

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

**4<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**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 has hosted 6 main exhibitions and 6 Children's exhibitions. The subjects included the photographs of James Tuck, Historic Crimes and to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society *Archaeology in the Newland*. Our Children's exhibition were on a variety of subjects from *Boudica to the History of Toys*.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2017 was The People's Story which focused on our Oral History recordings and was part of our HLF Project "Opening up a House of History".

1.3 The next exhibition will be *Frederick Savage: The Mart and Beyond!* Which will focus on Savage's St Nicholas Engineering works and display Savage's technical drawings recently donated to the Museum. This will run for two months to be replaced by *Practical Pets* which will run 2<sup>nd</sup> March- 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 and focuses on the working animals of the North End.

1.4 Our Spring True's Talks began on 1<sup>st</sup> February on Thursday afternoons. Subjects include Georgian merchants, Grisly Deaths on Tuesday Market Place and Thomas Paine.

1.5 True's Yard once again took part in Heritage Open Day and welcomed 808 visitors during the day which is more than last year.

**2. Other Museum Developments**

2.1 Heritage Lottery Grant Funding.

As noted at the previous meeting True's Yard was awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £56,500 in 2015 for our Opening up a House of History project. The Project was due to end October 2017 but we applied for an extension as we have discovered so many items to accession. The major work of the project is complete, the Research Centre has been upgraded and the layout of the Research Centre has been changed to improve accessibility. Community engagement has been strengthened through our Oral History Project. Our first training day was oversubscribed and our Medieval Encounter workshop was incredibly popular. The project will now end February 2018.

## 2.2 True's Yard Silver Jubilee Appeal

Launched on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015 the purpose of the Silver Jubilee Appeal is to consolidate what has been achieved over the last 25 years, develop key educational projects for schools and maintain True's Yard for future generations. The target was £100,000 and to achieve this Vice Presidents were recruited and an Appeal Committee was formed responsible for organising a series of fundraising events through 2015/16. We achieved our target and the money is to be spent solely on repairs and educational projects. Progress has already been made with the building repairs. The children's book is at the printers and the gallery refreshes are underway.

### Events held

| <b>When</b>                              | <b>What</b>  |
|--|--|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> February                 | Senior Open Day  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> March                   | Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> June   | Local History Day (3 <sup>rd</sup> June).<br>Workshop and Live History<br>Performance on 1 <sup>st</sup> June. |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> June                    | Silver Jubilee Dinner  |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> June                    | Newland Historic Pubs Trail<br>Launch  |
| 8 -9 <sup>th</sup> July                  | Sea Funday   |
| August                                   | LEGO LYNN  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> August | Wash Week Lecture +Film  |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> September               | Heritage Open Day  |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> September               | TYSJ Donors Day  |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> September               | Start of True's Talks Autumn<br>Series   |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct                     | Ghost Walk   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> December                 | St Nicholas Carol Concert  |

3.

### **Friends of True's Yard**

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to support the Museum and fundraise throughout the year.

## 4. Partnerships

4.1 Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends of St Nicholas Chapel

The Chapel has been reopened for nearly two years and still has a partnership with True's Yard. We held joint children's activity days and a summer fete to celebrate

Sea Sunday and St Nicholas' Day.

#### 4.2 Hanse 2017

True's Yard plays a role in an informal partnership called History & Archaeology Symposium (HAS) alongside Marriott's Warehouse Trust, The Town Guides and the King's Lynn Hanseatic Club. During the May 2016 Hanse Festival. HAS organised the History and Archaeology Symposium at Marriott's Warehouse and a concert at All Saints. We are currently looking to 2018 and are playing a key role with a children's Hanse Day event Pirates vs Knights and also putting on a play about Margery Kempe.

#### 4.3 Heritage Learning Forum

True's Yard is now a part of a Heritage Forum with representatives from Vancouver Quarter, King's Lynn Town Guides, Southgates and Red Mount Chapel volunteers; Community Action Norfolk; Lynn Festival; King's Lynn Library; Marriott's Warehouse; Time Credits, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk; Tourism Support Officer; Stories of Lynn; 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.

### 5. Learning and Outreach

5.1 School visit numbers are steady but could be better. We took part in Heritage Schools Day funded by Historic England. Hopefully this will encourage more schools to visit. Our loan boxes are still proving popular and we have produced brand new study packs for schools on a variety of historical subjects. We've had some successful children's activity days this year, the best so far being our Halloween family fun in partnership with St Nicholas Chapel. Pairing up meant we could pool our advertising resources for further coverage and we tripled our numbers attending per event from 8\* to 32. We are planning another joint event for Christmas and hope for even better numbers.

\*Figure taken from event with the smallest audience which was True's Tots February half term. Parking was the key issue which impacted that event.

### 6. Visitor Numbers

2015-2016 11,517. The figures for 2016/17 until 21/11/17 are 9,110 so we are on target for our 12,000 goal.

### 7. Resource Implications

Finance- HLF funding, Silver Jubilee Appeal.

Property- Recently surveyed with a view to essential repairs.

Staff- Three temporary cataloguers have been hired to complete the HLF Project.

Project Officer Michelle Andrews completed her contract and now works for SPAB.

## **8. Recommendations**

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

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