



KING'S LYNN CIVIC SOCIETY

www.kingslynncivicsociety.co.uk



Are we getting planning right?

NEWSLETTER
AUTUMN 2024

Chairman's report

Alison Gifford

When Henry Bell renovated St James Chapel to make it suitable for a workhouse in the 1680s, he described his work as 'beautifying', a very good word to describe improving the appearance of a thing. If there can be beautifying, there can be uglifying and you only have to look around our town to see creeping uglification.

Why is this? Don't the people who do this have eyes to see and brains to tell the difference between what looks good and what is a depressing blight on our streets? There are several different types of uglifying. There's careless indifference; bins left out all week, cars parked on pavements (Blackfriars Street, Stonegate), weeds advancing like triflids, a portacabin parked in front of the Duke's Head surrounded by cones etc. Then there is purposeful uglification; unnecessary and unneeded cabins in Purfleet Street, road traffic signs suddenly appearing outside historic buildings, so-called works of public art which are an embarrassment, those raw wood and metal fences that look like mini hitching posts for mini horses, garish banners on the railing of St Nicholas Chapel for example, the proliferation of signs directing the public to, for example, not slip over, stuck onto another sign. Lastly, there is neglect; the Purfleet full of weeds and rubbish, paving left unfinished, out of date posters tied on to posts, tarmac instead of paving slabs now as common patchwork on pavements, the abandoned building plot as buses drive into the bus station, last but by no means least, the horrible Church Street car park which, dear reader, your council own (I told you all about that a couple of Newsletters ago – no improvement).

Yet these areas of neglect could thrive! The Purfleet could be a pleasant waterway with a pocket park and seating, the Church Street car park, which provides no benefit to the town either through relieving parking or revenue, though I presume they pay rent, could be good town centre terraced housing or a properly managed urban green park. Our flower beds, parks and hanging baskets are always very pleasing to see. The plot as you come into the bus station is up for sale; at a tiny fraction of the

money spent on our grand schemes this could be dealt with and cease to be an eyesore. A great many signs could be removed and we would all carry on as we are. The odd thing about signs is they never tell you what you want to know!

There are good things, Surrey Street repaved for example, but good things shouldn't be the exception, we should simply expect these to be normal.

We either need Borough and County Council officers to walk around the town regularly or an employed town centre manager with the power to enforce local byelaws (cars, bins, etc.) and to actively make improvements. I know this can't be the case, but does anyone venture on foot out of King's Court further than M&S? Could the ordinary officer describe Hillington Square, Friars Street, Sir Lewis Street, Lady Jane Grey Road, the bus station? Perhaps every new employee should be obliged to walk down London Road in the rush hour on a winter's day in the dark – it's a frightening experience. Then, whatever their job, housing, environment, planning, etc, they will at least better know the major town they serve.

Meanwhile, developments and improvements at St George's Guildhall and the MUCH move on apace. The Civic Society is supportive of these regeneration projects with some concerns. That the Guildhall is not made into a Shakespeare Shrine but is an arts centre for West Norfolk and that the Carnegie Library is not just 'surplus to requirement' but given proper consideration and a sustainable future and the library and special collections are at least looked after by a librarian in their new home.

Members of your Executive Committee meet on occasion with the Council Leader and Deputy and we bring these concerns to them. We are aware they have the whole of West Norfolk under their care of course and a lot of internal restructuring to get through. These are good meetings and we feel listened to and hope our comments are constructive. We also comment in writing on policy such as the King's Lynn Transport Strategy, King's Lynn Heritage & Culture Strategy and South Gates Master Plan. We've also commented on the Riverfront Regeneration. The Rail to River scheme seems finished in an underwhelming way, nothing

of note happening until the dissonant Purfleet Street portacabins overwhelm this attractive little street. The committee are pleased that some of the inappropriate suggestions for the Custom House are under review. We also believe Devil's Alley just needs to be a tidy well-kept right of way and green space and not full of pop-ups and artistic installations.

The more ordinary planning applications are also looked at and letters, if needed, sent in. The Civic Society is an official consultee for planning matters.

I do wonder what highly paid consultants have brought to the table except their bills. Working with the Council our committee members could have done better for free in most instances!

What we also do well is Heritage Open Day. So many other organisations work with us to make this the stand-out free event of the year and couldn't be done without the support of the Borough Council. Committee members Anna, Kim and Laura with Rick and many others deserve congratulations again. See page 17.

