

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



King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Agenda

Monday, 18th March, 2024
at 2.00 pm

in the

**Council Chamber
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn**

Available for the public to view on
<https://www.youtube.com/user/WestNorfolkBC>



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

8 March 2024

Dear Member

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Committee which will be held on **Monday, 18th March, 2024 at 2.00 pm** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes (Pages 6 - 12)

The Committee is invited to confirm as a correct record the notes of the previous meeting.

3. Matters Arising

To consider any matters arising.

4. Declarations of Interest (Page 13)

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 Assistant Head of Museums** (Pages 14 - 29)
6. **True's Yard Report** (Pages 30 - 34)
7. **Report of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk**
Tourism Department Update (Jan-Feb 2024)

Of the duo of full-time members within the department, one of the staff members left the authority for pastures new on 1st of March 2024, with one remaining staff member in post in the Tourism department at this time – Phillip Eke.

We are starting to go through the recruitment process to fill the vacant position, for a fixed-term contract post, as seen here: <https://www.jobtrain.co.uk/west-norfolk/Job/JobDetail?JobId=1316>

Much of the activity and duties fulfilled by the previous staff member are planned to recommence once a new member of staff has been recruited.

8. **Schedule of Meetings 2024/2025** (Page 35)

To agree the Schedule of Meetings for 2024/2025.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Subject to the Schedule of Meetings for 2024/2025 being agreed, the next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee is scheduled to take place on 17th June 2024 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

To:

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee:

Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Councillors P Bland, T Bubb, M de Whalley, A Kemp and Non Councillor B Davison

Norfolk County Council

Councillors L Bambridge, M Chenery, C Dawson (2 vacancies)

Ex Officio

Councillor J Ward (Chair, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee)

Councillor R Kybird (Vice Chair, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee)

Co-opted Non-Voting Members

Ms L Bavin, True's Yard Heritage Museum Manager

Officers

Oliver Bone, Curator, Lynn Museum

Mr P Eke, Senior Tourism Support Officer, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Dr R Hanley, Assistant Head of Museums

Mr S Miller, Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

Ms L Tisdall, Committee Officer, Norfolk County Council

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, 8th January, 2024 at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT:

Borough Councillors

Councillors P Bland, A Bubb (Chair), M de Whalley, A Kemp (Vice Chair) and Mr B Davison

County Councillors

Councillors L Bambridge and M Chenery of Horsburgh

Ex-Officio Non-Voting Members

Councillor J Ward, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Co-opted Non-Voting Members

Lindsay Bavin, True's Yard Museum

Officers

Oliver Bone, Lynn Museum
Robin Hanley, Norfolk Museum Service

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor R Kybird, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2023 were agreed as a correct record, subject to County Councillor J Ward being added to the list of attendees.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Bland and County Councillor Bambridge declared an interest in item 6 as Trustees of True's Yard Museum.

5 **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Curator of the Lynn Museum presented the report on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from September to November 2023. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- Covid-19 and Infection Control service update.
- Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum.
- Forthcoming Exhibitions: The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour and Woof - a Celebration of Dogs. The Curator confirmed the opening event for The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour exhibition was on Tuesday 6 February at 2.30pm and explained Committee Members were welcome to attend the event.
- Family events.
- Family Trails.
- Mini Museum.
- Heritage Open Day.
- Coffee Mornings.

The Curator of the Lynn Museum invited the Committee to ask questions in relation to section 2 of the report.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh, the Curator explained they would be featuring a Taxidermy Wolf in the Exhibition Woof - a Celebration of Dogs and confirmed they would have further information on wolves in Norfolk as part of that.

County Councillor J Ward referred to the Exhibition Woof - a Celebration of Dogs and asked whether they would allow people to bring their dogs to the opening of the Exhibition. In response, the Curator explained assistance dogs would be allowed. The Assistant Head of Museums explained they would need to have a conversation with their Conservation colleagues. He confirmed they would ask the question.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb commented that his local library was not aware of The Tiger Who Came to Tea Exhibition and raised concerns around advertising. In response, the Curator agreed with the Chair and commented that they could always do better at advertising and added they should have good information at libraries around the district.

Councillor A Kemp referred to the coffee mornings and asked whether there was a diverse of people attending the coffee mornings, particularly people from care homes. In response, the Curator explained they had good links with some local care homes and confirmed they had had residents come in the past. He added they would work on and try to encourage more visits in that way.

County Councillor L Bambridge commented that she really enjoyed the Exhibitions. She added she loved the Hoards Exhibition and thought the displays were excellent and the illustrations at The Tiger Who Came to Tea Exhibition were beautiful.

Councillor M de Whalley asked whether there was anything included in the Woof - a Celebration of Dogs Exhibition about early beliefs. In response, the Curator explained they had incorporated a number of different aspects such as the natural history of dogs, companion dogs, working dogs and added if they weren't able to incorporate it in the exhibition, they would look into including it as part of their talks programme or through social media. The Assistant Head of Museums added there was the potential to explore that and explained he was sure that would feature within the Exhibition.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- Newman Legacy.
- Other Museum developments.
- Teaching Museums Trainees.
- Partnerships.

The Chair invited questions and comments in relation to those areas of report.

Councillor M de Whalley referred to the Kick the Dust and getting young people to work alongside professionals and enhancing their digital skills. He added he understood there was a backlog of archive work and asked whether this would be included in those opportunities. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained as part of the programme they were planning to improve the collections information about the collections in King's Lynn and added they were looking at opportunities to involve both volunteers and young people in that programme.

In response to a question raised by the Chair, Councillor A Bubb, The Assistant Head of Museums confirmed they did not derive any income from the YouTube channel and added it was more of an advocacy marketing route for them.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- Learning & Outreach.
- Kick the Dust Norfolk - countywide project update. A verbal update was given following publication of the agenda.

