

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



King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Agenda

Monday, 19th December, 2016
at 2.15 pm

in the

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



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

**DATE: KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA
MUSEUMS COMMITTEE - MONDAY, 19TH
DECEMBER, 2016**

**VENUE: COMMITTEE SUITE, KING'S COURT, CHAPEL
STREET, KING'S LYNN**

TIME: 2.15 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 16)

The Committee is invited to confirm as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2016 and the informal discussion notes from the meeting held on 26 September 2016.

3. MATTERS ARISING

To consider any matters arising.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on an item or simply

observing the meeting from the public seating area.

5. REPORT OF THE WESTERN AREA MANAGER (Pages 17 - 22)

To consider the King's Lynn Museum Report.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting is yet to be agreed. .

To: Members of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee

Councillors Agnew, Coke, Collis, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, H Humphrey,
Mrs E Nockolds, T Smith, A Tyler, T Wing-Pentelow and Mrs A Wright

For Further information, please contact:

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King's Lynn PE30 1EX

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 13th June, 2016 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 (Chairman)
Councillor A Tyler	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Councillor Mrs A Wright	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Councillor T Smith	- Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
County Councillor Chenery	- Norfolk County Council
Susan Thompson	- Friends of King's Lynn Museums
Dr R Hanley	- Norfolk Museums Service
Ms H Jackson	- Norfolk Museums Service

An apology for absence was received from County Councillor H Humphrey, T Wing-Pentelow, Mr J Ward and Lindsey Bavin

10 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017**

RESOLVED: That Councillor Mrs E A Nockolds be appointed as Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

11 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/2017**

RESOLVED: That County Councillor Humphrey be appointed as Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

12 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record.

Councillor Chenery queried the spelling of the word Napolenic, and it was confirmed that it should read 'Napoleonic'.

It was also pointed out that the minutes attached with the agenda were from 2015 rather than 2016. However, the minutes which had been sent out to the Committee following the meeting were the correct version.

13 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

15 **REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS AND LEARNING**

The Chairman welcomed Robin Hanley and Hannah Jackson to the meeting.

The Head of Operations and Learning and Western Area Operations Manager presented the report which provided Members with information on King's Lynn Museums activities for the period from March 2016 – May 2016.

(i) Temporary exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

The current major exhibition at Lynn Museum explored the life and work of Frederick Savage and was entitled Art of the Mart: Savage's – the famous fairground makers of Lynn. The exhibition had been hugely popular with visitors and was due to finish on 2 July 2016 but had been extended over the summer months and would now run until 11 September 2016.

A programme of illustrated talks continued to be offered at Lynn Museum on Wednesday afternoons. Recent topics included Battle of Jutland by Nigel Amies, Victorian Menageries by Michael Medlar and a talk on whaling given by Learning Officer Melissa Hawker and Curatorial Trainee Morgan Bell. Attendances averaged 15-25 and most talks were delivered by NMS staff. It was reported that Morgan had left the Museum for another job within the heritage sector.

An enhanced programme of informal family learning events continued to be offered at the Lynn Museum for the school holiday periods. Drop-in events this year included: a Dinosaurs (640) and Romans (67) events during the Easter holiday and Fancy dress (51) an event during the May half term to make costumes for the Roaring Twenties town-wide event on 12 June 2016. It was reported that during that event there was over 400 visitors to the museum.

During the school holidays the Lynn Museum continues to offer a popular programme of themed gallery discovery trails, with a new trail available for each week of the school holidays. Recent trails have included an Easter egg hunt and All the fun of the

fair. A loyalty card scheme would be offered to families and those which took part in 5 trails would be invited to a tea party.

The Lynn Museum continued to host monthly Coffee, Cake and Collections “coffee morning” style events for adults, with each session exploring a different aspect of the collections. Topics included a session on medieval King’s Lynn and RAF Marham centenary themes.

The Museum participated in the national initiative known as Museums at Night with a screening of the film *Cathead* by the King’s Lynn Youth Forum on Friday 13th May. The young people involved in making the film participated in a discussion after the film was shown about how the film was made.

