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Choristers welcome the Natural History Museum's Dippy the dinosaur to Norwich Cathedral

He was the first *Diplodocus* to go on display anywhere in the world and now he is taking centre stage in the Nave of Norwich Cathedral.

Dippy, the Natural History Museum's iconic dinosaur cast, has taken up residence at the Cathedral for the final stop on his nationwide touring exhibition Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure.

Ahead of the exhibition opening to the public this afternoon, some of the Cathedral's choristers were among the first to enjoy a glimpse of Dippy. They celebrated his arrival by singing Rutter's All Things Bright and Beautiful around Dippy before nine-year-old chorister Ralph Lambert-John performed the all-important task of putting the final bone in place on the skeleton assisted by Philippa Charles, the Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation.

Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure is being brought to Norwich Cathedral and visitors across the UK by the Natural History Museum in partnership with the Garfield Weston Foundation and supported by Dell EMC and Williams & Hill. Norwich Cathedral is the eighth and final stop on the tour and Barratt and Cooke is the regional sponsor for the exhibition.

The Nave of the 900-year-old Norman Cathedral will be Dippy's home for nearly four months, with the Dippy on Tour exhibition running from Tuesday 13 July 2021 until Saturday 30 October 2021.

The Dean of Norwich, the Very Revd Jane Hedges, said: "We are absolutely delighted to welcome the Natural History Museum's Dippy the dinosaur cast to Norwich Cathedral. It really is quite incredible to see this amazing prehistoric creature stretching out amongst the beautiful architecture of the Cathedral's Norman Nave.

"Throughout the centuries, Naves have traditionally always been places that have hosted all kinds of community events and we hope that Dippy's stay here will bring great joy to all who come to see him.

"We hope people will have a lot of fun with Dippy's visit and that there will also be serious conversations too, about important issues such the relationship between science and faith and also about how we can all play our part to protect our planet for the future.

"Bringing Dippy to Norwich Cathedral has been a real team effort, and we would like to say a big thank you to the Natural History Museum and the many different organisations across Norwich and the wider region who have helped to make Dippy's visit possible."

Doug Gurr, Director of London's Natural History Museum, said: "We are thrilled to be bringing Dippy to Norwich Cathedral for the eighth and final stop of Dippy on Tour.

"We are incredibly proud to say that Dippy has been visited by over 1.7M people creating record visitor numbers and social and economic benefits for every venue of the nationwide tour so far.

"There are important lessons to be learnt from Dippy. The dinosaurs were the victims of a mass extinction event similar to the one we may very well be entering now as we face a planetary emergency.

"We hope that at Norwich Cathedral Dippy will once again educate and inspire visitors to foster a long-term respect for the natural world and create a future where both people and planet thrive."

Philippa Charles, Director of the Garfield Weston Foundation, said: "We are overjoyed that Dippy is finally able to conclude his national adventure in the iconic Norwich Cathedral, and get back to his mission to inspire people to explore the nature on their doorstep. Dippy's purpose has never had more importance and we are so pleased that Norwich Cathedral is enabling people to visit Dippy safely."

Culture Minister Caroline Dinenage said: "Dippy has been wowing audiences all across the country and I am pleased that for the final stop of his nationwide tour he will visit the ancient Norwich Cathedral. As we build back better from the pandemic, Dippy will help to attract visitors to the region and boost the local economy."

Dippy took centre stage in the Natural History Museum's Hintze Hall for many years before embarking on the current UK tour.

The iconic 26 metre-long (84ft) giant is a plaster of Paris replica based on the fossilised bones of a *Diplodocus* found in 1899 by railroad workers in Wyoming, USA. At the time, newspapers billed the discovery as the 'most colossal animal ever on Earth' and the sheer scale of the *Diplodocus*, which roamed the planet 155 to 145 million years ago during the Late Jurassic period, continues to fascinate people the world over.

