

**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, 18th October, 2021 at 2.15 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

**PRESENT:**

**Borough Councillors:**

Councillors A Bubb, M de Whalley, E Nockolds, A Tyler

**County Councillors:**

Councillors L Bambridge, M Chenery

**Norfolk Joint Museums Committee:**

Councillor J Ward (Chair)

Councillor R Kybrid (Vice-Chair)

**Norfolk Museums Service:**

R Hanley, O Bone, R Williams

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 TO 2022**

[Click here to view a recording of this item on You Yube](#)

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Mrs E Nockolds be appointed Chair for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021 TO 2022**

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**RESOLVED:** Councillor M Chenery be appointed Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor N Daubney, L Bavin, P Eke, and S Thompson.

4 **MINUTES**

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The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

5 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

7 **REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS**

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The Chair informed the Committee that in a very difficult time for us all the Museums staff have worked extremely and flexible well during the Pandemic such as Stories for Bedtime and digital information, etc and still presenting reports. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Museum staff for their efforts to deliver the service during the Pandemic.

The Assistant Head of Museums/Curator Lynn Museum and Learning and Engagement Officer, Stories of Lynn and Project Worker for Kick the Dust presented a report which provided information on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from January to September 2021. An electronic report had been circulated in January 2021 as the meeting was cancelled due to Covid restrictions.

The Committee was informed that that new exhibition 'Gardens, Sowing Seeds, Growing Stores' opened on the 16 October 2021 and would run until 12 June 2022. The displays tell the story of gardens and gardening in the King's Lynn Area including the display of collections from the Taylor's seed merchants business in the town and material relating to the Walks and other public gardens.

A copy of the update report from the Learning and Engagement Officer, Stories of Lynn and Project Worker for Kick the Dust is attached to the minutes.

The Assistant Head of Museums/Curator Lynn Museum and Learning and Engagement Officers, Stories of Lynn and Project Worker for Kick the Dust responded to questions and comments in relation to:

- Government compensation awarded to the Norfolk Museums Service and the impact on loss of revenue.
- Impact of Covid on staff wellbeing and measures/tools in place to support staff where required.

- New skills acquired by staff particularly in relation to high quality digital work and be embedded into the long term programme.
- On line programmes/events available to schools and anyone who had access to the internet in the Borough.
- Acquisition of items such as a Baines painting via auction, etc for display in Museums.
- Loan of part of the Seahenge display to the British Museum.
- Provision of future plays on line – an example was given of Sherlock Homes which had proved successful.
- Curriculum activities offered to schools.
- Iron Age coin acquisition.
- Ongoing support from the Friends of Lynn Museum.
- Kick the Dust Project and invitation of ideas/discussions with high schools to improve the current uptake.
- Visitor figures across all Museum sites.
- Visitor figures to Lynn Museum – visitor figures to be circulated in relation to NMS exhibitions in the Town Hall and be included in the total visitor figures.

The Curator, Lynn Museum circulated the visitor figures for the museum sites in Norfolk.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair thanked the Friends for their ongoing support and the staff of the NMS for the excellent work undertaken during the Pandemic.

**AGREED:** The report be noted.

## 8 **REPORT OF TRUE'S YARD MUSEUM**

[Click here to view a recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Committee received the report from the Museum Curator.

The Chair highlighted the grant funding received during the Pandemic, fund raising and many other events held. It was noted that there was a new memorial garden for all to use.

There were no questions from the Committee.

## 9 **REPORT OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL**

[Click here to view a recording of this item on You Tube](#)

The Committee received the report from the Senior Tourism Officer.

The Chair explained that she had asked for a report to come to the Committee as the Museum was promoted in all tourism information published/printed by the Borough Council.

The Chair tabled examples of tourism information published by the Borough Council promoting the Borough.

The Chair highlighted the importance of attendance at the Tourism Annual General Meeting on 17 November 2021 as there would be a workshop on the Tourism Recovery Plan 2021 to 2025, a five year action plan informed by local, regional and national businesses to encourage more visitors/residents to the area.

It was noted that the tourism information was also published on Visit West Norfolk and Visit Norfolk and Visit East of England websites

The Chair drew attention key issues set out in the report.