Mr B Davison commented that it was an excellent report but explained he felt the report lacked information on industrial heritage in relation to King's Lynn and West Norfolk. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained that King's Lynn's industrial heritage is really important and added he felt in the displays within the Lynn Museum this was reflected on. He went on to explain an area of work which would focus on that work was the Savages collection. He explained they had discussions with the Curator leading the project about the opportunities to engage young people and new audiences with the Savages story as part of the project to improve the collections documentation and make it more accessible. The Assistant Head of Museums agreed that there were always opportunities to promote King's Lynn's heritage.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb asked whether there was any assistance for those people from Kick the Dust that do not have their own transport to get to Gressenhall. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained they were very aware for the need to facilitate access and added they were working closely with libraries and using those locations to make it more accessible.

County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh referred to the Victorian Christmas event at Gressenhall and asked how successful it was and whether it could be done in King's Lynn. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained to the Committee that Gressenhall Farmhouse Museum hosted a Victorian family event before Christmas where people could come to the site and celebrate a Victorian Christmas and he confirmed the event was sold out and added they were looking to run it again next year at Gressenhall. The Assistant Head of Museums explained in terms of a Gressenhall type Victoria Christmas event, the Lynn Museum would not be ideally suited but suggested venues such as the Town Hall or the Guildhall would be better to hold an event of a similar nature. County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh went on to ask whether the Christmas tree at Gressenhall was lit with candles. The Assistant Head of Museums explained the Christmas tree was artificially lit to try to create the right atmosphere but to prevent incurring risks.

In response to a question raised by Councillor A Kemp, the Assistant Head of Museums explained they worked really closely with colleagues in Childrens Services. He went on to explain there was a regular working group chaired by the Kick the Dust Project Coordinator which brings together colleagues from Childrens Services and other parts of Norfolk County Council to look at opportunities and added he felt confident they had the right connections but explained they could always improve.

County Councillor L Bambridge commented on Savage and explained that last year whilst the Mart was in King's Lynn on the Tuesday Market Place, that there was an Exhibition held at the Corn Exchange which she went to and someone had come along and brought photographs and boards of Savages and added there were opportunities like that there to look into to have pop up Exhibitions.

The visitor figures for the period September to November 2023 were circulated to the Committee at the meeting and noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes. The Committee were advised that during the financial year of 2023-2024, the visitor figures were looking very good for the Lynn Museum. He added the figures were up significantly from where they were this time last year and explained he felt this was because of the greater interest from schools, success from the Exhibition programme and the team at the Lynn Museum. The Curator commented that they hoped that December, January, February and March would also show improvements.

County Councillor J Ward referred to the Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA within the visitor figures and asked what else it included. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums confirmed it captured activity on site at Stories of Lynn which is managed by the Norfolk Museums Service.

The Assistant Head of Museums responded to questions from the Chair, Councillor A Bubb relating to how far back the attendance figures went.

County Councillor L Bambridge asked for a reason as to why there was a drop in the figures for the Exhibitions compared with 2022-2023. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums commented that they felt this coincided with Rachael Williams' departure but added they expect the figures to increase as soon as the post is filled.

In response to a question raised by Councillor M de Whalley, the Assistant Head of Museums explained the majority of sites around the service were almost back to where they were pre pandemic in terms of overall attendances.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor J Ward, the Assistant Head of Museums explained targets were reviewed on an annual basis working with the statistics team and added he expected to see the targets increase for the next financial year.

Councillor A Kemp asked what activities would be on offer for young people and families in the February half term within Museum settings. In response, the Assistant Head of Museums explained all their sites focused activities on February half term as historically it was a peak time but added all of their sites would be offering family friendly programmes during the February half term period. The Curator of the Lynn Museum confirmed there was a family event day, Museum Trail

for families and the forthcoming Exhibition, The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour scheduled for the February half term.

Mr B Davison commented that he was pleased to see the attendance figures were getting back to pre-covid levels.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

6

TRUE'S YARD REPORT

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb thanked the Museum Curator at True's Yard for the visit to the True's Yard Museum which they attended prior to their meeting.

The Committee received the report of the Museum Curator at True's Yard. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- Temporary Exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum.
- Learning and Outreach.

The Museum Curator at True's Yard invited questions and comments from the Committee in relation to the report.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb referred to the Summer Art Exhibition and asked whether some of the pictures in the warehouse would be let out to take part in the Exhibition during the summer. In response, the Museum Curator at True's Yard and the Assistant Head of Museums Service explained concerns had been raised that small organisations would not be able to do loans. The Assistant Head of Museums highlighted to the Committee that they do whatever they can with the pressures which sites like True's Yard face and do what they can to mitigate costs. The Assistant Head of Museums added with certain partners that they have wanted to support where the loan of an original work of art has been prohibited in terms of insurance, they have been able to facilitate really good digital versions and explained there were other routes they could explore.

The Chair, Councillor A Bubb suggested to the Museum Curator at True's Yard that they could approach their Borough Councillor who has a fund of £1000 to distribute for Community use and that this could possibly be applied to this. In response, the Museum Curator at True's Yard explained they were fortunate to receive funding from that and spent it on a defibrillator.

In response to a question raised by County Councillor J Ward, the Museum Curator at True's Yard explained the visitor figures met the previous year but did not exceed.

County Councillor M Chenery of Horsbrugh referred to NHS Wellbeing Dungeons and Dragons and asked whether they were working with the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust. The Museum Curator at True's Yard confirmed this was specifically with Norfolk and Welney.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

7 **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK**

In the absence of the Senior Tourism Support Officer, the Committee noted the report.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

8 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee would be held on 18th March 2024 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, King's Lynn.

