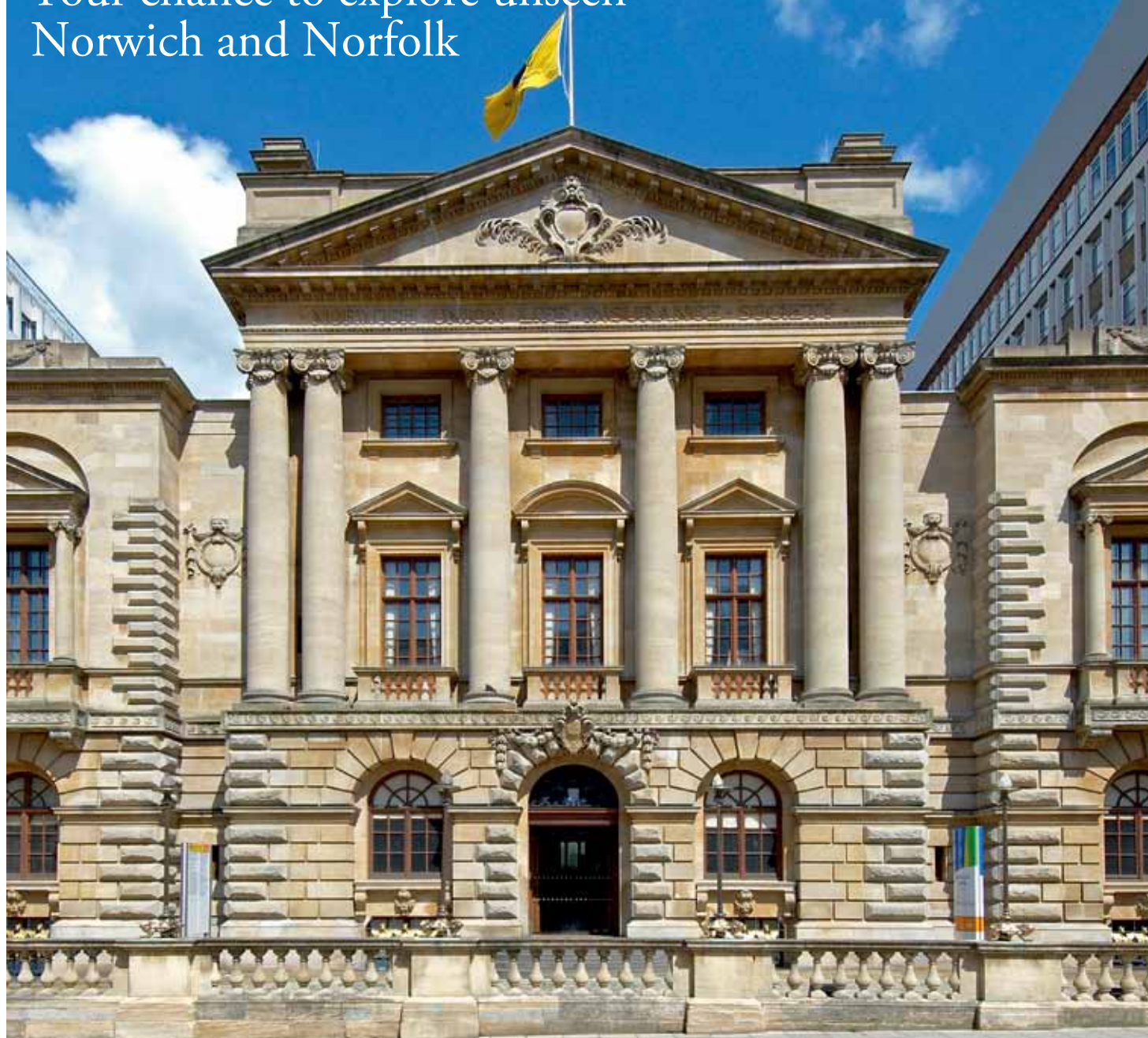




Heritage Open Days 2011

Your chance to explore unseen
Norwich and Norfolk



THE H FACTOR

It's heritage, but not as we know it

CARROW ABBEY

The city's hidden medieval gem

CAMBRIDGE, HERE WE COME

Digital Heritage at the
Cambridge Film Festival

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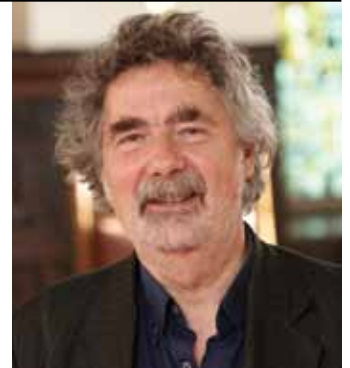
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NORWICH
City Council

EDITORIAL

The next big idea



Over HEART's relatively short life, we have developed some remarkably successful projects – the Norwich 12 project and local distinctiveness schemes such as the Lanes, the Cathedral Quarter and the Castle Quarter, to name a few. We have also attempted to drive forward major initiatives such as the regeneration project to develop and refurbish The Halls – St Andrew's and Blackfriars'. As that project has been put on hold by Norwich City Council, we feel that there's an opportunity to bring forward a major new project that can be both a focus for local enthusiasm and civic pride, and a vehicle which will pull together many of the successful initiatives from the last few years and sustain them into the future.

