

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Agenda

**Monday, 9th November, 2015
at 2.15 pm**

in the

**Committee Suite
King's Court
Chapel Street
King's Lynn**



If you require parts of this document in another language, large print, audio, Braille or any alternative format please contact the Council Information Centre on 01553 616200 and we will do our best to help.

LATVIAN

Ja Jums nepieciešamas daļas no šī dokumenta citā valodā, lielā drukā, audio, Braila rakstā vai alternatīvā formātā, lūdzu, sazinieties ar Padomes informācijas centru (Council Information Centre) pa 01553 616200 un mēs centīsimies Jums palīdzēt.

RUSSIAN

Если вам нужны части этого документа на другом языке, крупным шрифтом, шрифтом Брайля, в аудио- или ином формате, обращайтесь в Информационный Центр Совета по тел.: 01553 616200, и мы постараемся вам помочь.

LITHUANIAN

Jei pageidaujate tam tikros šio dokumento dalies kita kalba, dideliu šriftu, Brailio raštu, kitu formatu ar norite užsisakyti garso įrašą, susisiekite su Savivaldybės informacijos centru (Council Information Centre) telefonu 01553 616200 ir mes pasistengsime jums kiek įmanoma padėti.

POLISH

Jeśli pragną Państwo otrzymać fragmenty niniejszego dokumentu w innym języku, w dużym druku, w formie nagrania audio, alfabetem Braille'a lub w jakimkolwiek innym alternatywnym formacie, prosimy o kontakt z Centrum Informacji Rady pod numerem 01553 616200, zaś my zrobimy, co możemy, by Państwu pomóc.

PORTUGUESE

Se necessitar de partes deste documento em outro idioma, impressão grande, áudio, Braille ou qualquer outro formato alternativo, por favor contacte o Centro de Informações do Município pelo 01553 616200, e faremos o nosso melhor para ajudar.



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX
Telephone: 01553 616200
Fax: 01553 691663

**KING'S LYNN AND WEST
NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS
COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**DATE: KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 9TH
NOVEMBER, 2015**

**VENUE: COMMITTEE SUITE, KING'S COURT, CHAPEL
STREET, KING'S LYNN**

TIME: 2.15 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES (Pages 7 - 17)

The Committee is invited to confirm as a correct record the notes of the previous meeting held on 14 September 2015.

3. MATTERS ARISING

To consider any matters arising.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.

5. **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS AND LEARNING** (Pages 18 - 22)

To consider the King's Lynn Museum Report.

6. **TRUE'S YARD MUSEUM ACTIVITY REPORT** (Pages 23 - 25)

To consider the True's Yard Museum Activity Report.

7. **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016**

To agree the schedule of dates below for meetings in 2016:

- Monday 14 March 2016, 2.15 pm, Committee Suite, King's Court.
- Monday 13 June 2016, 2.15 pm, Committee Suite, King's Court
- Monday 26 September 2016, 2.15 pm, Committee Suite, King's Court.

8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To note the date of the next meeting is 14 March 2016, 2.15 pm, Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

To: Members of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Councillors Agnew, Coke, Collis, M Chenery of Horsburgh, Howling, H Humphrey, Mrs E Nockolds, T Smith, A Tyler, T Wing-Pentelow and Mrs A Wright

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Chairman, Joint Museums Committee – Councillor J Ward

Vice-Chairman, Joint Museums Committee – Councillor J Bracey

Co-opted Non Voting Members

Friends of King's Lynn Museums

Chairman, Mr B Howling

True's Yard Fishing Heritage Museum

Ms L Bavin, Museum Manager

Officers

Mr T Shaw, Norfolk County Council

Mr R Hanley, Head of Operations and Learning

Mr S Miller, Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Mr T Humphrey, Tourism Manager, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

For Further information, please contact:

Wendy Vincent
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
King's Court, Chapel Street
King's Lynn PE30 1EX

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 14th September, 2015 at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs E A Nockolds (Chairman)
Councillors H Humphrey, T Smith, A Tyler, T Wing-Pentelow and Mrs A Wright

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| Dr R Hanley | – | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Ms H Jackson | – | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Ms R Farnan | – | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Ms M Bell | - | Norfolk Museums Service |
| Ms L Bavey | – | Manager, Trues Yard Museum |
| Mr T Humphreys | – | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk |

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Coke and Collis, Ward and Mr S Miller

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs E Nockolds be appointed Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: That County Councillor H Humphrey be appointed Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

3 MINUTES

The notes of the previous meeting held on 16 March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There was none.

