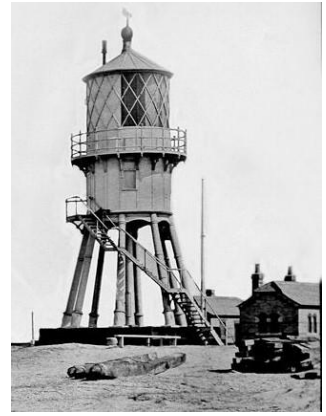


Society News

The Lowestoft Archaeological and Local History
Society Newsletter

October 2022.

Editors:- Ron and Irene Ashman



Unique Standing Pugs come home to Lowestoft

by Irene O'Toole



Thanks to the efforts made by Anthony Howe, Trustee with special responsibility for Lowestoft Porcelain, Lowestoft Museum at Broad House in Nicholas Everitt Park has acquired this pair of Lowestoft Porcelain Standing Pugs. They are the only known true pair anywhere in the world, estimated to date from around 1770. Considerable efforts were made to confirm that the pugs were indeed made in Lowestoft. The dogs are press moulded and are solid. They have impressed circles for eyes and a four-petal flower on the incised collar. Tony was instrumental in obtaining the necessary grant funding from the V&A, the Beecroft Foundation and the Gwen Baker Trust to enable the purchase to go ahead.



During the Heritage Open Days, Tim Cross from Lowestoft Ceramic Studios set his 3D printer in motion in the window of his High Street premises so that people could watch a model of one of the pugs being created.

Tim kindly lent one to the museum to be displayed alongside the pugs to celebrate the theme of this year's HODs, *Astounding Inventions*.



The Museum highlighted a series of objects in its collection by creating a trail "*From flint tools to fishfingers*", relevant to this year's theme.

Bert Collyer set up a display of old photographs "*All our yesterdays*" upstairs in the new Turner Room.

Despite the very sad circumstances which caused the cancellation of a number of events during this period, Lowestoft Museum welcomed 683 visitors for HODs.

Note:- *If you would like to see the Pug Dogs or the "All our yesterdays" display, the Museum is open until the 31st October, 1pm until 4pm every day except Thursdays when it is open 11am until 4 pm.*

Book Review.

By Irene Ashman

'Army Girls' by Tessa Dunlop, published by Headline Publishing, price £20.

This well written book follows the lives of several young women from different backgrounds and records their experiences in the many different roles of the Auxiliary Territorial Service (A.T.S) and how the A.T.S evolved during World War 2.

Are you interested?.

The committee are looking to recruit two members to fill committee vacancies.

There are 4 meetings a year to discuss the running of the Society. These meetings are informal and very friendly. If you are interested why not come to a committee meeting to see if you would like to join.

Do you remember.

In Kensington Gardens the electric boats were an added attraction in 1930. These remained until the 1960's when they were removed and replaced by canoes. Gone also is the aviary that was situated at the north end of the gardens, which mainly contained, I believe, South African finches.

Miscellaneous

Have you an unidentified article you could provide a picture for us to put in the Society News, perhaps somebody might identify it.

Bb

Britten as a boy

by Elizabeth Talbot (President LA&LHS)

In the spirit of ensuring our local heritage is ever-evolving and enriched by each successive generation, and as Secretary to the Britten as a Boy Committee, I am thrilled to be able to share with L.A & L.H.S members details of a recently-launched community project to erect a life size bronze statue of the composer Benjamin Britten on Lowestoft seafront, opposite his childhood home, to inspire local children to achieve their ambitions.

We believe that it will make a significant difference to the way people understand the position of Lowestoft locally and nationally. We believe it will be a focus of joy for the whole community and inspire generations to come.

BACKGROUND:

During the first Lockdown, our Chair, Ruth Wharrier, a local primary teacher, created a project about Britten's childhood, for children from the primary school near to the house in which Britten was born. Many children were disengaged from learning. It proved enormously popular and, subsequently, Historic England has funded the creation of a wider education project for all Lowestoft Primary Schools.

This will include a virtual walk (available to view by schools UK wide and the general public) with a cross curricular education pack. The walk will become part of the development of the Heritage Action Zone within Kirkley.

From this, the idea of the **statue** grew.

Lowestoft and Kirkley have some of the highest rates of deprivation, unemployment and child poverty in the country. Aspiration amongst young people is low and intergenerational unemployment is a harsh reality for many children who grow up here.

Ruth met with Zeb Soanes, a well-known BBC and Classic FM broadcaster who was born in Lowestoft and together they envisaged a statue of Benjamin Britten as a boy, for the children of the town, to encourage them to dream big and aspire to be the best they can be.

They recruited members of the local community to form a constituted committee and commissioned Royal sculptor, Ian Rank-Broadley FRSS (www.ianrankbroadley.co.uk) to create the statue.

When installed, the statue of Britten as a boy will be of national merit. Ian's effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II appears on all UK and Commonwealth coinage. He created the Diana memorial at Kensington Palace and has recently completed work on one of the most important war memorials since WWII, the Armed Forces Memorial.