Accordingly, over the next few months we will gather the views of partners and stakeholders on a proposition to develop, here in Norwich, a National Heritage Park of the Middle Ages.

The principle is not unique. The French, for example, have a Musée National du Moyen Age at Cluny in Paris. Our view, though, is that what we have here is too big for 'just a museum', outstanding and impressive though the Castle and its recently formed relationship with the British Museum are. In Philadelphia, the Americans have the Independence National Historical Park, where they showcase two dozen different icons of the American Revolution in an 'urban heritage park'.

We feel that with astonishing medieval buildings, world-class collections and outstanding medieval characters, we are in a unique position to claim the prize of telling England's medieval story to a world audience here in Norwich.

So, what makes us think that we could do it? The simple answer is because we've already done the ground work. Norwich 12 has brought together 12 disparate, separately run and sometimes competing institutions into a mutually supporting family of destinations which have levered in millions of pounds, developed remarkable initiatives and benefited both the local economy and local people. The idea of a National Heritage Park of the Middle Ages is the Norwich 12 project writ somewhat larger, with the branding and identity experience of the Lanes mixed in and support from a variety of other HEART initiatives, such as the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and Technology Strategy Board (TSB)-funded HistOracle project.

This might be the next big thing for Norwich, so we'd love to have your ideas, energy, commitment and enthusiasm to help us make it work.

As a first step, contact Lindsey Roffe, Communications Manager at lindseyroffe@heritagecity.org or on 01603 599570.

Michael Loveday, Chief Executive

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ghent visit

Four City College Norwich students involved in The Forum's SHAPING 24-funded Digital Destinations project visited Ghent in June. The project is looking at why 16–24 year olds tend to lack interest in heritage sites and attractions. The students have been capturing their peers' opinions on film and via questionnaires, and presented their findings while in Ghent.

HEART's Madeleine Coupe and Sophie Harrison joined the trip, which started with a tour of the Castle of the Counts to allow the students to compare it with Norwich Castle. Later at STAM, a new museum, the students presented their research to education and culture sector professionals.

The trip was very enjoyable thanks to the hospitality organised by our



Above: CCN students on the battlements at the Castle of the Counts, Ghent. Left: The students present their findings at the STAM Museum in Ghent

Ghent partners, in particular Emmy Beys, and enabled information-sharing, relationship-building and the generation of project ideas. The full findings of Digital Destination will be presented in September at the H Factor event at The Forum.



Lectures in Norwich and Ghent

The Norwich and Ghent SHAPING 24 teams are planning a series of lectures in the two cities between October 2011 and May 2012. The Norwich lectures will run (with one exception) in Norwich 12 buildings in autumn 2011, each with a Norwich and a Ghent speaker who will give all lectures in English. In Ghent the lectures will be delivered via their 12 buildings. The goal is a shared understanding of some common areas of our culture and heritage.

The combined lecture sessions will last two hours, followed by refreshments and Q&As. Norwich lecturers include Dr John Alban (county archivist, Norfolk Record Office), Dr Andrew Moore (senior curator, Norwich Castle), Cathy Terry (curator of social history, Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service), Brian Ayers (former county archaeologist and director, Butrint Foundation), Professor Carole Rawcliffe (UEA) and Frank Meeres (Norfolk Record Office and local history author). Some sites will also offer building tours. Themes include archives, schools of painters, textiles, archaeology, medieval hospitals and beguinages, and the impact of the world wars. For information visit www.heritagecity.org or call 01603 305575.



Welcome, Maddie and Beth

Madeleine Coupe and Beth Hogben have recently joined the HEART team. Maddie is responsible for delivering the SHAPING 24 project, education and outreach activity, and engagement with Norwich 12 partners. Beth is working on a masters degree at Bournemouth University and joins for a one-year work placement.

HEART-UEA collaboration

HEART has worked with UEA's careers centre on four student placements on the HistOracle

project. "The placements are an excellent example of good practice," says Justine Mann at UEA careers centre. "The experience is designed to expose the students to a variety of workplace challenges."

The placement is part of a degree module: Working in the Historic Environment. Visit www.heritagecity.org for more information on HistOracle.