5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

6 REPORT OF THE WESTERN AREA MANAGER

The Head of Operations and Learning and Western Area Operations Manager jointly presented the report which provided information on King's Lynn Museum activities for the period February to August 2015 and highlighted the following points:

Temporary exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

The current major exhibition at Lynn Museum explored the life and work of Frederick Savage and was entitled *Art of the Mart: Savage's – the famous fairground makers of Lynn*. The exhibition was opened on 25 July 2015 by the Mayor of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. It told the story of King's Lynn iconic creator of merry-go-rounds – including a close look at the art, craft and design of the fairground. The exhibition included the modern 'Mart' horse, and the bell used in the Opening Ceremony in February, on loan from the Town Hall collections.

The previous major temporary exhibition *1914-2014: King's Lynn and the First World War* ran until 6 June 2015. Marking the centenary of the outbreak of the Great War, the exhibition explored the town's experience, including damage caused by Zeppelin raids, the Home Front and the role that local businesses played in the war effort. The exhibition features a broad range of collections including costume, ephemera and Zeppelin fragments.

A small travelling version of this World War One exhibition had been created and had been loaned to a number of community venues including schools in Upwell and Emneth.

From the 12 June until 12 July 2015, the Lynn Museum showed *Trading Stories: A century of shops, crafts and trade*. This exhibition was an enhanced version of the *Shops and Shopping* travelling exhibition produced by the Fens Museums Partnership as part of the HLF-funded *Fenland Lives & Land* project. Graphic panels featuring photographs of historic Lynn shopfronts used in the display had now been passed to colleagues at the Borough Council to support the promotion of the Townscape Heritage Initiative in the town.

A programme of illustrated talks continued to be offered at Lynn Museum on Wednesday afternoons. Recent topics had included *Hidden Histories*, *The First Official First World War Artist and the History of Lynn Museum*. Attendances averaged 15-25 and most talks were delivered by NMS staff.

An enhanced programme of informal family learning events continued to be offered at the Lynn Museum. Recent 'drop-in' format events had included:

- *Carousels and Candy Floss* – 17 February (66 participants).
- *Dinosaurs* – 31 March (210 participants)
- *Romans and Iceni* – 7 April (70 participants)
- *Waterloo* – 26 May (45 participants)
- *Seahenge* – 28 July (48 participants)
- *Egyptians* – 4 August (44 participants)
- *Treasure* – 11 August (72 participants)
- *Vikings* – 18 August (108 participants)
- *Dinosaurs* – 25 August (126 participants)

An additional Fairground event for families was held on 25 July, to mark the opening of the *Art of the Mart* exhibition (50 participants). During the school holidays the Lynn Museum continued offer a popular programme of themed gallery discovery trails, with a new trail available for each week of the school holidays.

The Lynn Museum continued to host monthly “coffee morning” style events for adults, with each session exploring a different aspect of the collections.

The reception case at Lynn Museum had seen displays of acquisitions made with festival support from the Friends, two displays featuring the King’s Lynn Festival, a display of Victorian Roller skates, and a display of a Rudham dirk, a large ceremonial Bronze Age dagger on loan from Norwich Castle Museum.

Other Museum Developments

NMS staff had been supporting Borough Council colleagues with recent improvements to the King’s Lynn bus station, including new interpretation. New exterior signage will be installed on the front of the Lynn Museum following the completion of bus station improvements and following consultation with the Borough Council’s Conservation Officer. The reception for the opening event for the Bus Station on 30 July was held at Lynn Museum, with some forty guests in attendance. The completed bus station works offered benefits to the Museum and its users, with an improved external environment including additional paved areas, seating and trees.

The Lynn Museum continued to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being maintained by staff. At the end of August 2015, there were 1228 Twitter followers (729 August 14) and 199 Facebook followers (131 August 2014).

A team of collections volunteers continued to meet on a weekly basis in the NMS offices at Queen Street. Volunteers had continued with a programme of work involving the scanning and cataloguing of the drawing collections. Volunteers from the team were nominated for SHARE Museums East Volunteer Awards in the ‘going the extra mile award’ and the ‘behind the scenes award’. The team had now scanned

around 2,000 items from the Museum's prints and drawings collection helping to make them much more accessible.