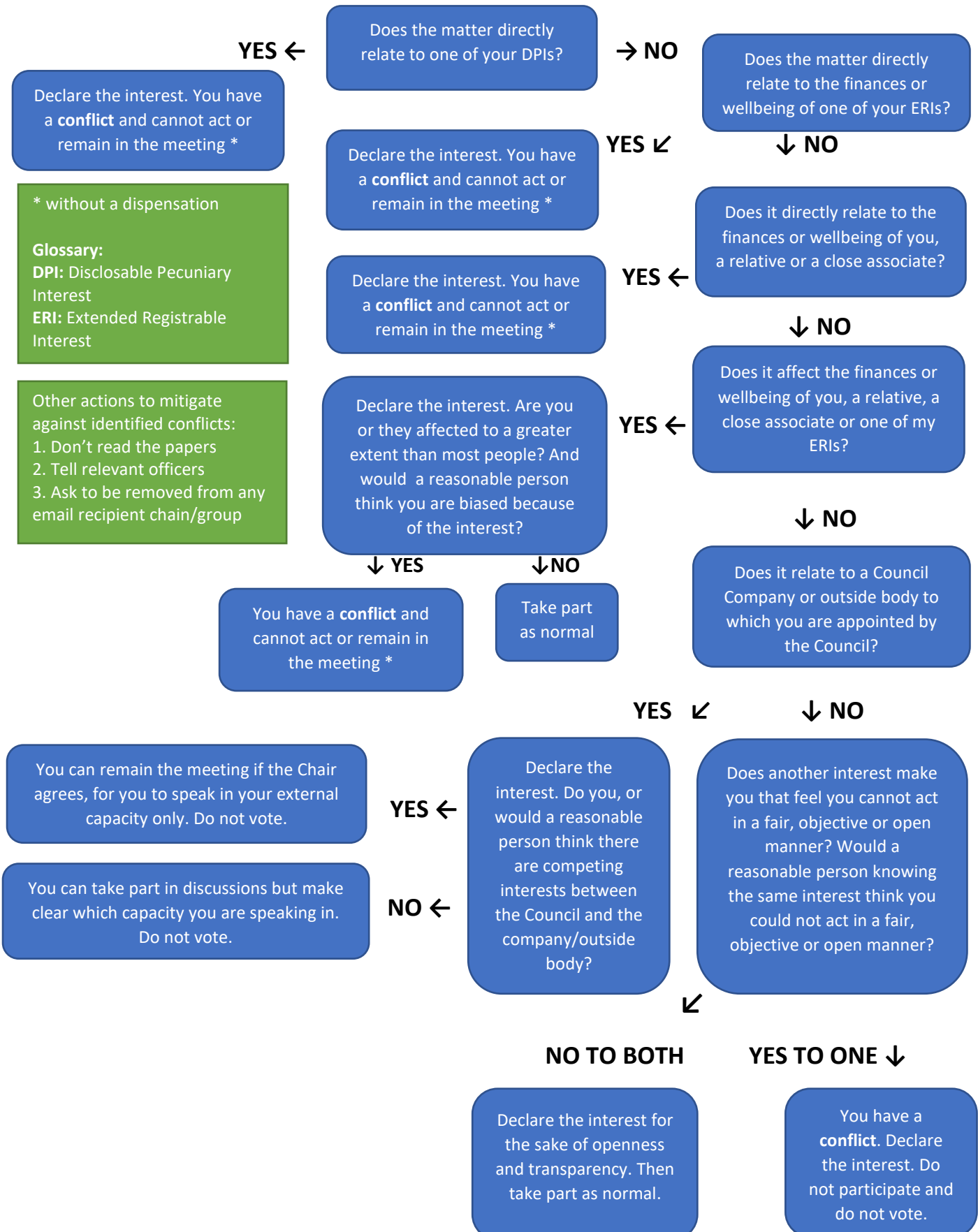
The Chair, Councillor Bubb asked if the Democratic Services Officer could arrange a tour of the Stories of Lynn for the Committee prior to its next meeting.

The meeting closed at 3.20 pm

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



Declare the interest. You have a **conflict** and cannot act or remain in the meeting *

* without a dispensation
Glossary:
DPI: Disclosable Pecuniary Interest
ERI: Extended Registrable Interest

Other actions to mitigate against identified conflicts:
1. Don't read the papers
2. Tell relevant officers
3. Ask to be removed from any email recipient chain/group



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

18 March 2024

Item No.

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Assistant Head of Museums

**This report provides information on King's Lynn
Museum activities in the period from December
2023 – February 2024**

1. COVID-19 and Infection Control service update

A number of the COVID-secure systems and procedures implemented across Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) sites during the pandemic remain in place. Infection control priorities remain:

- Ventilation
- Cleaning regimes
- Hand sanitisation

CO2 monitors provided through Norfolk County Council (NCC) continue to operate in a number of spaces across NMS where there is more limited natural/mechanical ventilation. These CO2 detectors are monitored locally by staff and also link into the LoRaWAN network, facilitating the use of monitoring dashboards to track live data and trends.

2 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

2.1 *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* exhibition 24 November 2023 - 20 January 2024



The *Tiger Who Came to Tea* exhibition proved very popular with visitors over the Christmas period and has helped boost overall visitor numbers.

The exhibition is a touring exhibition supplemented by material from the museum collections. *The Tiger Who Came to Tea* celebrates the life and work of Judith Kerr, one of Britain's best known children's book author-illustrators.

Copies of Kerr's original artwork were displayed alongside notes and sketches. Children were also able to step into Sophie's kitchen to have tea with a life-size tiger.

2.2 Current Exhibition: *The Moon: Meet our Nearest Neighbour* 2 February – 15 September 2024

This touring exhibition explores earth's natural satellite – the moon. A key exhibit is a large moon model suspended above the exhibition, making use of the museum's high chapel ceilings. Also, as part of the exhibition visitors have the opportunity to touch a real piece of moon rock. Other artefacts include ephemera from the 1969 moon landing. These displays, together with an associated programme of events and activities has been supported by a grant of £10,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Funding for West Norfolk for arts cultural heritage and creative activities through the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk.



The Moon theme has informed our February event programming including the Mini Museum event, February half term events, and a well-attended afternoon talk.



Guests at the Moon exhibition opening event on 2 February 2024

This exhibition is proving very popular with visitors and has received excellent publicity including:

[Giant model Moon in major new exhibition at Lynn Museum | Eastern Daily Press \(edp24.co.uk\)](https://www.edp24.co.uk)

[Museum in King's Lynn launches new moon exhibition which is free until the end of March \(lynnnews.co.uk\)](https://www.lynnnews.co.uk)

2.3 Forthcoming Exhibition *Woof! A Celebration of Dogs*

opening Autumn 2024.

This will be a Lynn Museum-curated exhibition drawing upon natural history, archaeology, art and social history. The Tate Gallery has approved the loan of three artworks for the exhibition including a piece by David Hockney.

