

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE JACK ROSE OLD LOWESTOFT SOCIETY

May 2024

During the past Year the Society has held 12 monthly meetings, including the AGM when last year's committee officers were re-elected unopposed. They are Chair Christopher Brooks, Vice-Chair Robert Collis, Secretary Ian Robb & Treasurer Andrew Pearce.

There are twenty subscribing members @ £5 per annum and visitors are also invited and welcomed to the Society's illustrated talks. Guest speakers this year started with Nick Carter in June on unusual views of The City of Norwich; then continued with Trevor Garrod speaking on Morton Peto and the Toning connection; Chris Brooks on JROLS history plaques in Lowestoft; Bob Collis on the effects of the Battle of Britain on Lowestoft; Ian Robb & Chris Brooks on Lowestoft High Street & Phil Mummery on a round up of summer events in the region to see out 2023.

The outdoor summer meeting was a walk around the Old Gunton Estate led by Chair Chris Brooks also supported by members of the Suffolk Family History Group led by Jan Kirby.

2024 meetings started with Chris Brooks presenting slides about the Waller's Raid with added commentary by Bob Collis; Chris presented the February meeting reviving memories of the East Coast Floods of 1953; Bert Collyer presented his All Our Yesterdays show in March and in April Tony Curd arranged a quiz evening based on our local heritage and related national events.

Society members Chris Brooks, Philip Mummery, Bob Collis and Bert Collyer also gave talks to other community groups during the year on the subject of the heritage of Old Lowestoft.

The most important part of the Society's work this year has been to support the principled group LADIA, the Lowestoft and District Independent Archive whose principle is to keep the study of local history available locally for the benefit of residents and visitors. Indeed five of our members are involved in LADIA's committee, four of them as trustees of the group.

Chris and Ian (and Trevor Garrod, another LADIA Trustee) made representation to Lowestoft Town Council to support the campaign to keep the local studies material of Suffolk Archives in Lowestoft when Suffolk Archives vacate their accommodation at Lowestoft Library later this year, as they proposed to relocate the studies material to Ipswich. The council debated the issue and voted unanimously in favour of this campaign and to enlist the support of neighbouring councils in doing so.

A representatives meeting was staged by SCC earlier this month but local councillors and MPs were not invited and questions still need to be answered by Suffolk Archives who very much control the situation.

The society looks forward to the future confident that there is much for people to learn of this town's rich heritage that its members seek to advertise in its meetings,

publication reprints, newspaper & magazine articles and online comments on social media. At this month's meeting Bob Collis will present the horrifying situation people of Lowestoft found themselves experiencing, in a few moments of notoriety on May 12th 1943, the largest, most destructive air raid of the war.