

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

KING'S LYNN AND WEST NORFOLK AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE

Minutes from the Meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee held on Monday, 12th January, 2026 at 3.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT:

Borough Councillors

Councillors Bubb (Chair), Kemp (Vice Chair), Lintern and de Whalley

County Councillors

Councillors Bambridge and Chenery of Horsburgh

Officers

Oliver Bone – Lynn Museum

Robin Hanley – Norfolk Museums Service

Elizabeth Joisce – Norfolk Museums Service

Molly Taylor – Norfolk Museums Service (remotely)

Hannah Jackson – Norfolk Museums Service

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Bland, Councillors Kybird and Ward, Norfolk Joint Museums Committee and Lindsey Bavin, Manager of True's Yard Museum.

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 September 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF MUSEUMS

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

The Curator of the Lynn Museum introduced the report on the King's Lynn Museum activities in the period from August to December 2025. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- 1) Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum
 - 1.1 Current Exhibition *May the Toys Be with You*
 - 1.2 Forthcoming Exhibition: "*Unboxed: Discovering Lynn's Collections*" (working title)
 - 1.3 Family events
 - 1.4 Family Trails
 - 1.5 Mini Museum
 - 1.6 Coffee Mornings
 - 1.7 Talks Programme
 - 1.8 Workshops
 - 1.9 Forthcoming events

The Curator of the Lynn Museum invited questions from the Committee in relation to those areas of the report, as summarised below.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp, the Curator of the Lynn Museum explained the artefacts from the former Townhouse Museum which closed in 2010 were carefully stored and documented, with some already incorporated into Lynn Museum displays and others planned for inclusion in the new exhibition, particularly to engage young visitors. The Curator of the Lynn Museum added that children's learning was a key priority for the Norfolk Museums Service.

In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Bubb, the Assistant Head of Museums explained the museum had previously used libraries for displays and activities and that discussions were ongoing about using the new King's Lynn library for youth engagement work and that they were continuing its successful partnership with the Great Yarmouth Community Hub. The Assistant Head of Museums added that although displaying artefacts in libraries was sometimes possible, security and environmental requirements were key considerations.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

- 2) Newman Legacy project
- 3) Other Museum developments
 - 3.1 Heritage Open Day
 - 3.2 Dragon Festival
 - 3.3 Beuys' Acorns Project
 - 3.4 Book Launch *The Norfolk's at Gallipoli 1915 by Steve Smith*

3.7 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees**3.9 Volunteers****3.10 Finds Identification and Recording Day**

The Curator of the Lynn Museum explained the Marketing Manager for Norfolk Museums Service would present the following areas of the report later on in the meeting:

3.5 Publicity and promotion**3.6 Norfolk Museums Pass**

The Chair, Councillor Bubb raised a question around the name of the circle of oak trees and Councillor de Whalley confirmed that it was referred to as the Beuys' Acorns Project.

In response to a question from County Councillor Bambridge, the Assistant Head of Museums explained the war trumpet which had been discovered in Norfolk was found on a development site.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

4) Borough Council partnership working**4.1 Stories of Lynn – Events & Exhibitions**

The Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp, referred to the programme for home-educated young people and asked who families should contact if they wished to take part. The Marketing Manager confirmed that families could contact her or the Stories of Lynn Museum. The Marketing Manager also reported that bespoke sessions for home-educated children were being offered, with the first official visit scheduled for late January 2026.

In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Bubb, regarding the *Making the Rounds: Stories of Workhouse Nurses Told in Textiles* exhibition at the Stories of Lynn, the Marketing Manager explained that more artefacts could have been displayed, but the available space did not allow for it. The Assistant Head of Museums added that the display space at the Stories of Lynn Museum was challenging and reassured the Committee that they were continually exploring different ways to use it.

The Committee's attention was drawn further to the following areas of the report:

5) Learning & Outreach**5.1 School visits – Lynn Museum****5.2 School visits – Stories of Lynn****5.3 Kick the Dust – Activity in King's Lynn**

The Chair, Councillor Bubb, asked whether there had been any progress on securing funding to support schools unable to visit museums due to transport costs. The Assistant Head of Museums reported that transport costs continued to be a significant barrier and added that several sites offered travel bursaries funded through fundraising.

The Assistant Head of Museums provided an update on the Kick the Dust Norfolk countywide programme and highlighted to the Committee that the new youth engagement strategy had been published and advised this would be shared with Members of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp referred to the temporary exhibition created by the King's Lynn-based Time Turners and suggested that all Members be invited to it. The Marketing Manager confirmed that all Members would be welcome to attend the exhibition and explained the Time Turners group were curating the exhibition on Norfolk's role in the British Civil War, focusing on King's Lynn with plans for interactive elements and dressing up.

The visitor figures were circulated to the Committee at the meeting and were noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes.

The Curator of the Lynn Museum reported that figures for 2025 - 2026 were slightly lower than in 2024 - 2025 but reassured the Committee that they remained higher than in earlier years.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

6 **TRUE'S YARD REPORT**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

County Councillor Bambridge presented the report in the absence of the Museum Curator at True's Yard. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the following areas of the report:

- 1) Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum
 - 1.2 True's Talks
 - 1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture
- 2) Events
- 4) Partnerships
 - 4.2 Dragon Festival
- 5) Learning and Outreach
 - 5.4 Website
- 6) Resource Implications

8) Visitor Numbers

The Chair, Councillor Bubb, commented that the tearoom had been revamped and County Councillor Bambridge reported that funding had enabled improved facilities.

RESOLVED: The Committee noted the report.

7 STORIES OF LYNN AND TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE VISITOR FIGURES

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

The visitor figures for the period September to November 2025 were noted. A copy of the visitor figures is attached to the minutes.

The Chair, Councillor Bubb commented that it would be useful to receive information on the income generated by the Stories of Lynn and the Tourist Information Centre.

8 REVIEW ON MARKETING PLANS

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

The Marketing Manager gave a presentation to the Committee. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes.

Councillor Lintern asked whether the Norfolk Museums Service was working with the Borough Council's Communications team on marketing and commented that a range of platforms could be used to promote their events. The Marketing Manager advised that they were not currently working with the team but would welcome the contact details. The Marketing Manager stated that the Norfolk Museums Service worked closely with its own Communications team and reported they had recently appointed a new Communications Manager, and advised they would share the information with them.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Kemp, referred to the use of digital screens to promote events and asked whether any were planned for King's Lynn, such as at the bus station. The Marketing Manager advised that digital screens were expensive but could be considered, along with exploring other potential sites in King's Lynn for digital advertising. Councillor Kemp added that the Corn Exchange would be a suitable location for digital promotion.

In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Bubb, the Marketing Manager explained the Norfolk Museums Pass was under £50 for an adult and that you had to visit Norwich Castle or Gressenhall just over two times to make the pass pay for itself. The Marketing

Manager added that their visitor numbers had gone up by 30% since they had reopened.

