



'It's about time'

In this term's edition of the newsletter, we tell you about a recent project looking at migration from Norfolk to North America, and schools celebrating their anniversaries.



History Club members finding out about families from Kettlestone.

Migration project

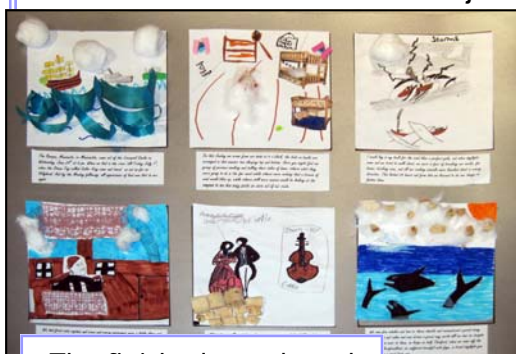
In January and February 2012, staff from Education and Outreach delivered four sessions to members of the Thetford Museum of Ancient Life History Club. The club consists of 11 young people aged eight to 13. The sessions focused on migration to North America during the nineteenth century and the young people will use the information to create a panel, which will form part of the American Trail.

Two of the sessions concentrated on push and pull factors for people to migrate from Norfolk to North America. The young people listened to a recording of a letter by Hannah Edwards, in which she talks about how her husband had left her and her two children to go to New York, taking all the money with him. They also looked at the case of forty people from Kettlestone who migrated to Quebec, Canada in 1836. They put each of the individuals into their family groups, and then looked in the 1861 Canadian census to see if they were still there at that date. The young people also looked at letters from Norfolk citizens living in North America, and considered the reasons they were staying. They used a map to plot all the places where one of these emigrants had stopped in before finding work. Next, they looked at a couple of newspaper articles which talked about the demand for labourers in Canada, along with an advertisement for a ship going to Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and Montreal. Finally, they had a plenary session in which they listed the push and pull factors for moving to North America.



Creating a timeline of what happens to documents in our care.

The final session looked at the journey across the sea. The young people listened to a letter by Thomas Cook, about the journey, including information about the storms they encountered, the entertainment on the ship and sighting whales and other wildlife. Each of the young people was given an extract from the letter in which to draw the scene. These scenes were then put together to form a storyboard of the journey.

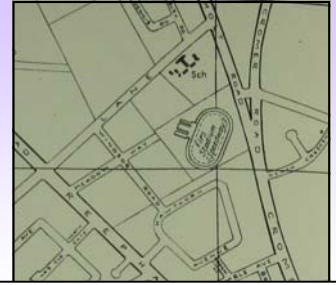


The finished storyboard

We are hoping to make all the documents and templates which were used in these sessions available online, so that schools and extended schools can make use of the materials and re-run the sessions themselves. Please keep an eye on our website, or contact the Education and Outreach Officer for further details.

Firside Junior School celebrates 75 years

Firside Junior School are celebrating their 75th anniversary this year, the building having opened as Hellesdon Central School in 1937. In order to research this, they have asked us to produce a pack containing images of the school and surrounding area. The pack includes: The Firs speedway track, from which the school takes its name, the opening of the school, the building of the surrounding estates and the nearby airport in use as an American Base during the Second World War.



Map showing The Firs speedway track, from the 1975 Trade directory.



Photograph of Hellesdon Central School, 1937.

We have also visited the school to give a workshop for Year 5 pupils on using documents to research the history of the building and the area. During the workshop, we concentrated on the building of the school in 1937, looking into recruiting staff, the building itself and the opening ceremony. The class are now working on producing written pieces for the school's celebratory book, and a large piece of artwork where the pupils will contribute to a textile based on the history of Hellesdon/Firside. There will also be mini radio broadcasts with ex-pupils.

Gunton Resource

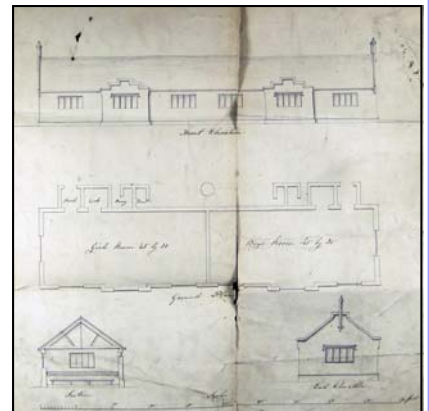
You may remember that in last term's edition of *Its about time* we gave details about two extended schools sessions looking at the Gunton estate. We have now produced five PDFs which can be downloaded to help you run these sessions yourselves.

Each of the sessions include the documentary sources, templates and a list of the materials you need to re-create the activities, and background information into the context of the estate and related material. If you use the material we would love to hear from you. We hope you enjoy finding out more about the Gunton estate.

Dereham St Nicholas Primary School celebrates 200 years

After reading about the project which we carried out with Erpingham in 2011, we were approached by the headteacher of Dereham St Nicholas Junior School, who are celebrating their 200th anniversary in 2012.

The school plan to look at the history of the school in Autumn 2012, and have already started working with us to identify useful material.



Plan of East Dereham National School, 1840. NRO, P/BG 27.

Our new-look website is now live. Please checkout the e-resources and learning-for-all pages for past newsletters, information and resources to use in your classroom.



If you need '*It's about time*' in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format

or in a different language, please contact the County Archivist on 01603 222599 and we will do our best to help.

Norfolk Record Office
The Archive Centre, Martineau Lane,
Norwich, NR1 2DQ

Tel: (01603) 222599

Fax: (01603) 761885

E-mail: norfrec@norfolk.gov.uk

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