In response to questions from Councillor Tyler on UK Holiday packages to King's Lynn, the Chair explained such holidays were published in the special coach supplement and that there was usually an itinerary to visit West Norfolk including King's Lynn, Hunstanton, Cromer and Great Yarmouth and explained she could obtain the number of visitors from the Senior Tourism Support Officer.

Following questions on the Observatory in Hunstanton, the Chair explained that consultation and workshops with residents of Hunstanton had taken place and undertook to ascertain the details from the Senior Tourism Support Officer.

Councillor Bubb made the following observations on the West Norfolk Guide:

- Not all photographs had captions containing details of where the photo had been taken.
- Page 6 – Information relating to Museums, could future publications include opening times and that there was free entry to Lynn Museum from October to March each year.
- No visitor information on Downham Market.

10

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee will take place on 13 December 2021 at 2.15 pm in the Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

**The meeting closed at 3.58 pm**



## Rachael Williams, Learning and Engagement Officer, Stories of Lynn and Project Worker for Kick the Dust. Update

### I. Schools

#### 1. During lockdown we used virtual sessions on Zoom to offer support to schools:

Quiz a Character webinars, zooming in to the classroom and sending resources. We also did Storytime webinars too for families to zoom into listen and take part with the craft activity.

#### 2. Academic year September 2020 – July 2021 – blended offer – online/face to face with Safe Systems of Work in place.

- i. one school face to face session in December 2020,
- ii. town walks for two classes,
- iii. one joint school day with Lynn Museum
- iv. two single classes at SOL in June.
- v. Rachel Duffield and I did outreach work to Churchill Park Academy for 5 weeks on Thursdays for 2 hours per week (KTD cohort 10). 9 students in total. Press coverage was good with photos. (KTD)
- vi. One Heritage Education Network meeting run on Zoom to promote use of Museums in King's Lynn and to share the Historic England funded film about the Scroll through Lynn.

#### 3. Academic Year Sept 2021 – to date – face to face sessions possible, some blended learning.

- i. One Heritage Education Network meeting face to face at St George's Guildhall to share the Pablo Fanque film funded by Historic England, written, performed and recorded by Time Will Tell Theatre Company. 5 teachers attended this day. This is HEN6, ie, the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of a teacher network meeting, created at the request of teachers looking for input about Culture and Heritage available to school. Historic England funds lunch and the hire of St George's Guildhall.
- ii. Schools have suddenly started booking in and we can now take 60 pupils at one time following the SSOW. We do joint days with Lynn Museum. 2 school sessions complete (90 children) another 10 schools booked. (480 children to visit before Christmas)
- iii. Churchill Park had requested outreach work for KS4 which we undertook until they had increased COVID cases, so we withdrew to Zoom sessions online and then had to stop as the school needed to stay in Bubbles. We hope to resume as soon as possible.

### II. Kick the Dust

#### 1. Online Work experience:

a. We are now on Cohort 13 of the KTD programme, maximum of 6 participants to a cohort. The programme enables YP to meet professionals, hear about their skills and job role and to ask questions directly. Staff have been very supportive and generous with their time and advice.

b. we have had excellent feedback and 6 YP have been given a job since being part of the programme: one with Collusion, one with True's Yard, one with Suffolk County Council and one with Peckover House and two as Care Home assistants (activity coordinators). We are delighted about this

outcome. Two more of the Young People have gone on to the NMS Traineeships which is really positive. (Sophie Couling and William Mars)

