

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

3rd December 2018

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. Subjects included Folk Music, the men of King's Lynn who served in the Napoleonic War and two photographic exhibitions highlighting the diversity of our collection. We also held smaller Children's exhibitions. One looked at Toys throughout History. Our next Children's exhibition will look at Vikings.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2018 was *Scars of War*- part of a larger collaborative project of the same name. *Scars* was a collaborative project with Stories of Lynn, St Nicholas' Chapel, Lynn Museum, King's Lynn Library, and The Custom House. It consisted of six workshops producing six brand new war memorials inspired by the soldier's graffiti on top of King's Lynn Library Tower. The Memorials were revealed at the Commemorative Evening at the Town Hall on 12th November. The project was funded by the Friends of True's Yard and Norfolk Community Foundation's Commemorating World War 1 Fund and Norfolk in World War 1. A trail will be launched on 19th January 2019 at the Town Hall and a booklet with the readings from the Commemorative Evening will accompany the memorials.

1.3 The next exhibition will be *The Showmen's Guild and the North End*.

1.4 Our Autumn True's Talks was once again very popular. Subjects included The First World War, Vaughan Williams and The Common Staithe. The Spring Series which starts on 7th February and includes subjects such as the Port of Lynn, Northern Ethiopia and the Blackforest Clockmakers in Lynn.

1.5 True's Yard once again took part in Heritage Open Day and welcomed 900 visitors during the day.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Heritage Lottery Grant Funding.

As noted at previous meetings True's Yard was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £56,500 in 2015 for our Opening up a House of History project. The project officially ended on February 2018. We required a small extension due to the sheer amount of material we discovered one work got underway. 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 was strengthened through our Oral History Project. The first training day was oversubscribed and others were held which proved equally popular- topics such as Modes, cataloguing and oral history. Our Archive collection is now properly stored and conserved. We are looking to the object store and how that can be improved.

2.2 True's Yard Silver Jubilee Appeal

Launched on 15th September 2015 the purpose of the Silver Jubilee Appeal was to consolidate what had 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 2015/16/17. We reached our target, the buildings have been repaired, a wealth of educational projects have been created and work is still ongoing in refreshing our galleries and tearoom.

Events held

- **20th June: Midsummer Dinner**
- **21st June: Unveiling St Nicholas Lego Model**
- **22nd June: Historic Pubs Walk**
- **22nd September Skirting Heresy (KL Minster)**
- **Throughout October/November Scars of War Workshops**
- **13th October Discover the Fisherfolk of North End Tour**
- **23rd and 30th October Ghost Walks**
- **10th November Ghost Hunt**
- **12th November Scars of War Commemorative Evening at Town Hall**
- **1st December Small Business Saturday**

Still to come

- **6th December St Nicholas' Day Quiz**
 - **12th December: VIPS Christmas Raffle**
 - **19th January 2019 Launch of Memorial/Graffiti Trails and performance of Marham Wives Military Choir.**
 - **April Archive Film Show**
 - **7th March 2019 Dinner and guest speaker: James Bagge**
 - **TBC Historical Fashion Show**
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3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to fundraise throughout the year. Recently they have supported our Scars of War project, purchased a unique Twaits picture of the North End

Fishing Boats and paid for a new water heater for our tearoom.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends of St Nicholas Chapel The Chapel has been reopened for nearly three years and still has a partnership with True's Yard.

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 2018 Hanse Festival HAS organised the History and Archaeology Symposium at Marriott's Warehouse. We organised pirates and knight re-enactment at the Hanse House, a walking trail and archery at St Nicholas' Chapel. We are currently looking to 2019 and are looking at having a walking play an international speaker and more.

4.3 Heritage Learning Forum

The Heritage Learning Forum has 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 have dipped a bit which we have put down to difficulties in getting transport. As such we have done significantly more outreach this year. 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. Our Scars of War workshops also attracted children and their families. Children's history books distribution (King's Lynn and the Hanseatic League and A History of King's Lynn) is going well so far we have reached 90% of primary schools in the Borough.

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 2017/18 were 13,488. Currently for this year we are on track to match that figure. The incredibly hot weather of the summer did impact our visitor figures but we have been trying to counter the effect with more autumn/winter events & activities and a considerable amount of outreach.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- For the past three years we have been focusing on fundraising for the Silver Jubilee. Our attention is now on fundraising for running costs.

Property- We have completed essential repairs.

Staff- Our apprentice passed her Business Admin apprenticeship Level 2 and has gone on

to do an Apprenticeship Level 3 with Breckland Council.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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