Suffolk Museums
Making a Difference

- Included 56 Museums in Suffolk
- 37 Accredited Museums
- Cared for over 1,000,000 objects

- Welcomed 726,980 visitors
- Welcomed 33,875 people to special events

- Supported 2,191 participating volunteers
- Engaged 39,954 children and young people in learning activity

- Generated £18,640,752 to the economy
- Open to the public for 37,347 hours

- Delivered 138,584 volunteer hours valued at £1,650,529 to museums

- Delivered 131 FTE people
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Preserving and Promoting Suffolk’s Heritage
Preserving and Promoting Suffolk’s Heritage

Suffolk Museums welcomed over 726,980 people through their doors last year. This is worth £18.6m to the local economy. There are 131 FTE people employed in Suffolk Museums, together with more than 2,191 volunteers giving over 138,584 hours of their time last year. Volunteer time is worth at least £1.65m 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 £45,500 of core revenue support for the Suffolk Museums Partnership. Their investment has helped to lever in an average of £257,203 per year over the last 3 years.

This year saw the return of the Suffolk Museum of the Year awards with some new categories. Congratulations to Bawdsey Radar, Small Museum of the Year and The Red House in Aldeburgh, Large Museum of the Year.

Suffolk Museums play a key role in the understanding of the places where we live. By bringing people together they enhance quality of life, improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, support resilient communities, and drive the economy.

The value of the Suffolk Museums Partnership collaborative projects should not be underestimated. They create opportunities for museums to engage a wider range of people in new and innovative ways. Partnership programmes also help museums to become more resilient and contribute more to the local economy.

We are extremely grateful for the contribution made by all staff, volunteers, funders, stakeholders, and partners that work together to make Suffolk Museums an asset for the county.

Councillor Tony Cooper
East Suffolk Council
Chairman of the Association for Suffolk Museums

“...There is a growing sophistication in the way that institutions engage with the public and are thinking of those who would not normally interact with heritage in our communities.

I was particularly excited by some of the initiatives relating to schools. Museums contribute to the economic environment of Suffolk, attracting visitors from outside the county and indeed from outside the U.K. Museums are responding by telling local as well as national stories. Museums enrich our county of Suffolk and long may that situation continue.”

Professor David Gill
Suffolk Museum of the Year Judge

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Efficient and effective public services

Association for Suffolk Museums

The Association for Suffolk Museums is an independent charity and membership body. It is managed by representatives from each local authority in Suffolk, alongside independent museum representatives. A total of 60 museums and organisations with museum interests subscribed as members in 2019/20. The Association works collaboratively with its members to achieve its four main aims:

- Provide support for museums in Suffolk
- Act as a representative and advocate for museums in Suffolk
- Attract and manage resources for the benefit of its members
- Increase access and learning in museums for the benefit of the people of Suffolk

Suffolk Museums Partnership

The Suffolk Museums Partnership is a funding consortium that includes all Suffolk local authorities, Arts Council England and SHARE Museums East. It is governed by the Association for Suffolk Museums (AfSM).

In 2019/20 the Suffolk Museums Partnership provided £45,500 of core revenue support for development work and collaborative projects across Suffolk Museums delivered by the Suffolk Museums Project Officers, Jenna Ingamells and Tom Beese. Tom and Jenna are employed on behalf of the partnership by Suffolk County Council.

The Suffolk Museums Partnership has a sustained level of commitment to it from all partners as we move forward into 2020/21. This core support enables AfSM to develop partnerships and draw in additional inward investment to Suffolk from external sources for collaborative museum projects.

The Association for Suffolk Museums is grateful for the support and guidance from all partners, freelancers, and funders for Suffolk Museums Partnership projects.

The chat with Lesley-Ann was incredible today, all a result of this AfSM project, and has led to greater ties between her department and ours; essential, going forward in this tricky 2020.

