Suffolk Museums
Making a Difference

- 60 Museums in Suffolk
- 440,000 people visited Suffolk museums
- 40,000 participants in formal learning sessions
- 1,350 volunteers gave at least 188,000 hours worth over £1.3m to Suffolk museums
- Visits to Suffolk Museums worth over £6m to the local economy
- Over 1,350,000 people visited Suffolk museums
- Over 40,000,000 participants in formal learning sessions
- Over 6,600 participants in outreach sessions
- Over 6,600 participants
- Caring for and making accessible over 1,000,000 objects, including some of national and international significance
- 135 staff employed
- 24,800 hours open to the public
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A free, promotional initiative to help promote family-friendly activities and events in museums over the school summer holidays.

Suffolk Museum of the Year 2017
An annual award ceremony and celebration of the hard work which takes place in Suffolk Museums.

Object of the Year Award 2017
An annual competition and celebration of the variety and diversity of objects within Suffolk Museums.

Summer Discovery Club
An informal club for children set in the school holiday period at The Long Shop Museum.

Transforming People to Transform Museums
Creating high-quality, paid work-based training opportunities for a diverse range local people in four Suffolk museums.

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The Grit
A community project that is putting Lowestoft’s forgotten fishing village back on the map.

Lowestoft Folk
A creative intergenerational programme exploring local folklore with Lowestoft primary school students and adults living in residential homes.

Thank you page 34
Suffolk Museums welcomed over 440,000 people through their doors last year. This is worth £6m to the local economy. There are 135 people employed in Suffolk Museums, together with more than 1,350 volunteers giving over 188,000 hours of their time last year. Volunteers’ time is worth at least £1.3m to Suffolk Museums.

The value of Suffolk Museums is recognised by all Suffolk local authorities, Arts Council England, and SHARE Museums East which continue to provide £47,500 of core revenue support for the Suffolk Museums Partnership. Their investment has helped to lever in over £700,000 in additional funding from other sources this year. The Skills for the Future grant awarded by Heritage Lottery Fund for Transforming People to Transform Museums has played a significant part in this. I look forward to seeing this project develop over the next three years, and welcoming the 27 new trainees.

Suffolk Museums play a key role in placemaking, developing a sense of place, and improving the quality of life of its residents. The Association for Suffolk Museums works with around 60 museum members and associate members with related interests to help make Suffolk an attractive place to live, work and visit. The Summer in Suffolk Museums, and Suffolk Museum of the Year initiatives are raising the profile of our members, which are welcoming more people through their doors. Visits this year included over 138,000 children, which is a significant increase of 35 per cent from the previous year.

The importance of working in partnership with other organisations from other sectors to support resilient communities is especially evident in this year. I am impressed with how the partnership with the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust continues to grow through the delivery of Recovery College courses in Suffolk Museums. We are extremely grateful to the contribution made by all staff, volunteers, funder, stakeholders, and partners that work together to make Suffolk Museums a real valuable asset for the county.

Gerard Brewster
Chairman of the Association for Suffolk Museums

Museums enhance the quality of life in Suffolk, they improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, develop resilient communities, and drive the economy.

Museums enable people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artefacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.
Investing in Suffolk Museums

We would like to thank the Suffolk Museums Partnership partners for their core contributions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Source of funding</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Council England / SHARE Museums East</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babergh &amp; Mid Suffolk District Councils</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ipswich Borough Council (Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums Service)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk County Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Suffolk (Forest Heath St Edmundsbury Councils)</td>
<td></td>
<td>£ 2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£ 47,500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Return on investment

The Suffolk Museums Partnership helped to secure the following amounts of external funding in addition to fundraising activities of individual organisations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Source of funding</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transforming People to Transform Museums</td>
<td>HLF Skills for the Future</td>
<td>£ 568,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhancement of Partnership (Felixstowe Museum)</td>
<td>AIM Sustainability Grant</td>
<td>£ 4,320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Discovery Club (The Long Shop Museum)</td>
<td>SHARE Museums East</td>
<td>£ 3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowestoft Folk (Suffolk Artlink/Lowestoft Museums)</td>
<td>Lowestoft Rising/Heritage Lottery Fund</td>
<td>£ 83,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Grit (Poetry People/Lowestoft Museums)</td>
<td>Lowestoft Rising/Heritage Lottery Fund</td>
<td>£ 60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>£ 718,320</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We would like to thank all our contributors and funders involved with these projects.
Improving health and wellbeing

"Museums can increase our sense of wellbeing, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and make us feel healthier."

