

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**SPORT, LEISURE AND CULTURE  
CABINET MEMBER**

**RECENT ACQUISITIONS TO THE MUSEUM COLLECTIONS**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise the Cabinet Member of additions to the Museum Collections over the last year (January – December 2009), in line with recommended good practice.
- 1.2 The key points of the report are as follows.
- The Museums Libraries and Archives (MLA) accreditation scheme recommends that acquisitions to museum collections should be reported annually to the Museum Service's Governing Body, in this case North Lincolnshire Council.
  - In line with this good practice the report lists the numbers of new acquisitions and the most significant objects and collections added to the North Lincolnshire Museum Service collections.
  - The objects are collected to help tell the story of the area and enable local people to develop a sense of place and pride in the rich heritage of North Lincolnshire.
  - Objects from the 1950s, collected for the Absolutely Prefabulous Exhibition have been used as part of an innovative project in partnership with the Children and Young People's Service to develop intergenerational understanding and community cohesion.
  - This report will form part of the annual accreditation return to the MLA.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 In line with the Museum Service Forward Plan and associated documents which formed part of the successful accreditation application, staff have been actively collecting in key areas.
- 2.2 In addition to adding to core collections in Archaeology and Local History, particular emphasis has been placed on Social History and Decorative Arts. The focus of this collecting has been the post war period in line with the ambitions for a new museum for the area.

2.3 Officers have added the following number of accession entries to the collections over the last year.

Archaeology	66
Natural Sciences	2
Social History	38
Decorative Arts	18
Local History	36

Total 160

2.4 While the numbers above relate to entries in the accession registers, some, particularly in Archaeology, can cover many thousands of objects in a single entry.

2.5 Some of the most significant finds are:

- The Roman Winterton Cup – a rare example of a soldier’s souvenir, possibly given on retirement from duty on Hadrian’s Wall
- Two Gold Medieval Coins found in Scotter and Roxby from the reign of Edward III who reigned 1312-1377
- The Flixborough finds – a vast archive of the finds from the Flixborough excavations dating from the 7<sup>th</sup> century to early 11<sup>th</sup> century
- Three items found by metal detectorists and declared as Treasure under the terms of the 1999 Treasure Act: a Viking Silver Ingot from Roxby; a 16<sup>th</sup> century brooch from Hibaldstow; and a medieval silver-gilt iconographic finger ring with scenes of the annunciation from Bonby.
- A utility bedroom suite from the 1950s, a silver cross pram from 1956 and an electric singer sewing machine from 1961 all featured in the Absolutely Prefabulous exhibition
- A pair of small handcuffs from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century, thought to be made to fit children or women.
- A lump of metal from the Nypro explosion
- Dyking boots from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century – an early form of waterproof footwear for use when working in water logged areas
- A “Chimney” boot from Winteringham – a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century boot placed in the chimney to bring prosperity to the household
- Two wedding dresses – one from the 1940s made of Rayon Silk, and the second from 1970s with accessories including cake decorations
- Normanby Hall photographs from 1920s taken by Hilda Brunt when she worked in the kitchens at the Hall.
- A large collection of glass negatives of photographs taken by George Parker of Goxhill from around 1900

- 2.6 Most items are donated to the Museum by the owners, but some are purchased either with grants or from the service's own small purchase budget. One collection, the Flixborough Archive, has been placed on loan by the owner.
- 2.7 The objects are collected to help tell the story of North Lincolnshire and enable people to develop a sense of place and pride in the rich heritage of the area.
- 2.8 The objects from the 1950s, which featured in the Absolutely Prefabulous Exhibition have been used as part of the Personal Histories project with local schools. This project is a celebration of childhood memories and is a pilot project funded and supported by North Lincolnshire Children and Young People's Service.
- 2.9 From September 2009 North Lincolnshire's Extended Services team have worked closely with six primary and junior schools in North Lincolnshire and have researched the recollections of their families, neighbours and members of the community to appreciate their diverse memories and experiences. An exhibition has been created at North Lincolnshire Museum to show the work the schools have done to engage with all generations in its wider community and to support community cohesion and intergenerational understanding. The exhibition will run from 16 March until 28 May 2010.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To accept the report in line with the MLA accreditation scheme.
- 3.2 Not to accept the report.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 The first option is the preferred one, and will be reported as part of the annual return to MLA in the autumn of 2010.

### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

- 5.1 There are no additional resource implications. Any finds which need to be purchased under the terms of the Treasure Act are funded from either the service's own acquisitions budgets and/or grants from external bodies. Funds such as the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, and the Art Fund helped purchase the Winterton Cup.

### **6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)**

- 6.1 These additions to the collections will be used in a variety of ways to tell the story of North Lincolnshire and enable local people to develop a sense of place and pride in the rich heritage of the area.

6.2 The 1950s object have been used as part of an innovative intergenerational project in partnership with the Children and Young People's Service called Personal Histories, shortly to be on display at the Museum. The exhibition at the museum will show the work undertaken by schools to engage with all generations in their wider community and to support community cohesion and intergenerational understanding.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 Extensive consultations are undertaken with the owners prior to the donations being made and accepted into the collection.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That the report is noted and forms part of the annual accreditation return to MLA in the autumn of 2010.

### **SERVICE DIRECTOR ASSET MANAGEMENT AND CULTURE**

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### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

- Museums Service Forward Plan