Dan Clarke, Moyse’s Hall Museum, West Suffolk Council
### Investing in Suffolk Museums

#### Core contributions 2019-20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contribution (£)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Council England / SHARE Museums East</td>
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<td>Babergh District Council</td>
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<td>East Suffolk Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ipswich Borough Council (Colchester &amp; Ipswich Museums Service)</td>
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<td>Mid Suffolk District Council</td>
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<td>West Suffolk Council</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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We would like to thank the Suffolk Museums Partnership partners for their core contributions in 2019-20.

#### Total investment 2017-20

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Contribution (£)</th>
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<td>External investment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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The Suffolk Museums Partnership helped to secure an annual average of £257,203 external funding per year over the last 3 years in addition to fundraising activities of individual organisations.

We would like to thank all our contributors and funders involved with these projects.
Strong, safe and healthy communities

We [work] with pleasure and purpose ... alongside staff at the museum. Our volunteer team are fully integrated with the museum’s core mission to improve awareness and access to the unique and inspiring natural sciences collection at Ipswich Museums and we are pleased to continue this commitment to a very worthwhile public cause.

Adrian Chalkley, Natural Science Volunteer, Ipswich Museum

Terry Deary’s Terrible Tales at Moyse’s Hall

The Horrible Histories author and creator, Terry Deary, has created six original first-hand accounts by people, some fictional and others real, related to objects on display at Moyse’s Hall. Visitors can follow the stories and view the objects that illustrate them.

A Suffolk-based illustrator created images and animations that bring the stories to life. Handling items, horrid smells and activities added to the interpretation. A human-sized ‘operation’ table, a rotten smelling severed arm, and accessible Gibbet Cage activities were introduced to the galleries for visitors to engage with.

During a special February half-term launch, 1,500 adults and children visited Moyse’s Hall. Staff and freelancers performed hideous tasks with visitors, including viewing Saxon poo under a microscope, making Hollywood blood, handling real crime and execution artefacts, and learning about barber surgeons.

Looking ahead into 2020-21, the work with Deary will continue with competitions for young explorers. The Friends of Moyse’s Hall have worked with the museum to secure locality funding for a book to be compiled, including stories already written and additional ones created.

Very knowledgeable staff, great Horrible Histories tour. Very interactive and hands on. My 5 and 7-year-old boys loved it. Thank you very much.

February half-term visitor to Moyse’s Hall

Photo©Phil-Morley-BLOG
As the project draws to a close, both museums are well prepared and looking forward to developing these opportunities in the seasons ahead.

Making Waves Together

Making Waves Together, led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and East Suffolk District Council, is enabling communities and organisations in Lowestoft to work together to inspire and engage people as participants, audiences, and visitors. It is one of 16 pilot areas across England supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England’s Great Place Scheme.

The Association for Suffolk Museums, working in partnership with Norfolk Museums Service on Seaside Heritage are one of nine partners delivering activity across the two towns as part of the Making Waves Together project.

Seaside Heritage

The Making Waves Together Seaside Heritage Project Officer, Patricia Day, is working with museums in Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth to build cultural partnerships and engage new audiences. Family days welcomed new audiences and saw many of last summer’s visitors return. Highlights include:

**Lowestoft Museum**
- Stone Age Sundays increased visitors by 47% compared to the equivalent days in 2018
- Working with Dulton Broad Parish Council on new development plans
- Working with Lowestoft Town Council to improve the care and display of the Lowestoft Porcelain collection

**Lowestoft Maritime Museum**
- Sparrow’s Nest event days in partnership with Lowestoft Town Council
- Younger visitors increased by 21%
- New family-friendly Captain Crabbe adventure trails to support family visits
- Pre-school and KS1/2 learning resources revised and relaunched
- AFSM Family Friendly Museum of the Year Award

Preserving and Promoting Suffolk’s Heritage

The Seaside Heritage Project has made a real difference... The volunteers have enjoyed developing the new family-friendly resources... We are delighted that we are now able to welcome more younger visitors to the museum.

