

Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



# **KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

## **Agenda**

**Monday 17 October 2011  
at 2.15 pm**

Committee Suite  
King's Court  
Chapel Street  
King's Lynn  
Norfolk



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Borough Council of  
**King's Lynn &  
West Norfolk**



King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX  
Telephone: 01553 616200  
Fax: 01553 691663

7 October 2011

Dear Member

**King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the above-mentioned Committee which will be held on **Monday 17 October 2011** at **2.15 pm** in **The Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn** to discuss the business shown below.

Yours sincerely  
Chief Executive

**A G E N D A**

1 **Appointment of Chair**

To elect a Chair of the Committee who shall be a member of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

2 **Appointment of Vice-Chair**

To elect a Vice-Chair of the Committee who shall be a member of Norfolk County Council for the remainder of the Municipal Year.

3 **Apologies for absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

4 **Minutes**

The Committee is invited to confirm as a correct record the notes of the meeting held on 13 June 2011 (attached at pages 1 – 10).

5 **Matters Arising**

6 **Declarations of Interest**

Please indicate whether the interest is a personal one only or one which is also prejudicial. A declaration of a personal interest should indicate the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of a personal interest, the Member may speak and vote on the matter. If a prejudicial interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

7 **Report of the Western Area Manager**

To consider the attached report:

- King's Lynn Museums Report (attached at pages 11 to14).

8 **Site Update Reports**

- (a) Green Quay six monthly activity report (**to follow**)
- (b) True's Yard Museum six-monthly activity report - (**to follow**)

9 **Schedule of Meetings 2012**

To agree the Schedule of Meetings for 2012 as set out below:

Monday 9 January 2012 at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

Monday 26 March 2012 at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

Monday 11 June 2012 at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

Monday 12 November at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

To: Borough Council Representatives

Councillors, M Back, G McGuinness, Mrs E Nockolds, Mrs S Smeaton and A Tyler

**County Council Representatives**

M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Shooting Box Cottage, 113 Church Street, North Creake, Fakenham, NR21 9JQ

B W C Long, 31 Smeeth Road, St Johns Fen End, Wisbech, PE14 8JF

R Rockcliffe, Kiln House, 34 Thieves Bridge Road, Watlington, King's Lynn, PE33 0HL

A J Wright, The Manor House, Syderstone, King's Lynn, PE31 8SD

M Langwade, Oakwood, 19 South Wootton Lane, King's Lynn, PE30 3BS

Substitutes: To be advised by Norfolk County Council

Ex Officio Non Voting Members

Chairman, Joint Museums Committee – Mr S Dunn, 3 Appleacres, Old Catton, Norwich, NR6 7BA

Vice-Chairman, Joint Museums Committee – Mr Philip Duigan, Turnpike Close, Dereham Road, Scarning, Dereham, NR19 2NN

Co-opted Non Voting Members

Friends of King's Lynn Museums

Mr B Howling, Chairman, 21 Northgateway Way, Terrington St Clement, King's Lynn, PE 34 4LG

Trues Yard Fishing Heritage Museum

Joanna Barrett, Museum Manager, Trues Yard Museum, North Street, King's Lynn PE30 1QW

Green Quay

Michael Dennis, Manager, Green Quay-Wash Discovery Centre, Marriott's Warehouse, South Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 5DT

Co-opted Youth Representative

Mana Avey, 19 School Road, Tilney All Saints, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4RS

Officers

Mr T Shaw, Administration Officer, Law and Administration, Norfolk County Council

Mr R Hanley, King's Lynn Museum, Old Market Street, King's Lynn, PE30 1NL

Ms Vanessa Trevelyan, Head of Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service, Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich, NR1 3JQ

Borough Council Officers:

Mr Tim Humphreys, Tourism Manager, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk

Item 4

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Notes of an Informal Discussion of the above Committee held on  
Monday 13 June 2011 at 2.15 pm  
In the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mrs E A Nockolds	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Councillor M Back	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Councillor Mrs S Smeaton	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Mr T Humphreys	- Tourism Manager, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
Mrs W Vincent	- Democratic Services Officer, Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk
County Councillor M Chenery of Horsburgh	- Norfolk County Council
County Councillor A J Wright	- Norfolk County Council
County Councillor R Rockcliffe	- Norfolk County Council
Dr R Hanley	- Norfolk Museums and Archaeology Service

The Chairman welcomed new Members to the informal discussion of the Committee and explained that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman would be appointed at the next meeting, as the appointments to the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee had to be agreed at Full Council on 30 June 2011.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor M Langwade.