Dippy – whose replica skeleton features 292 bones (if his skull and jaw are counted as one) - was created between 1903 and 1904, and first arrived at the Natural History Museum in London in 1905. He was unveiled to the public on Friday 12 May 1905 and was the first *Diplodocus* to go on display anywhere in the world. The original *Diplodocus carnegii* fossil on which he is based first went on display in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, USA, two years later in 1907 and is still on display there today.

Since Dippy left his London home and embarked on his Natural History Adventure tour in 2018, he has visited Dorset County Museum, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Ulster Museum, Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow, Great North Museum: Hancock, Newcastle upon Tyne, National Museum Cardiff and Rochdale's Number One Riverside.

His final stop on his tour is perhaps his most unique, as his visit to Norwich Cathedral will be the first time Dippy has ever been displayed inside a Cathedral.

The Dippy on Tour exhibition at Norwich Cathedral opens to the general public at 1pm today (Tuesday 13 July). Visitors start their Dippy on Tour experience from the Dark Entry of the

Cathedral's Cloister and, before coming face-to-face with Dippy, step back into the age of the dinosaurs via a time tunnel created by Norwich School and pupils from other local primary schools.

They can take a closer look at fossils kindly loaned by Norfolk Museums Service and walk through an immersive wave sculpture of more than 1,000 fish created by Norfolk-based artist Mark Reed and called *Your Waves Go Over Me*.

In the Cathedral's Nave, Dippy stands among the stunning 900-year-old architecture, with the iconic 26m dinosaur cast stretching out to face the Cathedral's Great West Door.

Dippy's nationwide tour aims to inspire people to engage with nature, to think about the great diversity of life that has lived on Earth, and to consider our own footprint on the planet. As the only Cathedral on Dippy's tour, Dippy's Norwich visit also aims to spark conversations about science and faith.

Norfolk-based artist Rebecca Osborne draws upon some of these themes in a series of illustrated panels created especially for the Norwich stop on Dippy's tour, meanwhile there is a display of green hearts created by Norfolk WI members that aim to encourage everyone to think about the Earth's future and help combat climate change. People are also being encouraged to make their own individual pledge to help protect the planet.

Also in the Nave, children can have fun spotting Dippy's footprints to find some of Dippy's fellow dinosaurs and learn some facts about dinosaurs and Norwich Cathedral.

Outside in The Close, people can learn more about some of Dippy's closest living relatives – birds – thanks to the Hawk and Owl Trust who have a stand in the Cathedral Close where people can find out more about the peregrine falcons that have made the Norwich Cathedral spire their home.

Running alongside the main exhibition, there is a special programme of Dippy-inspired events for dinosaur fans of all ages. These include Saturday Stories, where children can enjoy hearing dinosaur tales told under the tail of Dippy, a Talkative Tuesdays series of evening talks focussing on the encounter between faith and science through the ages, and a Fun Thursdays programme featuring everything from film nights to organ recitals and art and photography evenings.

The Dippy on Tour exhibition opens to the public from 1pm on Tuesday 13 July, and from then on it will usually be open six days a week until Saturday 30 October 2021. The opening times will be 10am-4pm Monday to Friday and 9.30am to 5.30pm on Saturdays. From Friday 30 July, people will also be able to visit Dippy every Friday evening from 7pm until 9pm.

Entry to the Dippy on Tour exhibition at Norwich Cathedral will be free and there will be no need to book in advance (unless part of a group of more than six people), although people may need to queue during busy periods. Norwich Cathedral and the Natural History Museum are working together closely to ensure that visitors will be able to enjoy the exhibition safely and visitors will need to adhere to the latest Covid regulations at all times.

Dippy's home in the east is also a busy working Cathedral and the Cathedral's daily pattern of worship will continue throughout Dippy's visit. The Dippy exhibition will be closed on Sundays and there will also be other occasions when opening times may vary. All the latest details will be made available on the Dippy pages of the Cathedral website.

The east end of the Cathedral will also continue to be open daily for general Cathedral visitors and those who wish to explore more of the Cathedral before or after they have seen Dippy.

Dippy had originally been due to go on display in Norwich Cathedral in Summer 2020 but his visit was rescheduled to January to March 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic before being postponed to Summer 2021.