The Former Street Names project 'Every Street Name Tells a Story' has been a real success combining new and refurbished former street name signs, two books and a play. Elizabeth James, Robert Fayers and Alison Gifford brought this project through. The Audrey Muriel Stratford Trust, King's Lynn Town Guides and St Margaret and St Nicholas Parish Trust made it all happen along with the Shakespeare Guildhall Trust money for the play. The play you will see as the light entertainment at our Christmas lecture/get together on 5th December in Thoresby Great Hall. See page 5 for our lecture programme.

Although not intended, the children's day for the Hanse Festival was in the end run by Civic Society colleagues when I was out of action for part of the day with a dodgy hip. Thank you to them. We might do it as a Society event again next year when King's Lynn celebrates 20 years as a member of the New Hanse, the first English town to join.

On Thursday 4th July we raised money for the Civic Society with a lunch in our Queen Street garden. It went really well and should become an annual event. Again, thank you to the helpers and guests.

Each Newsletter brings me to the sad tidings of deaths among members. Ken Hill and Sally Smith both died in August and Julian Litten in October (see page 12). But it was good that they were sitting together at the July lunch seeming in good spirits.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter. Please tell others of the work we do and we will be pleased to welcome them as members.

Lecture Series

2024

Thursday 05 December: Every Street Name Tells a Story

A play by 'Time Will Tell' Theatre

The 2024 Visual Image Project for the Civic Society had three parts, the new and refurbished former street name signs, the book for adults and a book and play for children. We thought the little commissioned play for children was so good it would be a chance to show it to our members and a light-hearted way to enjoy our Christmas get-together.

2025

Thursday 06 February: The Wash – principal management issues and projects in motion or planned

The Wash and North Norfolk Marine Partnership

Details to come – check the website closer to the time

Thursday 06 March: Why was there so much socialism in Edwardian King's Lynn?

Anthony Howe, Emeritus Professor of Modern History, University of East Anglia

This talk will rediscover the forgotten history of socialism in King's Lynn. While West Norfolk is well-known for its rural radicalism, it is something of a surprise to find the burgeoning strength of socialism, normally associated with the industrial North or London, in King's Lynn. But from the late 1890s, King's Lynn's position as a thriving port and important transport hub produced hundreds of workers who now sought to improve their conditions through their commitment to socialist ideals. They included many railway and building workers but also teachers and small businessmen (and one 'science student', Burns Snodgrass, future manufacturer and populariser of the slide rule). Local societies promoted

education in socialism through lectures and meetings as well as political activism in protest campaigns and participation (rarely successful) in local elections. They also show that King's Lynn was no mere backwater but well-connected to the national socialist movement. Incidental details touch on sexual scandal in the party, the influence of the local Ruskinian sage, Harry Lowerison at Heacham, and Fletcher Dodd's pioneering socialist holiday camp at Caister.

This talk will be based on the 2024 Norfolk Record Society volume, edited by Frank Meeres, *Socialism in King's Lynn and Suffragism in Great Yarmouth*. This publishes the minutes of the King's Lynn Socialist and Labour Societies, 1897–1916. These were found among the papers of Frederick White, newsagent, future mayor in 1930–31, and stalwart of local socialism, which are now deposited in the Norfolk Record Office.

Thursday 03 April: Georgian pleasure gardens and urban open spaces

The Georgians introduced some of the world's first public pleasure gardens – including our own 'Walks'. Sarah Spooner – Associate Professor in Landscape History at UEA, will tell us more ...

Thursday 22 May: AGM followed by an update on what Civic Society have done this year

All lectures at Thoresby College, South Quay at 7.30. Members free. Visitors £2.50

Empty Shops Survey 2024

Kim D Leonard

Background: Since at least 2018 the Civic Society has conducted an annual survey on the usage and vacancy rates of ten of the main streets that make up the King's Lynn town centre. This has provided some useful trend data with the emphasis on identifying the number of 'empty shops' which could be used as a barometer to measure the overall well-being of the town centre.

The current definitions of 'Main Trading Activity' are quite broad. Next year a more detailed analysis will be provided into the type of business that populate our town centre shops.

