



KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

September 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.

As mentioned in my previous report we decided to change up our exhibition schedule and produce a new exhibition, which might be more appealing to general audiences. *The History of Fish and Chips* has garnered considerable interest and featured on BBC News Online. We have seen an increase of approximately 500 visitors compared to this time last year.

Exhibition Schedule 2024

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 Summer Art Exhibition

Our annual art exhibition theme for 2024 was *Nostalgia...King's Lynn Through Time*. The High Sheriff of Norfolk, David Flux, opened the exhibition on 5th July. It featured 21 brand new pieces by local artist, Alan Castleton inspired by photographs from the town's past. So far we have had 1,793 attendees with still two weeks of the exhibition to go. Alan has also been incredibly generous, two paintings have been offered to the Museum as a donation and 10% of each sale of the remaining paintings will be donated to the Museum.

1.3 True's Talks

Our autumn programme has now been launched. All talks will take place on Thursdays between 26th September to 14th November between 1pm-2pm. They are free to attend.

Date	Speaker	Title
26th September	Dr Paul Richards	Death in the Time of Cholera: A Lethal Outbreak in London in 1854
3rd October	James Bagge	True's Talk: Nigh on Two Hundred Years at Stradsett

10th October	Dr John Alban	Norfolk Soldiers Serving in the Count of Holland's Friesland campaign of 1396
17th October	Dr Julian Litten	Chauncey Hare Townshend: Patron of West Lynn Church
24th October	Jeff Hoyle	A History of Fish and Chips
31st October	Dr Michael Gilbert	Masters and Merchants; 17th Century Trade in the Wash
7th October	Tony Kirby	Tides of Fortune; The Rise and Fall of English Holiday Resorts
14th October	Dr Paul Richards	500 Years Since Lynn's Tudor Political Revolution (1524-2024)

Thanks to funding from the Norfolk Community Foundation Love Norfolk Fund, we have been able to extend our current provision to allow for 20 additional places on site and online screening of our talks.

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

‘Museums of the Future’ by Dr Jago Cooper, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Centre and professor of Art and Archaeology at the University of East Anglia. Formerly, he was Curator of the Americas at the British Museum. Since 2011, he has written and presented a series of programmes for BBC Four.

Other Museum Developments

2. Events

8th September Heritage Open Day

13th September Gloucester 1682 Talk & Dinner at the Town Hall (**Mayor’s Charity of the Year Event**).

26th September – True’s Talks begin.

23rd October- Dinner in Memory of Fishermen and Sailors, Crown and Mitre.

20th November Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture – Museums of the Future -Dr Jago Cooper.

6th December St Nicholas Day TBC

12th December – Carol Service at All Saints Church

13th December- Christmas Quiz.

3. Fundraisers

3.1 The Mayor’s Charity of the Year

The King’s Lynn Sea Cadets and ourselves were chosen as charities of the Year by The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, Paul Bland.

This is a huge boost and we are grateful to have been chosen.

3.2. Gloucester 1682 Talk

On Friday 13th September at 6:30pm, The Worshipful Mayor of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, Paul Bland, will be hosting an evening charting the history and the future of the Gloucester, a royal ship carrying the Duke of York, which ran aground off the Norfolk coast in 1682.

Two of the team who discovered the Gloucester, Julian and Lincoln Barnwell, along with Professor Claire Jowitt from the University of East Anglia will be speaking at the event. Together, they will deliver a highly interesting and informative presentation, before the evening's guests enjoy a convivial supper in the Assembly Room.

The event offers the opportunity for first-hand insights from the team who are intimately involved in what has been described as 'Norfolk's Mary Rose' - a key part of our county's strong maritime heritage.

3.2 Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have the support of the Friends, they are a vital part of the Museum community and their fundraising events this year continue to sell out quickly.

4. Partnerships

4.1 The Festival of Archaeology

The Festival of Archaeology was a roaring success where we collaborated with the Museum of London, King's Lynn Under Siege and West Norfolk and King's Lynn Archaeological Society. It will definitely be repeated next year.

13th July - Tour and Talk on foreshore- 22 attendees

16th July - site visit to a local excavation - 15 attendees

20th & 27th July- 'Skeletons and Pirates' mock excavation, recording and identification and object handling- 4 sessions all fully booked.

23rd July- Poos, Pots and Cave Art Activity- 28 attendees

25th July – Travel through Time excavation- Fully Booked



5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Summer Holiday Activities

Slime and Bubbles & Victorian Fairground Activity Days

13th August - Slime and Bubbles – this activity proved to be incredibly popular with 81 children and 65 adults. In future, we will be having designated slots for these activities as demand outstripped supply at one point.

27th August- Victorian Summer funfair - 83 attendees.



5.2 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

Our new Oral History Committee is hard at work capturing new oral histories and so far 10 new stories have been recorded (last report 5). The new project ‘Capturing Memories’ will focus on recording the memories of the last generation of Northenders and those of the people of Lynn.

5.3 Social Media

Currently the Museum’s Facebook page has 2.3k followers; Twitter/X has 1,443 followers, and Instagram 461 Followers (last report 439).

6 Visitor Numbers

Figures for 1st April 2024 – mid August 2024 = 4,703.

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- There was an incident of vandalism to our entrance door, which was reported to the police.

Staff- Curator 2 days a week, Deputy Manager 3 days a week, Museum Assistant 2 days a

week.

8 Recommendations

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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