In addition to the scanning project, a small team of volunteers was working with Curatorial Assistant Dayna Woolbright on a weekly basis, undertaking an audit of collections at the museums stores at Aickmans Yard. They had been joined by a local artist who had been creating drawings of different objects. The drawings had been displayed on social media and would form part of an exhibition in the reception display case scheduled for the autumn.

The Museum had been successful in obtaining grant funding of £1,160 from the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards, supporting the conservation of two newly acquired portraits in poor condition. The Friends of the King's Lynn Museum and two private donors were also contributing to the costs.

Lynn Museum would feature in an edition of the TV programme Antiques Road to be screened early in the New Year.

Friends of King's Lynn Museums

The Friends were continuing to offer a varied programme for members including lunchtime talks, trips and an annual lecture. The Friends would continue to support the afternoon talks programme being offered at the Lynn Museum during 2015.

The Friends were continuing to fund a programme of fine art conservation, most recently the cockerel drawing for the Art of the Mart exhibition and support for the conservation of the portraits of John and Elizabeth Langley.

A display to promote the work of the Museum Friends was exhibited in the display case in the Lynn Museum reception area. This included a number of recent acquisitions, together with fine art conserved with support from the Friends.

A Junior Friends of the King's Lynn Museum scheme had been launched and members of the Friends Committee had been attending the summer family events to invite children and young people to join. So far, there were 37 new members.

Councillor Humphrey commented that the travelling exhibition went to a school in Emneth. 4 or 5 children were trained to talk about and it proved very useful and enjoyable.

Councillor Smith stated that he went along to the opening of the Mart Exhibition and felt that congratulations should be sent to all the staff involved with that exhibition. The Western Area Operations Manager stated that she would make sure that the comments were passed on to colleagues involved with the exhibition.

Partnerships

The Lynn Museum free admission period ran from October to the end of March. This free admission period was provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.

NMS continued to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the HLF-funded *Stories of Lynn* project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. As well as being part of the project steering group and Project Board, NMS continued to lead on the development and delivery of the project Activity Plan and the development of exhibition designs and site interpretation.

NMS was hosting the two *Stories of Lynn* project funded posts, the Project Curator (12 months) and the Learning & Engagement Officer (48 months). Both continued to work closely with colleagues from the Borough Council and the Norfolk Records Office, alongside the external designers responsible for developing the new exhibitions at the Town Hall.

Partnership working with the Borough Council this summer included the delivery of two major town events, Magna Carta 800 which ran on the weekend of 13-14 June (810 participants at Lynn Museum) and Lynn at War: Life on the Home Front which took place on the 19 July (884 participants at Lynn Museum). To support the range of activities taking place across the town centre, the Museum offered costumed re-enactments and a variety of other activities including the striking of a replica King John penny, object handling, crafts and trails.

The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continued to operate under the terms of the 2015-16 SLA with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continued to provide curatorial advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia.

The Museum had been working in partnership with King's Lynn Festival. Teaching Museum trainee Morgan Bell liaised with Daniel Brown, an intern from the King's Lynn Festival office, to produce two displays for the museum reception case.

Learning & Outreach

During 2015 the Lynn Museum would be hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeship provided through the NMS *Teaching Museum* programme, funded by ACE as part of the 2015-18 Major Partner Museum ACE business plan. Morgan Bell was appointed to this position and started in April. She was working as a Curatorial Trainee for King's Lynn and Thetford. Amongst a range of other activities, she

helped coordinate the summer trails programme, supervised collections volunteers and scheduled displays in the museum reception area.

Lynn Museum continued to work with local schools to deliver a broad range of formal learning sessions. Learning programmes had been adapted following recent changes to the history National Curriculum. A recent partnership with local schools saw a project to decorate small wooden horses in connection with the Art of the Mart exhibition at Lynn Museum. The horses had been mounted on a turntable to form a colourful merry-go-round exhibit.

The Head of Operating and Learning then invited Ruth Farnan to outline the programme of activities.

Councillor Mrs Wright asked what the 6 topics would be in the lectures. In response, the Learning and Engagement Officer explained that there were still to be confirmed but might cover Civic Regalia, King John Cup and Medieval townscape.

The Chairman added that the Learning and Engagement Officer had been working hard with many community groups. She also added that it was good to see the display of drawings from the Purfleet Trust.

The Head of Operating and Learning invited Morgan Bell to outline some of the areas she had been involved with.