This year I also took the opportunity to identify the shops that did not have a number, a frustrating feature when trying to find a particular shop. I recorded a total of 354 shops in the ten streets, organised by main activity as detailed in the table below.

Main trading activity	High Street	Norfolk Street	Broad Street / St Dominic's Square	New Conduit Street / Purfleet Street	Tower Street / Blackfriars Street	St James Street / Saturday Market Place	TOTAL
Financial services	5	1	0	4	2	1	13
Hospitality	16	20	5	5	10	8	64
Newsagent/Convenience store	2	3	0	0	0	3	8
Medical	7	5	0	3	4	2	21
Hair & Beauty	3	12	0	5	13	12	45
Phone/Media	5	6	2	0	0	0	13
Charity	7	3	3	1	0	0	14
Betting	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Vaping	2	2	0	0	0	0	4
Other	5	13	4	5	10	6	43
EMPTY	10	13	4	5	4	9	45
RETAIL	26	21	15	8	8	4	82
TOTAL	88	99	34	36	52	45	354

% of empty shops	11.4	13.1	11.8	13.9	7.7	20	12.7
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Empty Shops: As can be seen there are a total of 45 empty shops spread across the ten streets, with some streets faring much better than others.

Date of survey	High Street	Norfolk Street	Broad Street / St Dominic's Square	New Conduit Street / Purfleet Street	Tower Street / Blackfriars Street	St James Street / Saturday Market Place	Total
August 2018	9	9	8	4	4	10	44
February 2019	12	12	9	2	1	8	44
September 2019	12	12	12	1	1	5	43
October 2020	8	5	13	3	2	6	37
April 2022	15	8	7	4	2	8	44
September 2023	8	8	6	3	4	7	36
August 2024	10	13	4	5	4	9	45

It is unwise to try to identify any trends that this data presents as there have been no wide variations in these results from one year to the next and this year's comparison is not significantly different from five years ago.

What is concerning is where an individual building is vacant for a long period of time. A case in point is the Debenhams department store towards the Saturday Market Place end of the High Street. This takes up a lot of the street frontage and continued vacancy may begin to blight the whole area. This is compounded by a vacant restaurant, a vacant deli, a fire-damaged building and other vacant shops. This will detract potential occupiers from taking on a shop in the area despite the efforts of some businesses such as the Deck of Cards and the Topsy Teapot, for example, who continue to provide some of the most attractive shop windows in the town.

Empty Shops results year on year

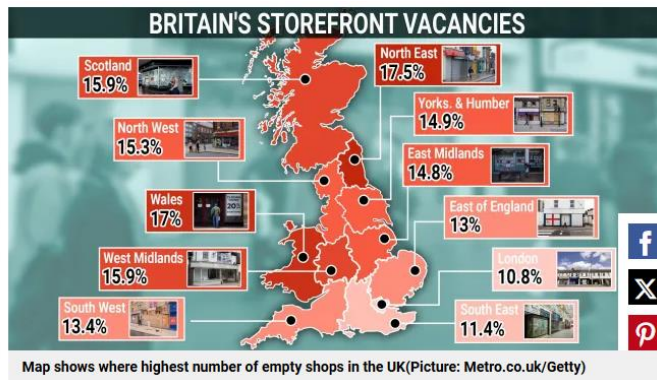
The table below gives the results compared year on year.

Date of Survey	Total Shops	Number of Empty Shops	% of Total
2019	353	44	12.4
2020	354	37	10.4
2022	357	44	12.3
2023	349	36	10.3
2024	354	45	12.7

Note: A full survey was not carried out in 2021 due to COVID 19

King's Lynn compared to the national picture

Whilst we are naturally concerned about our own town, how do King's



Lynn's figures compare to the national and regional averages?

More up-to-date figures are hard to find, but these comparisons from July 2023 indicate that King's Lynn

is aligned with the rest of the East of England.

Shops without street numbers

Whilst carrying out the Empty Shops survey this year, I took the opportunity to record those shops without the street number. Not displaying the street number is not only frustrating for a visitor looking for a particular shop, but is required for use by the emergency services to quickly identify a building.