In response to a further question from the Chair, Councillor Bubb, the Marketing Manager confirmed that pass users could be shown separately in the attendance figures.

In response to a question from County Councillor Chenery of Horsburgh, the Marketing Manager explained that when they were looking at rebranding the Norfolk Museum Pass, they looked at all types of inspiration and really liked the idea of a traditional ticket with a hole punch.

9 **UPDATES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube](#)

The Assistant Head of Museums advised the Committee that they were awaiting further information from the Government in March 2026 regarding Local Government Reorganisation. The Assistant Head of Museums added that the current museum service model was effective and adaptable.

10 **ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

There were none identified at the meeting.

11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the King's Lynn and West Norfolk Area Museums Committee was scheduled to take place on 16th March 2026 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 4.23 pm



If you need this report in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Robin Hanley on 01603 493663 and we will do our best to help

**KING’S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
AREA MUSEUMS COMMITTEE**

12 January 2026 Item No.

KING’S LYNN MUSEUMS REPORT

Report by the Assistant Head of Museums

This report provides information on King’s Lynn Museum activities in the period from August – December 2025

1 Exhibitions and events at Lynn Museum

1.1 Current exhibition

May the Toys Be with You

11 July 2025 - 31 May 2026



The current exhibition at Lynn Museum, which opened on 11 July, is *May the Toys be with You*. It showcases one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, from 1977-1985. It is a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line and of the iconic design work and art of the *Star Wars* movies. This exhibition will run until 31 May 2026.

The exhibition is aimed at developing audiences and is an opportunity to showcase aspects of the Lynn Museum collections including toys and games. Feedback from visitors suggests the exhibition is attracting a higher proportion of first-time visitors.

Filming took place at Lynn Museum for an ITV news piece presented by David Whiteley who wrote on social media in August: *“Any excuse. I somehow managed to shoehorn a #StarWars report into tonight’s @itvanglia The #MayTheToysBeWithYou exhibition has come out of hyperspace and landed @Lynn_Museum.”*



The exhibition has generated some helpful publicity. Below are links to features about the Star Wars themed exhibition:

[Facebook](#) (includes the Anglia ITV news report)

[Star Wars devotee brings collection to Lynn Museum - BBC News](#)

[Star Wars toy collection goes on show at Lynn Museum | Eastern Daily Press](#)

1.2 Forthcoming Exhibition: “*Unboxed: Discovering Lynn’s Collections*” (working title)

The 2026-2027 exhibition at Lynn Museum will focus on the breadth of the King’s Lynn collections. On show will be examples of archaeology, natural history, geology, fine art, costume and textiles, social history and prints and drawings from the tens of thousands of items collected since the museum collections were first established in 1844. The displays will provide a showcase for the collections-based Newman project and will be a chance to share items not normally on long-term display such as light sensitive watercolours and costume.

1.3 Family events

The museum continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. The summer holidays in 2025 saw family events on the themes of *World War Two* with 30 children and a total of 80 participants, *Victorians* with 19 children and 56 participants, *Medieval Lynn* with 27 children and 70 participants and *The Bronze Age* with 23 children and 67 participants. For October Half term, the museum held a *Dinosaurs and Fossils* event with 136 children attending and a total of 253 participants.

1.4 Family Trails

Trails continue to be provided to help children and families enjoy a structured exploration of the museum. A new trail was offered each week of the summer holidays. Trails were also offered for Heritage Open Day on 14 September, October Half term and for the Dragon Festival on 8 November. Over the reporting period, 677 participants explored the museum using one of the trails.

1.5 Mini Museum

Lynn Museum continues to provide regular activities for our youngest visitors through the monthly *Mini Museum* programme. Activities are delivered by the museum’s learning team. These have included themes of *Dinosaurs* (18 September), *Space* (16 October), and *Water Animals* (20 November). In total there were 97 participants for these three activities.

1.6 Coffee Mornings

The monthly themed coffee mornings continue to be offered at Lynn Museum, normally attended by approximately 15 to 30 people. During the reporting period there have been coffee morning themed around *Summer*, *Crafting*, the *Beuys’ Acorn project* (see below) and *Christmas*. In total there have been 109 participants during the reporting period for the four coffee mornings.

1.7 Talks Programme

The Museum normally receives audiences of around 20-30 people for the

Friday afternoon talks. The themes for talks have been 'A Walk in the Park' with Gary Walker, 'Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn' with Hannah Jackson, 'The Beuys' Acorns: A Circle of Oaks Comes to King's Lynn' with Heather Ackroyd and Dan Harvey, and *Witchcraft in King's Lynn* with Rebecca Smith.

1.8 Workshops

During the reporting period, the museum held two Star Wars themed workshops, a Peg Doll Workshop in August with 17 participants, and a Star Wars Jedi Workshop in November with 45 participants.

Children enjoying a Star Wars themed Jedi Workshop at Lynn Museum



1.9 Forthcoming events

Details of forthcoming events at Lynn Museum may be viewed here: [What's on at Lynn Museum - Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

2 Newman Legacy project

As previously reported, the Lynn Museum has benefited from a legacy given specifically for the museum's use provided by the late Eric and Rita Newman. The Newmans were siblings who had retired to Congham near King's Lynn with interests in local history and helping children learn. Norfolk Museums Service is very grateful for the Newmans' generosity.

Newman Curator Jan Summerfield and Newman NMS Teaching Museum Trainee (2025-2026) Rosalyn McLean have been working on the cataloguing and documenting of material in the museum stores, as part of a planned programme of collections management work supported by the Newman legacy. Work has included the geology collections, and the audit of this material is nearly complete. Enhancements to the permanent displays at Lynn Museum supported by the Newman Legacy include an updated animated film about the changes in the Seahenge environment and an illustration to show how the Ichthyosaur fossil on display once swam in the Jurassic sea.

3 Other Museum developments

3.1 Heritage Open Day

Lynn Museum participated in the popular King's Lynn Heritage Open Day, this year taking place on Sunday 14 September.

665 visitors enjoyed the special free admission day to celebrate the town's heritage.

A promotional poster for the Heritage Open Day at Lynn Museum. The poster features a pink and blue color scheme with a banner of triangular flags at the top. It includes the text 'Heritage Open Day at Lynn Museum', 'Sunday 14 September', '10am-4pm', and 'Free Admission'. There are logos for 'heritage open days', 'LYNN Museum', and 'Norfolk Museums Service'. A QR code is present in the bottom right corner. At the bottom, there are social media handles for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, along with logos for National Trust, Postcode Lottery, and Postcode Trust.



3.2 Dragon Festival

Lynn Museum took part in this year's Dragon Festival held on 8 November. The festival is becoming a new fixture on the town's calendar of public events, this year being delivered as a town-wide occasion.

