

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

5th October 2021

TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

1.1 This year, due to lockdown delaying reopening until late May, the Museum is holding 4 main exhibitions and 1 digital exhibition. Subjects included Maritime Art, Great Change, TY301QW and World War 2 King's Lynn. We also held smaller Children's exhibitions.

1.2 The major temporary exhibitions for 2021 are Maritime Art and Great Change: The Last Generation.

Maritime Art was held over two months during the Summer. The Museum worked with local private collectors to showcase some of the best local artists past and present.

The Great Change exhibition is culmination of our oral history project of the same name for which True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum received £3,900 support from the Sustaining Engagement for Collections Fund. A grant created by Esmée Fairbairn Collections Fund and managed by the Museums Association.

1.3 The next exhibition will be TY301QW. This will look at the historic of the site of True's Yard charting from the 1200 to modern day. 2021 is the Museum's 30th birthday.

1.4 Our True's Talks are once again very popular. Due to lockdown we shortened the Spring series to 4 and extended the Autumn series to 12 talks. Subjects for the autumn series include Lost King's Lynn, Sandringham, Medieval Wool Market, the plague, Anglo Saxons and the Fens and Tudor East Anglia.

2. Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

Events held

- **Older Person's Open Day**
- **Maritime Art Exhibition**
- **Opening the Memorial Garden**

- Children's Day
- Hanse Festival
- Heritage Open Day
- True's Yard 30th anniversary Wine Tasting and Supper at Bank House

Planned for 2021

- Unveiling Memorials to Duggie Carter +William True.
 - 4th November Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture at the Town Hall given by Dr Robert Anderson '*The Invention of Albertopolis: The Lasting Influence of Prince Albert on British Cultural Life*'
 - 10th November Walpole 300th anniversary dinner at the Duke's Head
 - Small Business Saturday
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3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard were not able to hold any of their fundraisers for the majority this year but do have a Christmas fundraiser planned.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Stories of Lynn Dinosaur Trail

The Museum took part in the dinosaur trail and contributed with a digital exhibition and an aviation talk which can be found here

4.2 Heritage Learning Forum

The Heritage Learning Forum 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.

This year the collaborative Project was the dinosaur trail spearheaded by Rachael Williams at Stories of Lynn. There were fringe events which included our own Children's Day.

Planning is already underway for next year's collaborative project- the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

5 Learning and Outreach

5.1. True's Tots

Thanks to funding from Tesco's Bags of Help programme we have been able to further develop our educational programme for the under 5's. So far we have held 2 series of

free early learning sessions which have been fully booked both times. We are planning to hold a third series after the Autumn half term and a fourth in early 2022.

5.2. Margery Kempe

Despite the pandemic all children's books have now been safely distributed to Year 5 pupils within King's Lynn.

5.3 Social Media

With the first lockdown we devised a social media strategy to retain engagement with daily themed content which quadrupled online engagement throughout 2020/21. We have endeavoured to continue this throughout 2021. #FactFriday in particular has been very popular and encouraged discussion about the history of the North End. Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 1,456 followers and Twitter has 1,217 followers.

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 2020/21 were 2,346. This is as expected given we could only open for 16 weeks and had to cancel all events. Our current visitor numbers (18th May 2021- 30th September 2021) are 5,070. Compared to a last normal year (with the exception of May when we were partially closed and June when restrictions were tighter) these figures are returning to normal. If the current numbers mirror 2019 then we should be on course for visitor numbers somewhere between 10,000 -12,500 for 2021/2022.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- We have budgeted carefully and applied for as many grants as possible in order to sustain the Museum throughout the pandemic but those grants are unlikely to continue beyond 2021. It would have been substantially more difficult without the essential support from the Borough Council and Cultural Recovery Fund.

Property- None at this time.

Staff- The Museum has a new temporary member of staff- Alexis Compton Merritt as part of the Kick Start scheme.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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