Road / Street	Total shops	Without street numbers	% without numbers
High Street	88	59	67.0
Norfolk Street	99	47	47.5
Broad Street / St Dominic's Square	34	32	94.1
New Conduit Street / Purfleet Street	36	32	88.9
Tower Street / Blackfriars Street	52	24	46.2
St James Street / Saturday Market Place	45	10	22.2
TOTAL	354	204	57.6

It was noted that there was a distinct contrast between the streets with newer larger retail units and the older, more traditional shopping streets with smaller shop units, such as St James Street, Norfolk Street and Tower Street.

The Council has statutory powers around the display of building numbers and whilst this was a useful exercise, we will consider what action to take, if any, over the next few months.

Government action on empty shops

In May this year the previous Government, under the Levelling Up initiative introduced and I quote from the GOV.UK website

‘new powers for communities to regenerate high streets and fill empty shops will be in force by the summer, the government has announced today (14 May 2024).

High Street Rental Auctions, a new local authority power to combat high street vacancy, will allow local leaders who know their area best to take control of empty properties blighting their high streets and rent them out to local businesses that want to use them.

The new powers will help councils level up their high streets and tackle wide-ranging issues stemming from prolonged high street emptiness exacerbated by the pandemic, such as low footfall which leads to struggling businesses, increased unemployment and anti-social behaviour.

Where a high street shop has been empty for over a year, High Street Rental Auctions will allow local leaders to step in and auction off a rental lease for up to five years. Auctions will take place with no reserve price, giving local businesses and community groups the opportunity to occupy space on the high street at a competitive market rate’.

Full details can be found in the link below: -

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-levelling-up-powers-to-fill-empty-shops-across-england?trk=public_post_comment-text

We will be discussing with the Council, in our regular consultations, whether this will be adopted in King’s Lynn. This scheme was, of course, introduced by the outgoing Conservative government and the new administration seem to have a lot more widespread issues on their hands,

although it is gratifying to see that Lynn still has a choice of opticians, clothes shops and travel agents, which unfortunately as ordinary members of the public we do not get for free!

Changes to residential use

In last year's report it was noted there was an increasing trend to convert previously retail shop space into residential units. Not only is the trend for Living Over the Shop but Living **in** the Shop as well!

Whilst this trend is generally welcomed, the Civic Society has real concerns about the size and amount of natural light that these units offer. The Civic Society's Planning Committee continue to monitor Planning Applications to ensure that the Council and developers are reminded that the potential occupiers need space, fresh air and an outdoor space to remain healthy and are human beings not hamsters.

Pop-up shops



At the time of the survey, three 'pop-up, pre-fab' shops were vacant and the two in Purfleet Street have remained empty since they were lowered into place. Apart from looking like a building site where the contractor has gone into liquidation, questions have to be asked about why we are investing so much in

installing additional retail space when there is suitable space available in any street in the town centre? It needs also to be noted that the accompanying lighting enhancements and the steel archway have still not been installed, not to mention that the view to the iconic Custom House from the High Street has been ruined.

Not only that, but at the time of the survey other pop-up shops remained vacant. Surely a little joint imagination and negotiation between the

landlord and the prospective tenant could result in more short-term rentals being available?

The litmus test as to the wisdom or otherwise of installing these ‘pop-up’ spaces will be the weeks leading up to Christmas where traders selling seasonal products will be looking for short-term rentals.

Obituaries

Alison Gifford

It has seemed as if every week brings news of the death of one of our long-standing stalwart members. It saddens me to bring you news of Ken Hill, Sally Turff and Julian Litten.

Ken Hill

Ken died aged on Friday 16th August 2024. He was an active member of the Civic Society and on the Committee for many years. Ken was a great campaigner, raising concerns about the Custom House which was left neglected and empty for ten years and especially keen to see the derelict buildings, owned by the same developer, on Purfleet Quay restored. He and his late wife Jean ran a guerilla artist event when the windows of the grade 2 listed building had pictures painted on the boarded-up windows. He, along with many other interested people, could not understand how this building in the heart of King’s Lynn was not compulsorily purchased by the Council but after 15 years it has been transformed into several nice town houses which Ken lived long enough to see. He completely transformed the Old Mill on King’s Staithe Square into a family home and was known for his love of classic cars. He had a Lagonda for 50 years. His journalistic skills were useful for the Civic Society and the Norfolk Boat Trust, which restored the Baden Powell fishing smack. As a young man he passed a season on a meteorological station on Antarctica which was a pivotal time in his life. He was a valued friend to many.