Colin Dixon, Chairman, Lowestoft Maritime Museum
I am a Woodwose!

The Association for Suffolk Museums teamed up with Wonderful Beast to explore the legend of the Woodwose. The Woodwose is a curious creature harboured by many Suffolk churches. Believed to date from around the Medieval period, little is known about these enigmatic, wild man and women carvings, which are found primarily on the staves of stone baptismal fonts.

To explore the carvings and bring the legend to a new generation, Wonderful Beast and the AFSM developed ‘I am a Woodwose’, a local historical, environmental, and theatrical outreach project involving:

- Four museums (The Lanman Museum, Saxmundham Museum, Halesworth Museum, and Orford Museum)
- Four churches & four Suffolk woodlands
- Eight rural schools
- 194 school children at KS2 and KS3

Inspired by the Wonderful Beast production ‘The Last Woodwose’, the two-day engagement took children on a cultural and historical journey beginning with visiting local churches and partner museums. Guided by knowledgeable volunteers, they learned about the Medieval period in their local town with workshops on the sights, tastes, sounds and smells of the age. This was followed by a guided creative session at school to translate their experiences into imaginative form.

This culminated in attendance at one of two free schools’ ‘The Last Woodwose’ matinees as part of Wonderful Beast’s touring production in September 2019.

The museum was exciting and fun. I liked the Medieval herbs. I want to come back!

KS2 pupil after the ‘I am a Woodwose’ visit to Saxmundham Museum
Resilient Museums

Since museums are long-term institutions, holders of the three-dimensional record of civilisation and keepers of intergenerational memory, there is a temptation to believe that their institutional form should be, and always will be, stable. MRL holds that this intergenerational ‘duty of care’ is best served through the development of resilient, not merely stable organisations. We define resilience as an adaptive property of individuals and institutions:

**Resilience is more than survival; it is the ability of organisations and individuals to express their core values over time with flexible persistence, to absorb and benefit from the forces of change.**

Such adaptive, flexible resilience, generated through good leadership and characterised by astute governance, diversified assets and plural income streams, is the surest guarantee of cultural institutions fulfilling their intergenerational purpose.

Museums and Resilient Leadership

Collections Review and Rationalisation

Collections Review and Rationalisation was a SHARE funded grant scheme developed to support museums to review and assess the significance of their collections, whilst developing confidence with rationalisation.

Dunwich museum was given support to develop a project to digitise and review the topographical image collection, particularly postcards, which are frequently donated to the museum. The project consisted of clearing the digitisation backlog of accessioned postcards in the collection, digitising and cataloguing the deposits of postcards and carrying out a review and any necessary rationalisation.

The task of clearing the digitisation backlog of the accessioned collection began in March, resulting in 491 objects being digitised over five sessions by two workers. The second task of digitising and cataloguing the Nicholson postcard collection entry began in October and finished in March, with all 218 images digitised over five sessions by five workers. This means that between October 2019 and March 2020, a total of 709 images were digitised.
Visitor Insight East was a SHARE developed scheme, which was aimed at helping small museums with lower numbers of visitors and staff/volunteers, understand who their visitors are and how they felt about their experience at the museum. It also sought to enhance the resilience of smaller organisations through audience reporting, which is not only an accreditation requirement, but a requirement of many funding streams. There are several national schemes available for gathering visitor data e.g. Audience Finder (AF) run by The Audience Agency. In 2019, SHARE supported a cohort of museums to start using VIE over the next few years. Participating museums including Ipswich Transport Museum and Felixstowe Museum received:
- A self-completion survey visitor survey for visitors (paper copies and/or an online version)
- A link to an online survey for their data to be inputted
- A report with their museums’ data contextualising their data next to that of other participating museums

Landguard Governance Review

The Landguard Peninsula welcomes 500,000 visitors a year. Felixstowe Museum and Landguard Fort are situated on this stunning stretch of Suffolk coastline which is also home to a 33-hectare Nature Reserve, designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Landguard Heritage Group is a subset of 5 organisations from the wider Landguard Partnership that are directly involved in the nature and heritage sites that occupy Landguard Peninsula. East Suffolk Council is the lead partner working with English Heritage, Landguard Fort Trust, Landguard Conservation Trust and Felixstowe Museum.

