

**From:** The Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Kings Lynn Preservation Trust (KLPT) –

**Press Release**

**Date:** 11 May 2023

**RE: Greenland Fishery, Bridge Street, King's Lynn**

For over fifty years, the Kings Lynn Preservation Trust has sought to bring the heritage buildings of the town into modern day uses whilst maintaining their architectural character for the benefit of the present and future generations. The Trust has kept the ownership of these buildings and has continued to preserve them by using the rents received to pay for the, sometimes costly, maintenance. It has relied on the benefit of both generous benefactors and dedicated volunteers to carry on with this role and the whole town should be extremely proud of what has been achieved.

One of the buildings has been the *Greenland Fishery* on Bridge Street. Built by John Atkin in 1605, it has survived both a notice of demolition in 1911 and a German bomb in 1941. It was given to the Trust in 1997 by the Norfolk Archaeological Trust as KLPT were better able to undertake the extensive conservation works that it then required. The town and the Trust are truly fortunate to have such a beautiful building and it is vital that it maintains its attributes. Since completing the conservation works KLPT has let the building on a series of leases but it has become apparent that short term leases are not appropriate for securing the building's long-term future and it has been vacant for much of the time.

Given its legal protection through its listing, its inclusion in the town's conservation area and the structural work done by the Trust, the Trust feels that it is the right time for it to take on a new role. We are seeking to grant a new long lease or possibly sell the building to someone capable of fulfilling the obligations to maintain and preserve the building. We accept that there will be a need for it to be adapted to modern use and to give it a sustainable future but this should be possible without damage to its historic character. The Trust did a similar project with Clifton House in Queen Street where we secured its structure and then sold it in the early 2000's and we have been delighted with the results which demonstrates that, whilst the challenge is sometimes daunting, these buildings can be converted sympathetically to modern living.

The benefit to the Trust of a sale of Greenland Fishery is that capital can be released to target other buildings at significantly greater risk. For example, the Trust has recently highlighted the deterioration of the Old Bath House on the Common Staithe which is need of desperate repair work.

The challenge of finding the right occupant for Greenland Fishery is not without its difficulties but the Trust is confident that it can make the right decision to allow the building to carry on as a "living" asset within the local community; something the Trust's original benefactors would be proud of.

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**The King's Lynn Preservation Trust.**

11<sup>th</sup> May, 2023