**2 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2011 were confirmed as a correct record.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

## 5 REPORT OF WESTERN AREA MANAGER

### King's Lynn Museums Report – March to May 2011

The Western Area Manager presented his report which provided Members with information on King's Lynn Museums for the period March to May 2011 as set out below:

(i) Charging Period

The Lynn Museum was due to have moved into its charging period at the start of April. For 2011, this was delayed until 26 April due to the building works taking place on the main museum entrance. The charging period now extended to the end of September.

(ii) Memories of Lynn: King's Lynn since the 60's

The current temporary exhibition at Lynn Museum is *Memories of Lynn: King's Lynn since the 60s*, and would be on display until 18 June. The exhibition featured Lynn people sharing their experience of the changes to the town since the 1960s. It had been the focus for a number of events and activities including sessions linked to the ongoing programmes for young people categorised as NEET. Positive feedback had been received from visitors.

(iii) Exhibition – Fenland Stories

The next exhibition would be *Fenland Stories*, on show from 2 July until 10 January. This was the travelling exhibition developed by the Greater Fens Museums Partnership, which had been touring Fenland venues during the last year. The exhibition explored traditional Fenland tales and included a collection of animated films produced by local people retelling those stories or giving them a modern twist. The films were shown on the centrepiece of the exhibition, *The Whispering Willow*. There would be a programme of school summer holiday events supporting the exhibition. The public reaction had been strong in that people valued community groups and individuals being involved in developing the content of the exhibition.

(iv) Exhibition of Embroidery Work

From 2 July to 27 August there would be an exhibition of embroidery work by local craftspeople, with demonstrations taking place on each Saturday that the display was running.

(v) Programme of Afternoon Illustrated Talks

A programme of afternoon illustrated talks had been scheduled for Wednesday afternoons. The programme began with *The Story of Seahenge* talk given by Oliver Bone, Curator. Future talks would

explore subjects including fine art in museum displays; the Zeppelin raid of 1917; 18<sup>th</sup> century literature and Fenland tales.

The afternoon illustrated talks had attracted audiences of between 20-30 people.

(vi) Other Museum Developments

The pack-up of collections and displays at the Town House Museum was completed on schedule, with NMAS handing over the vacated museum and museum offices to the Borough Council on 11 March. The Borough Council had now provided NMAS with alternative storage accommodation to a good standard in the White Barn at the Arts Centre Complex. In the future, NMAS staff formerly based at the Town House Museum would be occupying offices provided by the Borough Council on the first floor of the former Town House Museum building, as part of the project to relocate the Registrar's Service. It was expected that staff would move into the offices during June/July. In the meantime, staff were based in temporary office accommodation at King's Court.

(vii) NMAS continued to work with colleagues in the Borough Council in regard to the re-development proposals for the Town Hall complex. This included supporting colleagues with the development of a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and providing specialist input to the bid-writing process. NMAS would also be providing curatorial advice and support for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia. All of these elements had been incorporated into the Service Level Agreement for 2011-12. It was noted that an initial meeting with HLF had been positive and the consultation work which had been piloted and would be submitted with the Stage 1 bid was outlined.

(viii) Work had now been completed on the replacement of the flat roof covering of the Lynn Museum reception, following problems with water ingress. During the period of the works, the site remained open to visitors, with a temporary entrance being utilised at the west (tower) end of the museum. The free admission offer was extended for the duration of the works. Visitor numbers held up well during this period. As part of the works, a number of improvements were made to lighting in the reception area.

(ix) With funding from the Norfolk County Council Carbon Reduction Fund (CERF), all of the main display lights (46) at the Lynn Museum had been replaced with LED units at a cost of £14,000. This would dramatically reduce energy consumption by saving 7 tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub> per annum and would help reduce utility revenue costs.

(x) As part of the staffing restructure necessitated by the closure of the Town House Museum, front of house staff at the Lynn Museum had been re-designated as Museum Learning Assistants. This reflected a greater focus on supporting formal and informal learning activities. The



first programme run by the new team would be available in the October half-term holiday.

(xi) Friends of King's Lynn Museums

The Friends were continuing to offer a varied programme for members including lunchtime talks and trips and an annual lecture.

The Friends continued to support a long-term conservation programme for parts of the fine art collections.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr B Howling advised those present that a lecture by Andrew McNere regarding digitised maps would be held on 14 September 2011 at the Town Hall.