The reception case at Lynn Museum was redisplayed regularly by Museum Trainee, Morgan Bell. A request had been made to the British Museum to display two of the Anglo-Saxon Pentney brooches in January and February 2017.

The Chairman commented that the museum played an important part of the town and this was demonstrated at the Roaring Twenties event held on Sunday.

(ii) Other Museum Developments

The Lynn Museum continued to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being maintained by staff. The Lynn Museum Twitter account had 2388 tweets and 1582 followers while the Facebook account had 358 likes. The Museum participated in the international Twitter event Museum Week and gained interest and new followers.

A team of collections volunteers continued to meet on a weekly basis in the NMS offices at Queen Street. Volunteers had continued with a programme of work involving the scanning and cataloguing of the drawing collections by local artists Henry Baines and Walter Dexter. The team’s work enhanced and illustrated the museum catalogue available online through the museum service’s collections website.

In addition to the scanning project, a small team of volunteers was working with Assistant Curator Dayna Woolbright on a weekly basis, undertaking an audit of collections at the museum stores at Aickmans Yard. They had been joined by a local artist who had been creating drawings of different objects which were shown to audiences on social media and formed a display in the reception case last winter.

The Museum had been successful in obtaining grant funding of £1,160 from the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards,

supporting the conservation of two newly acquired portraits in poor condition. The portraits were of John Langley and his wife Elizabeth. The Friends of King's Lynn Museums and two private donors were also contributing to the costs. The portrait of Elizabeth Langley had been conserved and returned to the Museum and the cleaned painting was much improved. Once both portraits were completed an unveiling of the finished work was planned with the Museum Friends Group.

The Museum's fortnightly History of King's Lynn in 100 Objects series with the Lynn News had generated significant interest.

Recruitment of staff for the Museum's Front of House team was currently in progress with the appointment of Carl Hutchings as Front of House Supervisor and interviews took place on 6 June 2016 for two part-time Museum Learning Assistant positions.

Following the closure of the King's Lynn Arts Centre, a 19th century British School oil painting The Regatta of 1860 featuring a maritime event at the town had been donated to the Museum to be added to the town collections.

Recent notable acquisitions to the museum's collections also included a print of Trafalgar Square by Lynn artist Dudley Page, a miniature of Robert Partridge, born in King's Lynn and later Mayor of Norwich and a Medieval silver annular brooch.

Councillor Chenery asked where John Langley was from. The Head of Operations and Learning stated that he would find out and let the Committee know.

Susan Thompson informed the Committee that she would be carrying out a biography of the Langleys.

In relation to the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards, the Head of Operations and Learning explained that this was a well-established charitable trust which had been in existence for a number of years.

Reference was made to the Regatta in paragraph 2.7, and the Western Area Operations Manager explained that she would look into the details of this.

In response to queries regarding twitter/facebook, the Western Area Operations Manager explained that almost all enquiries received on Twitter and Facebook was responded to. She explained that the Museum still promoted the use of postal address, email and telephone enquiries but these could only be responded to in office hours. Comments left on Trip Advisor were also responded to.

The Head of Operations and Learning explained that it was intended that responses should be in the public domain and that the Museum service was changing the way it communicated with visitors/users.

(iii) Friends of the Museum

The Friends were continuing to offer a varied programme for members including lunchtime talks, newsletters, trips and an annual lecture. The Friends continued to support the afternoon talks programme being offered at the Lynn Museum during 2016.

The Friends were continuing to fund a programme of fine art conservation, most recently the cockerel drawing for the Art of the Mart exhibition and support for the conservation of the portraits of John and Elizabeth Langley.

A Junior Friends of King's Lynn Museum scheme has been launched and members of the Friends Committee attended last summer's family events to invite children and young people to join.

It was also highlighted that it would be the 60th Anniversary of the Friends next year. Susan Thompson was compiling a list of everything that the Friends had contributed to. Once the list had been compiled it would be easier to keep up to date for future years.