- c. the second half of each programme has a “real” project –
  - i. the book bench trail and leaflet – Explore a Book trail.
  - ii. the “Deal Justly with All” Google Arts and Culture online exhibition with a focus on the treatment of the poor and homeless in the past in King’s Lynn (now a physical exhibition in SOL with 970 visitors on Heritage Open Day).  
[https://artsandculture.google.com/story/HQXR\\_1UrpDbKKw](https://artsandculture.google.com/story/HQXR_1UrpDbKKw)
  - iii. The KLFestival was successful with over 700 visitors to the exhibition created and curated by KTD work experience participants from cohort 4 and 5. The exhibition was made up of the YPs responses to the content of the New Horizons exhibition. Press coverage was good with Radio Norfolk interested in our work. YMCA also engaged with this for a Graffiti session on Norfolk Day with more Radio Norfolk coverage for that. This is part of my community linked work with the KLFestival. The Town Hall hosted an event for the YP to receive certificates from the Mayor for their involvement and their successes in Work Experience. See the poster in the meeting.
- d. We ran the Creative Careers webinars over a week to secondary schools enabling larger numbers of students to attend and find out about curators, graphic designers and Comms department roles from pre-recorded interviews by the Museum trainees and the professionals. A group from COWA have joined us for Cohort 9 which is face to face in SOL, curating Museum in a Jar.
- f. The Share Museums East conference – SENDing the right message – I presented the KTD work experience and groups that we have worked with and invited colleagues to share their knowledge and involvement with the programmes and how we support the needs of all YP including those with complex needs and hidden disabilities. The Conference recording is available at:  
<http://www.sharemuseumseast.org.uk/resources-2/resources-videos/> “SENDing the Right Message.”
- g. YMCA King’s Lynn residents are working with me as part of KTD to give them work experience style skills. One of them supported Rachael with cooking activity in August Family Learning – beneficial to both LEO and YMCA person
- h. **Work experience has now returned to face to face at SOL.** The current projects are Tuesdays – Chapel Street Film Crew (cohort 11) and Fridays- the PEACHY group (Cohort 12) who will attend the PEACH Local Cultural Education Partnership meetings as the Youth element. Peachy Group are also helping with the BCKLWN Christmas Lights Switch On event 21 Nov 2021.

## 2. Time Turners

Before restrictions lifted, the group continued with weekly sessions on Zoom. The group is continuing to work well with blended offer: Zoom for some and Face to face for others.

KTD Time Turners created and shared teacher/pupil support material for Collusion’s climate crisis linked project involving “the Intergalactic Hanseatic League” from the 23<sup>rd</sup> Century. The PowerPoints created were interactive and themed to transport, events and clothing styles in Lynn since 1204. The work resulting from this will be displayed in October 2021. The project has been well received (and extended to the end of October 2021).

As restrictions lifted, we reconvened face to face sessions at Lynn Museum with studies on witches, handling collections before working with Rachel Duffield and zoom members (some from Lagos, Nigeria) to complete an exhibition Nothing About Us Without Us. This will travel round Norfolk libraries and other settings, starting at the Forum in Norwich. Time Turners have a

number of YP with hidden disabilities, so this exhibition is ideal as it is about looking at artefacts in the NMS collections linked to disability, both physical and hidden.

Time Turners returned to Stories on 7 September 2021 in the Education Room.

We are continuing to blend face to face and Zoom to allow more to attend. This is really successful. Timings of these sessions (4 – 5.30pm) fit within the caretaking hours so there is no additional cost to run these sessions.

Some of the YP are from the original group has been running since 10 April 2019. Dayna Woolbright works with the group, helping to run it giving us vital, valuable technical input, support and engagement.

### **III. Family Learning Activities during Pandemic and as restrictions lifted.**

1. The May/June half term week offered 15 sessions over three days. 10 of these were booked but only 5 sessions were completed because we lost out to the sunshine! The activity for those who attended was enjoyed with them decorating their own bench made out of A4 card, linked to Explore-a-book trail. There was no cost for this event to be run as the resources were already in our stock.
2. Dino-Stories activities were planned for August with Mondays/Tuesdays/Wednesdays, offering four family bubble sessions on each of those days for 4 weeks in August. This choice had to be made prior to Government restriction information was released and to guarantee (as far as possible) people's safety.
3.
  - All sessions except 2 were booked even if sometimes the people did not turn up and despite being pay in advance.
  - Data shows 123 visitors in total: 70 children and 53 adults.
  - **Numbers are low but we have had no reports of any COVID infections two weeks after the last session delivered at Stories of Lynn.**
  - The sessions were well received by all participants and some came back for more than one session during the month; some came back for all three sessions.
  - Each week had similar uptake (average = 31)
  - Each day had similar uptake over the month (average = 41).

Rachael Williams Learning and Engagement Officer [Rachael.Williams2@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Rachael.Williams2@norfolk.gov.uk) 18 October 2021