

KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

December 2023

TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

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

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

Our exhibition room has had a fresh coat of painting and we will soon be underway with the 2024 programme. There are six exhibitions planned for 2024. The Timber Trade in King's Lynn, *Whodunit? Solve a Victorian Mystery*, *Dig for Victory – 70th Anniversary of the end of Rationing, "Don't Panic!"* The Home Guard and The Naval Reserve and our Summer Art Exhibition.

1.2 Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2024 is *Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time*. The Museum will be working with fisherman, turned artist, Alan Castleton inspired by photographs from the town's past. There will also be multisensory elements to bring the exhibition to life. A corner of the exhibition will also be dedicated to celebrating the works of Walter Dexter.

1.3 True's Talks

Our True's Talks Spring series will begin on 1st February 2024. Subjects include Georgian Lynn, Medieval Paintings, Travel in the Middle Ages, Victorian Self Help, and more. Plus, a bonus talk on the 4th April 2024 on the Population of True's Yard

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

18th January 2024 Tastes of the Past Wartime Rationing Dining Experience

7th February 2024 Older Person's Open Day

3. Friends of True's Yard

3.1 The Friends of True's Yard have 8 fundraisers planned this year including their normal lunches plus quizzes and bingo.

4. Partnerships

4.1 College of West Anglia- Tastes of the Past

Following consultation with Mike Sanderson (CWA Hospitality Careers Advisor and industry expert), The Museum have developed a budding working relationship with NOVUS restaurant (CWA). The collaboration with NOVUS is an excellent opportunity to

foster work experience relations with CWA and to raise the profile of True's Yard to a wider audience.

The first event in the programme will be 'Wartime Rationing: A Historical Dining Experience', held at NOVUS restaurant on Thursday 18th January 2024. The night there will be live explanations of a historic taster menu, and will feature a cooking demonstration from CWA chef, Adam Burns.

The success of this event will determine future event bookings with NOVUS, including a 'Georgian Puddings' event for later in 2024.



4.2 YMCA Leicester and Norfolk Museum Service, Your Heritage, Your Future

The Museum is taking part in 'Your Heritage Your Future'. A project designed to support young people who have not been afforded the opportunity to engage in the Heritage Sector due to childhood adversities. The project will create the chance for them to participate, lead, work and ultimately bring diversity and inclusion to the heritage sector workforce.

As part of the project the Museum have taken on a young person, Shannon Starr, on a 6 month paid work placement (funded by the project).

4.3 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, St George's Guildhall Complex, 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.

5. Learning and Outreach



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5.1. Half term Craft Activities

Following the success of our Vikings and Victorians Day the Museum will be offering a variety of themed craft and play sessions throughout the year. We will be trialling different combinations of eras.

5.2. Toasty True's Yard

We were successful in our application for the Norfolk Community Foundation Hot Spot Fund to expand our Warm Space project from last year. We will continue to be a warm space but on top of that offer free breakfasts Wednesday-Friday.

5.4. NHS Wellbeing Dungeons and Dragons

A mental health project where the Museum hosts and runs Dungeons and Dragons sessions. It has encouraged users from a diverse variety of backgrounds to enjoy the Museum complex and the feedback we have received from attendees is that it has made a difference to improving their wellbeing.

5.5 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

Since September 2023, a new Oral History Committee has formed with the aim of reinvigorating a previous oral history project. The new project 'Capturing Memories' will focus on broader histories than just the North End Fisherfolk but look toward King's Lynn and the surrounding areas from World War 2 onwards.

The decision to move towards broader histories of Lynn was informed by a general shift towards recording memories of living history, as demonstrated by organisations such as the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth with their recent 'Christmas from the 1950s/1980s' project.

5.5 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.1k followers and Twitter/X has 1,420 followers. We have recently focussed on increasing our usage of Instagram and our followers are steadily increasing 401 Followers (last report 293).

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for April 2023 to December 2023 were 8,385.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- Savings and income generation is a big part of the 2024/25 budget.

Property- None.

Staff- Tabitha Kaye is stepping down as Deputy Manager and we are recruiting her replacement.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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