Visitor Numbers

The visitor numbers were tabled.

It was reported that with regards to town centre events, visitors had been encouraged to move around various places within the town. It was noted that it not only helped the Museum service but all businesses within the town.

Councillor Humphrey stated that it was pleasing to see the trainees going on to full-time employment.

The Chairman referred to the Fenland Lives and Land, and asked whether there would be any further HLF funding to put another one on. The Head of Operations and Learning explained that options were being reviewed but the Museums Service was always keen to support the Fenland Partnership.

Councillor Smith asked whether consideration had been given to being able to buy one ticket to visit all King's Lynn attractions, for example Lynn Museum, Trues Yard, Southgates and Red Mount.

The Chairman explained that once people visited the Town Hall there would be a hub which would direct people to other activities within King's Lynn.

The Tourism Manager explained that a joint ticket was something that had been thought about for many years but the Discover King's Guide covered all sites. He added that the four main sites and Maritime Trail all promoted the voucher scheme.

The Head of Operating and Learning added that as part of the Stories of Lynn Project, a mobile app would be developed which would take people from the Town Hall to other sites in town.

The Head of Operating and Learning drew the Committee's attention to paragraph 5.4 of the report and explained that over the summer, the Museum participated in a high profile youth engagement project in partnership with the national organisation 'Kids in Museums' utilising funding derived from the Heritage Lottery Fund's Young Roots programme. The 'Teen Take' project entailed young people from King's Lynn Museums Youth Forum and members of the Teenage History Club at Thetford's Ancient House Museum making a film with the support of professional film makers. Following museum study visits in August, the young people gave their considered opinions on each other's museums with the aim of encouraging greater levels of access and engagement by teenage audiences. The project was overseen by Learning Officer Melissa Hawker and Stories of Lynn Learning and Engagement Officer, Ruth Farnan. A premier of the film took place in Thetford on 2 September and the film would now be circulated to museums across the region.

The Committee then watched the film.

It was reported that there was another project in the pipeline and it was hoped that the good news would spread and encourage more young people to join.

The Chairman then asked the Manager from Trues Yard for an update. It was explained that next year the museum would be 25 years old and she explained the activities that would be taking place.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

7

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Tourism Manager presented a report which provided an update on the Borough Council's tourism marketing and development activities since 2015 and highlighted the following areas:

Destination Marketing Campaign

2015 West Norfolk Holiday Guide

The 2015 brochure campaign had progressed well. To the end of August around 35,000 copies had been sent to people requesting the brochure through the advertising campaign, around 10,000 to TIC's nationally and 13,000 copies through West Norfolk TIC and local events. Further campaigns running in September and October would see a further 11,000 distributed with the balance of 6,000 continuing to be distributed through Tourist Information Centres.

2016 West Norfolk Holiday Guide

Work is underway on production of the 2016 guide. Advertising rate cards were sent out on 1st September. The new format introduced for 2015 would be continued and the print run of 75,000 will continue.

www.visitwestnorfolk.com

Traffic to the website www.visitwestnorfolk.com had continued to increase in 2015. This had seen the Hunstanton and King's Lynn pages become the most viewed pages, ahead of the home page which reflected work done to improve search rankings for these terms.

When asked which themes/activities were of most interest to website visitors in 2015, the coast and beaches were ranked slightly ahead of countryside with similar numbers highlighting King's Lynn. In terms of activities/themed areas of interest the three most popular areas indicated by users were.

- Nature and wildlife
- History and heritage
- Food and drink

New Version of the Website

Work has been taking place since June on developing a new version of the website. Most importantly this would be a responsive website optimised for viewing on mobile phones and tablets as well as desktops. (currently 42% of people access the website via desktop, 29.5% via mobile phone and 28.5% via table). In April, Google indicated it would favour responsive websites over non responsive websites in its search terms. Around 83% of current visitors to www.visitwestnorfolk.com were from organic searches. Development of the new version of the website was largely in response to these changes.

The new site would provide much more content on many of the villages within the Borough. This was aimed at improving awareness of visitor opportunities throughout the rural areas of the Borough.

Mobile Phone App

Work on the new mobile phone app for the whole of West Norfolk would be progressing during the autumn. The aim was to use the same content database used for the West Norfolk website so that consumer information on facilities, services and events was consistent across online and down loaded formats.