The Landguard Heritage Group Governance Review project is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It is exploring governance and operational partnership models that will enable:
- The volunteer organisations to become more resilient, and the whole site to become more sustainable for the long term
- The heritage assets at Landguard to become better maintained and managed
- Increased organisational capacity for greater local community involvement, including educational providers
- The current organisations and any potential new organisation(s) to be better positioned to become financially sustainable
Summer in Suffolk Museums is an annual marketing and audience development initiative which supports the promotion of family-friendly activities and events in museums throughout the school Summer holidays. In its fourth successful year, in 2019 the project:

- Included 30 museums across Suffolk
- Promoted 120 family-friendly events over 5 weeks
- Distributed 3000 promotional flyers to museums, libraries and children’s centres

AFSM supported audiences to connect with an exciting line-up of activities, workshops, and trails through the online events calendar at suffolkmuseums.org. Digital, social media and hard copy marking was also used to promote the programme. Families Suffolk Magazine, a project partner, featured a Summer in Suffolk Museums pull-out activities map which was delivered to 17,500 school book-bags.
Transforming People to Transform Museums

Transforming People to Transform Museums is supporting 27 trainees to develop core heritage and business development skills in museums across Suffolk. It is supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Skills for the Future programme from 2018 to 2022. The second cohort of 9 trainees were recruited in 2020:

- 4 trainees based in Colchester + Ipswich Museums
- 2 trainees based in Museum of East Anglian Life in Stowmarket
- 1 trainee based in The Long Shop Museum in Leiston
- 2 trainees based in Palace House in Newmarket

Throughout their one-year placement, trainees have developed a wide range of core heritage skills, including research, documentation, conservation and interpretation. They have also learned practical skills required to manage, plan, develop and deliver heritage events and exhibitions.

The trainees have made a real difference to their local communities by applying their new skills to bring about relevant and creative programmes and help secure the future resilience of each museum.

The project is supporting trainees to develop both core heritage and transferable business skills. Working closely with local community groups to recruit young adults from lower socio-economic backgrounds, the project aims to develop and support a more representative and resilient workforce at each museum.

The TPtTM project was a highly rewarding and worthwhile experience. Over the course of the year, I gained countless skills and had the opportunity to work on some amazing exhibitions. Before my traineeship, I didn’t really have a clear idea about what I wanted to do. I had a passion for museums but did not possess any of the traditional museum-related qualifications ... [I] am happy to now be putting the knowledge and skills I gained during my time as a trainee into practice in my new role of Display Assistant at Ipswich Museum.

Charlotte Gay Year 1 Trainee
Suffolk Museum of the Year

The Suffolk Museum of the Year Awards returned this year to celebrate and promote Suffolk Museums. In total, there were 49 entries from 21 museums for the 6 categories. The winners were:

- **SMALL MUSEUM OF THE YEAR:** Bawdsey Radar, Bawdsey
  - Highly commended: Felixstowe Museum
- **LARGE MUSEUM OF THE YEAR:** The Red House, Aldeburgh
- **VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR:** The Natural Science Volunteer Team at Ipswich Museum
  - Highly commended: Elaine Nason, Laxfield Museum
  - Highly commended: Paul Durbidge, Lowestoft Museum
- **FAMILY FRIENDLY AWARD:** Lowestoft Maritime Museum, Lowestoft
- **INNOVATION AWARD:** Ipswich Museum, Ipswich
- **SCHOOLS SESSION AWARD:** Palace House, Newmarket

“This is the best possible prize for the incredible amount of hard work that has been put in over the last 15 years by the team of volunteers.”

