



Works on Paper: Conservation Review and Storage Rationalisation

Museum: Gainsborough's House, Suffolk

Project lead: Peter Moore, Research Curator (peter@gainsborough.org)

Grant amount: £1000

Consultant: Norfolk Museums Conservation and Design Services <http://conserveanddisplay.co.uk/>

Project overview:

With help from the Norfolk Museums Conservation and Design Services team, the museum completed a project of de-framing and storage rationalisation. Unframed works were re-housed in conservation grade boxes, and works were digitised in the process. As a result over 200 previously inaccessible artworks, are now available to view by appointment by the public.

Key outcomes:

- Improved access to artworks in store
- Increased number of works included in digitisation project
- Improved storage
- New skills and knowledge developed in curatorial team
- New local conservation contacts made

Assessing the Significance of Bronze Age Collections

Museum: Flag Fen Archaeology Park

Project lead: Sarah Wilson, Collections and Archives Manager (sarah.wilson@vivacity-peterborough.com)

Grant amount: £1000

Project overview:

Experts were brought in to carry out the reviews, which led to a greater understanding of the significance, condition and research potential of the metal and wood objects within the Flag Fen collections. This information informed a revised conservation plan and programme of treatment for the collections.

Key outcomes:

- Several items were identified as being rare and of local and national/international significance
- Improved written interpretation of the objects on display
- Have identified a potential postgraduate researcher to work on the wooden items
- Improved public access to the collections



Photographic Collection Review and Rationalisation

Museum: Diss Museum

Project lead: Shirley Farrow and Daisy Fearn, Collections Managers (disscollections@gmail.com)

Grant amount: £1000

Consultant: Norfolk Heritage Centre

Project overview:

With advice from Norfolk Heritage Centre staff, the museum identified the key issues involved with working with a photographic collection. An ongoing aim of the project is to speed up retrieval of images, to improve storage, and to digitise the collection.

Key outcomes:

- Improved access to database records
- Improved storage and location control of collection
- Ongoing rationalisation programme
- Working towards Forward Plan objective

Collections Review and Action Planning

Museum: Swaffham Museum

Project lead: Sue Gattuso, Manager (swaffhammuseummanager@gmail.com)

Grant amount: £875

Consultant: Helen Giles (<http://hgmuseumconsultancy.co.uk/>)

Project overview:

The consultant reviewed, photographed, and catalogued 220 objects, entering the data onto a spreadsheet to be imported into the Modes database. The consultant trained volunteers in this methodology, which led to further digital photography training and a rationalisation project. As a result of the work, stores were improved, and a report and action plan were produced.

Key outcomes:

- Forward Plan objective met
- Improved information about collections
- Improved content of database
- Improved conditions in stores



What's in Store? Reviewing social history and art collections

Museum: Royston Museum

Project lead: Jenny Oxley, Curator

Grant amount: £1000

Consultants: Fitzwilliam Museum, Luton Museums

Project overview:

20,000 objects were assessed and reviewed through an extensive audit. As a result, the content of records was improved, conservation and storage needs addressed, digital images taken, and items were identified for disposal or transfer. External expert advice was taken in person, by phone and email. Funds were also used for physically moving collections as well as new boxes.

Key outcomes:

- Forward Plan objective met
- Significant part of the collection digitised
- Improved access to collections
- Greater knowledge of collections
- Improved collections care

Early Film Collection Review

Museum: The Scout Association Heritage Service

Grant amount: £1500

Consultant: Helen Lindsay (<http://helenlindsayconservation.co.uk/>)

Project overview:

An external expert assessed the early film collection to identify any issues with the condition and storage of the films. The project also aimed to improve documentation of all AV collections, and to work towards their digitisation. 900 CDs/DVDs were added to the catalogue, as well as 478 items from the early film collections. A detailed report was produced by the consultant.

Key outcomes:

- Forward Plan objectives met
- Improved knowledge of AV collection and content
- Storage improvement plan in place
- Items identified for rationalisation
- Increased use of collection for communications and PR



Review and Audit of Small Finds Archaeology Collection

Museum: West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village

Project Lead: Laura Hunn, Collections Officer (laura.hunn@westsuffolk.gov.uk)

Grant Amount: £989

Project Overview:

Led by an early career museum professional, the project saw 246 objects added to the collections management database. These items were labelled, repacked and photographed. As part of the project, a team of volunteers received training in object handling, packing, labelling, and museum documentation. Archival information was reorganised and repacked.

Key outcomes:

- Improved access to objects and information
- Digitisation of collection
- Forward plan objectives met
- Increased volunteer participation
- Improved storage