(xii) Partnership Projects

King's Lynn Museums continued to lead the Greater Fens Museums Partnership as part of the current NMAS role as lead partner for the East of England Hub for *Renaissance in the Regions*. Due to changed funding priorities by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, the Fenland project would no longer be supported with Renaissance funding. Transition funding had been agreed to provide cash match funding and project officer support for the current Heritage Lottery Fund Stage 2 bid.

A Stage 2 Heritage Grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has now been submitted for the successor Fenland Partnership project *Fenland Lives and Land*.

The current travelling exhibition and events project organised by the Fenland Partnership was *Fenland Stories*, exploring both traditional and modern Fenland tales. The exhibition continued to tour the Fens, having recently been on display at the Cambridge and County Folk Museum and the Prickwillow Drainage Museum. *Fenland Stories* would be on display at Lynn Museum from 2 July 2011.

(xiv) Learning and Outreach

A monthly *Mini Explorers Club* continued to meet at the Lynn Museum, targeted at under 5's, their carers and families.

The Community Outreach Officer continued to deliver programmes for young people categorised as NEET (not in education, employment or training). Additional funding had been obtained through the College of West Anglia to support further NEET programmes in King's Lynn. The film developed as part of the latest NEET project *Women in History* was premiered at the Arts Centre on 27 May.

The film produced by NEET young people to support the *Memories of Lynn* exhibition was currently on show at the Lynn Museum.

The Community Outreach Officer and King's Lynn Museums Youth Forum had recently produced a DVD case study toolkit *So you want to work with Teenagers?* on behalf of the Museums Libraries and Archives Council and The Mighty Creatives.

The Chairman made reference to the Service Level Agreement the Borough Council had with the Museums Services which included the delivery of an outreach programme of activities and highlighted the importance of working together as a partnership to provide the service.

The Western Area Manager informed the Committee that Marie Kennedy, the current Outreach Worker would be taking up a new post in Cambridge and recruitment would be necessary to appoint her replacement. The Chairman commented on the success of the NEET programme and that participants had gained confidence to enable them to either attend a course at the College of West Anglia, or seek employment.

(xv) Visitor numbers

The visitor numbers were tabled.

The Western Area Manager explained that the visitor figures included all museums in Norfolk and that the May figures had been added for May 2011 to the Lynn Museum only. He explained that the visitor numbers were encouraging despite the fact that the Lynn Museum was closed during February and March 2011 and that the target was on track for between 15,000 to 18,000 visitors during the current year.

The Chairman asked if the postcode survey and analysis was still being undertaken at the Museum. The Western Area Manager explained that periodic collection of postcodes was still being done and provided useful information and that more analysis of postcodes would be carried out in the future.

In response to a question from the Chairman on the Wednesday afternoon illustrated talks, the Western Area Manager explained that attendance figures were around 25, which was above target and a keen interest remained in Seahenge gallery.

County Councillor Chenery enquired on the type of covering used on the recent works to the flat roof of the Museum. In response, the Western Area Manager explained that a new improved roof structure had been installed which would improve the drainage and resolve the previous problem of water ingress.

Following questions on the removal of the "dog leg" to improve the front entrance, the Western Area Manager explained that the Museums Service had liaised with the Borough Council and it was proposed that the original dog leg be removed to create a flat frontage and installation of an automatic

entrance door. A feasibility would be undertaken to remove the current gathering point to enable more floor space in the foyer area and to increase the size of the retail shop at the Lynn Museum. If the works were approved, it was anticipated they would be undertaken in the winter period to minimise the impact to visitors.

The Chairman referred to paragraph 2.2 (Town Hall Complex) of the Western Area Manager's report and explained that the Borough Council's Community and Culture Panel would be invited to view the proposals for the Town Hall prior to their meeting on 27 June 2011. The Western Area Manager added that a meeting had recently been held with English Heritage who had been supportive of the principles.

The Chairman enquired as to what promotional material would be forwarded to the Press in relation to the Fenland Stories Exhibition at the Lynn Museum from 2 July 2011. In response, the Western Area Manager advised that a marketing campaign would be launched for the summer holiday period. A press release, A5 flyer and the E-postcard system would be used to raise awareness of events and the Fenland Stories Exhibition. The Chairman asked the Western Area Manager to circulate copies of the flyer to Members of the Committee.

