

JROLS Report to LTC General Assembly 2022.

The Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society has been pleased to cooperate with Lowestoft Town Council in various projects in 2021 and 2022. For the 2021 Holocaust Memorial Day that, due to Covid restrictions, was not held in person, Chair Chris Brooks compiled a video sequence of the Lowestoft and Southwold involvement in welcoming the Austrian child Refugees/Evacuees of the 1938 Kindertransport movement that the council adapted for their online commemoration.

The society was pleased to respond to LTC's Commission to commemorate the 80th anniversaries in 2020 of Lowestoft's involvement at Dunkirk and the air war blitz as it affected the town in 1940. Unfortunately again, plaques that were procured with historical research completed by Chair Chris Brooks and Vice Chair Bob Collis were delayed by Covid and were not unveiled in place until the HODs events of September 2021.

Members of the Society presented exhibitions of their work in the 2020 HODs event at the former Customs House by the bridge on the North Quay and members Bert Collyer and Bob Collis presented their work at the Everitt's Park Oulton Broad Bowls Clubhouse in 2021.

Chris Brooks participated in the Council's outdoor commemoration of Dunkirk on the South Pier and issued souvenir albums detailing the little ships of Lowestoft involved in the 'Miracle' rescue mission that are also listed on a brass plaque indoors at the Lowestoft Heritage Centre. The indoor event at the Heritage Centre highlighted the unveiling of the two plaques in a ceremony attended by members of the society and Bob Collis spoke on the plaque giving detail of air raids on the town during the blitz period of 1940.

Liaising with councillor Andrew Pearce (also Treasurer of the Society), Chair Chris completed the ongoing research, with assistance from member colleagues and fellow historians of 40 roundel green discs at town sites the society had surveyed and researched over the recent past. The disc plaques are being procured by the council and located in situ this year. It is hoped the South Pier and Kensington Gardens discs will be the first to be affixed next month.

The society is pleased to continue its programme of providing informative slideshows about Lowestoft in occasional public shows and in their regular monthly meetings on the second Friday at Trinity Methodist Church Hall at 7.30 pm, presented by invited guests or their own members. The membership attending has averaged 20 plus since we restarted last September and visitors are also welcome. Funds are in a good position and steadily climbing.

Speakers at our meetings so far since restarting at our AGM in September have included David Butcher, Ivan Bunn, Chris Brooks, Bob Collis, Philip Mummery, Bert Collyer, Martin Rivett and to come, Tony Curd, John Stannard and Richard Mundy.

Two recent shows at the Marina were the 75th commemoration last May of the end of the war in 1945 (postponed from 2020) and the Waller's Raid 80th commemoration in January this year presented by Chair Chris Brooks and Vice Chair Bob Collis.

Happily the events were well supported by the public so no money was lost on the cost of booking the theatre. The Waller's Raid show too was well supported by the Town Council who provided refreshments in the cafe foyer to those attending for which many thanks!