Location specific and attraction based marketing

Distribution of the following publications had taken place throughout 2015.

- Where To Go and What to Do in West Norfolk - 200,000 copies.
- Discover King's Lynn - 130,000 copies.
- Hunstanton Mine guide - 42,000 copies.
- Downham Market Mini Guide – 15,000 copies.
- Lynn Lumiere (Art, Cities & Landscape) - 50,000 copies.
- King's Lynn Guided walks - 15,000 copies.
- King's Lynn Heritage open day - 11,000 copies.
- Flightpath of the Spitfire Trail - 8,000 copies.

The King's Lynn Pilgrimage Trail, King's Lynn Hanseatic Trail, King's Lynn Maritime Trail, Hunstanton Wolf Trail and Hunstanton Horticultural Trail continued to be printed and distributed with quantities of between 1,000 and 5,000 for each publication distributed each year.

Partnership Working

.West Norfolk were again working with Visit England. Most recently we had submitted a number of autumn experiences which Visit England will promote including:

- Lynn Lumiere – as part of Visit England's 'Heritage in Autumn' theme.
- Castles and historic houses – as part of Visit England's 'Heritage in Autumn' theme.
- West Norfolk's wildlife wonders – as part of Visit England's 'Rural escapes in Autumn' theme.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk were active partners in the Visit Norfolk partnership and had continued to support and work with Visit North Norfolk Coast & Countryside.

Events

A number of new or expanded events had taken place in King's Lynn for 2015.

In addition to the main King's Lynn Festival, Festival Too, Poetry Festival and Fiction Festival and the Grand East Anglia Run, additional heritage events had included, and expanded to 2 days King's Lynn

Hanse Festival (16 & 17 May), Magna Carta event celebration 13 & 14 June, 1940s day and RAF cadets Freedom Parade and launch of Spitfire Trail 17 & 18 July, Beer, Butchers & Barbers 12 & 13 September, Heritage Open Day and Classic Car event 13 September.

Other Developments

Work on the Stories of Lynn is progressing well. It was expected that the new attraction would open for Easter 2016.

Improvement works to King's Lynn Bus station and links to the rail station had been completed. The new information office at the bus station included new visitor information leaflet racking and a 24 hour touch screen information kiosk. The kiosk uses the same database content as the www.visitwestnorfolk.com website.

New pedestrian fingerpost signing for Hunstanton was installed in July.

The first stage application to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Parks for People scheme for enhancements to the garden spaces (The Green, Esplanade Gardens and the cliff top to St Edmunds Chapel) at Hunstanton had led to an invitation to submit a more detailed second stage application in spring 2016.

Councillor Mrs Nockolds stated that she thought that it was still good to have paper brochures as these were still used.

In response to a query from Councillor Mrs Wright regarding the promotion of events to the north of the Borough, the Tourism Manager explained that the Council was an active partner in the Visit Norfolk Partnership and continued to support and work with Visit North Norfolk Coast and Countryside, which gave wider promotion of West Norfolk events. There was however always the opportunity to try and promote events more to people in the local area.

The Chairman noted that West Norfolk needed to be included as strongly as possible in the tourism partnerships.

Councillor Humphrey suggested that links to Parish Council websites could be included in the main website. He also asked if all the publications previously referred to, were available to view on the website. The Tourism Manager confirmed that they were, however Councillor Humphrey pointed out that in some cases the user had to rotate the view to see some sections. The Tourism Manager agreed to look into the matter.

Councillor Tyler made reference to the issue of leaflets at the train station and following a meeting with the Regional Manager, the leaflets would be back in the foyer.

Councillor Tyler also asked if the Sensory Gardens in Hunstanton were promoted. In response, the Tourism Manager explained that it was included within with Hunstanton Horticultural trail and the Hunstanton mini guide.

Councillor Tyler referred to the success of the Heritage Open Day, etc and asked if the Council was providing events that the public were interested in. The Tourism Manager explained that he had received positive feedback on the events which had been put on, ie. Lynn Lumiere and Spitfire Trail.

The Chairman thanked the Tourism Manager and Museum staff and added that it had been a fantastic summer of events and hoped that it continued.