Dragon-themed crafts were offered at the Lynn Museum. These were inspired by a heraldic beast model in the museum collection based upon the sculptures used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. A total of 179 people took part in the museum's event

Dragon heraldic beast in plaster, from the museum collections

3.3 Beuys' Acorns Project.

Lynn Museum participated in this collaborative tree planting art project. The project started in March 2025, when British artists Ackroyd & Harvey planted a circle of seven oaks on Harding's Pits public space. The circle is part of a national art project that celebrates the cultural, biological and climatic significance of trees in a rapidly urbanising world.

At Lynn Museum, with its display of the ancient timber circle of Seahenge, the artists met with local people at the museum's Friday Coffee Morning, gave the October afternoon talk, and on the Saturday 1 November a 2-hour adult workshop.

For more information about the project, see the link below:

[Beuys' Acorns successfully launched. Wednesday 11 June - GroundWork](#)



Oak saplings planted at Harding's Pits, King's Lynn

3.4 Book Launch *The Norfolk's at Gallipoli 1915* by Steve Smith.

On the 11 December Lynn Museum hosted the launch of a new book by Steve Smith recounting what happened to the 1/5th Battalion Norfolk Regiment on the 12 August 1915 during the Gallipoli Campaign. The author wrote:

"Thanks go to Andy Bullen, the current Mayor of King's Lynn, who came to introduce me and thanks ... to the Norfolk Museums Service for letting me talk ... and launch the book at the Lynn Museum."

28 people attended the event and 17 books were sold in the museum shop.



Author Steve Smith at Lynn Museum

3.5 Publicity and promotion

The Lynn Museum continues to develop its social media presence, with Twitter and Facebook and now Instagram accounts being actively used and maintained by staff. The museum's X (Twitter), Facebook and Instagram accounts may be seen here:

[Lynn Museum \(@Lynn_Museum\) / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

[Facebook](#)

[King's Lynn Museum on Instagram • Photos and videos](#)

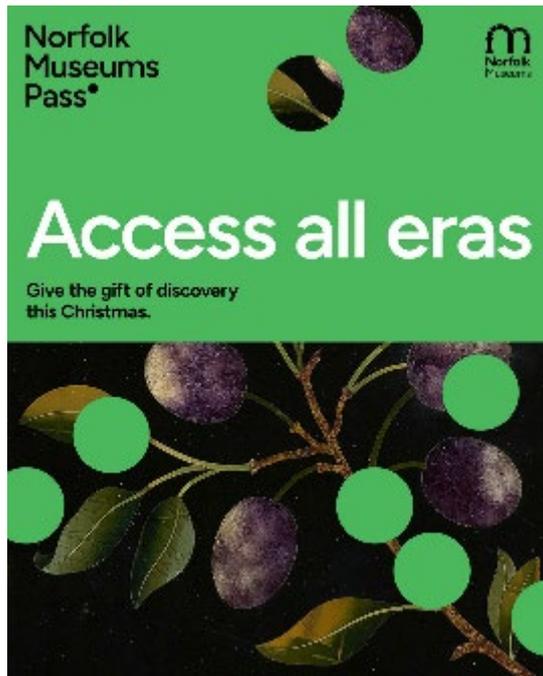
As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.

A variety of films linked to Lynn Museum are available on the museum's YouTube Channel, here: [Lynn Museum - YouTube](#)

A number of online exhibitions are available through the Google Arts and Culture platform: [Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, United Kingdom — Google Arts & Culture](#)

3.6 Norfolk Museums Pass

Lynn Museum is participating in the Norfolk Museums Pass promotion to encourage people to become members and enjoy a range of benefits including free admission to all ten of the Norfolk Museums Service museums.



Following the full reopening of Norwich Castle, a new campaign has been launched to promote the Museums Pass membership scheme across Norfolk.

The *Access all Eras* campaign is funded through the Arts Council England Museum Renewal Fund.

<https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/article/30735/Norfolk-Museums-Pass>

3.7 NMS Teaching Museum Trainees

One-year paid traineeships are offered as part of the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum scheme, principally funded through the NMS Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation programme. For 2025-26 Lynn Museum is hosting Rosalyn Maclean who has been learning about museum work and making a valuable contribution to the management and auditing of collections, design, photography and writing.

3.8 Retail offer at Lynn Museum

The museum team continues to develop the retail offer at Lynn Museum working with the NMS Retail Manager Harriet Johnson. On her recent visit to the museum, Hat reported an increase of around 33% in shop sales compared to last year. There has been a good boost in exhibition-related sales thanks to the current Star Wars show. Since the exhibition opened we have sold over 350 pieces of Star Wars merchandise.

3.9 Volunteers

Volunteering continues to be offered at the museum and there is currently a project focusing on a collections audit and improvements to collections documentation.

3.10 Finds Identification and Recording Day

Lynn Museum continues to offer finds identification and recording days in partnership with Norfolk County Council's Finds Identification and Recording Service. These days offer a valuable chance for the NCC Finds team to connect with finders of archaeological material. A drop-in event was held on Saturday 4 October, with 24 members of the public engaging with the Finds Team.

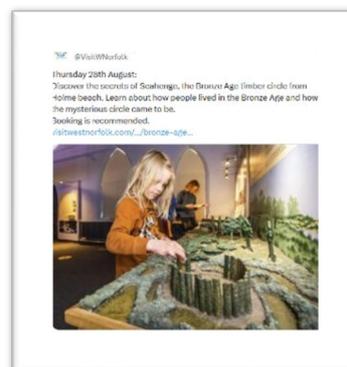
4 Borough Council partnership working

The delivery of NMS services in King's Lynn & West Norfolk continues to operate under the terms of the current Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Borough Council. Under an extension to this agreement, NMS continues to provide curatorial and conservation advice, support and an enquiry service for those Borough collections currently held in the Town Hall including fine art and Civic Regalia. NMS staff continue to support Borough Council colleagues with the development and delivery of relevant cultural and heritage projects across the Borough, including ongoing support for Towns Fund projects including the Guildhall. A number of NMS staff support the ongoing work of the Guildhall project team and NMS is also represented on the Guildhall Project Board. NMS Learning Manager Colin Stott has recently supported the recruitment of a new Learning and Engagement Officer for the Guildhall.

Newman Curator, Dayna Woolbright, has contributed to the work on the St George's Guildhall project's Interpretation Strategy and to various events and exhibitions, working with the Guildhall's Learning and Engagement Officer at the Guildhall Team. Dayna's maternity cover is Jan Summerfield who continues to support this major project. One project she is leading on is the conservation of a portrait of James I, earmarked for display the Guildhall.

The Lynn Museum's free admission period runs from 1 October until the end of March 2025. This free admission period is provided under the terms of the Service Level Agreement between the Borough Council and NMS.