For all the latest details about Dippy on Tour: A Natural History Adventure at Norwich Cathedral, visit cathedral.org.uk

Notes to editors

For more information about Dippy on Tour at Norwich Cathedral, interviews and hi-res photographs of the exhibition, please contact Norwich Cathedral's marketing and communications manager Emma Knights via eknights@cathedral.org.uk or 07968 460963.

A timelapse film of Dippy being built in the Cathedral is also available on request.

About the Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum exists to inspire a love of the natural world and unlock answers to the big issues facing humanity and the planet. It is a world-leading science research centre, and through its unique collection and unrivalled expertise, it is tackling issues such as food security, eradicating diseases and managing resource scarcity.

The Natural History Museum is the most visited natural history museum in Europe and the top science attraction in the UK; we welcome around five million visitors each year and our website receives over 850,000 unique visitors a month. People come from around the world to enjoy our galleries and events and engage both in-person and online with our science and educational activities through innovative programmes and citizen science projects.

Dippy on Tour

In partnership with the Garfield Weston Foundation

Established over 60 years ago in 1958, the [Garfield Weston Foundation](#) is a family-founded, grant-making charity which supports causes across the UK and, in the most recent financial year, gave over £99million. Since it was established, it has exceeded donations of more than £1billion, of which well over half has been given in the past ten years.

One of the most respected charitable institutions in the UK, the Weston Family Trustees are descendants of the founder and they take a highly active and hands-on approach. The Foundation's funding comes from an endowment of shares in the family business which includes Twinings, Primark, Kingsmill (all part of Associated British Foods Plc) and Fortnum & Mason, amongst others – a successful model that still endures today; as the businesses have grown, so too have the charitable donations.

Known for its transparency, flexibility and straightforward approach, the Foundation supports a broad range of charities from small community organisations to large national institutions. Around 2,000 charities across the UK benefit each year from the Foundation's grants.

Tour Sponsors

DELL EMC

Dell EMC, a part of Dell Technologies, enables organizations to modernize, automate and transform their data center using industry-leading converged infrastructure, servers, storage and data protection technologies. This provides a trusted foundation for businesses to transform IT, through the creation of a hybrid cloud, and transform their business through the creation of cloud-native applications and big data solutions. As a supplier of the Natural History Museum, Dell EMC technology has supported the work of its scientists for many years. Through Dippy on Tour, Dell EMC and the Natural History Museum have the opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists and encourage them to engage with the natural world. The digital world has a huge role to play in this, and the web app Dippy's Natureonauts created as part of this partnership, demonstrates the role online and mobile technology can play in encouraging people to explore the outside world.

Williams & Hill

Williams & Hill have built up a reputation for excellence by firmly establishing themselves as the leading 'Specialised Transporter of Fine Art, Antiques, Design Furniture and Decorative Objects'. With a highly experienced team working for the world's major galleries and exhibition venues – they have a true understanding of the requirements for methodical care, consideration and appreciation of whatever may be in their care. No two days are the same, and the excitement of working in their own ever changing art gallery never fades. williamsandhill.com

Lead Regional Sponsor

Barratt and Cooke

Founded in 1880 and based in the heart of Norwich, Barratt and Cooke is one of the oldest independently-owned stockbrokers in the country. With approximately £1.5bn of funds under management, Barratt and Cooke focus on providing a personal portfolio management service to private clients, charities and trusts. www.barrattandcooke.co.uk

Tour venues and partners

Dorset County Museum is one of the leading independent, charitable, heritage organisations in the Southwest of England. It has a learned Society with 2000 members and receives over 47,000 visitors a year. Its diverse collections contain over 4 million objects including internationally significant geology, archaeology and literary collections. The Museum is a registered charity and operates independently with financial support from Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council. In May 2015 the Museum was awarded £11.3million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable an ambitious redevelopment project. dorsetcountymuseum.org

The Jurassic Coast was designated England's only natural World Heritage Site in 2001. Day to day site Management of the Jurassic Coast is the work of the **Jurassic Coast Trust**, a small independent charity with a huge remit. The Trust works to inspire people to love, understand and value the Jurassic Coast, and was instrumental in bringing Dippy down to Dorset in collaboration with the County Museum. jurassiccoast.org