2.4 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods:

The Tiger Who Came to Tea event on 13 January attracted 351 participants.

The *Space Crafts Discovery Days* (family event days) in February Half Term proved very popular. A second day was added to the programme as the first had sold out. 396 visitors attended on Day 1 and 362 attended on Day 2.

2.5 Family Trails

Trails are provided at the museum for children and families to enjoy an exploration of the museum. Trails offered at the Lynn Museum in the reporting period have included:

27/12/23 - 03/01/24 *Horace Hide & Seek* counting trail (251 participants)
13/01/2024 - *Anyone for Tea* (Event Day) spelling trail (169 participants)
17/02/24 - 24/02/24 *Planet Match Matching* scratch art (684 participants)

2.6 Mini Museum

Lynn Museum continues to provide regular activities for our youngest visitors through the monthly mini museum programme. Activities are delivered by the museum's learning team.

These included *Tiger, Mog and Friends* on 18 January (23 children, 43 total) and *Baby Bear Goes to Space* on 15 February (16 children, 34 total).

2.7 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum. These offer a chance for people to enjoy the museum with an informal activity. The coffee mornings take place on the last Friday of the month. Topics have included spring terrariums, Bronze Age handling, basket weaving and medieval tiles. In this reporting period:

23/02/2024 Moon Galaxy Painting (on bookmarks) 27 participants.

2.8 Talks Programme



Talk by King's Lynn and District Astronomy Society about the moon

Recent talks at the museum have included:

19/01/2024 - *Tigers in the Wild* with Barbara Meyer

23/02/2024 - *The Moon, Our Next Door Neighbour* with Alan Gosling from Kings Lynn Astronomy Society

3 Newman Legacy project

The Lynn Museum has benefited from a legacy given specifically for the museum's use and provided by the late Eric and Rita Newman. The Newman's were siblings who had retired to Congham near King's Lynn with interests in local history and helping children learn. The museum service is very grateful for the Newman's generosity.

Newman Assistant Curator Jan Summerfield joined the team in February and Newman Teaching Museum Trainee Alice starts in April.

4 Other Museum developments

4.1 Publicity and promotion

The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

[Lynn Museum \(@Lynn_Museum\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

[Facebook](#)

[King's Lynn Museum on Instagram • Photos and videos](#)



Social media post by Professor Michael Lewis for the pilgrim badges documentation day in February, which will be leading to a new publication

NMS Learning Officer Melissa Hawker has continued her regular slot for Radio Norfolk to discuss local history and promote forthcoming events.

As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.

A variety of films linked to Lynn Museum are available on the museum's YouTube Channel, here: [Lynn Museum - YouTube](#)

A number of online exhibitions are available through the Google Arts and Culture platform: [Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#)

4.2 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

Recruitment is underway for the one year-long paid traineeships offered as part of the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum scheme, principally funded through the NMS Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation programme. For 2024-25 there will be a Newman Teaching Museum Trainee, working on the Newman collections project at the museum. There will also be a Curatorial West Trainee working at both Thetford and Lynn Museums. Both trainees will start work in early April 2024.

4.3 Building Work at Lynn Museum

Following a period of structural monitoring of the Victorian chapel building, a programme of remedial works to the schoolroom building is taking place, involving the installation of tie rods at roof level. This work is planned for later spring 2024 in the Seahenge Gallery roof space. Staff are planning to keep the museum open for visitors during these works, although the Seahenge Gallery will be closed for safety reasons during this period. A reduced admission charge will be put in place to reflect the more limited visitor offer.

5 Borough Council partnership working

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

NMS staff continue to support Borough Council colleagues with the development and delivery of relevant cultural and heritage project across the Borough, including ongoing support for Towns Fund projects including the

Guildhall project. Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright has contributed to the work on the St George's Guildhall project Interpretation Strategy and to various events and exhibitions, working with Jane Hamilton who has recently joined the Guildhall Team as Learning and Engagement Officer. The events have included a Christmas event held in December.

Other work has included curating an exhibition of watercolours for the Fermoy Gallery by CT Page. Christopher Page was Curator of Lynn Museum and Art Gallery from 1902 to 1931 and painted local scenes in watercolour.



Post about the CT Page exhibition at the Fermoy Gallery, curated, designed and installed by Norfolk Museums Service

The Lynn Museum free admission period started in October and runs until 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.

NMS continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the NLHF-funded *Stories of Lynn* project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. NMS manages the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer post, which is co-funded by the Borough Council and the NLHF Kick the Dust: Norfolk project. Recruitment has recently taken place for this post, which has been vacant for a number of months. The new postholder starts work in May.

NMS Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright leads on supporting the Borough Council and Festival Office on collections management advice and support. Recent contributions have included advice on the safe use of the civic regalia, and delivery of temporary displays at Stories. An example is advice for the conservation of an historic mirror in the Town Hall and support for the acquisition of a painting of the Custom House by Walter Dexter.

6 Learning & Outreach

School visits

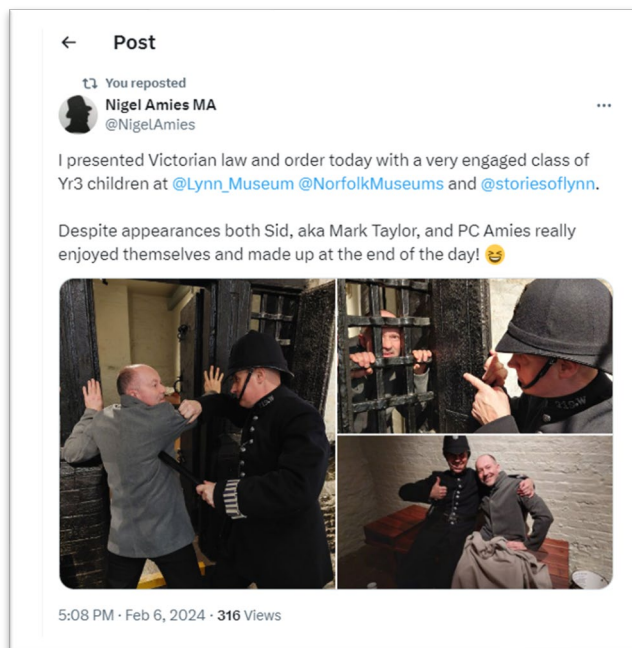
Lynn Museum continues to offer a range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate teachers' needs. During this period topics have included Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans and Iceni, Bronze Age and Seahenge, Stone Age, the Second World War, Ancient Egyptians, and Homes Long Ago.