Social media post by Visit West Norfolk promoting an event at Lynn Museum



4.1 Stories of Lynn – Events & Exhibitions

Norfolk Museums Service continues to support the Borough Council with the delivery of learning activities at Stories of Lynn in King's Lynn Town Hall. NMS manages the Stories of Lynn Learning & Engagement Officer, Elizabeth Joice, whose post is co-funded by the Borough Council and the NMS Kick the Dust programme.

Exhibitions

The exhibition space at Stories of Lynn has displayed the *Surviving the Railway* exhibition marking the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. King's Lynn-based staff worked with Kate Thaxton, Curator of the Royal Norfolk Regimental Museum and Sam Wiggin, NMS Teaching Museum Trainee. The display was formally opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester in March.

For further information and photographs please visit:

[His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester visits new exhibition in King's Lynn | Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk](#)

Exhibitions at Stories of Lynn supported by NMS include *Making the Rounds: Stories of Workhouse Nurses Told in Textiles* and a forthcoming exhibition curated, designed and displayed by Time Turners, a King's Lynn-based group of Kick the Dust.

Family events

Stories of Lynn continues to offer events and regular family trails during holiday periods. Throughout the week of the October half term 27–31 October the *Witchcraft Week* events attracted 62 children, 8 under 5s and a total of 87 visitors. The Learning and Engagement Officer has also worked with Discover King's Lynn to provide craft plans and resources and staff and volunteer time for the weekend Christmas Activities at the Santa's Grotto in the high street from 29 November to 21 December.

Family trails are provided all year round for children and families to enjoy. The Halloween Trail *Witch Hunt* was accessed by 40 visitors. On 29 October, Stories of Lynn debuted its first under 5s trail, a differentiated version of *Witch Hunt* which was accessed by 12 visitors and received positive feedback.

Forthcoming events include a winter themed trail, *Hibernating History*, which will feature in the museum throughout January. In the February half term Stories of Lynn will host a *Regency Ball Day* on Tuesday 17 February, to include activities in the Town Hall.

5 Learning & Outreach

5.1 School visits - Lynn Museum

Lynn Museum continues to offer a range of school workshops run flexibly to accommodate teachers' needs. Typical sessions include the Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Romans and Iceni, Bronze Age and Seahenge, Stone Age, the Second World War, Ancient Egyptians, and Homes Long Ago.

School sessions normally follow a pattern of a carousel of different activities with children learning in a variety of styles. Delivery of sessions is normally undertaken by a mix of museum staff and freelance costumed interpreters.

The following link for teachers explains what is on offer at Lynn Museum for pupils at Key Stage 2.

[Key stage 2 education at Lynn Museum - Norfolk Museums](#)

Lynn Museum learning staff continue to work closely with Stories of Lynn in the running of joint school workshops on topics such as Maritime Life, Lord Nelson, Captain Vancouver, Crime and Punishment, Frederick Savage and the Lynn Mart, the Great Fire of London, and Floods and Flooding.

Over the Autumn school term, the Museum has hosted 20 school visits with approximately 720 students. The most popular topics with school were

Prehistory (Stone Age to Iron Age) and the Tudor/Stuart eras (including Guy Fawkes & Great Fire of London).

5.2 School visits - Stories of Lynn

Stories of Lynn continues to offer a variety of school workshops, making adaptations where required to meet the different needs of schools and teachers. Popular sessions include: Victorian Law and Life, Crime and Punishment Through Time, First and Second World War, Local Historical Figures. School sessions contain a carousel of different activities related to the chosen topic and allow children to move around the museum and learn in different ways. Delivery of the sessions is usually undertaken by the Learning and Engagement officer and freelance historical interpreters, working alongside experienced volunteers. Lynn Museum and Stories of Lynn work closely together in the running of joint school visits; popular topics for joint visits include Tudors, Maritime Life, Captain Vancouver, Frederick Savage and the Great Fire of London.

Stories of Lynn is preparing to trial the running of an EYFS/0-5-year-old group within the museum. Meeting monthly the group will follow a programme of activities put together and delivered by the Learning & Engagement Officer.

Home Education groups will be visiting the museum regularly from January 2026 for facilitated visits with the Learning & Engagement Officer and volunteers. The first session is fully booked, 35 children, to take place between 10-12pm on 28 January.

In October, Stories of Lynn and the Learning & Engagement Officer facilitated a visit from Vision Norfolk who were interested in the Gaol House and a history of Crime and Punishment. The visit included a touch tour of the Gaol House and its various replica punishments, an object handling session with objects carefully selected from Norfolk Collections by the Newman Curator and a talk from the Learning & Engagement Officer on the history of Witchcraft. Vision Norfolk brought 19 visually impaired people for the visit and are in the process of booking another visit to explore a different topic.

5.3 Kick the Dust – Activity in King’s Lynn

The long-standing Youth Heritage Collective in King’s Lynn, called Time Turners, continues to meet weekly and is currently researching, designing and curating a temporary exhibition for Stories of Lynn titled (provisionally) *Norfolk’s Role in the British Civil War*.

The Learning & Engagement Officer at Stories of Lynn and KTD project worker for the west, continues to run popular work experience projects for a number of schools and colleges. In January, College of West Anglia fashion, art and history students begin their 6-week project creating and exhibiting historical costumes. In April, year 10 work experience students from King’s Lynn Academy will start their 2-week block, completing a project called *Museum of Me*. All work experience students get the opportunity to meet and learn from a variety of professionals within the culture and heritage sector and see how agencies work alongside each other for common goals.

The Learning & Engagement Officer is joining the Norfolk Record Office project *Change Minds* in January; a unique heritage and creative wellbeing project engaging those living with mental health problems. Participants use archives to research and develop creative responses to the lives of asylum patients in the past, developing a deeper understanding of their own experience.

6 Kick the Dust Norfolk – countywide programme update

Background

The Kick the Dust (KTD) programme works with young people aged 13-25, many of whom are vulnerable and who would not have previously viewed heritage as relevant to their lives. Initially funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund from 2018-23, the programme was awarded Arts Council England National Portfolio Uplift funding 2023-27. This place-based funding targets young people in the levelling up areas of Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and Thetford. During 2025-26 NMS is also receiving funding from Norfolk Public Health to support countywide KTD activities that focus on supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Norfolk young people.

The KTD project worker team operate across Norfolk, using NMS sites and collections as the focus for their activity. The programme is delivered in partnership with Norfolk Libraries, YMCA Norfolk and a broad range of other organisations working with vulnerable young people. KTD has also brought significant benefits to NMS, producing measurable institutional change.

KTD is based around a three-stage progression model, offering a development pathway to participating young people:

Player - lighter touch engagements - projects, work placements and taster activities.

Shaper – where young people they influence the way the museum interacts with its audiences through engagement in longer-term project groups.

Leader – operating as Young Ambassadors, playing a role in the strategic Youth Board, or leading their own projects supported by the KTD team.

This progression model supports FLOURISH – NCC's ambition for all children and young people.