DHP opts for collaboration

HEART's Digital Heritage Project has appointed Norwich University College of the Arts' ideas factory@NUCA and Soak, a Norwich digital agency, to bring



its project to life. A dedicated bi-lingual website, due to launch in 2012, will be the key media platform for archive films from East Anglia and Upper Normandy.

"This is a unique collaboration to bring our wonderful moving image heritage, dating back as far as 1896, alive," says Jane Jarvis, Digital Heritage project manager. "It's a fantastic bonus to have students and academics from NUCA involved." Before the launch there will be a programme of Digital Heritage events and screenings. Email janejarvis@heritagecity.org or visit www.heritagecity.org for information.

Become a city ambassador

HEART's Norwich Ambassador Scheme, part of SHAPING 24, goes from strength to strength: 120 people have attended so far. The next training session is 19 October, 10.15am–1.45pm,

at the Assembly House. Cost: £25 per person. To book email sophieharrison@heritagecity.org or call 01603 599578.

JustTextGiving



New this summer! There are many ways to support HEART and get involved, but did you know you can now make a charity donation of £2, £5 or £10 to HEART via your mobile phone? Just text HRTG24 and the amount you'd like to donate (eg £5) to 70070. Or scan this code with your Smartphone and press send to donate £5. Thanks for your support!

Far left: Beth Hogben and Madeleine Coupe
Left: The DHP website team (Lance Patterson and Jane Jarvis from HEART, Julian Storeton-West and Jim Havers from Soak and Ed Walker from NUCA)

OUT & ABOUT

Explore Norwich's hidden history

From Thursday 21 July to Thursday 22 September, HEART, with Norwich Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and the Blue Badge Guides, will again run four guided walking tours, each taking in three of the iconic Norwich 12 buildings. The tours are a chance to experience some of Norwich's 1,000 years of history in just a few hours. Each tour is led by a Blue Badge Guide and knowledgeable staff from the individual buildings, with visits to the interiors where possible. Many of the buildings are not normally open to the public, so this is a unique opportunity to explore some of Norwich's hidden history.

The tours will run on Thursdays and Fridays, and will last around two-and-

a-half hours. Tickets are £10 per person and include an exclusive sheet of money-off vouchers valid at several Norwich 12 buildings. Each tour is limited to 15 people, so it's advisable to book in advance, although there may be some availability on the day.

The Norwich 12 tours form part of HEART's SHAPING 24 project. For information or to book, visit Norwich Tourist Information Centre (TIC) in The Forum or call 01603 213999. Leaflets are available from each of the Norwich 12 buildings, Norwich HEART's office in the Guildhall, Colman's Mustard Shop & Museum in the Royal Arcade, and online at www.norwich12.co.uk.



Museums at Night 2011 a hit!

This was the fourth year Norwich has taken part in Museums at Night, and this May's event was the most successful to date. More than 2,000 people flocked to Norwich Castle Museum, and all venues reported well-attended events. Many city museums and heritage attractions unlocked their doors after hours as part of the celebrations across the country.

The Castle had a vibrant atmosphere with performance and music, and torch-lit tours of the battlements, natural history galleries and stores. Also hugely popular were the opportunity to handle museum objects from the Sainsbury Centre's handling collections, and storytelling by Sainsbury Centre guides in the Cotman Gallery.

Events elsewhere in the city were also extremely successful and well attended. They included an evening of tales with Dave Tong, Yarnsmith of Norwich, at the Guildhall, and an evening opening of Colman's Mustard Shop and Museum, with a chance to hear about the history of the shop and sample some delicious products. The John Jarrold Print Museum gave visitors the opportunity to experience a pre-1950s letterpress printing office and the Cathedral of St John the Baptist's twilight tower tour offered people fantastic views over the city. Museums at Night will run from Friday 18–Sunday 20 May in 2012.



Nocturnal goings-on and torch-lit tours at Norwich Castle in celebration of Museums at Night 2011

OUT & ABOUT



Sparkling giveaway

Do you have something worth celebrating this autumn, or perhaps you don't need a reason to enjoy a glass of bubbly? We're giving away a bottle of champagne, courtesy of Adnams. For your chance to win, email your name and address to info@heritagecity.org with 'Autumn Giveaway' in the subject line, or write to 'Autumn Giveaway', Norwich HEART, The Guildhall, Gaol Hill, Norwich, NR2 1JS by Friday 14 October. One winner will be drawn at random and notified by Friday 28 October. Entrants must be aged 18 or over.

The winner of the Colman's Mustard Shop goodies from the summer issue of HEART News was Alan Harper of Hellesdon.

Digital Heritage project brings archive film alive...