Mary Wain, former Chair of Bawdsey Radar Trust
Object of the Year

The public has chosen a Tin of Chocolate Worm Cakes from the Museum of East Anglian Life as Suffolk Museum Object of the Year 2019.

Object of the Year is an annual competition and celebration of the variety and diversity of objects within Suffolk Museums. This year, museum volunteers nominated objects from the varied and fascinating collections at their museums. Members of the public voted online for the winner from a list of seven objects shortlisted from seven museums:

- The Augsberg Clock: Moyse’s Hall Museum
- Hawstead Panels: Ipswich Museum
- Tin of Chocolate Worm Cakes: Museum of East Anglian Life
- British WW2 Experimental Cruise Visor Steel Helmet: Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum
- Viking Side Rudder: Southwold Museum
- Bone Key: West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village
- Surgical Trolley: Palace House

The Tin of Chocolate Worm Cakes used to treat tape worm infestations in humans, especially children. Individual cakes would be purchased straight from the tin and therefore it would have to be eye catching on the shelf. The tin, dated circa 1905, is from a chemist shop in Ipswich called J. Threadkell. The shop ran from 1890-1972.

“The Tin of Chocolate Worm Cakes] deserves to win because it makes people stop and think – perhaps turning a few noses up to start with.”

Volunteer nomination
Local Cultural Education Partnerships

With support from Festival Bridge’s three networks of museums, arts and cultural organisations, creative professionals and educations have been established across Suffolk. Each Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP) is unique.

Within these partnerships, museums work closely alongside 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.

- The Lowestoft Rising LCEP was launched in 2016 and is well established as one of the most successful in the country.
- The Ipswich LCEP was launched at Suffolk One in March 2019.
- Periscope West Suffolk was launched in June 2019 at the International Festival of Learning in Bury St Edmunds.

Raising Aspirations

The young people inspired the older people and the older people inspired the younger people . . . that was just lovely to see.

Volunteer feedback, Lowestoft Folk project.
Lowestoft Folk

From January 2018 to November 2019, Suffolk Artlink commissioned a team of artists including visual artists, creative writers and a musician/composer to work with primary school pupils and care home residents to explore their local heritage, using exhibits and stories found in Lowestoft Museum and the Lowestoft Maritime Museum.

Together, they created cyanotype pictures, reflecting items from the Lowestoft Porcelain collection, and multi-coloured paper ‘Suffolk Puffs’ – inspired by the fabric quilt hanging in the Domestic Room at Lowestoft Museum. At the Maritime Museum, the children were enthralled by the stitched pictures, painted shells, and model boats. They were also fascinated by the nicknames given to sailors and the stories of the lives they led and composed their own, modern-day shanties, including one about 48-hour Millionaires.

The intergenerational groups created beautiful pieces of art, sang songs, learned new skills and remembered some long-forgotten stories, whilst all the time getting to know one another – and having a lot of fun!

A further 240 primary school children, including pupils in the Specialist Unit for Deaf Children at Elm Tree Primary school, enjoyed the original Lowestoft Folk stories, which were commissioned for the project and based on the exhibits and some of the characters in the partner museums.

Women on the Front Line

With support from the AISM, a successful ‘Hidden Histories’ bid of £2700 from SHARE Museums East will allow more of the Women’s Auxiliary Air Force stories to be shared in the permanent displays at Bawdsey Radar.

In 1937, RAF Bawdsey became the first fully operational Radar station in the world and Watson Watt, Superintendent of Bawdsey Research Station, proposed that women should be recruited as RDF (radar) Operators. As a result of this, WAAF personnel chiefly operated the radar stations throughout the war. They were known as Special Duties Clerks and by 1943 there were 7395 of them. However, the voices of the WAAFs are under-represented in the current displays and interpretation. Many of the stories of the women who trained and served at Bawdsey during WWII remain frustratingly hidden in the trust’s collections of watch and service records, written/oral histories and photographs.

