

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

March 2023

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

This year the Museum will hold 6 exhibitions. Subjects have included 1953 Floods, Pocahontas and Norfolk, King Charles I, II, and III, Night Trawler and our annual Art Exhibition. The next exhibition will be focussed on the Timber Trade in King's Lynn.

1.2 Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2023 was Portraits and Personalities. The Museum worked with private collectors to showcase some of the best local artists past and present. We were particularly pleased to be able to showcase works by Walter Dexter some of which had not been seen by the general public for 70 years. The exhibition was kindly opened by Speaker for the House of Lords, Lord Nicholas True, a descendant of Ambrose True, the brother of William True after whom True's Yard was named.



Lord Bellingham, Lady True, Lord True and Dr Paul Richards.

1.3 True's Talks

Our True's Talks are once again very popular. The autumn series begins on 28th September. Subjects have include the Industrial Revolution, the witch trials and medieval Fenland.

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

12th October 2023 at 7pm at King's Lynn Town Hall. Costumed historical interpreter Kathy Hipperson of YouTube 'The Victorian Way' fame will be speaking about *Making a drama out of History: Bringing History to Life through costumed Interpretation*. Tickets £5pp

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

28th September – 16th November Autumn Series True's Talks.

12th October Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

17th October Friends of True's Yard Ghost Walk.

23rd October to 9th November The Festival of Margery Kempe.

Tastes of the Past Evenings (November- February)

Georgian Desserts.

Tastes of Christmas Past

Wartime Rationing

Foods of the Fair

14th December Carol Service at All Saints, Free

3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard have expanded their normal 6 fundraisers to 8 and they have so far proven popular. Alison Gifford has also kindly offered to do a Ghost Walk for the Friends to raise funds.

4. Partnerships

4.1 The Festival of Margery Kempe

2023 marks the 650th anniversary of Margery Kempe's birth and True's Yard will be holding a festival to celebrate the life of the famous medieval mystic from Bishop's Lynn. There will be a variety of different events such as talks, walks, concerts, small performances, food experiences and workshop.

Festival of Margery Kempe Events

11th October Margery Kempe- local woman of significance – combined school experience at Lynn Museum, Stories of Lynn and King's Lynn Minster.

23rd October-9th November Margery Trail

27th October 10:30am-2pm at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum Medieval Day – Drop in craft activities & a chance to try some Medieval Food.

29th October 3:30pm at St Nicholas Chapel Leah Stuttard Sing with me! Workshop for participation in the concert- Free to attend.

30th October 7:30pm at St Nicholas Chapel Leah Stuttard concert Margery's Journey in Sound – Not just for Christmas. Listen to Medieval Carols and Gregorian Chants- a celebration of English tradition.

1st November Day at St George's Guildhall Andrew Jarvis- Sir John Oldcastle and Falstaff workshops. Learn theatrical skills from an Incredible Shakespearian actor and discover the real inspiration behind popular Shakespearean character, Falstaff, and the politics of religious persecution.).

1st November Evening 7pm at St George's Guildhall - Medieval Mischief & Tudor Tomfoolery. £10pp. Under 16s free.

Thursday 2nd November 1pm-2pm at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum. Michael Gilbert Making a Living – Life in the Medieval Fenlands.

9th November at King's Lynn Minster 10am-12noon and 1pm-4pm Kathy Hipperson
Tales of Margery Story telling - Free to attend.

4.2 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, Tourism Support Officer, 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. We have new welcomed a new member – Jane Hamilton, Learning Engagement Officer for St George's Guildhall.

5. Learning and Outreach



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5.1. Vikings and Victorians

We tried something a little different this year. Our Vikings and Victorians Day welcomed 69 families and they enjoyed a host of crafts and activities including examining an ersatz Viking coprolite to find out what Vikings ate.

5.2. True's Tots/ Warmer Winter Programme

Our educational programme for the under 5's continues to prove popular. We are applying for funding to expand our Warm Space project from last year. We will continue to be a warm space but on top of that offer Winter Warm Packs which will contain clothing & items to help keep people warm. To bridge the gap when the Food bank is closed over the weekend we will also give out MRE's to provide 6 easy to prepare nutritionally balanced hot meals. There will also be packs for babies and sanitary kits.

5.4. NHS Wellbeing Dungeons and Dragons

A mental health project where the Museum hosts and runs Dungeons and Dragons sessions. So far it is really opening up the museum to new audiences and feedback has been very positive.

5.5 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.1k followers and Twitter/X has 1,413 followers. We have recently focussed on increasing our usage of Instagram and our

followers are steadily increasing 369 Followers (last report 293).

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for April 20223 to August 2023 were 5,493. This is a slight improvement on last year 5,471. Visitor income for this period has improved £19,266.27 from £17,320.87 the previous year. We believe this is down to our newly refitted shop funded by the Plan for the Future Fund.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- None

Property- we have installed a new lift thanks to funding from CIL. A new sign has also been painted by the entrance to welcome visitors to the Museum.

Staff- None.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

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