The primary aims of KTD are to:

- develop transferable work-related skills with the aim of supporting more working age young people into employment, training or further learning;
- develop digital skills linked to the creative industries, to help address the digital skills gap in heritage and cultural sectors;
- increase young people's creative skills and helping them gain a range of new cultural experiences;
- encourage an appreciation of the history and culture of their local communities;

- to measure impact on young people's skills, confidence and mental health and wellbeing through a strong and robust evaluation framework.

Participation data

Total participation between October 2018 and November 2025:

- 6,092 young people engaged in 19,384 interventions
- 10,275 hours of high-quality activities delivered across Norfolk
- 82% of all activity currently being designed and led by young people
- 14 Youth Board members aged 18-25 now operating at strategic level
- 75 volunteering opportunities created

Breakdown of activity:

- 22% in Kings Lynn, (including Gressenhall)
- 24% in Thetford
- 20% in the East (covering Great Yarmouth, Cromer)
- 24% in Norwich
- 10% online including the online work experience programme
- 81% of activity involves young people being part of a long-term group

Recent countywide activity

Heritage Collectives

In recent months young people across the county have been busy, working alongside professionals, to develop transferable work-related and creative skills, through the co-production of activity and events, volunteering and work experience operating at a level that meets their needs.

Norwich Heritage Collective resumed in November. This Autumn Freelance maker Lisa Smith Clare has been leading the group for the first four weeks whilst the new KTD Project Worker Emily Hopkins settles into her new role. Lisa will lead the group to research 1920's Norwich and this will tie in with planning for a new exhibition marking 100 years of the Museum of Norwich.

KTD group The Knights of the Sound Table are working on two new projects - the first is to make a social media publicity campaign for the recently reopened Norwich Castle Keep using their mascot Snap, and the second is to create imagined queer characters at Strangers' Hall in the 17th Century - with the aim of delivering tours on Norwich Pride 2026. They have submitted at KTD delegated budget application for the latter to Youth Board members.

In Great Yarmouth three different KTD groups have participated in *History in the Making* - an Historic England funded project which explored techniques for positive self-expression and mental health in the Norfolk Record Office and NMS collections, specifically Lorina Bulwer's embroideries. Make Yarmouth are currently researching the former Palmers Department Store (home to the new Great Yarmouth Library) to create a window display.

National Saturday Club are up and running again with 12 members and a student ambassador.

Also, in Great Yarmouth project worker Katie Sarginson has delivered the first KTD Archive Camp. In response to the success of the *Our Great Yarmouth* Archive Volunteers and demand for more experience in archives. Participants learned archive and podcasting skills as well as exploring archive and oral history collections at Time and Tide, Great Yarmouth Library and the Winter Gardens.

Thetford Heritage Collective are working on History in the Making, they been to Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse and will visit Great Yarmouth and meet with NMS Costume & Textile Curator Ruth Battersby. They will also work with a south Asian practitioner to create textiles for the Festival of the Punjab. They have been to Gravesend to meet young people and visit the Gurdwara and have been planning two Christmas events including the annual *Murder Mystery* at Ancient House and *Day at the Job Centre Christmas event*.

King's Lynn-based Time Turners have created a temporary exhibition that will be displayed at Stories of Lynn in March. In January Fashion, Art & History students from the College of West Anglia will be using their work experience at Stories of Lynn to create historical costumes for the learning team. Churchill Park are returning again for a first session to set a brief and then follow up with 'check ups'. KTD Learning & Engagement Officer Elizabeth Joice will then set half termly design briefs in the spring term.

Youth Board

Long Term member Beth has secured a Trustee Role at Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon. We have two new members bringing the total to fourteen.

Youth Ambassadors have carried out a detailed review of the new Norwich Castle Keep displays, identifying further opportunities for young people which they fed back via the KTD Project Steering Group. They have informed the NMS Environment Hub Strategy and devised a KTD newsletter & WhatsApp group which will enable existing members and alumni to keep in touch as well as being able to celebrate the work of other KTD groups. They have suggested that members could 'champion' KTD groups at PSG meetings etc. The group are planning a trip to Sutton Hoo to review Anglo Saxon & Viking interpretation and feedback to the senior curator of archaeology for NMS, Dr Tim Pestell.

Work Experience

The Autumn iteration of the KTD Online Work Experience continues to grow in popularity and quickly becomes fully subscribed with a waiting list for the Spring iteration. The group are looking at ways to improve take up of the NMS offer of free entry to museum sites for FE & HE students. KTD is partnering with Norwich University of the Arts to deliver a new work experience pilot programme that we hope will become an annual fixture. Third year Fine Art students applied to take part in the programme, which will see them work alongside both museum and freelance professionals to find out more about museum jobs and learn to co deliver creative workshops for other KTD groups.

We have formed a working group to review and improve our work experience offer in response to growing demand. KTD has been collaborating with Norfolk & Suffolk Careers Hub and FE colleges to respond to the changing nature of their work experience requirements.

Advocacy

The NMS 5-year Youth Engagement Strategy has been published and is ready for circulation. KTD is at the centre of the strategy and Youth Board wrote the forward. It builds on KTD work to date. It outlines our vision and values for the next five years and can be used as widely as possible as an advocacy tool.

Time and Tide were awarded the Lady Mayhew Award by The Broads Society for Youth Engagement within the Norfolk Broads, based on previous projects, including designing Posters for Greater Anglia to encourage visitors to explore the Broads. Young People from the Make Yarmouth Group accepted the award of £250 at a special ceremony at Time and Tide. They were wonderful advocates for the programme.

NMS and NCC continue to work together through Youth Strategy and Youth Participation meetings and acting KTD Coordinator Tricia Hall made a presentation about KTD to the NCC Early Help and Intervention Board meeting in November. KTD has been approached by IWM Duxford to inform their NLHF bid and Royal Museums Greenwich to inform their youth engagement programme, they are specifically interested in the institutional change impact of the programme.