Norwich HEART's innovative archive film project hits the streets of Cambridge this September, having secured screenings at the Cambridge Film Festival. Sharing the festival's passion for film heritage and imaginative ways to showcase footage, the Digital Heritage archive productions will be screened during the festival in popular outdoor locations between 16 and 26 September. HEART's *Bicycles, Bedders and the Bumps*, showing amateur film of Cambridge undergrads in the 1920s and 1930s, and *Pleasure of Leisure*, showing how people had fun from the 1920s to the 1950s, will be screened as part of a shorts programme. You can see both films on Sunday 11 September at 8pm at the Jesus Green Lido and on Sunday 18 September at 8pm in Magdalene Street, which will be closed and turned into a street cinema. Visit www.heritagecity.org for details.

The BBC's *Reel History of Britain* airs this September: Melvyn Bragg travels back in time to reveal what life was really like for ordinary British people from the 1900s to the late 1970s. Twenty programmes will tell the story of various aspects of British life. The programme will use British Film Institute and regional archive collections, and real stories to highlight the hardships and simple pleasures of the past.

BBC Learning approached HEART to screen its popular archive productions as part of its outreach work in the region during the series' five-week transmission schedule. HEART has joined other organisations in a bid to encourage people to connect with their past through archive film, offering activities 'beyond the broadcast', ie partner workshops, inter-

generational projects and live events. The aspiration is that by watching archive film and sharing stories, the audience will better understand Britain as it was and how it compares to today.

Visit www.heritagecity.org for further information.



Above: Cambridge Film Festival street screening in Magdalene Street, Cambridge, 2010
Right: Melvyn Bragg filming BBC's *Reel History of Britain* in Great Yarmouth earlier this year

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2011

For four days in September, the public will have free access to a range of fascinating buildings in Norwich and Norfolk. If you'd love to explore the hidden secrets of the city and county, Heritage Open Days 2011 is for you

Ready, steady... go!

This is HEART's seventh year of coordinating Heritage Open Days (HODs) in and around Norwich, and this year's programme promises to be better than ever. From 8 to 11 September, there will be exciting new projects, new areas taking part and plenty of new events for all to enjoy, as well as your perennial favourites.

Our HODs weekend gives visitors a unique opportunity to explore and enjoy historic, sometimes hidden, often curious and always interesting places across Norfolk, and all completely free of charge. All the participating venues are either not usually open to the public, are holding a special event, or would normally charge an entrance fee, so be sure not to miss the excitement.

Booking for all this year's bookable events is now open. Brochures are available from HEART and online, and from tourist information centres (TICs) and other visitor outlets around the county, so get your copy as soon as possible and start planning how to make the most of HODs weekend.

Here at HEART there's always something new happening, and in this year's brochure we introduce you to our latest projects, including Digital Heritage, which has contributed a number of events to the HODs programme. Over the last year we have also

been working closely with Thetford Town Council and Moving Thetford Forward, looking at how they can better promote their own fantastic heritage resource. An early outcome of this is that Thetford has joined the coordinated promotion of HODs events across Norfolk to include some fantastic heritage events in and around the town.

Most of the old favourites in Norwich are participating in HODs this year, but a couple of venues (including Earlham Hall) are resting this year due to ongoing restoration work. To compensate, there are many exciting new locations, including Catton Hall and Blofield church, opening their doors. There are also new events, including walks exploring Heigham and Pockthorpe, and folk dancing with Rig-a-Jig-Jig at St Lawrence's church. One interesting new idea is Elsing Open Village, in which several events unite to highlight a smaller community. Once again we have contributions from South Norfolk, too, covering Wymondham, Diss and surrounding areas.

In Elsing Open Village, several events unite to highlight a smaller community



ENGLISH HERITAGE

Below left: The Watergate Room, Pull's Ferry, one of the Norwich drop-in events for HODs 2011. Below: Beth Hogben and Sophie Cabot looking at artefacts in the ringing chamber at St Peter Mancroft – new for 2011 is the opportunity to chime a bell!





In this year's programme, there are currently 176 free events



“Overall this is a big event, so I recommend people spend a day, maybe even two, enjoying some of the Norwich events,” says Sophie Cabot, engagement manager at HEART. “Try the drop-in events as well as the pre-booked, but be sure to save some time to go somewhere new. If you don't know one of the areas featured in the HODs brochure, why not make a day of it and get to know something you'd never normally see? We've made it a priority to include a mixture of daytime and early evening events, on weekdays and at the weekends – so, hopefully, even if you work or have family commitments, there should be something you can get to.”

Local knowledge and enthusiasm

“Heritage Open Days is about people and places,” explains Dr Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage, which coordinates HODs nationally. “It celebrates community and reflects the importance of the built environment in our lives and to our quality of life. It's organised by local people who dedicate their spare time to opening properties and staging activities, and it's their knowledge and enthusiasm that makes Heritage Open Days happen.”