AGREED: That the report be noted.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was Monday 9 November 2015 at 2.15pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Robin Hanley on 01603 493663 and we will do our best to help

**KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

9 November 2015 Item No. 5

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Head of Operations and Learning

**This report provides information on King's Lynn
Museum activities in the period from September –
October 2015**

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

- 1.1 The current major exhibition at Lynn Museum explores the life and work of Frederick Savage and is entitled *Art of the Mart: Savage's - the famous fairground makers of Lynn*. It tells the story of King's Lynn's iconic creator of merry-go-rounds – including a close look at the art, craft and design of the fairground. The exhibition includes a number of products from the St Nicholas Ironworks that have not been on public display before including watercolour designs, accessories from the costume collections, taxidermy, a finely carved canopy, wooden patterns and a large chalk drawing of a racing cockerel, conserved and framed with support from the Friends of King's Lynn Museums. The exhibition includes the modern 'Mart' horse, and the bell used in the Opening Ceremony in February, on loan from the Town Hall collections. A painted decorative frieze in the display was a gift from Harry Overton, local sign-writer and member of the Showmen's Guild. The exhibition runs until 2 July 2016.
- 1.2 A programme of illustrated talks continues to be offered at Lynn Museum on Wednesday afternoons. Recent topics have included *the Archaeology of Tattooing* by Ken Hamilton and a talk by Dayna Woolbright on the *Art of the Mart exhibition*. Attendances average 15-25 and most talks are delivered by NMS staff.
- 1.3 An enhanced programme of informal family learning events continues to be offered at the Lynn Museum for the school holiday periods. 'Drop-in' format events this year have included: *Big Draw* and *Halloween* themed events during the October Half Term.

- 1.4 During the school holidays the Lynn Museum continues to offer a popular programme of themed gallery discovery trails, with a new trail available for each week of the school holidays. Participants who completed a number of trails over the summer holidays were invited to a celebratory tea party at the Museum on Saturday 19 September.
- 1.5 The Lynn Museum continues to host monthly *Coffee, Cake and Collections* “coffee morning” style events for adults, with each session exploring a different aspect of the collections. Topics have included a Mystery Object quiz. The September morning was held as part of the national charity Macmillan Coffee fundraising events. The event was well attended and featured in the Lynn News.
- 1.6 The reception case at Lynn Museum has seen a display featuring historic roller skates and currently displays drawings by Artist in Residence Rosie Redzia alongside objects from the museum collections she has illustrated.
- 1.7 Museum staff delivered a workshop about the story of whaling in King’s Lynn on the 8 October, commissioned as part of the activity plan of the Narborough Bone Mill conservation project, a Heritage Lottery Fund-funded project. Participants were able to learn about the King’s Lynn whaling ships, see whaling related specimens and artefacts and visit the Greenland Fishery building, once a meeting place for the whalers. Collections items featured included an 18th century dress and stays stiffened with whalebone, scrimshaw carvings on sperm whale teeth, a pilot whale skull and a bottle nose whale skull, a model of the Fountain, one of the town’s whaling ships and a mug featuring the Baleana of Lynn.
- 1.8 The Lynn Museum played its part in the town’s successful Heritage Open Day on 13 September, with 441 participants attending.
- 1.9 The Museum has loaned three oil paintings for an exhibition at the King’s Lynn Arts Centre *the Bigger Picture 3* which ran until 31 October. The paintings lent were *The Purfleet* by Unknown Artist c.1800, *Too Late for the Ferry* by Robert Walker Macbeth (1848 – 1910), and *Red Mount, King’s Lynn* by Thomas Baines (1820 – 18875). Local artists had been given a small square of the image to paint, then for a big reveal all the squares were put together to create a large reproduction of the original painting displayed alongside.

2. Other Museum Developments

- 2.1 The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being maintained by staff. The Lynn

Museum Twitter account has 1969 tweets and 1258 followers while the Facebook account has 210 likes.

- 2.2 A team of collections volunteers continues to meet on a weekly basis in the NMS offices at Queen Street. Volunteers have continued with a programme of work involving the scanning and cataloguing of the drawing collections. The team have now scanned around 2,000 items from the Museum's prints and drawings collection helping to make them much more accessible.
- 2.3 In addition to the scanning project, a small team of volunteers is working with Curatorial Assistant Dayna Woolbright on a weekly basis, undertaking an audit of collections at the museum stores at Aickmans Yard. They have been joined by a local artist who has been creating drawings of different objects which currently form part of an exhibition in the reception display case.
- 2.4 The Museum has been successful in obtaining grant funding of £1,160 from the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards, supporting the conservation of two newly acquired portraits in poor condition. The portraits are of John Langley and his wife Elizabeth. John Langley travelled around the world with Captain Vancouver and later in life managed a public house in King's Lynn. The Friends of Kings Lynn Museums and two private donors are also contributing to the costs. The paintings are currently being conserved by Julie Crick, Fine Art conservator.
- 2.5 The Museum's fortnightly *History of Kings Lynn in 100 Objects* series with the Lynn News has generated significant interest. Members of the public have visited the museum with additional information for the museum records. Recent artefacts featured include a product of LinCan canneries, the historic roller skates recently displayed in the reception case, and papier-mache model of an Indian temple.

