



KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

MARCH 2024

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 the 2024 programme is underway. As we experience some staff turnover this winter and had to recruit a new Deputy Manager the decision was made to include an additional pre-made exhibition to give the Curator more time to work on the new exhibitions. King's Lynn in World War 1.

Exhibition Schedule 2024

King's Lynn in World War 1	January- March 2024
The Timber Trade	April –May 2024
<i>Whodunit? Solve a Victorian Mystery</i>	June- July 2024
Summer Art Exhibition <i>Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time</i>	5th July -31st August 2024 Old Smithy
Archaeology Exhibition	July- September 2024
<i>St Nicholas: The Man, The Legend, The Chapel and the New Hanse</i>	October 2024- December 2024

1.2 Forthcoming Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2024 is *Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time*. The exhibition will open on 5th July and will feature brand new pieces by fisherman, turned artist, Alan Castleton inspired by photographs from the town's past. 17 of the 20 new paintings in the exhibition have already been completed.

1.3 True's Talks

Our True's Talks Spring series began on 1st February 2024 and originally was going to run until 4th April. However, this series proved exceptionally popular with some talks having large waiting lists. We have managed to successfully negotiate with some of our

speakers on a repeat performance.

Additional talks

11th April Georgian Upper Crust.

18th April Tales from the Taproom.

25th April the Repopulation of True's Yard

Other Museum Developments

2.1 Events

8th March Supper & RNLi visit at the Beach Café Old Hunstanton

21st March 1940's Dining Experience at Novus Restaurant

3rd April Children's Activity Day

10th May Springwood Musical evening with the Schools choir and band, The Military Housewives Choir.

29th May Children's Activity Day

5th July Summer Art Exhibition Opening

7th July Sea Sunday

20th and 27th July Festival of Archaeology

8th September Heritage Open Day

16th October Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

6th December St Nicholas Day

3. Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have the support of the Friends, they have already made contributions to help take some of the sting out of our increasing accountancy and insurance fees.

3.1 Fundraisers

The Friends of True's Yard have 8 fundraisers planned this year including their normal lunches. The recent quiz attracted an audience of 74.

4. Partnerships

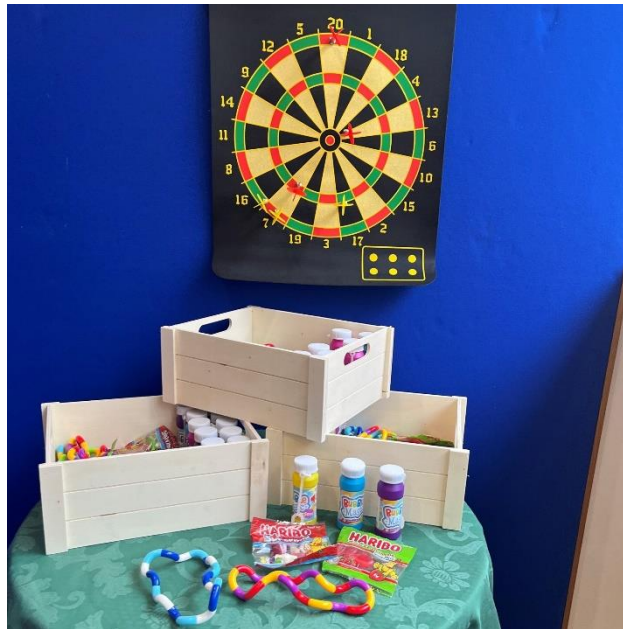
4.1 College of West Anglia- Tastes of the Past

The decision was made to postpone the Wartime Rationing January event to March and rebrand to 1940s Dining Experience. With everything happening in Gaza and Ukraine having an event with war and deprivation at the forefront seemed in poor taste. The new date is 21st March 6pm-8pm at Novus Restaurant. Tickets are still £25 and we are also working with a local singer for a musical element to the event.



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

The Museum continues to participate in the 'Your Heritage Your Future. Shannon has now been with the Museum since December and is enjoying her placement with us. Recently she designed and ran an activity at our Funfair Themed Family Day and suggested the prizes for the day. The fidget toys proved exceptionally popular and definitely something we will consider again.



Shannon's Activity was magnetic darts

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. The collaborate project for 2024 is currently being planned.

4.4 Chatterton House

The Museum has renewed our partnership with the mental health organisation offering coffee mornings every Tuesday.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Half term Activities

Funfair Family Activity Day & Dungeons and Dragons for Kids

We had 160 attendees of our Fun Fair Themed Family Activity Day on Wednesday 21st February and on Saturday 24th February we trialled our Dungeon and Dragons for Kids which proved to be a success (fully booked). The one-hour session focussed on

developing numeracy skills, encouraging teamwork and also utilised in game money so the children gained an understanding of rudimentary budgeting.



5.2 Easter Holidays and May Half Term

For Easter there will be an Easter Trail around the Museum and on 3rd April will be an Easter themed Children's Activity Day and 29th May will be our Half Term Family Activity Day.

5.3. Festival of Archaeology

We are taking part in the Festival of Archaeology (13th -28th July 2024) with Archaeology Days on 20th and 27th July. We will be working in collaboration with the Museum of London, West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society, King's Lynn Under Siege and specialist archaeologists. There will be digging activities, talks and more.

5.4. Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

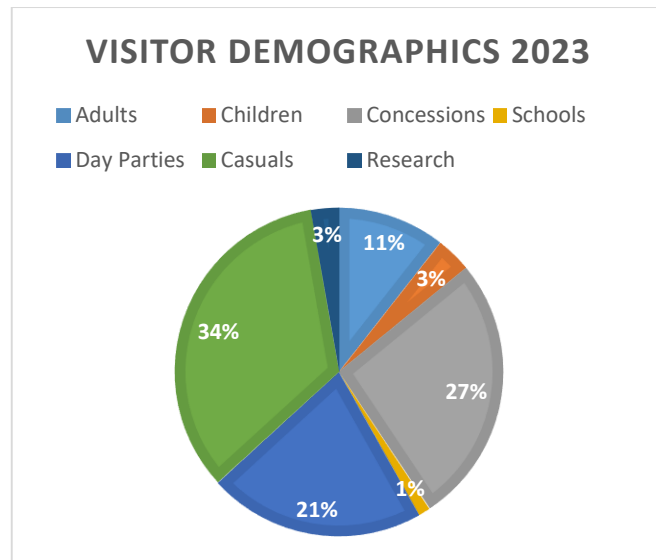
A new Oral History Committee has formed with the aim of reinvigorating a previous oral history project. The new project 'Capturing Memories' will focus on recording the memories of the last generation of Northenders and those of the people of Lynn.

5.5 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.2k followers and Twitter/X has 1,428 followers. We have recently focussed on increasing our usage of Instagram and our followers are steadily increasing 420 Followers (last report 401).

6 Visitor Numbers

The figures for 1st April 2023 to 22nd February 2024 were 10,266 (At last meeting in December 8,385). We are on target to exceed last year's visitor numbers of 11,250.



Our largest demographic of visitors to the Museum continues to be concessions (60+, blue light and students). This corresponds to the data we receive from Groupon where 70% of sales are to people 51+. We are planning to increase our schools offer to encourage more school visits. It had been difficult as for 2023 as we had periods without a Deputy Manager due to illness and staff turnover limited our availability for schools.

7 Resource Implications

Finance- Increasing costs of utilities, insurance, accountancy have proved challenging. Savings and income generation is a big part of the 2024/25 budget.

Property- None.

Staff- Tabitha Kaye stepped down as Deputy Manager in December 2023 and has been replaced by Gaynor Western (February 2024).

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