In HEART's HODs programme this year, there are currently 176 free events listed, but there could still be a few latecomers. Details will be available online as they come in – see www.heritagecity.org where you can also let us know about your experience of the events.

We hope you enjoy this year's programme, and we would like to thank all the participating venues and their volunteers, and the HEART HODs team and volunteers. We couldn't do it without you.

So have a great time at HODs – we'll see you there!

Booking tips

- Tickets are always allocated on a first-come, first-served basis so please do act quickly, and provide your second choice where appropriate
- HEART cannot allocate tickets for two events at the same time and date – if tickets are for someone else, please use a separate form
- The meeting place for your event will be on your ticket, plus any other special information
- If you need more information about an event – eg fuller details of disabled access – email info@heritagecity.org or call 01603 305575, but note that HEART cannot allocate tickets by email or phone
- From 1 September until the events, any remaining tickets will be available in person only, from Norwich Tourist Information Centre at The Forum
- If you find you have spare tickets you cannot use, please return them to us – they can be reallocated even on the day of the event

- Be sure to include a stamped addressed envelope*, with appropriate postage, to receive your tickets – not doing this is the single biggest reason people miss out!
- As always, remember that the majority of events are 'just turn up' affairs, so don't feel you've lost out if you can't get a ticket for a ticketed event – there will still be masses to do!

* The bookings process is handled by hardworking volunteers, but unfortunately we haven't enough computers or phones available to process email or telephone bookings. And we receive a huge number of ticket applications each year, but because HODs is a free event, there's no revenue to support postage. So please remember to enclose a stamped, addressed envelope as requested. Thank you!



Top left: Michael Loveday and Sophie Cabot (HEART), Cllr Robert Kybird (Moving Thetford Forward), Beth Hogben (HEART) and Cllr Derek Blake (South Norfolk District Council) at the 2011 brochure launch. Above left: Rig-a-Jig-Jig, who will be playing at St Lawrence's church on Sunday 11 September. Left: A 'Norwich at Work' walk will visit sites of its industrial past during HODs 2011. Below: The Archive Centre, where you will be able to trace the history of your house



HERITAGE NOW

Art in the right place

If you're looking for a different day out this summer, make your way during August to the Assembly House on Theatre Street in Norwich, where a major art exhibition – Assembly House Art Show 2011, Flying Colours: Fascinating Forms – will be taking place. The show has been part-funded by HEART's SHAPING 24 project.

The show will transform the Assembly House thanks to an exciting collection of contemporary art, all for sale, by artists from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Painting, drawing, collage, original prints, ceramics, installations and sculpture by more than 150 artists will be on display. And as every piece has been created for this exhibition, none of it will have been seen elsewhere before.

Curated by Yvonne and John Millwood, the Assembly House Art Show will be open daily from Monday 1 to Wednesday 31 August, from 9am to 5pm Monday to Saturday, and from 11.30am to 4pm on Sundays. Entrance is free.

As well as stunning art, there will be several events, including children's cookery

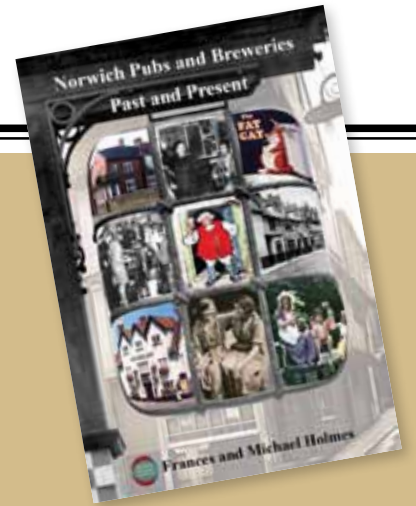


Flying Colours: Fascinating Forms exhibits: painting by artist Serena Hall (below) and 'Sphere 1' by sculptor Obie Butcher (above)

classes and craft workshops, authors' talks with bestselling writers Sophie Hannah and Louis de Bernières, classical and bluegrass concerts, and a fashion evening with Carol Bundock. For details, visit www.assemblyhousenorwich.co.uk/artshow or pick up a flyer from the Assembly House.



Photos: supplied by The Assembly House



BOOK REVIEW

Norwich Pubs & Breweries: Past & Present
Frances and Michael Holmes/Norwich Heritage Projects

For decades and longer, Norwich has been heralded as the city with a church for every week of the year and a pub for every day. Until now, however, that claim had never been celebrated in the depth that it deserved. Last year, HEART, Nick Groves and East Publishing produced the first thorough review of the city's medieval churches, which received a well-deserved regional publishing award.

