

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

**March 2023**

### **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 1953 Floods, Pocahontas and Norfolk, King Charles I, II, and III and Margery Kempe. We also hold smaller Children's exhibitions.

1.2 The major temporary exhibition for 2023 is Portraits and Personalities-

The Museum will be working with local private collectors and potentially institutions to showcase some of the best local artists past and present. We are particularly pleased to be able to showcase works by Henry Baines and Walter Dexter.

1.3 The next exhibition will be focussed on Pocahontas and Norfolk.

1.4 Our True's Talks are once again very popular. The Spring series is ongoing and has so far been fully booked. Subjects have included the 1953 flood, Henry Despenser and the immigrant communities in medieval Lynn.

#### **Other Museum Developments**

##### **2.1 Events**

Until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 we have an ongoing Community Hotspot Project where we provide a warm space and subsidised drinks.

7<sup>th</sup> May Tea Party for Northenders to celebrate the Coronation

1st June North End Tours begin

TBC June Local History Day

7th July Launch of Art Exhibition

9th July Sea Sunday

10th September Heritage Open Day

12<sup>th</sup> October Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture, Kathy Hipperson on costumed historical interpretation.

28th September True's Talks Autumn Series starts

9th November Margery Kempe Day

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

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard have expanded their normal 6 fundraisers to 8 and they have so far proven popular.

## **4. Partnerships**

### **4.1 West Norfolk Mind and Wellbeing**

We currently have a mental health project where the Museum hosts and runs Dungeons and Dragons sessions. Although a little out of our normal remit, we are a Community Museum and there have also been multiple studies in psychology to suggest that Dungeons and Dragons can also have therapeutic benefits for those with depression, anxiety and even post-traumatic stress. So far it is really opening up the museum to new audiences and feedback has been very positive.

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### **4.2 Heritage Learning Forum**

The Heritage Learning Forum has representatives from Stories of Lynn, King's Lynn Town Guides, Community Action Norfolk, Lynn Festival, King's Lynn Library, Marriott's Warehouse, Lynn Museum; Voluntary Norfolk, Tourism Support Officer, COWA, Volunteering Matters, King's Lynn Minster and St Nicholas' Chapel. This group meets quarterly to discuss various aspects of heritage organisations such as volunteers, school visits etc.

We are still in the process of deciding the focus for the collaborative Project. The Coronation and Margery Kempe being the forerunners in ideas suggested thus far.

## **5. Learning and Outreach**

### **5.1. True's Tots**

Thanks to funding from Norfolk Community Foundation we have been able to further develop our educational programme for the under 5's.

### **5.2. Margery Kempe**

We are working on a project to put on a play about the life of Margery Kempe at St George's Guildhall for schools and the general public. There will also be historical context workshops and we are liaising with Rachael Williams and Monika Saganowska as to their content.

### **5.3 Social Media**

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 1.9k followers and Twitter has 1,406 followers. We have recently focussed on increasing our usage of Instagram as currently we only have 293 Followers. #FactFriday in particular has been very popular and

encouraged discussion about the history of the North End.

## **6 Visitor Numbers**

The figures for April 2022 to February 2023 were 10,129. This is an improvement on the same period in the previous year.

## **7 Resource Implications**

Finance- None

Property- we have applied for a CIL grant for a replacement lift.

Staff- The Museum has a new temporary member of staff for a project to help beat the cataloguing backlog.

## **8 Recommendations**

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

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