

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:

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