Following questions on suggestions and ideas put forward for the Gaol House and the Town Hall Complex, the Western Area Manager explained that the film which was premiered at the Arts Centre would form part of the submitted bid to HLF during August. Discussions had been held on audio devices, display cases, etc at the Town Hall and would form part of the next phase of the bid. The opening dates/times and access to the Town Hall were part of the work in progress.

The Chairman thanked the Western Area Manager for his detailed report and for his input into the proposals for the Town Hall Complex, which demonstrated a good working partnership between the Borough Council and Norfolk County Council.

**RESOLVED:** (1) That the report be noted.

(2) On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman asked Mr Howling to pass on thanks to the Friends for all the support given to the Museum Service.

(3) The Western Area Manager to circulate copies of the marketing flyer to Members of the Committee.

## **6 REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The Tourism Manager tabled the report which updated members of the Area Museums Committee on tourism marketing and provision of tourism information services and public access to heritage sites undertaken by the Borough Council during the period January – May 2011.

## West Norfolk Marketing Campaign 2011

Response had been good to the 2011 campaign aimed at generating direct requests for the West Norfolk Holiday Guide. A total of just under 51,000 requests had been generated to date with 4,000 more requests scheduled to be generated throughout the summer and early autumn period. The remaining 45,000 copies were distributed through the joint seaside campaign, national Tourist Information Centre distribution and local distribution through West Norfolk TIC's and exhibitions

### Promotion to day visitors

Most of the 200,000 copies of Where To Go and What To Do in West Norfolk had been distributed at venues used by visitors and local residents within large parts of Norfolk as well as being widely distributed at sites in Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Lincolnshire.

### King's Lynn heritage marketing.

A new edition of Discover King's Lynn was published at the end of March, with 100,000 copies in distribution, throughout Norfolk, parts of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. The discount voucher scheme had again been produced, in an improved format, with six sites, Lynn Museum, True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum, The Green Quay, Tales of the Old Gaol House, The Custom House Maritime exhibition, Red Mount Chapel/South Gate now included.

### Hunstanton mini guide and Downham Market mini guide

Updated versions of both the Downham Market mini guide and the Hunstanton mini guide were published before Easter and distributed throughout the local area.

### Tourist Information Centres (TIC's)

Visitor throughput at the Tourist Information Centres, had been at a high level during the first 5 months of 2011. At Hunstanton a total of 46,674 people visited the centre between January and May, which was the highest level for this period recorded over the past 10 years. The figure is 10% up on the same period for 2010.

At King's Lynn 29,564 people had visited the centre, which was comparable which the busiest years recorded over the past 10 years. The figure was 16% up on the same period for 2010.

The combined figure of 73,335 visitors was fractionally below the highest January – May figure achieved over the past 10 years, which took place in 2004.

The Royal connections exhibitions opened at the Custom House on 9<sup>th</sup> April and would be on display until 22<sup>nd</sup> July. This special exhibition was in addition to the regular displays at the Custom house about the history of the building, Lynn's trading history and famous sea farers.

### Tales of The Old Gaol House

Following seasonal closure, Tales of the Gaol House re-opened on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April, and was open on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Average visitor number per day were comparable with 2010. Year round access to the King's Lynn archive on Fridays had been maintained.

### Red Mount Chapel and South Gate

The 2011 programme of open days at Red Mount Chapel and South Gate commenced on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> April and would run through to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. This was a longer programme of open days than previous years and had been organised by the Walks Park Manager working with a dedicated group of volunteers. The programme would provide a total of 52 open days on Saturdays and Wednesdays throughout the period plus Sundays during July and August.

### The Hanse

King's Lynn celebrated International Hanse Day on 7<sup>th</sup> May with a treasure hunt, exhibitions at The Custom House and True's Yard and concert at All Saints church. Members of the Hanse Club enjoyed a supper at the Green Quay.

### King's Lynn Town Guide guided walks

The programme of regular guided walks commenced on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May and continued through to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October. Around 90 walks were offered on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons and Monday evenings in June and July. The programme included 4 special walks during the King's Lynn Festival. Privately booked tours and specialist walks could also be booked through the town guides.

### Events

The interactive events guide featured on [www.visitwestnorfolk.com](http://www.visitwestnorfolk.com) continued to feature an increasing numbers of events. The site currently featured around 250 events taking place throughout the rest of the year, with more being added on a regular basis.

As noted in the report from the NMAS Western Area Manager, The Borough Council, working closely with NMAS was developing proposals for enhancements at the Town Hall complex. Work was taking place to develop a stage 1 Heritage Lottery Fund application which it is hoped would be submitted in August.