The Chairman added that without the Friends Group the Museum Service would not be able to get external funding.

Susan Thompson confirmed that the Junior Friends were aware of the trail loyalty cards. She also confirmed that there were 37 junior members.

(iv) Partnerships

The Lynn Museum free admission period ran for October to the end of March. This free admission period was provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.

NMS continued to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the HLF-funded Stories of Lynn project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. As well as being part of the project steering group and Project Board, NMS continued to lead on the development and delivery of the project activity plan and had led on the development of exhibition designs and site interpretation. NMS was hosting the Learning & Engagement Officer and had hosted the Project Curator post until the end of March. Both had

worked closely with colleagues from the Borough Council and the Norfolk Record Office, alongside the external designers responsible for developing the new exhibitions at the Town Hall. Dayna Woolbright, Assistant Curator for Lynn Museum was seconded to the Stories of Lynn project from January to March 2016 to complete the curatorial aspects of the work including installation of objects in displays, completing graphic panels and labels and arranging for the packing and safe return of objects. The new display opened on 25 March. The Assistant Curator had continued to support the Stories of Lynn project through April and May including display snagging, supporting the production of the town app to guide people around the history of King's Lynn, and setting up the Town Hall's collections storage facility.

Assistant Curator Dayna Woolbright had led an exhibition in the Stories of Lynn changing displays area to commemorate the 100th anniversary of RAF Marham. Timed to coincide with the annual Freedom Parade and the launch of the summer Tornado Trail, the exhibition opened on 27 May. Linked to the exhibition was a plane spotting trail for the families in the Stories of Lynn exhibition area.

Partnership working with the Borough Council continued with the delivery of two major town events in 2016: the Roaring Twenties event on 12 June to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday, and a second event on the 17th July with Forties Lynn: Life on the Home Front Second World War theme.

The Lynn Museum had started opening on Sundays from 12 until 4 for the 2016 season running from April to September, made possible by financial support from the Borough Council. A Sunday joint ticket was available for visitors to Stories of Lynn to also explore both the Custom House exhibition and the Lynn Museum.

The Museum would be working with the King's Lynn Festival again in 2016 by providing the Lynn Museum as a venue. There were plans for a 30 minute performance by flautist Anna Rosa Mari on Thursday 28 July and an event aimed at pre-school children and their families by the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment on Saturday 16th July.

(v) Learning & Outreach

During 2015 – 2016 and again in 2016-2017, the Lynn Museum was hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeship provided through the NMS Teaching Museum programme, funded by ACE as part of the 2015-18 Major Partner Museum ACE business plan. Morgan Bell worked as a Curatorial Trainee for King's Lynn and Thetford in 2015/2016. Amongst a range of

other activities she helped to coordinate the trails programme, supervised collections volunteers and scheduled displays in the museum reception area. Morgan's traineeship ended in April when new trainee Imogen Clarke, one of 6 hosted by the Museums service as a whole was welcomed.

Lynn Museum had continued to work with local schools to deliver a broad range of formal learning sessions. Learning programmes had been adapted following recent changes to the history National Curriculum. The Seahenge and early history displays and themes were proving popular with schools and school numbers were up on last year's total. New boxes of handling artefacts were being created for use with schools including a new Romans box and at 'Archaebin' with layers of archaeological finds for children to investigate local history and archaeology.

On 17th May Museum staff welcomed pupils for the first joint schools event in partnership with Stories of Lynn. Children found out about Frederick Savage's life and role as Mayor at Stories of Lynn and discovered more about his work at Lynn Museum.

The Committee made comments/asked questions, some of which are summarised below:

Comments were raised regarding schools visiting the museum and engagement with schools. The Head of Operations and Learning explained that the museum mainly worked with Key Stage 2 children and also with pre-schools. He added that the museum did try to be proactive to help schools visit the museum. Staff from the museum did go out to schools to talk to teachers.