School sessions normally follow a pattern of a carousel of different activities with children learning in a variety of styles. Delivery of sessions is normally undertaken by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

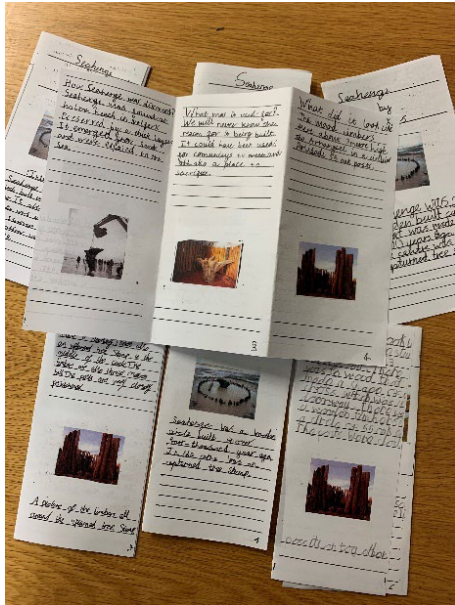
The following link for teachers explains what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

[Key stage 2 education at Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums](#)

Lynn Museum learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn in the running of joint school workshops on topics such as Maritime Life, Lord Nelson, Captain Vancouver, Crime and Punishment, Frederick Savage and the Lynn Mart, the Great Fire of London and Floods and Flooding.



Post from one of our regular freelance learning team for a joint school session between Lynn Museum and Stories of Lynn



Seahenge leaflets created by children from Whitefriars School as part of a visit to Lynn Museum

7. Kick the Dust Norfolk – project update

Background

The first Kick the Dust project delivered by Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and ran from October 2018 to March 2023.

The target audience for Kick the Dust activity is young people aged 11-25, with a particular focus on young people aged 16-25 who do not normally engage with the heritage or consider it relevant to their lives. Priority participants are young people facing multiple challenges and barriers, including YMCA clients and other young people engaging with NCC and partner organisations specialist support services. Key project partners include YMCA Norfolk, Creative Collisions (Great Yarmouth) and NCC Children's Services, Libraries and Public Health.

Kick the Dust provides a progression pathway for young people, enabling them to use heritage to develop their confidence, skills and routes into employment using the *Player, Shaper, Leader* model.

For this original project, total participation numbers from October 2018 to March 2023 were 13,905 interventions, involving 4,527 individual young people taking part in 7,039 hours of quality activity, taking us beyond the initial project target of 8000 interventions. As the project developed, more young people took the lead in projects, shifting the percentage of activity at each of the 4 levels.

- 25% of all activity was at Player level
- 40% at Shaper level
- 35% at Leader level

- 86% of all activity in March 2023 involved young people in leading and designing projects, taking on the role of Young Ambassador and playing a leading part in the Youth Board.

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area from October 2018 to March 2023:

- 47% (1,449 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Thetford and Gressenhall),
- 27% (825 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer and Sheringham)
- 26% (771 opportunities) in Norwich
- 331 volunteering opportunities have been provided to 180 individual young people.

In total 420 staff took part in training, with 151 having taken up opportunities in lockdown. In addition, 45 young volunteers took part in training. Kick the Dust has supported 7 young people on its bursary traineeship programme, the last cohort finishing in May 2022, all of whom have secured permanent employment within the heritage sector. A further 6 young people completed the pre-traineeship programme. One Kick the Dust participant progressed onto the NMS Teaching Museum traineeship programme with 3 others applying for the role and being shortlisted. Two Young Ambassadors have progressed onto teacher training programmes. Our 7 Young Ambassadors have supported Institutional Change within NMS on the strategic Youth Board and Project Board. Staff from our Front of House (FOH) and Visitor Services teams have engaged in training such as mentoring and coaching, mental health first aid and creating autism friendly spaces which played a key role in supporting the new pre-traineeship pilot programme for YMCA clients and other vulnerable groups.

Current activity

Following the successful conclusion of the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded Kick the Dust project, NMS has secured additional funding through an Arts Council England National Portfolio Funding (NPO) Uplift award for the period 2023-26. This will enable NMS to continue to support young people in the three Levelling up for Culture places of Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford. This additional funding will enable young people to participate in high quality cultural and heritage activities that develop their creative and digital skills and potential, as well as prepare them for the workplace.

During 2023-24 NMS is also receiving funding from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Public Health to support Kick the Dust activities that focus on the mental health and wellbeing of Norfolk young people.

NMS is partnering with Norfolk Library & Information Service (NLIS) to deliver this exciting programme of activity enabling us to strengthen partnership working between museum and library staff and increase levels of cultural engagement by young people in a sustained way, employing the successful Kick the Dust approach to youth engagement that uses the three-stage

progression model *Player-Shaper-Leader*. The programme will be aimed at those in the three priority places aged 16-25 years, with opportunities for 13–16 year olds to engage as part of the progression framework.

The key aims of the new Kick the Dust project are to:

- develop transferable work-related skills with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning;
- develop digital skills linked to creative industries to address the digital skills gap in heritage and cultural sectors;
- increase young people's creative skills and for young people to gain a range of new cultural experiences;
- encourage an appreciation of the history and culture of their local communities.

Young people will work alongside professionals to develop their transferable work-related and creative skills, through the co-production of activity and events, volunteering and work experience operating at a level that meets their needs.

The following data is based on the start of this new project covering the period 1/5/23 to 30/1/24.

Number of interventions with young people:

Between 1/5/23 and 30/1/24 there have been 1,199 interventions involving 674 individual young people taking part in 1,193 hours of quality activity. 91% of the activities were face to face, the other sessions being offered online with young people in the principal target areas.