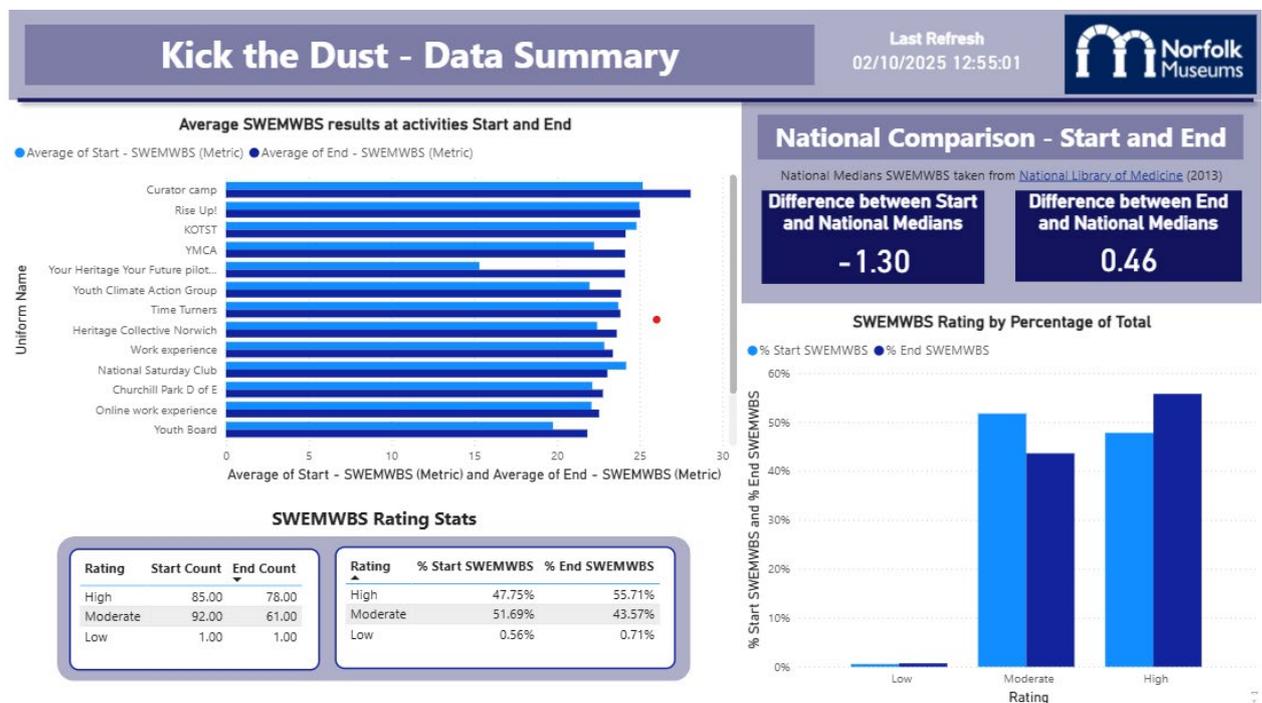
Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Working with Norfolk Public Health and the NCC Performance and Governance teams, NMS has developed a systematic approach to collecting and interrogating data around the impact of KTD on young people's mental wellbeing, which is measured through an evaluation framework using data from young people's feedback forms. The data shows that 32% of participating young people currently identify as having a mental health issue, although this continues to slowly decrease as young people engage more with the programme. Following their involvement in KTD, 78% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing. 51% of young people currently engaged in KTD identify as neurodivergent.

The young people's feedback form includes the 78 positively worded items from the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being scale for assessing a population's mental well-being. Following their involvement in KTD, 78% strongly agreed that this had had a positive impact on their mental health and wellbeing. An additional question has been added to identify young people with neurodivergent tendencies and is showing that since March 51% of young people engaged in KTD identify as neurodivergent, which is significant when designing new activity in terms of additional barriers these young people may face.

The following graph highlights the impact on young people’s mental health and wellbeing using the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale (SWEMWBS) from the responses given by the young people between June 2023 and September 2025 who completed Part 1 and Part 2 of the young people feedback forms. Part 1 is completed at the start of the programme and Part 2 at the end, following a one-to-one session with the Project Worker. Using a dashboard, we can track progress and although this relates to a smaller number than those engaging in the programme, it provides a good benchmark for future delivery.

The graph below shows the difference between Norfolk young people at the start and end of their engagement against the National Average (2013 research). At start our young people were -1.30 BELOW the National Average and at end they are +0.46 ABOVE the National average. This is based on 217 Part 1 responses (completed at the start of the activity) and 147 Part 2 responses (completed at the end of the activity) completed by young people between Jan 2024 and September 2025.



Voices of young people

‘The main thing I’ve worked on has been communication as well as teamwork. That has definitely improved for me, and it’s always been one of those things that has never really been my strong suit up until now’

‘I’d say my favourite thing that I’ve done so far has been the one where we had to record a small video...it allowed me to use my skills in an effective way which in certain parts of my life has not necessarily been easy to do’ – ‘and in terms of specialist skills, I mean really liking... especially visual and audio media, it definitely allowed me to lean into those strengths a bit more’. – ‘I’ve never been like been recorded with a camera before, like a proper

professional like film, I've not done that before. I feel like that's greatly benefited me'

'I'm from Norfolk and I live at home, but last year I took a break from uni. I took a year out and I found that quite isolating...I just felt quite stuck for a bit with how to meet people my age and so I thought I'd give it a go and see...going to the Heritage Collective first was like a slowly kind of getting myself back into learning, but also socialising with people my age.'

'Just being able to sit, communicate and knowing that your feelings are validated, that's a skill that I've learned very, very well'. – 'Coming to Kick the Dust is therapy. I'm able to come in, talk about whatever, go home and then be like, okay, well, now I'm so excited for next week'. YMCA client (Great Yarmouth Heritage Collective)

[Kick the Dust - Norfolk Museums Service](#)

7. Visitor figures

Visitor figures for the period will be circulated at the meeting

8. Recommendations:

That the Area Museums Committee notes the report

Report Contact:

Dr Robin Hanley

Assistant Head of Museums (Head of Service Delivery)

Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich NR1 3JQ

Tel: 01603 493663 e-mail: robin.hanley@norfolk.gov.uk

NORFOLK MUSEUM SERVICE
Visitors by Museum and County Total

			APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	YEAR TO DATE	TOTAL
N O R W I C H	Castle Museum	2023-24	13,471	9,922	10,889	12,590	15,391	10,647	11,597	7,256	6,079	6,031	8,576	10,031	91,763	122,480
		2024-25	8,942	9,907	7,932	11,031	13,015	11,590	12,883	9,042	7,742	10,504	15,214	10,972	84,342	128,774
		2025-26	11,818	11,485	10,126	12,535	41,477	35,325	33,257	21,574						177,597
	Norwich Castle Study Centre (Shirehall)	2023-24	106	53	126	92	101	75	63	79	178	58	150	118	695	1,199
		2024-25	119	213	130	161	32	21	57	19	33	0	0	7	752	792
		2025-26	0	0	0	11	0	0	0	0					11	11
	Museum of Norwich	2023-24	1,589	1,378	1,241	2,064	2,059	2,381	1,824	1,329	821	1,244	1,707	1,863	13,865	19,500
		2024-25	1,666	1,603	1,754	1,837	1,983	2,055	1,820	1,359	1,144	986	1,273	1,192	14,077	18,672
		2025-26	1,377	1,059	766	2,088	967	1,634	1,443	1,125						10,459
	Strangers Hall	2023-24	468	522	453	1,185	1,699	962	850	770	470	0	387	1,093	6,909	8,859
		2024-25	484	785	705	766	626	1,122	719	749	846	5	432	1,202	5,956	8,441
		2025-26	703	663	855	1,442	1,110	1,154	858	949						7,734
E A S T	Tolhouse Museum	2023-24	475	196	207	346	1,145	1,104	367	15	0	199	53	82	3,855	4,189
		2024-25	420	474	66	312	980	986	285	37	20	51	65	62	3,560	3,758
		2025-26	436	278	111	308	890	553	172	32						2,780
	Elizabethan House Museum	2023-24	1,156	1,017	881	1,338	1,622	1,817	1,237	79	98	0	3	170	9,147	9,418
		2024-25	1,163	1,422	1,095	1,102	1,326	1,788	953	98	0	0	0	9	8,947	8,956
		2025-26	831	957	903	1,445	1,488	1,605	828	23						8,080
	Time and Tide	2023-24	2,451	2,235	2,508	3,083	3,350	3,701	2,502	2,053	1,773	1,498	1,907	2,582	21,883	29,643
		2024-25	2,774	3,024	2,973	2,767	2,799	2,944	2,228	1,704	1,181	1,276	1,686	1,981	21,213	27,337
		2025-26	1,699	2,228	2,417	2,873	2,246	3,183	3,271	2,646						20,563
	Cromer Museum	2023-24	1,046	1,223	1,357	1,426	2,163	1,436	1,230	0	0	189	643	262	9,881	10,975
		2024-25	1,266	1,524	1,574	1,788	1,804	1,513	1,050	161	34	142	114	198	10,680	11,168
		2025-26	1,398	1,499	1,575	1,780	1,789	1,552	1,062	25						10,680
W E S T	Lynn Museum	2023-24	1,358	1,171	1,445	1,446	1,887	1,774	2,228	2,228	1,944	2,162	3,481	2,757	13,537	23,881
		2024-25	1,564	1,586	1,446	1,937	2,462	1,938	2,598	2,248	1,193	1,369	2,492	1,921	15,779	22,754
		2025-26	1,356	1,494	1,449	2,299	2,080	1,992	2,498	1,931						15,099
	Ancient House Museum	2023-24	650	635	686	1,466	676	959	693	832	721	730	1,066	929	6,597	10,043
		2024-25	798	922	1,380	1,524	971	590	876	1,077	573	589	478	676	8,138	10,454
		2025-26	632	887	783	1,282	722	1,184	613	602						6,705
	Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse	2023-24	5,840	4,363	7,648	4,788	6,653	5,768	5,408	1,585	1,245	206	646	5,760	42,053	49,910
		2024-25	5,744	5,831	9,679	5,496	6,273	5,931	5,269	1,989	733	204	841	5,329	46,212	53,319
		2025-26	6,545	5,591	6,451	4,872	6,565	5,733	6,390	1,635						43,782
	Norfolk Exhibition Programmes incl. King's Lynn Town Hall SLA	2023-24	263	883	568	130	360	1,395	523	274	204	30	228	159	4,396	5,017
		2024-25	0	281	362	376	56	12	18	338	167	104	338	164	1,443	2,216
		2025-26	260	254	575	215	85	70	301	106						1,866
		2022-23	28,873	23,598	28,009	29,954	37,106	32,019	28,522	16,500	13,533	12,347	18,847	25,806	224,581	295,114
		2023-24	24,940	27,572	29,096	29,097	32,327	30,490	28,756	18,821	13,666	15,230	22,933	23,713	221,099	296,641
		2025-26	27,055	26,395	26,011	31,150	59,419	53,985	50,693	30,648					305,356	305,356
		TARGET														

22



TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

December 2025

1. Temporary exhibitions and events at True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

Exhibition Room: The Loss of the Beautiful Star – 150th Anniversary of the Fife fishing fleet disaster. In part sponsored by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Old Smithy: Deck the Halls: Christmas Tree Decorations Through the Ages. This exhibition was made possible by funding from the Love Your Market Town Fund. There is a tie in Christmas Tree trail with partnerships with local businesses in the town centre. It will run until 16th January.

1.2 True's Talks

Our autumn programme launched on 25th September and concluded 13th November. 8 talks all by local speakers very popular with audiences 40+ each talk. The Spring series will launch in February 2026.

1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

The 11th Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture. Memorial Space Project. The speaker was Associate Professor David Petts who delved into the world of fishing on the North Northumberland Coast.

The evening also included songs by the King's Lynn Shanty Singers in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Scottish fishing fleet Disaster off the Norfolk coast and involving King's Lynn fishermen. Proceed went to True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum and St Monans Memorial Space Project.

The lecture was held on the 150th anniversary of the Scottish Fishing Fleet Disaster and the King's Lynn Shanty Singers performed songs on the evening to raise monies for the St. Monans.

Other Museum Developments

2. Events

December

3rd 150th Anniversary of the Great Gale Service at St Nicholas Chapel at 10am followed by wreath laying at Hardwick Road Cemetery at 12noon. To commemorate the 1875 Great Gale and its fatal consequences.

7th December Xmas Lunch (FOTY)
10th Winter Tales and Tunes of the North End 1:45pm
10th December Carol Service at All Saints Church at 6:30pm.
11th December Christmas Quiz
18th December Merry Christmas Presence- A Victorian Children's Ghost Tour.
19th December True's Yard Volunteers Christmas Party Noon.
The Museum closes for Christmas at noon on 19th December 2025 and reopens on 6th January 2026.

3. Income Generation

3.1 Museum Fundraising

22nd May TY1000 Club recruitment event
10th August Alison Gifford Tea Party
5th September Robert Anderson Garden Party
4th November Dinner in Memory of Fisherfolk and Sailors

3.2 Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have an active and supportive Friends group. They have recently helped the Museum with funds towards the move of Activity.

4. Partnerships

4.1 St Monans

As part of the 150th Anniversary of the Great Gale fishing disaster we have strengthened our links with St Monans who opened a memorial garden on 22nd November. As part of our side of the partnership we have put on a series of events.

- 1) Friday 17th October and the tour of the streets of the North End in 1875. On a grey Friday evening 30 people met at TYFM and £160 forthcoming in donations.
- 2) Sunday 26th October: Fisherfolk Memorial Walk in Hardwick Road Cemetery. On a rainy afternoon 15 people attended and £60 raised.
- 3) Saturday 1st November: the NCC Chairman Cllr Tom Fitzpatrick opened the Museum's Beautiful Star Exhibition + 20 people present. It was accompanied by folk song from Stuart and all watched the short (emotional) film from St Monans.
- 4) The Museum's annual maritime dinner at the Duke's Head Hotel took place on 4th November for 28 guests (not principally a fundraising but £300 raised). Paul R gave a short talk on the events of 150 years ago which has reconnected King's Lynn and Fife fisherfolk communities.
- 5) True's Talks- the final event of the season on 13th November- Paul R on The Great Tragedy of the Scottish Fishing Fleet & King's Lynn.