The Head of Operations and Learning also explained that Melissa Hawker was familiar with the history contacts in schools and it was hoped that schools within a 30 minute drive would be aware of what the museum could offer.

Following a question in relation to the schools' curriculum for GCSE and A levels, the Head of Operations and Learning explained that there was a new theme Crime and Punishment was a module and the museum was seeing an increase in engagement from secondary schools. He added that there were new opportunities over 12 months to develop a GCSE and A level offer.

(vi) Visitor numbers

The visitor figures for the period were circulated.

The Head of Operations and Learning highlighted two lines of interest – Lynn Museum, which reported an increase in visitor numbers for April and May and a new line Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA. This did not record visitor numbers to the Town Hall as these would be recorded separately by the Borough Council.

16 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for **Monday 26 September 2016 at 2.15 pm** in the **Committee Suite, King's Court, King's Lynn**.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

THE MEETING WAS INQUORATE SO AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE

Notes of an Informal discussion of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 26th September, 2016 at 2.15 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs E Nockolds	-	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk (Chairman)
Mr T Humphreys	-	Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
County Councillor Chenery	-	Norfolk County Council
Mr O Bone	-	Norfolk Museums Service
Ms H Jackson	-	Norfolk Museums Service
Lindsey Bavin	-	True's Yard Museum

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs A Wright, H Humphrey, J Ward, A Tyler, T Wing-Pentelow, Dr R Hanley, Mr S Miller and S Thompson.

2 MINUTES

As the meeting was inquorate, the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2016 would be agreed at the next meeting in December 2016.

3 REPORT OF THE HEAD OF OPERATIONS AND LEARNING

The Committee received the report from the Head of Operations and Learning as circulated with the Agenda. Oliver Bone and Hannah Jackson were present to answer any questions.

The visitor figures were tabled for information.

The Committee was invited to comment/ask questions, a summary of which is set out below.

In response to questions relating to schools visiting the Lynn Museum, Oliver Bone explained that exhibitions scheduled for the Lynn Museum were promoted. A flyer promoting the Little Lives, Snapshots of

Childhood 1800 to the Present Day which opened on 23 September 2016 and would run until 17 June 2017 was circulated to those present.

Following comments on the Baines Paintings, it was explained that if the opportunity arose to purchase a Baines painting then fundraising for the appropriate grants would take place prior to an auction.

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Nockolds suggested that the new staff of the Museum's front of house team be invited to attend the next Borough Council Ambassador course.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Mystery Shopping exercise in which members of staff visited other museums and offered feedback on their findings in exchange for feedback on the museum in King's Lynn. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Nockolds proposed that a report be received at the next meeting, to which the Committee agreed.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 5.1 of the report and informed that the Lynn Museum was hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeship provided through the NMS Teaching Museum programme. It was noted that Imogen Clarke was the trainee this year, one of six hosted by the Museums Service as a whole. The Chairman, Councillor Nockolds suggested that Imogen attend the next meeting of the Committee.

Hannah Jackson presented the visitor figures and explained that due to the warm weather experienced in June, July and August it was assumed that more visitors opted to spend time on the beach/outdoor activities; there had been a drop in the number of visitors which also echoed the Great Yarmouth data.

Following questions on advice given to set up a Museum, Hannah Cooke explained that the Museums Services provided advice when required and added that there was also a Museums Mentoring Scheme in place as well as a special advice shared network. Any interested organisations wishing to receive assistance should be encouraged to contact the Norfolk Museums Service.

The Chairman, Councillor Nockolds thanked Oliver and Hannah for presenting the report.

AGREED: 1) The Area Museums Committee noted the report.

2) A report on the feedback from the Museums Mystery Shopping exercise be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.

3) Imogen Clarke, Teaching Museum Trainee attend the next meeting of the Committee.

The Tourism Manager presented the report of the Borough Council as circulated with the Agenda.

