

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

17th June 2019

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 will host 6 main exhibitions. Subjects include The Showman's Guild, Shops of Lynn, Maritime Art and Cinemas in Lynn. We also held smaller Children's exhibitions.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2019 is *150th Anniversary of the Alexandra Dock* - part of a larger collaborative project of the same name. Working with Associated British Ports and Lynn News there will be a short story competition, time capsules and a special ceremony.

1.3 The next exhibition will be *The North End Society and Metzger* charting the ill-fated effort the try and save the North End from the bulldozer.

1.4 Our Spring True's Talks was once again very popular. Subjects included The Black Forest Clockmakers and the murder of Lorenz Beha, Pilgrimage and the Port of Lynn which tied into the celebrations of the 150th Anniversary. The Spring Series which starts on 26th September will include Literary Lynn, Edith Cavell and Viking Age Scandinavia.

1.5 True's Yard will once again take part in Heritage Open Day. Last year we had 900.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

Events held

- 19th January Scars of War Graffiti Trail Launch
- 6th February Older Person's Open Day
- 4th April Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture
- 11th April- 16th May Local History Course
- 28th May-1st June- Street Art workshops
- 28th May-1st June- Local History week
- 7th June: Historic Pubs Walk

Still to come

- 18th June Fundraising Fashion Show
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- **19th June Midsummer Dinner**
 - **29th June King's Lynn Steampunk Society Pirate Day**
 - **30th June Outing to Grimsby Fishing Heritage Museum**
 - **12th July 'Activity' Day (the restoration of our 1904 fishing smack)**
 - **27th July Norfolk Day**
 - **4th September True's Tots**
 - **15th September Heritage Open Day**
 - **9th September Maritime Week**
 - **Institute of Linguists Conference**
 - **26th October- 30th November Local History Course**
 - **October Ghost Walks**
 - **31st October Haunted Museum**
 - **9th November Margery Kempe Day (new book launch)**
 - **1st December Small Business Saturday**
 - **3rd December Carol Concert**
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3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard continue to fundraise throughout the year. Recently they purchased a new water heater for the Museum.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Hanse 2019

True's Yard plays a role in an informal partnership called The King's Lynn Hanse Group alongside Marriott's Warehouse Trust, The Town Guides and the King's Lynn Hanseatic Club. During the May 2019 Hanse Festival HAS organised the History and Archaeology Symposium at Marriott's Warehouse with international speaker Angela Huang and London's Anthony Bale. The lectures were well attended. Hanseatic town tours and Hanse inspired activities for children were a

4.2 Heritage Learning Forum

The Heritage Learning Forum based at Stories of Lynn has representatives from King's Lynn Borough Council, King's Lynn Town Guides, Community Action Norfolk, Lynn Festival, King's Lynn Library, Marriott's Warehouse, Time Credits, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk, Tourism Support Officer, 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.

Last year the collaborative project was Scars of War which was a sterling success. The memorial workshops were popular, as was the exhibition and the commemorative evening well attended. The culmination of the project was the production of 5 brand new memorials and the launch of a new town trail to connect them.

This year the collaborative Project is Street Art which will aim to develop new art pieces around the town to improve the area for locals and visitors. Workshops we held to see

what mediums of art were popular and for ideas as to what people might like to see.

5 Learning and Outreach

5.1. We are working with Historic England Heritage Schools to hold a CPD Day for teachers to encourage more schools visits and get feedback on how we can improve our school offer. Our loan boxes are proving popular and we've had some successful children's activity days this year, which we run on a regular basis. The Street Art workshop at True's Yard attracted 46 children and their families. Children's history books distribution (King's Lynn and the Hanseatic League and A History of King's Lynn) went well and we are already working on our next book to be launched in the autumn on Margery Kempe. Our True's Tots sessions which were launched last year will be held in the autumn as well.

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 2018/19 were 13,128. The heatwave of the summer did impact our visitor figures significantly but we managed to mitigate some of the shortfall with open days and free events to attract more visitors. However, this is not financially sustainable so our focus for 2019/2020 will be more ticketed events.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- running costs are a key issue due to diminished income in the previous year and the focus of our fundraising this year.

Property- None at this time

Staff- the decision was made to reduce the hours of the School's Liaison to term time only.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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