This blended approach offers a wider range of opportunities for young people to engage in heritage:

- 20% of activity was at Player level (to introduce new young people to the project)
- 58% at Shaper level (longer term project with young people determining the content)
- 22% at Leader level (long term engagement – young people leading projects, acting at governance level, mentoring staff)
- 80% of all activity involved young people in leading and designing projects

Breakdown of activity taking place in each area:

- 42% (91 opportunities) in the West (covering Kings Lynn, Gressenhall),
- 18% (40 opportunities) in Thetford
- 18% (40 opportunities) in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 21% (44 opportunities) in Norwich
- Four opportunities were offered to young people at alternative venues outside of Norfolk
- 42 volunteering opportunities have been provided, with three young people taking on the role of Digital Buddy and seven as Young Ambassador.

- Of all delivery, 84% involves young people being part of a long-term group, providing them with a deeper understanding of heritage and allowing them to explore their identity, develop their skills and confidence and embed themselves more in their local communities, a key aim of ACE.

The young people have access to all of NMS sites and can visit with a friend or family member for free during their engagement for that year. Free passes were issued to those beginning on the programme in June 2023. Data shows that passes are being used outside of the times the young people would attend a session in their home museum.

We continue to deliver a blended training offer for all staff and volunteers who support youth engagement in NMS. Staff input to the training programme will be formulated as the project progresses and needs are identified. Social media training working with a specialist from Libraries has been embedded into team meetings which include three of our Young Ambassadors who are acting as Digital Buddies. Further opportunities are being planned for the Spring/summer terms to include SEND and Mental Health First Aid training. The team accessed the *'Childhood Adversity and Creating a Trauma Informed Environment'* on 31 October and *'I'm a teenager, get me in there'* training in January 2024 at Ely Museum (as part of the new *Your Heritage Your Future* National Lottery Heritage Fund funded project) which will inform future delivery.

Our offer to support young people around the important theme of mental health and wellbeing is on-going and this will be measured through the new evaluation framework using data from the young people's feedback forms as well as the new narrative evaluation which was rolled out from September 2023 to September 2024. At the end of the NLHF funded project in March 2023, 26% of young people identified as having a mental health issue. Up to 30/1/24 data shows that 47% of the individual young people who have taken part in the new programme of activity identify as having a mental health issue (although this is from a smaller number taking part) showing the need for this programme. Through a systematic approach to evaluation, in partnership with Libraries, the team will be able to demonstrate impact on mental health on those taking part and the young people will be able to monitor their progress through the programme in relation to skills, confidence and mental health. Narrative evaluation will further demonstrate impact.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through the 'Making Creative Futures' group, chaired by the Kick the Dust Project Coordinator, where members from across Children's Services identify ways to engage the hardest to reach and most vulnerable children and young people through a joint effort. The group continues to play a key part in the delivery of activity as part of the DfE funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) project through the Big Norfolk Fun programme ([Big Norfolk Holiday Fun - Active Norfolk](#)) and through our own contributions through our Kick the Dust offer. The focus is on mental health and wellbeing and has representation from the NCC Public Health

team. This group acts as the vehicle to share best practice, ideas and resources and its membership continues to grow.

Target audiences: (some young people fall into more than one category) as of 30/1/24

- FE/HE – 44%
- YMCA clients – 8%
- Secondary schools – 39%
- Young people with mental health issues – 47%
- SEND – 3%
- Outside of mainstream education – 25%
- NEET – 31%
- Looked after children and adopted living those at home - 0%
- Care Leavers – 1%
- Young Carers – 6%
- New arrivals and refugees – 6%
- Pregnant young mums and teenage parents – 1%

In terms of how young people are finding out about Kick the Dust, it is clear that the Kick the Dust website is being used effectively with 50% of young people finding out about the project through the updated web pages ([Kick the Dust - Norfolk Museums](#)); 17% coming via one of our partner organisations and 17% having already taken part in a Kick the Dust project in the past.

Impacts on mental health and well-being

The new young people's feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale for assessing a population's mental well-being. The Young Ambassadors worked alongside Norfolk Public health team to devise the questionnaire, and this will be used in addition to the other measures to show impact in this key area.

From the Young People feedback forms, following their involvement in Kick the Dust, 50% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing with a further 50% agreeing that their involvement in Kick the Dust has helped them have more positive mental health.

From the additional questions asked of the young people taking part, the programme is meeting their needs and helping them see themselves in a museum or heritage setting.

- 100% of all young people strongly agreed that the museum was a safe space for young people like themselves who were struggling;
- 100% strongly agreed they were given a voice that was listened to;
- 63% strongly agreed that they understood heritage better than they had done before taking part with a further 25% agreeing;
- 63% strongly agreed that following their engagement heritage was more relevant with a further 25% agreeing. The same numbers stated that they felt heritage represented young people like themselves;

- 85% stated they now had a greater understanding of museums and the job roles available with 50% strongly agreeing that they could see themselves working in the sector;
- 63% strongly agreed that the skills they had acquired would be useful to them in the future with a further 38% agreeing;
- 43% strongly agreed they felt more connected to their local community than previously with a further 57% agreeing;
- 72% agreed that their involvement had helped them to explore and feel more connected to their own identity and heritage.

New funding bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund

A successful National Lottery Heritage Fund Grants for Heritage Round 1 application was submitted to the NLHF for the Your Heritage Your Future (YHYF) project. The application was submitted by YMCA Leicester, with NMS as Lead Partner. This complex application was put together by a joint project team of staff from YMCA Leicester and NMS, who are now working on the Development Phase of this application, ahead of a Round 2 bid submission in May 2024. If the Round 2 bid is successful, project delivery would commence in later 2024.

Pilot paid traineeships and specialist training programmes are being delivered and evaluated as part of the development phase for this project. One pilot traineeship is based at True's Yard Museum in King's Lynn.

As part of this development phase, a group of young people from Norfolk who are NMS Kick the Dust Youth Board members, met recently with their counterparts in Leicester, as part of a structured weekend consultation event supported by NMS and YMCA Leicestershire project workers. More information is provided below.