We have the full support of the Britten family along with the local community and many big names who knew and worked with Britten such as: Sir Thomas Allen and Dame Janet Baker along with admirers Barry Wordsworth, Sir Stephen Hough and Julian Fellowes. Local dignitaries include The Countess of Euston (Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk) and Sir Christopher Howes.



East Suffolk Council have embraced the concept of the statue and have offered a site opposite his birthplace, Britten House, on the seafront in Kirkley.

When erected, the statue will be gifted to the children of Lowestoft.

AIMS:

The statue is needed because it will

- Educate people about Lowestoft's most famous son.
- Inform them about Lowestoft's heritage.
- Promote tolerance and the acceptance of diversity in the community.
- Illustrate the role of education in providing opportunities.
- Inspire children and young people.
- Be of national interest and a lasting artistic enhancement to the town of Lowestoft.

FUNDS SOUGHT:

We are seeking £96,000, or a contribution towards this sum.

We are supported by local business, Adnams and are seeking funds through funding applications, events and crowd funding.

We have much more information to provide if you require it. Please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you very much for considering our application.

If any members or readers wish to make a donation towards the fund-raising, please see details on the webpage, contribute via our Just Giving page, or make contact with me direct on email address below.

All support will be grateful received. Thank you.

www.brittenasaboy.com info@brittenasaboy.com.

The Lowestoft Museum move into Broad House (Part 2).

By Ron Ashman

As the Broad House completion date was put back, everything was moved to a temporary store in the unused Cooper's Warehouse, that stood behind the Town Hall on the corner of Compass Street and White Horse Street.

The revised date of late December/early January came and passed, to be replaced with March/April, when it was put back again until between 8th and 22nd May.



The buildings shown on either side of the Cooper's Warehouse were constructed in the mid 1980's and demolished after Waveney District Council moved into the new Riverside council building.

All that remains of the warehouse are the bottom parts of the white walls shown in this photograph.

It was known that equipping the new premises would require more funds than the Museum had available. In 1981 the Museum received a donation of £1,000 towards the fund and a second donation of £1,000 was received the following year. Society members put a lot of work into running stalls at local fetes to add to this.

Additional revenue came from two Pakefield slide shows which were sold out and appeals that were made to local businesses. Also, there was a scheme to get new Presidents and Vice-Presidents, together with Friends of the Museum to increase the Museum funds. Many residents and local businesses contributed to the fund.

In the old Museum many of the display cases had been built against the walls and these could not be removed in one piece. Some free standing (island) display cases had been constructed prior to the move, but more would be required in Broad House.

As the time was very short to prepare the Museum for the official opening by the late Queen Elizabeth II, the Society enlisted the help of the Area Museum Service to assemble many of the free standing display cases. Larger free standing cases were constructed by two team members after the Museum opened.

Erosion at Pakefield.

As in previous years Pakefield cliffs were again subjected to severe erosion towards the end of 2021 leaving various plastic service pipes and electric cables sticking out of the upper cliff. Fencing was also a casualty with sections lying where they had been undermined as the soft cliff slid down to the beach below. Concrete slabs which once supported caravans also ended up on the slopes of the cliff and the caravan park owner had to move some of his caravans further back during the year. The bungalow known as The Rosary gradually became closer to the edge before the owners decided to have it pulled down, leaving a number of timber holiday homes awaiting their fate.

The middle of October also saw a feature in the cliff containing Romano British greyware and details and pottery profiles will be published in the Society's next Annual Report.

After a rather pathetic attempt to defend the cliff using shingle filled bags and parts of the concrete upstand that once formed the shooting butts further south, the sea worked its way behind as it always does with heavy defences.

Along the low water mark amber and occasional jet is washed up after spring gales and recently a man from Gorleston was fortunate in finding three nice pieces of amber relatively close together.

In some cases pieces like these probably originated from pine trees which grew in Europe several million years ago especially around the Baltic area.

Recent Discoveries

A World War II US fighter cockpit from a P47 Thunderbolt, is now at Halesworth Airfield Museum.

Three planes collided in thick fog in 1944. The remains were found by a local fishing boat near to Covehithe.

Ipswich Museum is to close for 3years for a £8.7M refurbishment.

Hundreds of ancient footprints have been found on Formby beach in North West England. Prehistoric animal tracks have been previously discovered.

This Summer the Royal Hall of the first kings of East Anglia was discovered during a community dig in Rendlesham, near Sutton Hoo, dating back 1,400 years.

Next meetings.

- 27 Oct Travellers Tales: East Anglia through the eyes of travel writers over the centuries. by Sarah Doig
- 10 Nov Monte Carlo or Bust – the story of two Lowestoft friends motorbike holiday in 1951. by Janis Kirby
- 24 Nov The Lothingland and Mutford Half-hundreds: Domesday and after. by David Butcher

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- 26 Jan The 1960's Lowestoft music Scene – part two by Richard Mundy

If you have any articles that you would like published in this Newsletter, please contact the editors at a meeting or send your piece to email address LALHS@btinternet.com.

Items do not have to be typed, they can be hand written and do not have to be very long.

If you wish your name can be attributed to the article, or it can be left out.

Have you been to any interesting place or building in this country that might be of interest to other members that you could write about. Or, could you write a review of an historical book you have read.