The grant from SHARE Museums East will allow:

- The stories to be explored through research
- A permanent addition to the exhibition displays at the Transmitter Block
- Outreach materials and a pilot STEM event
- A first for Bawdsey Radar and for younger audiences in partnership with the Suffolk STEM Ambassador programme.
Preserving and Promoting Suffolk’s Heritage

Members of the Association for Suffolk Museums

**Full members:**
- Aldeburgh Museum
- Bawdsey Radar
- Beccles Museum
- Bentwaters Cold War Museum
- Christchurch Mansion
- Clare Ancient House Museum
- Dunwich Museum
- East Anglia Transport Museum
- Felixstowe Museum
- Gainsborough’s House
- Halesworth Museum
- Little Hall Lavenham
- Lowestoft Maritime Museum
- Mid-Suffolk Light Railway
- Mildenhall Museum
- Moyse’s Hall Museum
- National Trust
- Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum
- Orford Museum
- Palace House
- Southwold Hall
- Suffolk Regiment Museum
- The Long Shop Museum
- The Red House
- West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

**Members:**
- 493rd Bomb Group Museum
- Alfred Corry Lifeboat Museum
- Brandon Heritage Centre
- Clifford Road Air Raid Shelter
- East Anglian Traditional Arts Centre
- East Anglia Transport Museum
- Great War Huts
- Ipswich Maritime Trust
- Landguard Fort Trust
- Lowestoft War Memorial Museum
- Martlesham Heath Control Tower Museum
- Parham Airfield Museum
- RAF Regiment Heritage Centre
- Rougham Control Tower Aviation Museum
- Royal Naval Patrol Service Museum
- Saxmundham Museum
- Southwold Soldiers Reading Room
- Suffolk Aviation Heritage Group
- The Lettering Arts Trust
- The Red Feather Club

**Associate members:**
- Ipswich School Museum & Archives
- Lavenham Guildhall
- The Lydia Eva
- Mincarlo Charitable Trust
- Suffolk Institute of Archaeology & History

Association for Suffolk Museums Management Committee

**Voting members:**
- Cllr Tony Cooper (Chair & East Suffolk Council)
- Alan Wheeler (Vice-Chair & East Suffolk Museums)
- Jayne Austin (Secretary & Suffolk County Council)
- Dr Bob Merrett (Treasurer & East Suffolk Museums)
- Cllr Paul West (Suffolk County Council)
- Cllr Mike Chester (West Suffolk Council)
- Cllr John Nunn (Babergh District Council)
- Cllr Carole Jones (Ipswich Borough Council)
- Cllr Richard Meyer (Mid Suffolk District Council)
- Chris Turland (Chair of ASIM Network & Ipswich Museums)
- Emma Harpur (Babergh Museums)
- Lisa Harris (Mid Suffolk Museums)

**Non-voting members:**
- Jamie Everitt (SHARE Museums East)
- James Steward (Ipswich Borough Council)
- Jenna Ingamells & Tom Beece (Suffolk Museums Partnership)
- Damien Parker, Lizzie Cocker & Lance Alexander (West Suffolk)
- Anita Humphrey (East Suffolk)

**Our partners:**
- Families Suffolk Magazine
- Festival Bridge
- Lowestoft Rising
- Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum
- Suffolk Artlink
- Suffolk Children’s University
- University of Suffolk

**Our funders:**
- Arts Council England
- Lowestoft Rising
- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- SHARE Museums East

**Our project officers:**
- Jayne Austin (Museum Development & Partnership Manager, Suffolk County Council)
- Jenna Ingamells & Tom Beece (Suffolk Museums Partnership, Project Officers)
- Patricia Day (Making Waves Together)
- Seaside Heritage Project Officer, Christina Lister & Miranda Ellis (Freelance Project Officers)

Thank you

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Photo credits:
- Our thanks to Suffolk Museums and partner organisations.