YHYF Forum visit to Leicester

On 16 and 17 February 2024, representatives from the NMS Kick the Dust Youth Board and the YMCA's Midlands Youth Heritage Forum met up in Leicester for two days full of heritage visits and discussion. Amongst visits to some of Leicester's top heritage attractions, the group reviewed their involvement in the Your Heritage Your Future project and made key decisions about the project going forwards.

The trip was attended by four young people from the Norfolk Youth Board, three from the YMCA's Youth Heritage Forum, and the current trainee working at Leicester Museum & Art Gallery. Staff present included the Strategic Lead for the East Midlands, the Project Officer in East of England, YHYF's Evaluation Consultant and the Youth Mentor/Documentarian for the pilot phase.

The young people chose a collective name for their group going forwards working on the project: the YHYF Forum. They also:

- Provided feedback on the infographic drafts, choosing a final version they preferred.
- Took part in a workshop led by the Evaluation Consultant, making key decisions about how evaluation should look in the delivery phase and how to remove barriers to taking part in evaluation.
- Went on a tour of Leicester Museum, led by Nuura, the trainee, so that they could learn about the museum but also ask her questions about the traineeship and formulate their own ideas on how the traineeships could be adapted in the delivery phase.
- Prior to their visit but as part of YHYF, the NMS Youth Board gave feedback on flyers about the project to be handed out at the SHARE conference on 11 March.
- The YHYF Forum noted that ensuring definitions of heritage are broad is important, particularly for young people from global majority backgrounds.
- Identified that clear signposts for further work for young people after the traineeships will be important.
- Evaluation needs to consider and clearly communicate why data is being collected and what it is being used for, particularly for young people with complex needs.



The group's ideas on how to make evaluation more accessible and inclusive

Throughout the visit, it became apparent how important being part of a heritage youth board was to the young people's sense of identity. This was for a number of reasons, including:

- Increased confidence and self-esteem as a result of taking part in something new and, importantly, travelling to new places and being independent.
- Meeting other people in a space to share similarities but also learn about different viewpoints, stories and histories.
- Improved wellbeing through social interaction and being able to have fun as a group at heritage sites.

Quotes from participants:

"[I have gained] confidence...Chinese society is a bit competitive...I'm always comparing myself to other people and thinking that I'm not good enough. So, I think now I'm probably more confident with my language and my study, and feel braver to try something new."

"This completely takes me out of my comfort zone. I would never be like "I want to go to museums", or I'd never travel outside of my hometown, because I only did that with family, and I don't have contact with them...It has encouraged me to travel by coach and stuff like that. And that sort of opened

up my mind and brought down a wall, and also doing it now, like I could feel fully comfortable do by myself. And I think that's something that I didn't expect at all, which I again, will forever cherish."

"When I joined Kick the Dust, I got to work with people who really challenge my views of things...it's really interesting to have different perspectives to me and interesting stories and views of history and things like that. It's such a great life skill to have friends who are different from you and respect their opinions."

Being part of the group has also expanded horizons for the young people. It has given them the opportunity to explore new areas – this was particularly highlighted when all but one of the group visited the King Richard III centre in their free time, even though it was not a planned activity – and has also opened up new career possibilities for them and affirmed that the heritage sector is a space that they belong in.

"Another thing is I've also had something to look forward to. For as in for my future. It gives me that plan."

"It's helped me realise what I want to do in terms of a career because I did the online work experience with Kick the Dust back when I wasn't sure what I wanted to do and then I really enjoyed that. So, I decided to join the board from that. Just getting the chance to see...how the museum industry works really helped as well, to help me decide that was something I'm interested in. I don't think I would have done a Museum Studies course at Durham University without having done that, to be honest."

"It's definitely given me confidence and the ability to talk to people who are involved in museum services at a high level, and not feel too intimidated."

8. Visitor figures

Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting

9. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Report Contact:

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KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

MARCH 2024

TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

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

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

Our exhibition room has had a fresh coat of painting and the 2024 programme is underway. As we experience some staff turnover this winter and had to recruit a new Deputy Manager the decision was made to include an additional pre-made exhibition to give the Curator more time to work on the new exhibitions. King's Lynn in World War 1.

Exhibition Schedule 2024

King's Lynn in World War 1	January- March 2024
The Timber Trade	April –May 2024
Whodunit? Solve a Victorian Mystery	June- July 2024
Summer Art Exhibition <i>Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time</i>	5th July -31st August 2024 Old Smithy
Archaeology Exhibition	July- September 2024
<i>St Nicholas: The Man, The Legend, The Chapel and the New Hanse</i>	October 2024- December 2024

1.2 Forthcoming Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2024 is *Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time*. The exhibition will open on 5th July and will feature brand new pieces by fisherman, turned artist, Alan Castleton inspired by photographs from the town's past. 17 of the 20 new paintings in the exhibition have already been completed.

1.3 True's Talks

Our True's Talks Spring series began on 1st February 2024 and originally was going to run until 4th April. However, this series proved exceptionally popular with some talks having large waiting lists. We have managed to successfully negotiate with some of our

speakers on a repeat performance.

Additional talks

11th April Georgian Upper Crust.

18th April Tales from the Taproom.

25th April the Repopulation of True's Yard

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

8th March Supper & RNLi visit at the Beach Café Old Hunstanton

21st March 1940's Dining Experience at Novus Restaurant

3rd April Children's Activity Day

10th May Springwood Musical evening with the Schools choir and band, The Military Housewives Choir.

29th May Children's Activity Day

5th July Summer Art Exhibition Opening

7th July Sea Sunday

20th and 27th July Festival of Archaeology

8th September Heritage Open Day

16th October Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

6th December St Nicholas Day

3. Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have the support of the Friends, they have already made contributions to help take some of the sting out of our increasing accountancy and insurance fees.

3.1 Fundraisers

The Friends of True's Yard have 8 fundraisers planned this year including their normal lunches. The recent quiz attracted an audience of 74.