The Committee's attention was drawn to section 2.2 West Norfolk mobile phone app and it was highlighted that the first edition of the new app was released on the App Store at the end of August. It was explained that the App provided a mobile responsive directory guide to, Things to do; Events; Places to eat and local food producers; shopping; places to stay; and local services throughout West Norfolk. It was highlighted that the App also provided the opportunity for business to promote special officers, as well as the relevant themed sections and individual business entries.

The Committee was invited to comment/ask questions, a summary of which is set out below.

In response to a question, the Tourism Manager advised that currently the App was not voice activated, however, it was explained that it was technically possible to provide some voice activated technology. The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Nockolds advised that a voice system would be provided through the Council Information Service in the future, but was not yet available.

Following questions on advertising on trains, the Tourism Manager explained that the Council had previously used trains for advertising via posters. The Chairman, Councillor Nockolds that Councillor Chenery enquires whether the railway group wish to have a supply of tourism leaflets on the trains.

Reference was made to the content of historic churches on the website, the Tourism Manager explained that there was information on most of the villages in the Borough, but that churches were not set up as a separate section. It was noted that information on individual churches had to be developed, but was time consuming.

In response to questions regarding the archives, the Chairman, Councillor Nockolds informed the Committee that the archives were being brought back from the Norfolk Records Office to the Town Hall.

The Chairman, Councillor Nockolds thanked the Tourism Manager for the report.

AGREED: The Area Museums Committee noted the report.

5

TRUES' YARD REPORT

Lindsey Bavin, Manager of True's Yard presented the report which had been circulated with the Agenda.

The Manager of True's Yard responded to questions from the Committee relating to:

- Partnership working with St Nicholas Church on planning events.
- Partnership working with the Vancouver Centre organising a Volunteers Day.
- Lecture on King John Cup.
- True's Yard Silver Jubilee Appeal.
- Developing a Phone App.
- Sunday opening.

The Chairman, Councillor Nockolds thanked the Manager of True's Yard for the report.

AGREED: The Area Museums Committee noted the report.

6 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Committee would take place on either Monday 12 December or Monday 19 December at 2.15 pm. The Democratic Services Officer to canvass Members to identify the most convenient date.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm



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

19 December 2016

KING'S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Head of Operations and Learning

**This report provides information on King's Lynn
Museum activities in the period from September
2016 – November 2016**

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

- 1.1 The current major exhibition at Lynn Museum is Little Lives, Snapshots of Childhood 1800 to the Present Day. The Mayor Cllr David Whitby opened the Little Lives exhibition on 23rd September. The display will run until 17 June 2017. This exhibition touches on stories of childhood over the last two centuries. Childhood objects from the museum collections together with photographs and paintings offer snapshots of the changing experience of childhood. Photographs of the Monement family of King's Lynn by pioneering Victorian photographer William Bolding accompany the family dolls house made by William Monement. The unconventional Ruskin School at Heacham of a century ago also features as well as more recent stories of childhood from the 1960s, with the four Breen brothers who went to King Edward Seventh Grammar School in Kings Lynn and the last two decades. A group of students from KES visited the exhibition to gain ideas for a planned display at the school about its history.
- 1.2 The previous exhibition Art of the Mart about the art and craft of the fairground featuring the work of Frederick Savage's King's Lynn fairground manufacturers ended its run on 11th September, Heritage Open Day.
- 1.3 A programme of illustrated talks continues to be offered at Lynn Museum on Wednesday afternoons. Recent topics have included a talk on the King John Cup by Ruth Farnan, Displaying Seahenge by Hannah Jackson and Fantastic Flint by Oliver Bone. Attendances average 15-25 and most talks are delivered by NMS staff.