Sally Turff

Larger than life described Sally perfectly. She was secretary to the Civic Society for several years and a great supporter. But her lasting memorial will be Harding’s Pits Doorstep Green which she and her late husband, Roger, championed and made happen against many setbacks. Sally was a Director for the last ten years. She was unwell for the last few months

of her life but was able to see the new whale sculpture put in place earlier this year. Sally was a journalist who worked for publications in London notably Farming Life. She and Roger retired to their house in Queen Street, King's Lynn which was the hub of many serious meetings and happy gatherings. Sally was known for her hospitality, her generous nature and infectious joy for life. But she was a formidable and fierce campaigner for the things she believed in – the maintenance and upkeep of her adopted town was one.

Sally was a Town Guide and enthusiastic supporter of many local groups.

Julian Litten

Julian had a long career, was known as England's leading funerary historian and was a founder and chairman of the Friends of Hardwick Road Cemetery. He was a published author and researcher, bringing his expertise in both architecture and charitable work to The QEH organisation and many others.

He chaired the St Margaret's with St Nicholas Ward Forum, contributed as a Trustee of the Lynn Minster Trust, and played an instrumental role in heritage preservation projects throughout the region.

He acted as an adviser for the Civic Society planning sub-committee and usually had a wry comment to make as developers and builders presented fantastical schemes for new rabbit hutches described as flats.

Julian was clever, gregarious and a great supporter of the best traditions of English life. Nothing mediocre or banal was ever allowed on his person or in his house, which he and Father Anthony opened up for Heritage Open Day to the astonishment of visitors.

We were lucky that Julian decided to retire to King's Lynn. He had a national profile but we knew him as a neighbour and friend.

Planning round-up – Autumn 2024

Since we published our annual report in the spring, it has been testing for our small planning group to keep up with the seemingly endless requests for input to planning consultation processes – both at a national and local level.

At a national level, with the new government ensconced in July, they quickly announced ambitious house-building goals and planning reform. These ideas are as much about creating an economic driver as addressing housing need. They also relate to the required shift toward a low-carbon economy and leaving behind fossil fuels.

We have worked with our national body, Civic Voice, to contribute to a coordinated response from Civic Societies from across the country. As groups of people who tend to be thoroughly embedded in their communities and frequently working closely with local authorities and on civic enhancement projects, we feel we have a lot to offer. It was informative to find how much common ground there was between different societies from across the country.

Some common threads were:

- Scepticism about whether 1.5m new homes are really required. (Current estimates suggest that there are typically 1m empty homes across the country at any one time, 25% of which are second homes.)
- A desire to see other opportunities for housing provision thoroughly explored before new greenfield development sites are brought forward. (Opportunities range from better incentives to encourage brownfield development, to repurposing of non-residential buildings and reforms in the rental sector.)
- Concerns about a ‘democratic deficit’ and how to best engage communities and develop acceptable Local Plans. This is particularly relevant with some of the major infrastructure projects that are required across the country. Unfortunately, political opportunists and the media

often polarise debate – and nowadays social media ‘chat’ is often unhelpful. We almost certainly need to develop new fora to enable more useful local discussion and informed decision making.

A great concern is that planning is not helping us to shift away from car reliance – with the resulting problems of congestion, pollution and the massive cost of new road infrastructure. A recently published RTPI (Royal Town Planning Institute) study reviewed 1.6m housing consents given between 2012 and 2021 and concluded that they are highly dependent on private car travel and have failed to deliver other forms of transport.

We can see this in King’s Lynn – from the allocation of housing sites that will be mainly dependent on roads and car transport, to edge-of-town retail, closure of local schools and services and failure to develop alternative public transport or cycling opportunities. It all ensures that the majority of us will be dependent on cars for years to come.

KLCS have raised concerns about these matters over many years and will continue to do so. Meanwhile, a scheme for 1,100 houses was granted planning consent at Hardwick in August, marking the first phase of the West Winch Growth Area. The estimated cost of the associated new ‘housing access road’ has crept up from £85m to £110m, whilst there is as yet no costed plan for connected cycle infrastructure connections to the town or significant public transport infrastructure.

We have recently joined discussions or written with comments on the following:

- King’s Lynn Transport Strategy
- South Gate Masterplan
- King’s Lynn Cultural Strategy
- Tourism Strategy

In addition, we have prepared over 30 letters on individual planning applications – including some significant applications in relation to the Guildhall, South Quay riverfront and the ‘Multi-User Community Hub’ (Argos redevelopment).