Now, Norwich Heritage Projects, led by Frances and Michael Holmes, have produced the first 'magnum opus' on the city's pubs. The book begins with a review of Norwich's brewing history then embarks on a lavish tour of more than 450 pubs. It is beautifully illustrated with archive photography and historic pub signs from the collection of Arthur Pank, who worked as a sign writer for Youngs, Crawshay & Youngs, Bullards and the Norwich Brewery for more than 30 years. And, with contributions from noted artists such as Crome and Munnings, as well as the muralist Moray Smith, the publication provides not only a fascinating historic journey but also a visual delight. Using a clever series of icons, the review highlights particular features of pubs, such as signs and names, artists, entertainment, 'murder and mayhem' and sporting links.

This is much more than a pub book and delves deeply into the social history of the city, charting not only the traumatic destruction of one its great industries but also, from a more joyful perspective, the rich wealth of characters associated with pubs as an entertainment medium, who brought pleasure to thousands. This is an exceptional publication doing more than justice to one of the previously, largely untapped fonts of the city's history.

Michael Loveday, Norwich HEART

HERITAGE NOW

Wartime links

The relationship between Norfolk and Flanders goes back centuries, and researchers in Norwich and Ghent have been working together to find out more about our shared past. New research, conducted as part of the EU-funded SHAPING 24 project, has uncovered some fascinating stories of wartime links with Belgium.

The first world war saw thousands of soldiers from Norfolk enlist in the army.

Norfolk people rallied support for refugees of the war in Flanders. In 1914, the minister of the Chapel Field Road United Methodist Church taught English to wounded Belgian soldiers recovering in London. He wrote how the soldiers described the devastation of towns, fields and villages in Flanders. The next year the church organised toys to be sent to Belgian children in London for Christmas.

One of the stories we were lucky enough to hear about was 87-year old Herbert Jessett's experiences during the second world war. Mr Jessett, from Norwich, was part of the RAF forces that provided air support to the allied advance across Europe following D-Day. He was in Ghent during its liberation from German occupation in the summer of 1944, and during the celebrations that followed, Mr



Jessett met his life-long friends Simone and Oscar Van Gele. "We've been friends ever since," he says. "This is the first year that I've not gone over since 1944."

In 2004, Mr Jessett attended a ceremony to celebrate 60 years since the liberation of Ghent. There he was presented with a medal by the British ambassador to Belgium in recognition of his involvement in Ghent's liberation.

For more information on these and other links between Norwich and Ghent, visit www.shaping24.eu.



Above left: Bert with Oscar and Simone Van Gele and friends celebrating VE day, 1945. Above: Herbert Jessett with his award from the City of Ghent

Photography theme revealed

It's official: the theme of HEART's photography competition for 2011 is Alternative Angles. The competition is a celebration of Norwich's outstanding heritage and we hope to generate even more entries than last year's record-breaking response. Once again, judges will be looking for innovative and creative approaches to make the most of the theme, showcasing exciting new angles and interesting perspectives on Norwich's heritage. This is HEART's fourth annual photography competition, and it will run from Friday 9 September to Friday 4 November 2011. There are two age categories, under-25 and over-25, and the winning and shortlisted entries will go on display in a public exhibition in 2012. Visit www.heritagecity.org for more details and an entry form.

September heritage events

As well as Heritage Open Days, two other major heritage events take place in September, thanks to funding from the SHAPING 24 project: The H Factor and CastleFest.

The H Factor is a week of heritage-themed activities at The Forum. From 5 to 11 September, The H Factor will challenge people's traditional views of heritage through a variety of surprising free events.

Several activities will take place each day, including an exhibition by the Norwich Society; a display of the four Sculpture for Norwich competition candidates; the chance to find out more about the Belgian city of Ghent, Norwich HEART's SHAPING 24 project partner; a children's activity area; a programme of talks; an opportunity to have your say in DAVE, the digital video booth; and a demonstration of new technology that makes heritage more accessible to a wider range of people.

There will also be daily highlights. Monday and Tuesday see family fun with

storytelling and the chance to make your own clay sculptures of some of Norwich's historic buildings. Wednesday is a day for all things digital, when visitors will be able to experience the latest technology, such as 3D printing, virtual reality and haptic devices in action. On Thursday, a family history workshop will give tips on how to research your ancestry. Friday sees the launch of HEART's fourth annual photography competition. There's a chance to sample Belgian beer, courtesy of the Belgian Monk, on Saturday, and on Sunday visitors can get involved with a giant outdoor art project.

Look out for the full programme at www.shaping24.eu.

During CastleFest, on the weekend of 17-18 September, Norwich Castle will come alive with the sights and sounds of



a medieval festival. CastleFest is the first event of its kind to be staged in Norwich and will offer a medieval encampment on Castle Green, re-enactors (including an exciting group from Belgium), men at arms, medieval crafts and skills, and hands-on activities with various museum collections. Advance tickets will be on sale from August. Visit www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk for more details of events.