David Flemming
President, Museums Association

Recovery College

The Recovery College is co-delivering one of its courses in partnership with the Association for Suffolk Museums. *Art, Museums and Wellbeing* offers an opportunity to explore a museum and participate in creative and enjoyable activities. The one-day course is currently held at Moyse’s Hall Museum, Gainsborough’s House, and Ipswich Museum. Museums offer a safe and stimulating environment for people to explore their creative skills and develop individual artworks inspired by the buildings, objects and stories around them.

The Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) Recovery College empowers people with mental health problems to become experts in their own recovery. It provides a range of courses and workshops to service users, carers and members of staff to develop their skills; understand mental health; identify goals, and support their access to opportunities. All of the courses are written and delivered by people with lived and learned experience of mental health challenges.

“Becoming a regular visitor to the museum has opened me up to a whole new experience. I see things in a different way and question more what I see.” Participant.
Creative Heritage in Mind

The Creative Heritage in Mind (CHIM) project evaluation report was published this year on the Suffolk Museums website www.suffolkmuseums.org.

CHIM was a year-long heritage and art in mental health project, which delivered a programme of 12 creative courses across four Suffolk Museums. The Association for Suffolk Museums and Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT) worked together to provide a meaningful experience for people experiencing primary mental ill health, thereby addressing issues of social isolation, and helping to improve people’s confidence and resilience.

The evaluation shows a statistically significant improvement in mental wellbeing across all the courses. Participants experienced meaningful change in art and heritage engagement, social engagement, confidence, motivation, and a more positive self-view regarding capability and potential.

The project used the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale, widely used by mental health professionals to provide an indicator of an individual’s wellbeing.

This project has been a lifeline. It gives me something to look forward to, a reason for getting up.

Participant, Creative Heritage in Mind (CHIM)

The people taking part have felt more connected to their local community and report a positive and meaningful impact on recovery and wellbeing, and local museum services have developed their understanding of mental health and are investing in making their services more inclusive and inviting.

Overall, the project has been an excellent example of what can be achieved by people working together with openness and shared ambition.

Margaret Little
Deputy Director of Operations,
Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust

Our thanks to

Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust
Preserving and Promoting Suffolk’s Heritage
Supporting resilient communities

“We want our residents to be healthy and to enjoy our coast and countryside; our history, art and culture.”

-East Suffolk Business Plan

Celebrating volunteering

“Volunteering in museums has helped me to gain confidence, as before I was always very shy and reserved. It is something that I always look forward to and I feel as though my overall wellbeing has improved because of it. It’s definitely given me a sense of purpose and helped me to build skills that I can carry on to my future career.”

Chloe Pearson, Cultural Heritage graduate and Photography & Collections volunteer for Lowestoft Maritime Museum
Lowestoft Rising with Museums

Lowestoft Rising with Museums was an Arts Council England funded project that improved the resilience, sustainability, and volunteer capacity of three museums in Lowestoft – Lowestof Museum, Lowestoft Maritime Museum, and East Anglia Transport Museum – through the development of targeted volunteer recruitment programmes and mutually beneficial local partnerships.

Lowestoft Rising with Museums shows that whatever the reason for volunteering, and however long the experience, museum volunteering promotes positive wellbeing. Its legacy ensures that each museum is more resilient, sustainable and better connected to their local community.

- Included 3 Volunteer museums in Lowestoft
- Led to 5 Cultural Education Partnership projects
- Recruited 22 new volunteers
- Awarded £30,000 ACE Funding in 2016/17
- Delivered 2 Community open events
- Produced re-usable volunteer recruitment material

Our thanks to...
Suffolk Museums are playing key role in the Making Waves Together project. Led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council, the project is working with communities and groups in both towns to build cultural partnerships, engage new audiences and put arts, culture and heritage at the heart of the local vision.

The aim of the programme is to strengthen both areas and make them more attractive place to visit, work, learn and live in. It will also raise the profile of the cultural organisations involved and make their offer more accessible to communities.

The project is supported by the Great Place Scheme, delivered by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, and Historic England. It is made up of 9 delivery partners, including the Association for Suffolk Museums working with Norfolk Museums Service, to bring together national and international renowned art organisations with emerging community-led organisations in both towns.

Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth is working with Lowestoft Museum and Lowestoft Maritime Museum to create a dedicated coastal heritage collection for the East coast, and deliver museum pop-up exhibitions in and around Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth to reach and engage with new audiences.