Desmond Waite Award

An effect of the pandemic was that our ‘annual’ award for a building or development that we feel has enhanced the town, fell into abeyance. However, at this year’s summer garden party in the Queen Street garden we announced that we had given the 2024 award to local building designer David Taylor.

Over many years of working in King’s Lynn and West Norfolk, we felt that David had acquired a very good sense of what was appropriate and complementary to the King’s Lynn street scene, including elements that gave his buildings character that benefitted the wider realm. In recent years we particularly liked the work he undertook on Railway Road near the bus station and refurbishment of cottages at Aickmans Yard.

Unfortunately, David was not well enough to receive the award in person and we were saddened to hear that he passed away at the beginning of November. David was a past national president of CABE (Chartered Association for Building Engineers), and an active member of CIAT (Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists). We extend our condolences to David’s family.

If any members feel that a new building or refurbishment has enhanced the town and deserves recognition, please feel free to submit your suggestion for a future DW Award.

King's Lynn Heritage Open Day – 8 September 2024

It felt from our headquarters in the Custom House that this year's Heritage Open Day was one of the busiest we've known. We were very pleased to have Sommerfeld & Thomas warehouse open for the first time, and we welcomed back some old favourites which hadn't been open for a while (Burkitt Homes, St Ann's House, Highgate Methodist Church). We are very grateful to the Borough Council for opening some of the finest buildings in King's Lynn (the Custom House, St George's Guildhall, South Gates, Red Mount Chapel, the Town Hall) and for the support of their staff both beforehand and on the day. We could not have such a successful day without the support of other organisations – King's Lynn Town Guides, the King's Lynn Preservation Trust, Friends of St Nicholas' Chapel – as well as museum staff, church staff and many other volunteers who helped out on the day.



This year's theme (set by Heritage Open Days national organisation) was 'Routes – Networks – Connections' and we were delighted to have a talk on Pilgrimage in Medieval England and Europe by Dr Paul Richards, as well as exhibitions on lost Norfolk railways, and 'Vancouver's Legacy: Connections to the American north-west' at the Borough Archives. There were also opportunities for real-life journeys on vintage buses, the ferry, boats and a miniature train.

We offered a wide variety of entertainment – ranging from music (Rachel Bea, Regis Saxophone Quartet, u3a Shanty Singers, The Guildhall Singers), to dancing (King's Morris), re-enactors (the Knights of Skirbeck (medieval) and King's Lynn Under Siege (civil war) in The Walks, East Norfolk Militia (Napoleonic war) on the Purfleet, Norwich



and Norfolk Medieval Association in South Gates), and a range of others including Fens Falconry and Lavender Lacemakers. As ever, the vintage bus service proved very popular. Also popular were the Baden Powell and the West Lynn ferry service, as well as the Bell Tower Tours at the Minster. The Town Guides offered free walks around the historic town centre, and a walk round Gaywood. The support of organisations like the Town Guides is invaluable to the success of the day.

We had our usual market of Norfolk producers in

the Saturday Market Place.

Thanks to our main sponsor – the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, as well as our other sponsors – Hansatech, Steele Media, Lynn News & Your Local Paper, King's Lynn Website Design and Norfolk Sound Systems. The support of all our sponsors is gratefully acknowledged.

Finally, a special mention has to go to the Live and Let Live, who produced a price list for the day in shillings and pence – a pint of beer for

1/-6d and a packet of crisps for a penny sounds very reasonable to us! (The catch was that you had to pay in old money.)

Many visitors were local, from King's Lynn, Wisbech, Docking, Hunstanton, Heacham, Dersingham, Snettisham, Downham Market, Fakenham and many other places.

Others came from further afield – Cambridge, Norwich, Attleborough, Southampton, London, Stockport, Waltham Abbey, and Eastbourne, as well as mid-Wales, America, Australia, Germany, Baltic countries, Sri Lanka, Poland, and India.

We asked how people found out about our Heritage Open Day. Answers ranged from 'leaflet', 'social media', 'relatives', 'online', 'BBC Radio Norfolk', 'local paper', 'KL Magazine', 'Tourist Information', 'word of mouth', to 'come each year', and 'stopped on way from coast for a coffee and found this'.