EVENTS

Event	Location	Details	Times and prices	More information
A Welcome Space for Every Face	Norwich Cathedral, Norwich	Who lived, worked and prayed here in the past and present? Find out with a quiz, monks' trail, portrait-drawing, crafts and stories	23 August, 10am–3pm Free; no need to book. Children up to age 12 are very welcome accompanied by one or more adults	www.cathedral.org.uk
A Knight at Dragon Hall	Dragon Hall, King Street, Norwich	Get your hands on medieval weapons, battle dress and have fun with hobby-horse jousting! Create your own knight's tabard, sword and helmet to take home. Suitable for ages 5–16 years	24 August, 12.30–2.30pm. Children £10, one free adult per child (standard entrance fee for additional adults). Advance booking essential	www.dragonhall.org
Village at War	Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse, Dereham	Join the Home Guards and Land Army girls to step back to the 1940s with re-enactors 'The WWII Royal Norfolk Regiment' and 'Allied Assault 44'	28 & 29 August, 10am–5pm. Museum admission only: adult £8.90, concs & family adult £7.70, young person £5.90, Museums Pass holders free of charge	01362 860563 www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk
An evening with Louis de Bernières	Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich	Good food, literature and laughter: after a glass of wine, a two-course dinner and coffee, an interview with author Louis de Bernières	31 August, 7.30pm Tickets £21	01603 598688 www.assemblyhousenorwich.co.uk
BBC Hands on History: Dig! Archaeology in Action	The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich	One of a series of events to get you digging and discovering. Activities include: handling artefacts, rock-painting, talks, films and stories	4 September, 10am–4pm Free; drop-in	www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk Download the leaflet at www.norwich12.co.uk
The H Factor	The Forum, Millennium Plain, Norwich	A week of heritage-themed events including exhibitions, displays of digital technology, talks, children's activities and workshops	5–11 September, 10am–5pm (some events have specific times) Free	www.shaping24.eu
Heritage Open Days	Venues across Norwich and Norfolk	176 free events celebrating our heritage, including open buildings, talks, walks, performances, family activities and exhibitions	8–11 September, various times Some events bookable Free	01603 305575 www.heritagecity.org/hods
CastleFest	Norwich Castle, Norwich	A two-day medieval festival involving re-enactors, a medieval encampment, men at arms, demonstrations of medieval crafts, and the chance to handle museum exhibits	17–18 September Museum admission only: adult £6.60, concs £5.60, young person £4.80, Museums Pass holders free of charge	01603 493625 www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk
Norwich Ambassador Scheme	Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich	From Norwich HEART and VisitNorwich, this scheme provides people in visitor-facing roles with information on Norwich and its heritage and cultural offer, thus encouraging people to be ambassadors for the city	19 October, 10.15am–1.45pm £25 inc buffet	www.norwich12.co.uk To book call 01603 599578 or email sophieharrison@heritagecity.org
House Alive! Thetford Workhouse	Ancient House Museum of Thetford Life, Thetford	'The Thetford Treasures' troupe brings history to life. Discover what life was like in Thetford Workhouse, and uncover the story of Allan Minns, workhouse doctor and Britain's first black mayor	28 October, 10am–2pm Adult £3.70, concs £3.10, young person (4–16) £2, Museums Pass holders free of charge	01842 752599 www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk
Little Vintage Lover Fair	Dragon Hall, King Street, Norwich	Vintage clothing and collectors' fair: two floors of clothes, textiles, accessories, 'kitchenalia', vintage reworked items, and tea and cakes on mismatched vintage teaware!	29 October, 10am–5pm Admission £2 (under-16s free)	www.dragonhall.org
The Cloisters Fair	The Halls – St Andrew's & Blackfriars', St Andrew's Street, Norwich	Oldest, biggest and best fair in the city features antiques, collectables and vintage items – always a wide range of fresh stock	Every Wednesday, 8am–3pm Free entry	To join stallholders' waiting list call 01603 630763 or email thecloistersfair@btinternet.com

FROM THE DATABASE

A history of Carrow Abbey

It's often overlooked, but Norwich was a great monastic city. The cathedral was served by a house of Benedictine monks under a prior, and the four main orders of friars (Austin, Carmelite, Dominican and Franciscan) all had large houses in the city. Today's Assembly House also occupies the site of a house of secular canons. Other than the cathedral itself, perhaps the greatest remaining evidence is the St Andrew's and Blackfriars' Halls complex, which is the largest surviving Dominican friary church in England.