Our thanks to

[Image of museums and boats]
Growing the economy

Suffolk’s natural and historic environment is one of our key strengths, important in its own right, but also adding considerably to our quality of life and sense of local pride. It provides us with enviable ‘natural capital’ on which to improve health and wellbeing and to grow our economy.

Suffolk County Council will: Continue to work with business and education providers to develop the skills needed for future growth.

Suffolk County Council. Our priorities 2017-21

Summer in Suffolk Museums

Summer in Suffolk Museums is a marketing and audience development initiative. It aims to promote family-friendly activities and events in museums throughout the school summer holidays. 32 museums took part and offered archaeological digs, family fun days, science workshops, arts & crafts, and much more. From the 500 visitor feedback forms, 91 per cent of visitors highly enjoyed their day out.

Promotional Stats

Magazine front cover distributed in 17,000 book bags

Press releases

Advertisements

Editorial features

Summer in Suffolk Museums posters

Facebook posts

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Suffolk Museum of the Year 2017

The Suffolk Museum of the Year Awards is an annual award ceremony and celebration of the hard work which takes place in Suffolk Museums. This year 15 museums took part.

Winners:
- **Suffolk Museum of the Year Award** (overall winner) - National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art, Newmarket
- **Suffolk Museum of the Year Award** (merit award) - East Anglia Transport Museum in Carlton Colville
- **Family Friendly Award** (overall winner) - Moyse’s Hall Museum, Bury St Edmunds
- **Family Friendly Award** (merit award) - The Red House at Aldeburgh
- **Learning and Access Award** - West Stow Anglo Saxon Village

The Suffolk Museum of the Year overall winner, National Heritage Centre for Horseracing & Sporting Art, was also one of the The Art Fund’s five prestigious Museum of the Year award finalists. The biggest museum prize in the world, Art Fund Museum of the Year seeks out and celebrates innovation and exceptional achievement in museums and galleries across the UK.

Object of the Year Award 2017

The Suffolk Museums Object of the Year Awards is an annual competition and celebration of the variety and diversity of objects within Suffolk Museums. The theme for the object in 2017 was Sporting Memories.

- Objects entered related to Tennis, Football, Ice-Skating, Sailing, Horse-Raiding & Board Games
- 14 entries
- 4260 public, online votes
- Halesworth Museum won with 1883 votes for their Dwile flonking trophy.
Transforming People to Transform Museums is one of only 18 projects selected from 81 applications to Heritage Lottery Fund’s Skills for the Future programme in 2017.

Colchester + Ipswich Museum Service, the Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket, The Long Shop Museum in Leiston, and the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing & Sporting Art in Newmarket are working together to create high quality, paid work-based training opportunities for local people. The project is ensuring that those that work in museums better reflect the diversity of their locality. It will create opportunities for local people to get their foot in the door of a career in museums, which may not be something they have considered before.

- 4 partners, including 8 museums in 5 towns
- 3 year project
- 27 paid traineeships
- 12 month placements
- 9 paid traineeships per year
- £568,000 awarded from Heritage Lottery Fund

Summer Discovery Club

The Summer Discovery Club was an informal club set in the school holiday period at The Long Shop Museum. It aimed to be more than just a form of childcare, but to be a fun, active and engaging experience for children.

My daughter had a wonderful time and talked excitedly for ages about what she’d been doing, showing us magic tricks and all the things she had made.

Participant’s parent
Raising aspirations and educational attainment

Heritage organisations and the learning opportunities that they provide, can contribute to and enhance the welfare of the individual and society.

Gem, the voice for heritage learning
Museums play a key role in the three LCEPs in Suffolk including the well-established Lowestoft Rising LCEP, the emerging Heart of East Anglia [West Suffolk] LCEP, and the newly formed Ipswich LCEP.

LCEPs are networks of arts and cultural organisations, creative professionals and educators. Every partnership is unique. Festival Bridge works closely alongside Suffolk Museums, education specialists in arts and cultural organisations, teachers and education settings and local authorities to ensure our county’s children and young people have valuable creative and cultural experiences.

Michael Corley, Head of Festival Bridge - supporting and developing cultural education partnerships and networks
The Grit is a community project led by Poetry People, working with Lowestoft Maritime Museum, that is putting Lowestoft’s forgotten fishing village back on the map.