- 1.4 An enhanced programme of informal family learning events continues to be offered at the Lynn Museum for the school holiday periods. The 'drop-in' format event in the October Half Term was Myths, Legends and Fairy Tales on October 25th with an attendance of 95.
- 1.5 During the school holidays the Lynn Museum continues to offer a popular programme of themed gallery discovery trails, with a new trail available for each week of the school holidays. Over the October Half Term period a Dragons Trail was available and on the Heritage Open Day on Sept 11th an Art Sticker Trail was provided.
- 1.6 The Lynn Museum continues to host monthly *Coffee, Cake and Collections* "coffee morning" style events for adults, with each session exploring a different aspect of the collections. Topics have included #MuseumMashup, Toys and Games and Christmas Hand Bells.
- 1.7 The reception case at Lynn Museum is re-displayed regularly by Museum Trainee, Imogen Clarke. Recent exhibits have included a display linked to dancing with dance cards, dancing shoes and sheet music and a display entitled 'Child's Play', featuring toys from the collections. A request has been made to the British Museum to display two of the Anglo-Saxon Pentney brooches in this case during January and February 2017.

2. Other Museum Developments

- 2.1 The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook accounts being maintained by staff. The Lynn Museum Twitter account has 2680 tweets and 1772 followers while the Facebook account has 400 likes. The Museum participated in the Twitter #70things to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Arts Council and is using #LittleLives for the new Childhood themed exhibition which opened in September. The Lynn Museum participated in the international #MuseumMashup event with interest from America in traditional British sweets such as sherbet fountains.
- 2.2 A team of collections volunteers continues to meet on a weekly basis in the NMS offices at Queen Street. Volunteers have continued with a programme of work involving the scanning and cataloguing of the drawing collections by local artists. Work has now been completed on the drawings by Thomas Baines which illustrate his experiences in 19th century Africa and a start has been made on topographical prints of the King's Lynn area. The team's work enhances and illustrates the museum catalogue available online through the museum service's collections website. .
- 2.3 In addition to the scanning project, a small team of volunteers has been working with Assistant Curator Dayna Woolbright on a weekly basis,

undertaking an audit of collections at the museum stores at Aickman's Yard. They have been joined by a local artist who has been creating drawings of different objects which are regularly shown to audiences on social media and formed a display in the reception case last winter.

- 2.4 The Museum has been successful in obtaining grant funding of £1,160 from the Woodmansterne Conservation Awards, supporting the conservation of two newly acquired portraits in poor condition. The portraits are of John Langley and his wife Elizabeth. John Langley travelled around the world with Captain Vancouver and later in life managed a public house in King's Lynn. The Friends of Kings Lynn Museums and two private donors are also contributing to the costs. Both portraits have now been conserved and framed in the Museums Service workshop in Norwich. An event is planned by the Friends to mark the restoration of the paintings in March 2017.
- 2.5 The Museum's fortnightly *History of Kings Lynn in 100 Objects* series with the Lynn News has generated significant interest. Recent artefacts featured include a portrait of Nelson, a 1920s dress, a Christmas card and a photograph of schoolchildren.
- 2.6 The Lynn Museum is participating in a museums 'mystery shopping' programme in which members of staff visit other museums and offer feedback on their findings in exchange for feedback on the museum in King's Lynn. The visits have now all been completed by our new team members as part of their introductory training and we have received some useful feedback from all the other museums, mostly very positive. One particular item of feedback which is being actioned is to improve the appearance of the signage at the museum entrance.
- 2.7 An important set of recent acquisitions for the Museum collections has been a donation of material relating to Samuel Gurney Cresswell, the Arctic explorer. The Museum has received a ceremonial sword, cabinet, scroll and epaulettes presented to Cresswell by the people of Kings Lynn in 1853. It is hoped that these items can be incorporated into the Stories of Lynn displays at the Town Hall where the Cresswell story is highlighted.

3. Friends of King's Lynn Museums

- 3.1 The Friends continue to offer a varied programme for members including afternoon talks, newsletter, trips and an annual lecture. The Friends have continued to support the exhibition programme of the Museum and have kindly paid for a protective Perspex lid to allow the display of the large Monement family dolls house in the new Little Lives exhibition.
- 3.2 The Friends of the Museum held their annual AGM on the 10th October and received reports about the work of the Museum, the organisation's finances and activities. Officers and committee were elected.