Some visitor comments:

By email: 'I wanted to thank all those involved with organising it. We both had a brilliant day particularly enjoying visiting fascinating and beautiful buildings that are usually not open to the public, listening to various musical performances – and a couple of bus trips!'

By email: 'Firstly, many many thanks for putting together another memorable day on Sunday; my wife and I greatly enjoyed it – perhaps even more than last year. Such an interesting day. We had not previously seen the Air Raid Shelter and had not been inside the two theatres. Fascinating. Thank you and all who were involved.'

By email: 'Would just like to say that we had a great time yesterday so thank you to everyone. Cannot wait for next year's event.'

From the visitor books:

'Were delighted to find even more to see this year!'

'What a wonderful piece of architecture & well restored' (28–32 King Street)

'Good collection. Well worth keeping to show today's children how we used to live & work' (True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum)

'Inside after 50 years of going under the arch' (South Gates)

'Lovely to hear about the history' (Library)

'A great opportunity to see a beautiful building' (Lath Mansion)

'Lovely little chapel. First time visiting. Very welcoming' (Highgate Methodist Church)

'Always wondered what was beyond the gate. Brilliant visit' (Jewish Cemetery)

'I am very grateful for the opportunity to find family graves' (Hardwick Road Cemetery)

'Amazing paintings, great information and people to talk to. Was amazing' (Borough Archives)

'So much to learn about the history of King's Lynn'

'King's Lynn is a wonderful place you are all very lucky!'

Here is a list of the buildings that were open and a breakdown of the numbers we have received (not everyone had the time to record numbers, or chose not to):

Property name	Number of visitors
19 Tuesday Market Place	172
28-32 King Street	756
All Saints' Church (open from 12)	95
Bank House	690
Borough Archives	495
Burkitt Homes (open 10-12)	240
Church of Our Lady of the Annunciation	131
Clifton House (open from 12)	462
Corn Exchange	962
Crown & Mitre	117
Custom House	1,056
Evershed House (open 10-1)	240
Ferry Lane Social Club (open from 10.30)	600+
Friends Meeting House (open from 12)	93
Greenland Fishery	364
GroundWork Art Gallery	75
Guildhall of St George	2,050
Hampton Court secret garden	625
Hanse House	345
Hardwick Road Cemetery (open 10-3)	47
Highgate Methodist Church (open from 12)	19
Jewish Cemetery	-
King Edward VII Academy	-
Lath Mansion	332
Lattice House	-
Library (open 10-1)	178
Live and Let Live (open from 11)	-
London Road Methodist Chapel (open from 12)	109
Lynn Museum	708
Majestic Cinema (open 10-1)	353
Marriott's Warehouse	111
Minster (open from 11.30)	1,411
Pilots' Office & Tower	247
Red Mount Chapel	1,104
Sommerfeld & Thomas	980
South Gates	1,331
St Ann's House	-
St Faith's Church (open from 11.15)	-
St John's Church (open from 12)	124
St Nicholas Chapel	883
St Peter's Church, West Lynn	-
Stories of Lynn	2,053
Thoresby College	753
Town Hall & Guildhall	2,050
True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum	701
TS Vancouver	-

Property name	Number of visitors
<u>WhataHoot</u>	620
White Hart (open from 12)	–
World War II Air Raid Shelter	1,200

PS Date for your diaries – next year’s Heritage Open Day will be
Sunday 14 September.



Easyfundraising

Do you ever shop online – in Sainsbury’s, Waitrose, M&S, John Lewis? On eBay? Do you buy your insurance online? If so, you might be able to easily help us raise much-needed funds.

We are asking members of the Civic Society to help raise funds to support the work we do by signing up to Easyfundraising.

Easyfundraising has partnered with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won’t cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the brand.

Brands pay Easyfundraising a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation that you can then pay to a charity of your choice. We very much hope that this will be paid to the King’s Lynn Civic Society. Every time you buy online for insurance, holidays and many other items you have the chance to help support us. In a short space of time, we have raised over £64 for the Civic Society.

Please go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/how-it-works/> for full details and thank you in advance for your support.

King's Lynn Civic Society

Registered charity 298916

President: Heather Bolt

Chairman: Alison Gifford

Secretary: Anna Gunn

Treasurer: Kim Leonard

Membership Secretary: Sandra Coleman

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