

## **Report for 2022/23 of the JACK ROSE OLD LOWESTOFT SOCIETY to the Annual Meeting of Lowestoft Town Council.**

Another busy year for the society, meetings somewhat interrupted by national events and health issues.

Monthly second Friday meetings at Trinity Methodist Church hall continued with a great local selection of speakers on various aspects of our wonderful heritage. Illustrated talks were given by Martin Rivett, Ian Robb, Philip Mummery, Chris Brooks, Philip Rasbery, Tony Curd, Bert Collyer, Bob Collis and Richard Mundy.

Members of the society present were pleased to participate in the Council's Platinum Jubilee celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II at the special event arranged at Sparrow's Nest Park in June 2022.

JROLS members Chris Brooks, Philip Mummery, Bob Collis gave talks to other local community groups and are willing to do so again.

Our AGM was due to be resumed indoors in September after our outdoor summer visit to the Flixton Aviation Museum where Bob Collis conducted an interesting tour of the exhibits in the baking heat.

Unfortunately the news of the sudden death of our monarch in September, followed by a period of official mourning, impelled me to post an image of Queen Elizabeth out of respect and a message of sympathy to the Royal Family, and, as a further mark of respect, our society cancelled the meeting thus postponing the AGM that month.

At the same time, we also had the planned events for Lowestoft Heritage Open Days, that many did decide to cancel or postpone till later.

However, I decided to go ahead with the commitments made to the Heritage Open Days committee and prospective visitors that week, as JROLS had already shown our full mark of respect publicly.

So we had a day's event with two exhibitions - JROLS Plaques by Chris and Lowestoft in Wartime by Bob - with cafe refreshments in the Stella Maris Hall on the Wednesday and my Lowestoft Porcelain story slideshow there on Saturday evening.

Members of the society present were pleased to support the Mayor and Town Council at the public proclamation ceremony of King Charles III at the Royal Plain on Sunday 11th September 2022.

For a week around Remembrance Sunday in November, the society presented a major public exhibition at the Lowestoft Central Parcels Office Exhibition Space honouring Lowestoft wartime heroes on land, sea and in the air. The lives of the town's two WWI VC heroes, Skipper Tom Crisp and Sergeant Claud Castleton were commemorated by Chair Chris Brooks and Vice-Chair Bob Collis exhibited the WWII Royal Air Force pilot heroes who lost their lives on duty to their country. Several interesting conversations and contacts were made at this exhibition which shows its worth.

Instead of a normal meeting for this January 2023, the Society is staging another major event to commemorate the forthcoming 70th anniversary of the 1953 East Coast Floods for a week around the 31st January when they are happy to be associated with the Town Council's endeavours and assistance to mark the same occasion