The Priory of Carrow

Just outside the city walls, in the area running from the Ber Street and South gates towards the river Yare, stood the Priory of Carrow, a house of Benedictine nuns under a prioress. The heart of the priory was the priory church, one of the largest in Norwich outside the cathedral. Today much of the site is covered by the modern Carrow Works dining room. Like many monastic houses, it had the title 'abbey' bestowed upon it during the centuries following its dissolution, but technically the house ranked as a priory. The residence that survived the dissolution of the religious house has long been known as Carrow Abbey.

The church and its estates

It's not known how long the priory took to build, but its church was mainly Norman and early English work, the chancel, tower and transepts being older than the nave and aisles, which were 13th-century additions. The priory consisted of a group of buildings arranged in a system customary to Benedictine houses, and it was in the cloister that the nuns would have spent most of their working hours. There would have been around 12 nuns, plus servants and 'hinds' (agricultural labourers).

Julian of Norwich

There are enduring suggestions of a link between the priory and Julian of Norwich. There is no precise evidence that Julian was a nun at Carrow, but it is quite likely that she took her vows as an anchoress in the priory church. This famous lady found her repose in a cell on the southern side of St Julian's church in King Street, where she had the visions which she wrote down as *The Revelations of Divine Love*. This book has been acclaimed as the most beautiful of

As Heritage Open Days in September draw close, we explore one of the programme's most popular venues, Carrow Abbey in Trowse

all the English mystical works, and it reveals much humanity and charm in its author.

The last prioress but one was Isobel Wygun, who decided to build a new prioress' house on to the existing priory. It is this building, together with a late 19th-century addition built by James Stuart, that survives to this day.

Dissolution and change of ownership

The new residence was presented to a courtier, Sir John Shelton, whose wife was the aunt of Anne Boleyn. After Sir John, the abbey and grounds passed through several hands, including those of Sir Roger Kerrison, until in 1811 they were bought by Philip Martineau, a distinguished surgeon in Norwich and London medical circles.

The Colmans

In 1878, Carrow Abbey was bought by

the firm of J&J Colman. The property was next to the works and there were obvious business reasons for acquiring it. In addition, Jeremiah Colman, who was living at Carrow House, had become a great collector of books. His library was later given to the city and is now the Colman Library. His librarian was hard pressed to find more room at Carrow House and it is said that when Jeremiah had designs on his wife's jam cupboard everyone realised something had to be done. Jeremiah not only converted the abbey's guest hall into a library, but did much to restore a neglected building into something like its form as built by Isobel Wygun.

At the end of the 19th century, the abbey had a new tenant in James Stuart, a member of parliament and of the Privy Council, and the husband of Laura, Jeremiah Colman's daughter. Stuart left a strong mark on the abbey: during his occupancy the portion of the house to the south of the entrance was built, and the meadow and gardens were enclosed and beautified.

In modern times, the word Carrow has gained strong associations with mustard and football, but it is pleasant to think of an earlier green place just outside the city walls, where a group of women went about their devoted lives and where a great church loomed above the river.



It's likely that Julian of Norwich took her vows as an anchoress at Carrow

Q&A ANDY WOOD

Chief Executive, Adnams, and Chair of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)



Do you feel it is important that local people understand and appreciate their local heritage? If so, why?

I believe it's extremely important that we understand and appreciate our local heritage. Not only can it help to inspire us as to just what can be achieved, often against the odds, but it also grounds us and provides a sense of perspective when we are locked into the importance of the immediate thing we are dealing with.

How do you think the city's heritage will continue to influence its future?

The visitor economy is so important to our area, and Norwich, with all its richness, is a jewel that will go on attracting people long into the future.

“Dragon Hall has so much atmosphere, and you can almost hear the deals being done all those years ago”

What first sparked your interest in history and heritage?

As a 10-year-old I received a prize for history from my primary school. My interest was strong then and has remained so ever since.

What character from history would you like to have dinner with and why? What questions would you like to ask them?

A difficult question, but from a Norfolk perspective it would have to be Horatio Nelson. I would like to know what made him so determined and so prepared to 'do different' both strategically and tactically. I would love to hear the whole story from his being a 12-year-old midshipman through to being the great hero preparing to face the Franco-Spanish fleet in a battle to the end at Trafalgar. It's a wonderful story that would be great to hear from the man himself.

What is Norwich's best-kept secret and why?

Its best-kept secret is the wonderful juxtaposition that exists between old and new. The Forum and St Peter Mancroft, the refectory and the cathedral are both fine examples of a sympathetic fusion of old and new, from my perspective.

What is your favourite historic building in Norwich and why?

Dragon Hall. It has so much atmosphere, and you can almost hear the deals being done all those years ago. Its restoration is also spectacular.

What do you think was the worst heritage disaster in the city's past?

I would say this, wouldn't I? It must be the loss of so many pubs.