3. Friends of King's Lynn Museums

- 3.1 The Friends are continuing to offer a varied programme for members including lunchtime talks, trips and an annual lecture. The annual lecture this year was well attended by Friends and other interested individuals. It was held on the 24 September at Marriott's Warehouse on *the Goldsmiths of the Early Anglian Kings* and given by Angela Care Evans former keeper of Anglo Saxon collections at the British Museum. The Friends have continued to support the afternoon talks programme being offered at the Lynn Museum during 2015.
- 3.2 The Friends are continuing to fund a programme of fine art conservation, most recently the cockerel drawing for the Art of the Mart exhibition and support for the conservation of the portraits of John and Elizabeth Langley.

- 3.3 The Friends held their AGM at the Lynn Museum on 12 October. Bryan Howling has stepped down as Chair after five years in this office. The new Chair of King's Lynn Museums is Susan Thompson.
- 3.4 A Junior Friends of Kings Lynn Museum scheme has been launched and members of the Friends Committee have been attending the summer family events to invite children and young people to join. 37 Junior Friends have joined up.

4 Partnerships

- 4.1 The Lynn Museum free admission period runs from October to the end of March. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.
- 4.2 NMS continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the HLF-funded *Stories of Lynn* project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. As well as being part of the project steering group and Project Board, NMS continues to lead on the development and delivery of the project Activity Plan and the development of exhibition designs and site interpretation.
- 4.3 NMS continues to host the two *Stories of Lynn* project funded posts, the Project Curator (12 months) and the Learning & Engagement Officer (48 months). Both postholders continue to work closely with colleagues from the Borough Council and the Norfolk Record Office, alongside the external designers responsible for developing the new exhibitions at the Town Hall. NMS staff have recently supported the Borough Council's procurement process for the main exhibition fit-out contractors and the provision of an App-based tour of the Town Hall and wider town.
- 4.4 Following the success of the 2015 town centre events delivered in partnership with the Borough Council including *Magna Carta 800* and *Lynn at War: Life on the Home Front*, NMS staff are liaising with borough colleagues to explore opportunities for future events in 2016.
- 4.5 The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the 2015-16 Service Level Agreement with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues to provide curatorial advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia.

5 Learning & Outreach

- 5.1 During 2015 the Lynn Museum has been hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeship provided through the NMS *Teaching Museum* programme, funded by ACE as part of the 2015-18 Major Partner Museum ACE business plan. Trainee Morgan Bell is working as Curatorial Trainee

for King's Lynn and Thetford. Amongst a range of other activities, she helps coordinate the summer trails programme, supervises collections volunteers and schedules displays in the museum reception area.

5.2 Lynn Museum has continued to work with local schools to deliver a broad range of formal learning sessions. Learning programmes have been adapted following recent changes to the history National Curriculum. The Seahenge and early history displays and themes are proving popular with schools.

5.3 A recent partnership with local schools saw a project to decorate small wooden horses in connection with the *Art of the Mart* exhibition at Lynn Museum. The horses have been mounted on a turntable to form a colourful merry-go-round exhibit. This project was funded with a generous grant from the King's Lynn area Decorative and Fine Art Society.

6 Visitor numbers

6.1 Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting.

