

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

17th December 2019

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 hosted 7 main exhibitions. Subjects included The Showman's Guild, Shops of Lynn, Maritime Art, 150th Anniversary of the Alexandra Dock, The North End Society Protests, Places and Faces, and Cinemas in Lynn. We also held smaller Children's exhibitions.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2019 was *150th Anniversary of the Alexandra Dock*- part of a larger collaborative project of the same name. Working with Associated British Ports and the Lynn News a short story competition called *Stories of the Sea* was run. In January there will be a special ceremony where the winner and runners up will be presented with their prizes and take part in burying a time capsule. 1st prize went to Jacob Chalke for his story Submersible Sid the Sandbank Kid. He will receive £200 worth of book tokens and his school St Clement's High a donation of £600 from Associated British Ports.

1.3 The next exhibition will be *Fantastic Beards and Where to Find Them*- a collaboration with Captain Fawcett's Museum. A light hearted exhibition to brighten a gloomy January detailing the array of facial hair amongst the North End community. It will be the first of many collaborative exhibitions in 2020.

1.4 Our Autumn True's Talks were once again very popular. Subjects included Hanse Merchants, Edith Cavell, Literary Lynn, and Viking Age Scandinavia. The Spring Series which starts in February features topics such as St George's Guildhall, Victorian Buildings in Lynn and our wildcard The Many Mysteries of Easter Island

1.5 True's Yard took part in Heritage Open Day welcoming 875 visitors.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

Events held

- **18th June Fundraising Fashion Show**
- **19th June Midsummer Dinner**
- **29th June King's Lynn Steampunk Society Pirate Day**
- **12th July 'Activity' Day**

- 27th July Norfolk Day
- 4th September True's Tots
- 15th September Heritage Open Day
- 5th & 9th October Ghost Hunts
- 21st and 29th October Ghost Walks
- 25th October Paranormal Evening
- 31st October Haunted House
- 26th October- 30th November Local History Course
- 9th November Margery Kempe Day (new book launch)
- 3rd December Christmas Extravaganza
- 7th December Small Business Saturday
- Throughout December Christmas Craft workshops

Planned for 2020

- From 15th January True's Tots
 - 5th February Older Person's Open Day
 - 20th February Wartime Tea Dance
 - 31st March True's Yard Anniversary Dinner
 - 16th April Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture given by Dr Robert Anderson '*The Invention of Albertopolis: The Lasting Influence of Prince Albert on British Cultural Life*'
 - 31st October Haunted Museum
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3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to fundraise throughout the year. This year they have been of immense help with the guttering repairs.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Christmas Extravaganza

Each year True's Yard holds a Carol Concert with the King's Lynn Male Voice Choir. Unfortunately, due to diminishing membership they were not able to offer the museum a carol concert this year. So we decided to try something different and team up with St Nicholas' Chapel and many others to put on something much bigger. There was a pop up Christmas Market, organ recital and historical readings. The Kick the Dust's youth group created an innovative 12 Aspects of Christmas display. Christmas Carols performed by a variety of choirs including St Edmund's School Choir, Heacham Girl Guides and the Guildhall Singers. Plus, a beautiful rendition of Silent Night by Emily Blake. There was also a performance of A Condensed Christmas Carol- Dicken's Christmas Classic reduced to 15 minutes. The evening welcomed 408 guests and raised around £500 in donations.

4.2 Heritage Learning Forum

The Heritage Learning Forum based at Stories of Lynn has representatives from King's Lynn Borough Council, King's Lynn Town Guides, Community Action Norfolk, Lynn Festival, King's Lynn Library, Marriott's Warehouse, Time Credits, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk, Tourism Support Officer, 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.

This year the collaborative Project was Street Art with the aim to develop new art pieces around the town to improve the area for locals and visitors. Workshops were held to see what mediums of art were popular and for ideas as to what people might like to see. These were popular, the Street Art workshop at True's Yard attracted 46 children and their families. There is certainly more scope for future artistic workshops. A new timeline art piece was also created out of the project by Nicola Murray Woods. To further encourage engagement with art Christmas Craft workshops were held throughout December.

As of January 2020 I will take over the leadership of the Heritage Learning Forum.

5 Learning and Outreach

5.1. This year we repeated our partnership with Historic England Heritage Schools to hold a CPD Day for teachers to encourage more schools visits and get feedback on how we can improve our school offer. Our loan boxes are proving popular and we've had some successful children's activity days this year.

On the 9th November the Mayor kindly launched our latest children's history book about Margery Kempe and distribution is already underway to Year 5 pupils within King's Lynn.

Our True's Tots sessions which were launched last year were given a new lease of life thanks to a grant from Freebridge and were so well attended it had to be moved to a bigger room.

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 2018/19 were 13,128. Currently our visitor numbers as of 11th December are 10,708 which is around 1,000 visitors ahead of where we were this time last year.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- cost cutting and fundraising has been a priority and the Finance Committee is pleased with the significant progress made.

Property- None at this time.

Staff- None at this time.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

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