

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

June 2022

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 the Museum will holding main 6 exhibitions. Subjects include our second Maritime Art exhibition, the Royal influence on Lynn, a display of new artwork created for a book on Vaughan Williams, the Timber Trade and more. We also hold smaller Children's exhibitions.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2022 is Maritime Art- the theme will be Town and Tide looking at the river ways which supported maritime industry.

The Museum will be working with local private collectors to showcase some of the best local artists past and present. We are particularly pleased to be able to showcase works by Henry Baines, Thomas Baines and Walter Dexter. Baroness Evans has kindly agreed to formally open the exhibition on 8th July.

1.3 The next exhibition will be focussed on the Royal influence on Lynn from Bad King John to our future monarch HRH Charles III or whatever moniker the Prince of Wales chooses.

1.4 Our True's Talks are once again very popular. The Spring series was fully booked and for the next series we will have speakers on the subjects such as the pirate John Brandon, the King's Lynn Great British Dig and Votes for Women to name a few.

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

1st June North End Tours begin

4th & 5th June Platinum Jubilee Open Days

11th June Local History Day

8th July Launch of 2nd Maritime Art Exhibition

10th July Sea Sunday

15th July Memorial Crosses at Hardwick Road Cemetery launch

11th September Heritage Open Day

29th September True's Talks Autumn Series starts

9th November Margery Kempe Day

10th November Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture, John Little of Cambridge Museum of Technology "*Sewage, Steam and Scientific Instruments - but what about the people?*"

3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard have restarted their fundraising evenings and they have so far proven popular.

4. Partnerships

4.1 Stories of Lynn Stamp Competition

The Museum took part in the Platinum Jubilee Stamp Competition and contributed to digital exhibition of Royal Photos to be displayed in the Corn Exchange.

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 focuses on activities for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. These include the aforementioned Stamp Competition and digital display spearheaded by Rachael Williams at Stories of Lynn. In addition, here at True's Yard we put on two open days one aimed at seniors and the other families.

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 4 series of free early learning sessions which have been fully booked. Now the funding has ended we are looking to developing a sponsorship programme to pay for future series.

5.2. Margery Kempe

We are working with King's Lynn Minster on a Margery Kempe Day event on the 9th November. It will include an evening of entertainment to celebrate King's Lynn's famous daughter.

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. We have endeavoured to continue this throughout 2022. #FactFriday in particular has been very popular and encouraged discussion about the history of the North End. Currently the Museum's

Facebook page has 1,724 followers and Twitter has 1,360 followers.

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 2021/22 were 9,280. This is as expected given our reopening was delayed and we were still restricting numbers for social distancing.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- We were successful in a £50,000 application to the MEND grant fund by the DCMS and Art Council England.

Property- the above grant is to pay for essential repairs to the Museum's roof.

Staff- The Museum has a new temporary member of staff- Tyrone Walton as part of the Kick Start scheme.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

Lindsey Bavin

Museum Curator

True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

Tel: 01553770479

e-mail: info@truesyard.co.uk