

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

1st March 2017

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 the Museum has hosted 6 main exhibitions and 6 Children's exhibitions. The *Royal King's Lynn* exhibition ran until 1st July. This date marked the start of the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and to commemorate this we held *Those who Served*- a photographic exhibition with images from WW1. Our Children's exhibition were on a variety of subjects from the Norman Conquest to the History of Fashion.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2016 was *Royal King's Lynn*. For 2017 the major exhibition will be The People's Story which will be an exhibition focusing on our Oral History recordings and is part of our HLF Project "Opening up a House of History".

1.3 The next exhibition will be *North End Streets Through Time!* Which will focus on the changes to the built environment of the North End. This will run for two months to be replaced by Historic Crimes.

1.4 Our Spring True's Talks began on 2nd February on Thursday afternoons. Subjects include Poverty and the Workhouse, The Fight for Lynn's Historic buildings and The Red Mount Chapel.

1.5 True's Yard once again took part in Heritage Open Day and welcomed 760 visitors during the day.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Heritage Lottery Grant Funding.

As noted at the previous meeting True's Yard was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £56,500 in 2015 for our Opening up a House of History project. As of October 2016 we were half way through the project and there have been several major changes. The Research Centre has been upgraded. Accessibility was a key concern and the layout of the Research Centre has been changed to improve this. Community engagement is being strengthened through our Oral History Project. Our first training day was oversubscribed and others will be held later in the year. Now the project has moved onto ensuring the collection is properly stored and conserved.

2.2 True's Yard Silver Jubilee Appeal

Launched on 15th September 2015 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. The target was £100,000 and to achieve this Vice Presidents were recruited and an Appeal Committee was formed responsible for organising a series of fundraising events through 2015/16. We are set to reach our target and have already begun some of the major repairs to the building and boat.

Events held

- Supper and auction on 9th October 2015 in Hanse House jointly with the King's Lynn Norfolk Boat Trust.
- 6 Museum receptions for potential donors.
- A Chinese New Year event with the West Norfolk Chinese Association hosted by the Mayor at KLTH on 31st January 2016
- 3rd Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture on 31st March 2016 in St Nicholas Chapel. Talk on Battle of the Somme.
- West Norfolk Jubilee Youth Orchestra concert at Methodist Chapel (London Road) on 17th April 2016
- Team for the GEAR on 1st May 2016
- Paul's Pubs: A Historic Town Tour on 8th July.
- Garden/ House Parties
 - a) Bill Irwin at South Wootton 5th June
 - b) Canon Robert Fayers in Pilot Street on 14th July
 - c) Clifton House in Queen Street on 5th August (Dr Simon Thurley (VP) and Anna Keay
- Songs from the Sea Songs- Gareth Calway and The Fried Pirates on 2nd September.
- Carol Concert at St Nicholas Chapel

Still to come

- Silver Jubilee Supper at the Hanse House on 31st March to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the opening of the Museum.
- Reception for local Businesses.

3.

Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to fundraise throughout the year. Their contribution to the Silver Jubilee Appeal was a Soup Feast 12th March at the Museum. They have also donated £1,000 to the refurbishment of the Museum's Gift Shop.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends of St Nicholas Chapel

The Chapel has been reopened for nearly two years and still has a partnership with True's Yard. We are currently working on joint children's activity days and a summer

fete to celebrate Sea Sunday and North End Day next year.

4.2 Hanse 2017

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. During the May 2016 Hanse Festival. HAS organised the History and Archaeology Symposium at Marriott's Warehouse and a concert at All Saints. We are currently looking to 2017 and are in communication with the Boston Hanse Committee. We are looking to host an art project called "Fishers of Men".

4.3 Heritage Learning Forum

True's Yard is now a part of a Heritage Forum with representatives from Vancouver Quarter, King's Lynn Town Guides, Southgates and Red Mount Chapel volunteers; Community Action Norfolk; Lynn Festival; King's Lynn Library; Marriott's Warehouse; Time Credits, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk; Tourism Support Officer; Stories of Lynn; Townscape Heritage Initiative; COWA; Volunteering Matters and St Nicholas' Chapel. This group meets quarterly to discuss various aspects of heritage organisations such as volunteers, school visits etc.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1 School visit numbers remain steady and we able to organise visits to schools for those unable to afford the cost of transport. Our loan boxes are proving popular and we've had some successful children's activity days this year, which we run on a regular basis. We also have run children's events in partnership with the West Norfolk Archaeological Society and St Nicholas Chapel.

6. Visitor Numbers

2015-2016 11,517. The figures for 2016/17 will be calculated for my next report.

7. Resource Implications

Finance- HLF funding, Silver Jubilee Appeal.

Property- Recently surveyed with a view to essential repairs.

Staff- No changes.

8. Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

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