The following leaflets were circulated to the Committee:

- Guided Walks around King's Lynn 2011.
- Discover King's Lynn.

- Hunstanton Mini Guide.
- Downham Market Mini Guide.

The Chairman commented that the above leaflets were useful to take when travelling abroad to promote King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

### Ambassadors Course

The Chairman invited the Tourism Manager to provide an update on the Ambassadors course operated by the Borough Council.

The Tourism Manager explained that during the 7 years that the scheme had been in operation, around 700 people had attended which included members of staff, Councillors, local businesses, etc. The following dates had been identified for 2011:

- 2 courses in March, May.
- 1 course in June.
- 3 courses in the autumn.

Delegates who had attended the Ambassadors Course during 2011 would be invited to attend any of the Guided Walks free of charge.

County Councillor Rockcliffe asked if the Coach Driver Initiation Days still took place. In response, the Tourism Manager advised that the Coach Driver Initiation Days were no longer on offer, but that the area was promoted to coach tour operators.

County Councillor Chenery asked at which outlets in bordering areas were the information leaflets on West Norfolk displayed. The Tourism Manager explained that this year the Borough Council had paid to display the West Norfolk main guide in racks at the following outlets:

- Peterborough and A1 Newark Services.
- Junction M18 Doncaster.
- Ely and Cambridgeshire Railway Stations.
- Birchanger Services on the M11.

Following a question from the Chairman on where visitors travelled from when visiting Hunstanton, the Tourism Manager explained that customer cards were available for visitors to complete and the research undertaken and captured from a previous survey, indicated that there was an equal split of visitors from the East Midlands, London and the Home Counties.

The Chairman thanked the Tourism Manager for his informative report.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

**9**      **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Area Museums Committee would take place on Monday 17 October 2011 at 2.15pm in the Committee Suite, Borough Council Offices, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn.

County Councillor R Rockcliffe offered his apologies for the next meeting of the Committee.

***If any Member is unable to attend meetings of the Committee, please could they forward apologies to the Democratic Services Officer well in advance of the meeting.***

**The Meeting closed at 3.20 pm**



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**KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK  
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

**17 October 2011**

**Item No. 7**

**KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT**

**Report by the Western Area Manager**

**This report provides information on King's Lynn  
Museums in the period June to September 2011**

**1. Temporary exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum**

- 1.1 The Lynn Museum charging period runs from April to September. The free admission period runs from October to March.
- 1.2 The temporary exhibition *Memories of Lynn: King's Lynn since the 60s*, was on display at Lynn Museum until 18 June. This exhibition featured Lynn people sharing their experience of changes to the town since the 1960s. It also served as the focus for a number of events and activities including a film-making project with a group of young people categorised as NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- 1.3 The current temporary exhibition at Lynn Museum is *Fenland Stories*, on show from 2 July until 10 January. This is the travelling exhibition developed by the Greater Fens Museums Partnership, which has been touring Fenland venues during the last year. The exhibition explores traditional Fenland tales and includes a collection of animated films produced by local people retelling these stories or giving them a modern twist. The films are shown on the centrepiece of the exhibition, the "Whispering Willow" tree. A programme of related events is supporting this exhibition, which has also been enhanced with displays of Fenland objects from the King's Lynn Museums collections.
- 1.4 From 2 July to 27 August Lynn Museum also hosted an exhibition of embroidery work by local craftspeople, supported by a range of demonstrations.
- 1.5 A pair of colour chalk drawings from 1957 showing the proposed Campbell's soup factory are currently on display in the Lynn Museum as part of a display of "painting pairs". The drawings have attracted



media interest linked to the planned demolition of the Campbell's plant and tower.