Birmingham Museums Trust is an independent charity that manages the city's museum collection and venues on behalf of Birmingham City Council. It uses the collection of around 800,000 objects to provide a wide range of arts, cultural and historical experiences, events and activities that deliver accessible learning, creativity and enjoyment for citizens and visitors to the city. Attracting over one million visits a year, the Trust's venues include Aston Hall, Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Blakesley Hall, Museum Collections Centre, Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, Sarehole Mill, Soho House, Thinktank and Weoley Castle. birminghammuseums.org.uk

Come face to face with dinosaurs, meet an Ancient Egyptian Mummy and see modern masterpieces with a visit to the **Ulster Museum**. As Northern Ireland's treasure house of the past and present, the museum is home to a rich collection of art, history and natural sciences and free to all visitors. The Ulster Museum, part of National Museums Northern Ireland, welcomes nearly half a million visitors annually. nmni.com/um

Glasgow Life is the charity which runs services and facilities on behalf of Glasgow City Council. We work in every area of the city and with every community to try and inspire Glasgow's citizens and visitors to lead richer and more active lives through culture, sport and learning. More than 18 million attendances were recorded to the facilities that we run across the city between 2015 and 2016. Glasgow Museums is the largest museum service in the UK outside London and operates nine easy to reach, accessible and family friendly venues across the city. We are open year-round and entry is free. Glasgow Museums house an extraordinary permanent collection of fine art, historic objects and natural history exhibited in some of Glasgow's most stunning public buildings. glasgowlife.org.uk

Great North Museum: Hancock is managed by Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums on behalf of Newcastle University. The Museum brings together the North East's premier collections of archaeology, natural history, geology and world cultures under one roof. It incorporates collections from the original Hancock Museum, Newcastle University's former Museum of Antiquities and the Shefton Museum. The Great North Museum is a partnership between Newcastle University, Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums, Newcastle City Council, the Natural History Society of Northumbria (NHSN) and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne (SANT). greatnorthmuseum.org.uk

Situated in the heart of Cardiff's elegant civic centre, **National Museum Cardiff** houses Wales's national art, geology and natural history collections as well as major touring and temporary exhibitions. On the ground floor of the museum, take an amazing journey in The Evolution of Wales from the very beginnings of time to the present day. The story begins in space with the Big Bang and takes you on a 4,600 million-year journey, bringing you face to face with dinosaurs and woolly mammoths along the way. Witness Wales's diverse natural history on an expedition that begins at the seashore and ends in the mountains. Experience some of the unique environments that make Wales home to over 900 Sites of Special Scientific Interest. The art collection at National Museum Cardiff is one of Europe's finest and includes five hundred years of magnificent paintings, drawings, sculpture, silver and ceramics from Wales and across the world, including one of Europe's best collections of Impressionist art.

Rochdale Borough Council is a local authority in the North West of England which serves more than 200,000 residents. Sitting in the foothills of the Pennines and close to the major cities of Manchester and Leeds, the council is playing a key role in the Northern Powerhouse, and its priorities are people, place and prosperity. Link4Life is the Rochdale Boroughwide Cultural Trust, delivering leisure and cultural provision across the Rochdale borough, including the award-winning arts and heritage centre, Touchstones Rochdale. rochdale.gov.uk

Norwich Cathedral is a Christian presence in the heart of Norfolk and the Diocese of Norwich. It began, over 900 years ago, as the Cathedral church of a Benedictine Monastery, built to inspire by its sheer size and magnificence. The Cathedral continues to fill today's visitors with a sense of awe and wonder. The primary purpose of a Cathedral is to be a place of Christian worship. It was at the centre of the monastery and the focus of the monks' most important work, the worship of God. Norwich Cathedral is also the focus of both city and county life. As well as playing host to special civic and legal services, it is also a setting for concerts, talks, exhibitions, degree ceremonies and other community events. cathedral.org.uk