



KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

June 2024

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.

After careful review of our audience data and in light of the success Lynn Museum achieved with their *Tiger Who Came to Tea* exhibition we decided to change up our exhibition schedule and produce a new exhibition, which might be more appealing to general audiences. *The History of Fish and Chips* has garnered such interest and featured on BBC News Online.

Exhibition Schedule 2024

King's Lynn in World War 1	January- March 2024
The History of Fish and Chips	May- August 2024
Summer Art Exhibition <i>Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time</i>	5th July -31st August 2024 Old Smithy
Archaeology Exhibition	July- September 2024
<i>St Nicholas: The Man, The Legend, The Chapel and the New Hanse</i>	October 2024- December 2024

1.2 Forthcoming Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2024 is *Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time*. The High Sheriff of Norfolk, David Flux, will open the exhibition on 5th July. It will feature 21 brand new pieces by local artist, Alan Castleton inspired by photographs from the town's past.

This is all the more remarkable as shortly after the Museum and Alan agreed on the exhibition theme, the artist was struck down with a rare neurological disease. In the space of a week, Alan could hardly see, swallow, speak or even hold a paintbrush for more than half an hour at a time. Despite this, he just kept going with a singular focus and determination to complete these works. We are delighted to say that Alan is doing much better and all 21 paintings have been completed.

1.3 True's Talks

Our True's Talks Spring series proved incredibly popular and to accommodate those who were unable to get tickets 3 additional talks were put on the subjects of the Georgian Upper Crust, Tales from the Taproom and the Repopulation of True's Talk in the 1921 Census. We are now finalising our autumn programme with speakers and thanks to funding from the Norfolk Community Foundation Love Norfolk Fund we have been able to extend our current provision.

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

This year's Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture will be given by Dr Jago Cooper, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Centre and professor of Art and Archaeology at the University of East Anglia. Formerly, he was Curator of the Americas at the British Museum. Since 2011 he has written and presented a series of programmes for BBC Four, including Lost Kingdoms of South America, Lost Kingdoms of Central America, Easter Island: Mysteries of a Lost World, Masters Of The Pacific Coast: The Tribes Of The American Northwest, and The Inca: Masters of the Clouds. He has also published books on world art and archaeology including Surviving Sudden Environmental Change: Answers from Archaeology, Arctic: Culture and Climate, Mapping a New Museum and Peru: a journey in time.

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

5th July Summer Art Exhibition *Nostalgia...King's Lynn through Time.*

7th July Sea Sunday

13th- 27th July Festival of Archaeology

8th September Heritage Open Day

20th November Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture - Dr Jago Cooper.

6th December St Nicholas Day

3. Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have the support of the Friends, they have already made contributions to help take some of the sting out of our increasing accountancy and insurance fees.

3.1 Fundraisers

The Friends of True's Yard have 8 fundraisers planned this year including their normal lunches.

4. Partnerships

4.1 YMCA Leicester and Norfolk Museum Service, Your Heritage, Your Future

On 29th May Shannon completed her 6 month 'Your Heritage Your Future' placement with us. Although The North End Trust is not in a financial position to offer Shannon a post, the Museum Curator and Project Worker Leona worked with Shannon in her final weeks with us on job applications including one to Lynn Museum's for the lunchtime cover Front of House post.

4.2 The Festival of Archaeology

This summer we will be holding a Festival of Archaeology with several partners including the Museum of London, King's Lynn Under Siege and West Norfolk & King's Lynn Archaeological Society. Speakers will include Jelena Bekvalac, Curator (Human Osteology) from the Museum of London, Jason Stewart (Geoarchaeology/ environmental archaeology) and others.

So far, we have planned:

13th July - Tour and Talk on foreshore finds and the history of the North End.

16th July - site visit to a local excavation.

20th & 27th July- 'Skeletons and Pirates' mock excavation, recording and identification and object handling.

4.3 Heritage Learning Forum

After four years our curator Lindsey will be handing over the role of Chairperson of the forum to Learning Engagement Officer, Jane Hamilton, of St George's Guildhall.

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 Trust, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk, St George's Guildhall Complex, CWA, King's Lynn Minster and St Nicholas' Chapel.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Half term Activities

Bugs & Creepy Crawlies Activity Days

There was plenty to see and do on the 29th & 30th May including wax spider-web watercolours, moving butterflies, snail clay pots, and butterfly feeders. We had 75 attendees which considering the weather was reasonable.



5.2 Hanse Festival

To celebrate there will be a Pirate themed treasure hunt and activities around the Museum on 15th June.

5.3. Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

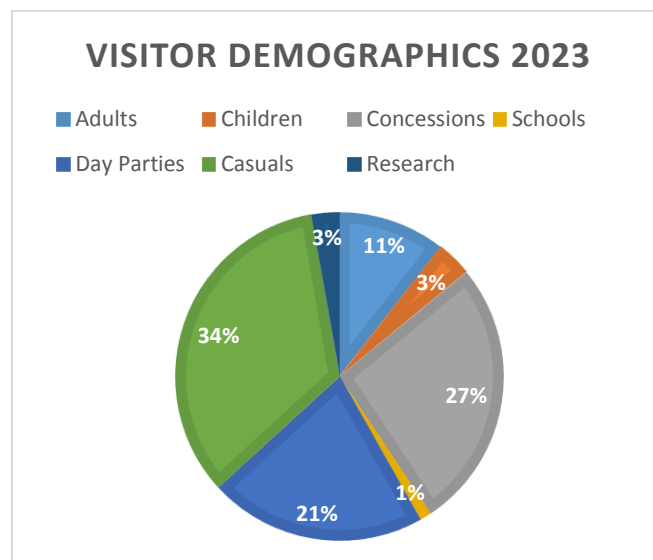
Our new Oral History Committee is hard at work capturing new oral histories and so far 5 have been recorded. The new project 'Capturing Memories' will focus on recording the memories of the last generation of Northenders and those of the people of Lynn.

5.4 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.3k followers and Twitter/X has 1,437 followers and Instagram 439 Followers (last report 420).

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 were 11,554 (At last meeting in December 10,266). We exceeded last year's visitor numbers of 11,250.



Our largest demographic of visitors to the Museum continues to be concessions (60+, blue light and students). This corresponds to the data we receive from Groupon where 70% of sales are to people 51+. We are planning to increase our schools offer to encourage more school visits.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- Increasing costs of utilities, insurance, accountancy have proved challenging. Savings and income generation is a big part of the 2024/25 budget.

Property- None.

Staff- Ray Howard, Finance Officer Retired on 9th May. Lindsey Bavin (Museum Curator) has reduced her days to 2 having accepted the part time post of Museum Enterprise Manager at the Cambridge Museum of Technology.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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Museum Curator

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