- 1.6 A programme of events for children was organised at Lynn Museum for the school Summer holidays including *Fenland Stories* on 26 July and *Mask Making* on 2 August. There was also a range of background activities available in the galleries. Some 350 participants engaged with these activities.
- 1.7 A programme of occasional illustrated talks is taking place at Lynn Museums on Wednesday afternoons. Recent talks have included *Fine Art in Museum Displays* and *Zeppelin Raids over Norfolk and Suffolk*. The latter talk by Collections Officer Tim Thorpe attracted considerable interest in the local media, with a large piece published in the *Lynn News*. This talk was enhanced by a display of objects and ephemera relating to the Zeppelin Raid of 1917. The next talk will be *18<sup>th</sup> Century Literature*, taking place on 12 October.
- 1.8 To mark national Archaeology Day, part of the Festival of British Archaeology, Lynn Museum hosted a day of archaeology activities on 30 July. The programme was supported by NCC colleagues from the Historic Environment Division including the Norfolk Finds Liaison Officer, alongside representatives from Kings Lynn metal detecting club and the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society. Members of the excavation team from the SHARP project were also on hand to discuss the latest news from the dig at Sedgeford. In addition to a range of hands-on activities and a finds identification service, there were also tours of the Seahenge gallery and a chance for visitors to make honeysuckle rope. The event was attended by around 90 visitors.
- 1.9 The Lynn Museum participated in the Civic Society's Heritage Open Day programme on Sunday 11 September, offering free admission. The period music group *Minstrels Gallery* entertained the 534 visitors with performances of Tudor music and a display of instruments

## **2. Other Museum Developments**

- 2.1 NMAS staff are currently moving into the new offices provided by the Borough Council on the first floor of the former Town House Museum building above the Registrars offices, following the completion of ICT works. The offices include an activity room that will be used as the main venue for youth/NEET engagement projects in King's Lynn.
- 2.2 In early summer, NMAS supported colleagues from the Borough Council with the development and submission of the Round 1 funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the re-development of the Town Hall complex. As part of this work, NMAS assisted with the co-ordination of an evaluation project, which included the development of a travelling consultation display that toured King's Court, the Lynn Museum, King's Lynn Library and the Town Hall.

- 2.3 NMAS is continuing to provide curatorial advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia. This role forms part of the Service Level Agreement for 2011-12.
- 2.4 A planning application is in train relating to the proposed modest alterations to the front glazed elevation of the Lynn Museum, following liaison with the Borough Council. As well as creating more space within the reception area for use by schools and other groups, these works will remove the sheltered external area that has been a focus for antisocial behaviour. The antisocial behaviour dispersal order currently for the museum and bus station expires in October.

### **3. Friends of King's Lynn Museums**

- 3.1 The Friends are continuing to offer a varied programme for members including lunchtime talks and trips and an annual lecture.
- 3.2 The Friends continue to support a long-term conservation programme for parts of the fine art collections.
- 3.3 The Friends AGM is taking place at Lynn Museum at midday on Monday 10 October.

### **4. Partnership Projects**

- 4.1 King's Lynn Museums continue to lead the Greater Fens Museums Partnership. A Stage 2 Heritage Grant application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been submitted for the successor Fenland Partnership project *Fenland Lives and Land*. An update on the progress of this application will be provided at the meeting.
- 4.2 The current travelling exhibition and events project organised by the Fenland Partnership is *Fenland Stories*, exploring both traditional and modern Fenland tales. This exhibition is currently on display at Lynn Museum
- 4.3 NMAS is working in partnership with the Arts Centre Trust on plans for a joint exhibition running from January to March 2012.
- 4.4 The Sedgeford cow bone and coin hoard has been returned to display at Lynn Museum following a loan to the *Treasures Under Your Feet* exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge.

### **5. Learning & Outreach**

- 5.1 A monthly *Mini Explorers Club* continues to meet at the Lynn Museum, targeted at under 5's, their carers and families. The session on 4 August involved an animal hunt, with children donning newspaper

explorer hats before discovering all the different animals hiding in the museum. They also made animal masks and a created a jungle college.

- 5.2 The Learning Officer continues to deliver a varied programme of events for local schools.
- 5.3 The Community Outreach Officer continues to deliver programmes for young people categorised as NEET. Following the departure of the previous post holder Marie Kennedy to a new job, this role has been taken up by Stuart Hall.
- 5.4 Members of the King's Lynn Museums Youth Forum created the consultation film *Museum Busters*, which was submitted as part of the evaluation evidence for the Round 1 HLF bid for the Town Hall project.
- 5.5 A development programme is currently underway for the Museum Learning Assistant team at Lynn Museum. Members of this team will have an important role in supporting a range of formal and informal learning activities at the museum.

## 6. Visitor numbers

- 6.1 Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting.

## 7. Resource implications

- |     |                               |      |
|-----|-------------------------------|------|
| (a) | <u>Finance</u>                | None |
| (b) | <u>Property</u>               | None |
| (c) | <u>Staff</u>                  | None |
| (d) | <u>Information Technology</u> | None |

## 8. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

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