- 3.3 Christine Hodgson gave the Friends annual fundraising lecture on the Chelsea Physic Garden at Marriott's Warehouse on the 19th October.
- 3.4 The Friends are continuing to fund a programme of fine art conservation, most recently the cockerel drawing for the Art of the Mart exhibition and support for the conservation of the portraits of John and Elizabeth Langley.
- 3.5 A Junior Friends of Kings Lynn Museum scheme continues to be offered to encourage more young people to be involved.

4 Partnerships

- 4.1 The Lynn Museum free admission period runs from October to the end of March. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the Borough Council and NMS.
- 4.2 NMS continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of the HLF-funded Stories of Lynn project focussed on King's Lynn Town Hall. As well as being part of the project steering group, NMS continues to lead on the delivery of the project Activity Plan.
- 4.3 NMS is continuing to host the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer, who works closely with colleagues from the Borough Council and the Norfolk Record Office. Dayna Woolbright, Assistant Curator for Lynn Museum was seconded to the Stories of Lynn project from January to March 2016 to complete the curatorial aspects of the work including installation of objects in displays, completing graphic panels and labels and arranging for the packing and safe return of collections. The new displays at the Town Hall opened on 25th March. The Assistant Curator has continued to support the Stories of Lynn project with display snagging, and the production of the town App to guide people around the history of King's Lynn, and work on the Town Hall's collections storage facility.
- 4.4 Assistant Curator, Dayna Woolbright has helped with the production of a photography exhibition by young people organised by Ruth Farnan, Stories of Lynn Activities and Engagement Officer. This display opened on the 13th October and took the place of a display commemorating RAF Marham's centenary.
- 4.5 Partnership working with the Borough Council has continued with the delivery of two major town events in the summer of 2016: the *Roaring Twenties* event on the 12th June to commemorate the Queen's 90th birthday and a second event on the 17th July with *1940s Lynn: Life on the Home Front* Second World War theme. The Heritage Open Day on the 11th September was another major large town heritage event with 465 visitors to Lynn Museum.

- 4.6 The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the 2016-17 Service Level Agreement with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues 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.
- 4.7 On behalf of the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council, museum staff have worked on a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for improving the interpretation and display of the town's South Gate, a grade one listed building and scheduled ancient monument. The Borough Council submitted the application to HLF in September. The HLF have agreed to support the application and preliminary work on the project has started.
- 4.8 The Lynn Museum opened on Sundays from 12 until 4 for the 2016 season running from April until September, made possible by financial support from the Borough Council. A Sunday joint ticket was made available for visitors to Stories of Lynn to also explore both the Custom House exhibition and the Lynn Museum. The success of these extended hours is currently being reviewed.
- 4.9 The Museum is planning to work with the organisers of the King's Lynn Festival again in 2017 to provide the Museum as a venue for pop-up recitals and educational events.

5 Learning & Outreach

- 5.1 During 2016 -2017, the Lynn Museum is hosting a 12 month Teaching Museum traineeship provided through the NMS *Teaching Museum* programme, funded by ACE as part of the 2015-18 Major Partner Museum ACE business plan. Imogen Clarke is our trainee this year, one of seven hosted by the Museums Service as a whole. Amongst a range of other activities, Imogen helps coordinate the trails programme, assists with the coffee cake and collections mornings, supervise collections volunteers, contributes to social media work and schedules displays in the museum reception area.
- 5.2 Lynn Museum has continued to work with local schools to deliver a broad range of formal learning sessions. Learning programmes have been adapted following recent changes to the history National Curriculum. The Seahenge and early history displays and themes are proving popular with schools and school numbers are up on last year's total. New boxes of handling artefacts are being created for use with schools including a new prehistoric box used by our Learning Officer and freelance educators to help children investigate local history and archaeology.
- 5.3 The schools bookings for Lynn Museum show the continued popularity of toys programme and an upsurge in interest from schools in sessions on local individuals such as Captain Vancouver.

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:

1. That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Originator of report:

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