4. Partnerships

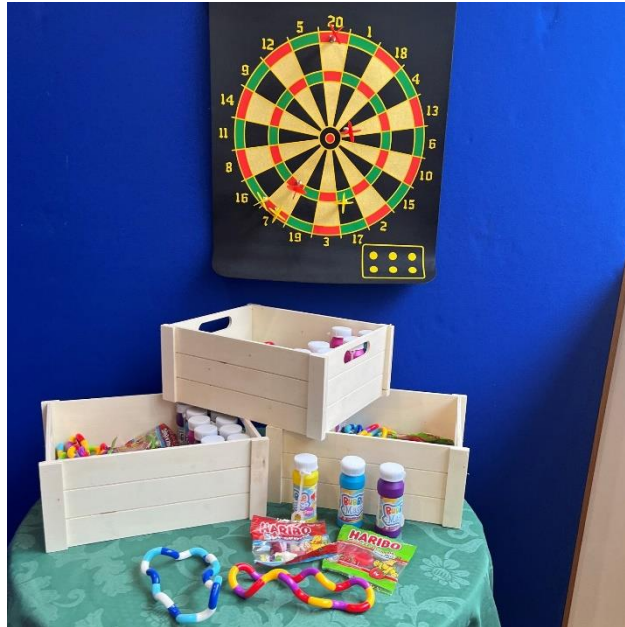
4.1 College of West Anglia- Tastes of the Past

The decision was made to postpone the Wartime Rationing January event to March and rebrand to 1940s Dining Experience. With everything happening in Gaza and Ukraine having an event with war and deprivation at the forefront seemed in poor taste. The new date is 21st March 6pm-8pm at Novus Restaurant. Tickets are still £25 and we are also working with a local singer for a musical element to the event.



4.2 YMCA Leicester and Norfolk Museum Service, Your Heritage, Your Future

The Museum continues to participate in the 'Your Heritage Your Future. Shannon has now been with the Museum since December and is enjoying her placement with us. Recently she designed and ran an activity at our Funfair Themed Family Day and suggested the prizes for the day. The fidget toys proved exceptionally popular and definitely something we will consider again.



Shannon's Activity was magnetic darts

4.3 Heritage Learning Forum

The Heritage Learning Forum has representatives from Stories of Lynn, King's Lynn Town Guides, Community Action Norfolk, Lynn Festival, King's Lynn Library, Marriott's Warehouse, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk, St George's Guildhall Complex, COWA, Volunteering Matters, King's Lynn Minster and St Nicholas' Chapel. This group meets quarterly to discuss various aspects of heritage organisations such as volunteers, school visits etc. The collaborate project for 2024 is currently being planned.

4.4 Chatterton House

The Museum has renewed our partnership with the mental health organisation offering coffee mornings every Tuesday.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Half term Activities

Funfair Family Activity Day & Dungeons and Dragons for Kids

We had 160 attendees of our Fun Fair Themed Family Activity Day on Wednesday 21st February and on Saturday 24th February we trialled our Dungeon and Dragons for Kids which proved to be a success (fully booked). The one-hour session focussed on

developing numeracy skills, encouraging teamwork and also utilised in game money so the children gained an understanding of rudimentary budgeting.



5.2 Easter Holidays and May Half Term

For Easter there will be an Easter Trail around the Museum and on 3rd April will be an Easter themed Children's Activity Day and 29th May will be our Half Term Family Activity Day.

5.3. Festival of Archaeology

We are taking part in the Festival of Archaeology (13th -28th July 2024) with Archaeology Days on 20th and 27th July. We will be working in collaboration with the Museum of London, West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society, King's Lynn Under Siege and specialist archaeologists. There will be digging activities, talks and more.

5.4. Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

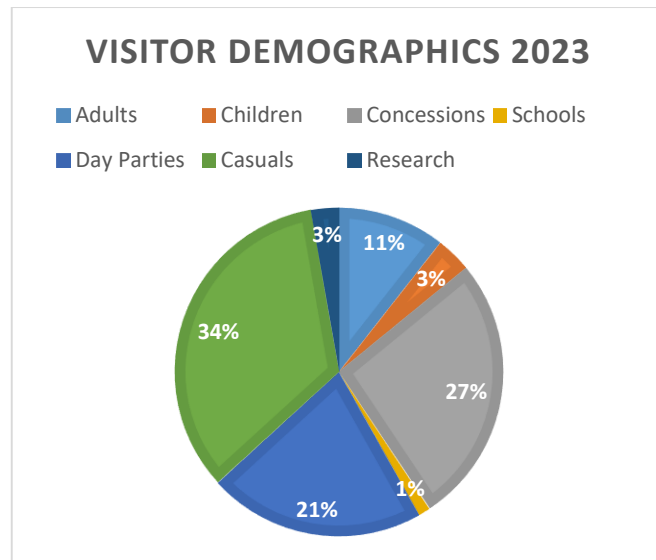
A new Oral History Committee has formed with the aim of reinvigorating a previous oral history project. The new project 'Capturing Memories' will focus on recording the memories of the last generation of Northenders and those of the people of Lynn.

5.5 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.2k followers and Twitter/X has 1,428 followers. We have recently focussed on increasing our usage of Instagram and our followers are steadily increasing 420 Followers (last report 401).

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 1st April 2023 to 22nd February 2024 were 10,266 (At last meeting in December 8,385). We are on target to exceed last year's visitor numbers of 11,250.



Our largest demographic of visitors to the Museum continues to be concessions (60+, blue light and students). This corresponds to the data we receive from Groupon where 70% of sales are to people 51+. We are planning to increase our schools offer to encourage more school visits. It had been difficult as for 2023 as we had periods without a Deputy Manager due to illness and staff turnover limited our availability for schools.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- Increasing costs of utilities, insurance, accountancy have proved challenging. Savings and income generation is a big part of the 2024/25 budget.

Property- None.

Staff- Tabitha Kaye stepped down as Deputy Manager in December 2023 and has been replaced by Gaynor Western (February 2024).

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:
 Lindsey Bavin
 Museum Curator
 True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum
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 e-mail: info@truesyard.co.uk

King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Schedule of Meetings 2024/2025

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Monday 17 th June 2024	2.00pm	Council Chamber, Town Hall
Monday 16 th September 2024	2.00pm	Council Chamber, Town Hall
Monday 13 th January 2025	2.00pm	Council Chamber, Town Hall
Monday 10 th March 2025	2.00pm	Council Chamber, Town Hall