- Working with 8 schools
- 210 pupils visited Lowestoft Maritime Museum
- 24 workshops in schools
- 10 performances in 6 venues across the county, including The Long Shop Museum and the Museum of East Anglian Life
- GritFest event celebrating the Lowestoft Beach Village
- Key Stage 2 local history resource for schools
- Permanent installation in to the Lowestoft Maritime Museum displays
- £55,000 awarded from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- £5,000 awarded from the Lowestoft Rising Local Cultural Education Partnership

“I think it’s really great that we’re learning about The Grit because it makes me feel thankful that I live in Lowestoft because we have such great history here.”

“I always thought that Lowestoft was a boring town that had no history, but now I am actually amazed at how much history it has and I have learned so much due to this project and I am just really happy that I do live in a town with some history and some pride.”

Primary school participants

Our thanks to

Lowestoft Rising Cultural Education Partnership

I enjoyed going to the Maritime Museum and learning more facts about The Grit.

Primary school participants
Lowestoft Folk is led by Suffolk Artlink, working with Lowestoft Museum and Lowestoft Maritime Museum. The project is delivering 12-week creative intergenerational programmes exploring local folklore and folk art with local primary school Key Stage 2 students and adults living in Lowestoft residential homes. Participants are creating art work to illustrate existing stories drawn from the collections in the museums. They are also creating new work in response to their experiences of Lowestoft traditions and folklore.

- Working with 4 schools and 4 residential homes over the course of the two-year project
- Each programme bringing together 10 7–10 year olds and 10 residents in a neighbouring residential home
- Working with a team of professional artists – including storytellers, a creative writer, musician and visual artists
- 4 celebration events, shared with family and friends

- Informed by collections held by 2 museums - Lowestoft Museum and Lowestoft Maritime Museum
- 48 weekly sessions
- 1 exhibition of the creative work toured to museums, schools, residential homes and other sites
- 4 public story telling events, suitable for children aged 2 to 12 years old
- 4 public workshops, suitable for children aged 7 to 12 years old
- Further 4 schools involved via story telling performances delivered to year groups
- 2 training events delivered to museum volunteers
- £10,000 awarded from Lowestoft Rising Local Cultural Education Partnership
- £73,000 awarded from Heritage Lottery Fund

Being creative together inspires us all to connect with Lowestoft’s rich cultural heritage and helps strengthen relationships in our communities. We are bringing local school pupils and care home residents together to explore our shared history and to create new exhibition pieces for our Museums that will bring it to life for others.

Candida Wingate, Suffolk Artlink Project Officer

Our thanks to...
Members of the Association for Suffolk Museums

Association for Suffolk Museums Management Committee
Voting members: Cllr Gerard Brewster (Chair & Mid Suffolk District Council), Graham Snelling (Vice Chair & Forest Heath Museums & ASIM Network), Jayne Austin (Secretary), Dr Bob Merrett (Treasurer & Suffolk Coastal Museums), Cllr Tony Goldson (Suffolk County Council), Cllr Tony Cooper (Suffolk Coastal District Council), Cllr John Bloodworth (Forest Heath District Council), Cllr John Nunn (Babergh District Council), Cllr Carole Jones (Ipswich Borough Council), Cllr Michael Ladd (Waveney District Council) Cllr Carole Bull (St Edmundsbury Borough Council), Alan Wheeler (Waveney Museums), Louisa Brouwer (Babergh Museums), Lisa Harris (Mid Suffolk Museums), and Mark Smith (Ipswich Museums). Non-voting members: Jamie Everitt, SHARE Museums East, Jenna Ingamells (Suffolk Museums Project Officer), and Ruth Gillan (Freelance Project Officer).

Our project officers
Jayne Austin (Suffolk Museums Development & Partnership Manager), Jenna Ingamells (Suffolk Museums Project Officer), and Ruth Gillan (Freelance Project Officer).

Our partners
Festival Bridge (Michael Corely, Nicky Adamson, Joff Whitten & Rachel Macfarlane), lockARTS (Juliet Lockart), Lowestost Rising (Phil Aves & Phoebe Wingate), Norfolk Museums (Time & Tide Museum), Norfolk & Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (Heather Balleny & Maggie Batcheler), Poetry People (Dean Parkin & Naomi Jaffa), and Suffolk Artlink (Hayley Field, Alex Casey & Candida Wingate).

Our funders
Core funders: Suffolk County Council, East Suffolk (Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Councils), Ipswich Borough Council, Mid Suffolk & Babergh Councils, SHARE Museums East (Arts Council England), and West Suffolk (Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury Councils).

Our thanks to

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Our thanks to Suffolk Museums and partner organisations. Images © Suffolk Museums.