7. Resource implications

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------|------|
| (a) | <u>Finance</u> | None |
| (b) | <u>Property</u> | None |
| (c) | <u>Staff</u> | None |
| (d) | <u>Information Technology</u> | None |

8. Recommendations:

1. That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Originator of report:
Dr Robin Hanley
Head of Operations & Learning
Norfolk Museums Service
Shirehall, Norwich
Tel: 01603 493663 e-mail: robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

9th November 2015

TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Manager

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

1.1 This year so far the Museum has hosted 6 exhibitions and 2 mini exhibitions. Our *North End in the Great War* ran until 28th February when it was replaced with a somewhat more light-hearted Teddy Bear exhibition *The Stuff that Dreams are Made On*. This was followed by *Gallipoli* and another on *Maritime Heroes of Lynn* which ran until 4th June and was exchanged for a photographic exhibition *Newland Pubs of Lynn*. During this time an exhibition aimed at children about the Battle of Waterloo was erected in a different part of the Museum on 18th June and this remained until 16th October when it was replaced by *Ghosts of Lynn*.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2015 is *Fish and Ships: King's Lynn and the Hanse*. This exhibition opened on 17th July and will run until January 2016. It is intended to celebrate Lynn's vibrant history with the Hanseatic League and to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the town joining the New Hanseatic League in 2005.

1.3 The next major exhibition at True's Yard will be *Lynn Regis: King's Lynn and the Royals*. This exhibition will be primarily a photographic one using items from our own collection as well as those loaned from other institutions. There will also be objects and a small number of informative display panels.

1.4 Our True's Talks are still proving very popular on Thursday afternoons. Recent topics have included Ralph Vaughan Williams, Bamberg Cathedral and one particularly evocative title *King's Lynn Glorious Past, Blighted Future?*

1.5 True's Yard once again took part in Heritage Open Day and welcomed 961 visitors during the day.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Heritage Lottery Grant Funding.

As noted at the previous meeting True's Yard has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £56,500 for our Opening up a House of History project. To upgrade the Research Centre has been an urgent item for the trustees and this HLF grant will allow them to ensure records are properly stored and conserved as well as becoming more accessible to the public. Schools, students, local and family historians, general

researchers and others will benefit as a result. The Museum will also be able to improve its annual exhibition programme through using material still to be accessioned.

True's Yard works with schools and students and adults to promote their learning which will be enhanced through easier access to the collections in the Research Centre. There will also be opportunities for more staff and volunteer training in archives and community engagement via oral history projects designed to boost and strengthen neighbourhoods.

2.2 True's Yard Silver Jubilee Appeal

Launched on 15th September the purpose of the Silver Jubilee Appeal is to consolidate what has been achieved over the last 25 years, develop key educational projects for schools and maintain True's Yard for future generations. Following a recent survey, essential roofing repairs and replacement of windows have been highlighted. The 1904 fishing smack "Activity" dry docked in our yard also requires major conservation work. Our IT equipment is very old and must be replaced too.

3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to fundraise throughout the year. Their support was much appreciated earlier in the year when one of the boilers became unsafe and had to be replaced quickly.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends of St Nicholas Chapel

The Chapel has recently reopened and True's Yard has been involved in the transformation, playing a role on the Interpretation Committee and offering the use of our rentable rooms to the Churches Conservation Trust.

4.2 Hanse 2015

True's Yard plays a role in an informal partnership called History & Archaeology Symposium (HAS) alongside Marriott's Warehouse Trust, The Town Guides and the King's Lynn Hanseatic Club. We organised the History and Archaeology Symposium at Marriott's Warehouse and the Community Breakfast, which took place over the Hanse weekend in May. Other activities include the children's book *King's Lynn and the Hanseatic League*, written by two members of staff at True's Yard (to be distributed to local schools in November).

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1 School visit numbers remain high and we have organised visits to schools for those unable to afford the cost of transport. Our loan boxes are proving popular and we have recently hired a temporary Schools Liaison Officer to work 1 day a week. If

successful with our Appeal Fund we hope to do more next year.

6. Visitor Numbers

2013-2014= 10,411. 2014-2015 = (period April 2015 – 20th October) 6,921

7. **Resource Implications**

Finance- HLF funding, Silver Jubilee Appeal.

Property- Recently surveyed with a view to essential repairs.

Staff- Angela Reeve, Assistant Manager has left. Her hours and duties have been divided up into 3 different roles. Principally she has been replaced by a Temporary Assistant Manager (2 days), Rebecca Rees. Temporary Finance (1 day), Ray Howard and School's Liaison (1 day), Judy Simmonds. We have also hired a Project Officer through the HLF funding, Michelle Andrews. She will be with us 3 days a week over 2 years.

Information Technology: Is outdated and needs replacing.

8. **Recommendations**

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

Lindsey Bavin

Museum Manager

True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

Tel: 01553770479

e-mail: info@truesyard.co.uk