4.2 Dragon Festival

True's Yard took part in the town wide Dragon Festival on 8th November. It was a well attended events with a variety of activities at the Museum and around the town. We were pleased to be able to participate with this event.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Activities

Half Term Activity Days

Halloween Activities

Our morning and afternoon sessions were fully attended. One thing we noticed was that with the changing nature of family dynamics some children had as many as 3 adults accompanying a single child. When sat down they took up space at the tables. This led to one family requesting a refund as they couldn't get to the crafting tables. To prevent this in future we will have 1 adult accompanying a child for free but for each further adult there will be a charge.

5.2 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories

Our Oral History Committee is hard at work. With some members of the recording team ill the focus has been on cataloguing and organising the existing collection into the same format and producing an up-to-date accessible inventory for access via our new reading room computer and eventually online. A spreadsheet has been created and once the new server arrives the oral histories can be added to Modes, which has not previously been possible due to limitations on disk space.

5.3 Social Media

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.6k followers; Instagram 502 Followers (last report 475). Our TikTok has 282 followers (last report 202 followers).

5.4 Website

Our new website created in-house is being built over the winter by Gaynor and volunteers to replace our current website. It will be hosted by Krystal Hosting on their free charity website hosting package. This will allow online ticketing to be fully integrated and future access to the library and archive catalogue.

5.5 The Tearoom

The tearoom improvements are complete and it looks much better. The pantry conversion has provided much needed storage space.

The new menu is much more accessible for those with intolerances and dietary restrictions.

There has been a marked improvement in the quality of our coffee thanks to the new coffee machine and we are selling our coffee in the shop.

We are charting over the next 6 months the difference it is making to income generation.

8. Visitor Numbers

Visitor Numbers April-October 25/26:6,904 Last year: 7,593.

This summer has seen a drop in visitors in other attractions. Cost of living, weather and unreliable public transport have been noted as potential causes.

6 Resource Implications

Grants

St Margaret's and St Nicholas Parish Trust £500 for new fire extinguishers.

Love Your Market Town £1,320

Love Norfolk £3,000 towards training and equipment to improve our volunteering offer.

7 Recommendations

That the Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

Lindsey Bavin

Museum Curator

True's Yard Fisherfolk Museum

Tel: 01553770479

e-mail: info@truesyard.co.uk

Stories of Lynn and Tourist Information Centre Visitor Figures

Stories of Lynn

Month	Total entries	Cumulative	Schools
Sep-25	2093	5773	0
Oct-25	730	6503	118
Nov-25	393	6896	91

Tourist Information Centre

Month	In Person Enquiry	Telephone Enquiry	Email Enquiry	Overseas Visitors	Pontoon Enquiry	Accommodation Enquiry	Tourism Pack sent out
Sep-25	1089	166	22	5	8	2	6
Oct-25	735	181	15	0	3	1	4
Nov-25	483	73	13	0	4	1	3



LYNN
MUSEUM

28

Marketing Highlights 2025

Molly Taylor
Marketing Manager



Seasonal admission and marketing approach

Free access:

1 Oct – 31 Mar
– supports families, schools,
and local visitors

Ticketed entry:

1 Apr – 30 Sep
– targeted marketing
focuses on driving paid
visits

**Strong local and
seasonal appeal**

Marketing focuses on **local
access, repeat visits,** and
**audience targeting during
paid months**

Exhibitions



LYNN MUSEUM

WOOF:

A Celebration of Dogs



Special Exhibition
1 October 2024 – 29 June 2025



Special Exhibition
1 October 2024 – 29 June 2025

WOOF:

A Celebration of Dogs

An exhibition celebrating our canine companions, featuring natural history, archaeology, and art works - including works by Sir Edwin Landseer, Andy Warhol and David Hockney.

Lynn Museum
Kings Lynn
PE30 1NL

Info and tickets:
lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk



Lynn Museum
@Lynn_Museum
@Lynn_Museum
#LMWoof

Norfolk Museums
Supported by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Heritage Fund
Norfolk County Council

Funded by UK Government
Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk
Supported by the Newman Legacy
THE KENNEL CLUB

Special exhibition

MAY THE TOYS BE WITH YOU

at
Lynn Museum, King's Lynn
15 July 2025–31 May 2026

*From a galaxy far, far away comes
an absolute must-see for Star Wars fans.*



May The Toys Be With You showcases a premier collection of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters (1977–1985), celebrating the iconic design and collectability of the franchise.



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



MAY THE TOYS BE WITH YOU

Special Events

Thursday 17 July

10.30am–11.30am
Space-themed Mini Museum
Club under 5s session

Friday 25 July

10am–12pm
Space-themed Coffee Morning

Thursday 31 July

10am–12.30pm and 1.30–4pm
Star Wars Family Event

Wednesday 23 July–Sunday 3 August

Star Wars-themed Family Trail
Club under 5s session

Saturday 16 August

10am, 11.30am, 1pm and 3pm
Star Wars Peg Doll Workshop
1-hour workshop for ages 8+

Find all of our events at:
museums.norfolk.gov.uk/events

Open Tuesday–Saturday 10am–5pm

Sunday 12–4pm (April–September)

Free admission October–March

Lynn Museum
Market Street
King's Lynn
PE30 1NL
01553 775001

Info and tickets:
lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk



Lynn Museum



@Lynn_Museum



@Lynn_Museum



Target audiences

Schools and early years





33



Families with children

the cleaning of the whale bones and the seal skins and caused great excitement. Then for weeks the air from the huge coppers was the parish of South Lynn, an alluring savour.

...master mariner and later trader, recalls 19th century Lynn whaling trade in his 1872 'Memories of Lynn'.

...bridged account of his recollections.



...traded with London and Europe. He lived at Clifton House, located by the river in King's Lynn. This is a fictional account, based on his life.

Glossary

40 shillings approximately or £10,800

Blubber - skin of whale

Coppers - boiling liquid

Coopers - wooden barrels

...with the whale

...Sands - a

...fleet - ship

...of m

...not in N

1600

Wyke Street

Danzig - a member of 14th century





Local
history
enthusiasts
and
culturally
engaged
audiences



E-bulletin

11,700+
Subscribers

6,105
Unique opens

 Norfolk County Council

 Norfolk Museums

What's on at Norfolk Museums

Take a last look at the **Woof!** exhibition at Lynn Museum, try Pilates in the Strangers' Hall garden, and find out about Refugee Week at Ancient House. Book a curator tour of the exhibition **One Self: The Creative Life of Colin Self** at Norwich Castle, and find out how to become an environment volunteer at Gressenhall.

Events are included with admission and run during standard opening times unless otherwise stated. For more events at all the Norfolk Museums, visit our [online calendar](#).



Lynn Museum – **Woof: A Celebration of Dogs**
Ends Saturday 28 June

It's nearly time to say goodbye to our celebration of our canine friends. Head to Lynn Museum to wave a final paw to this wonderful exhibition which includes natural history, archaeology and artworks of both local and national importance.

[More Info](#)



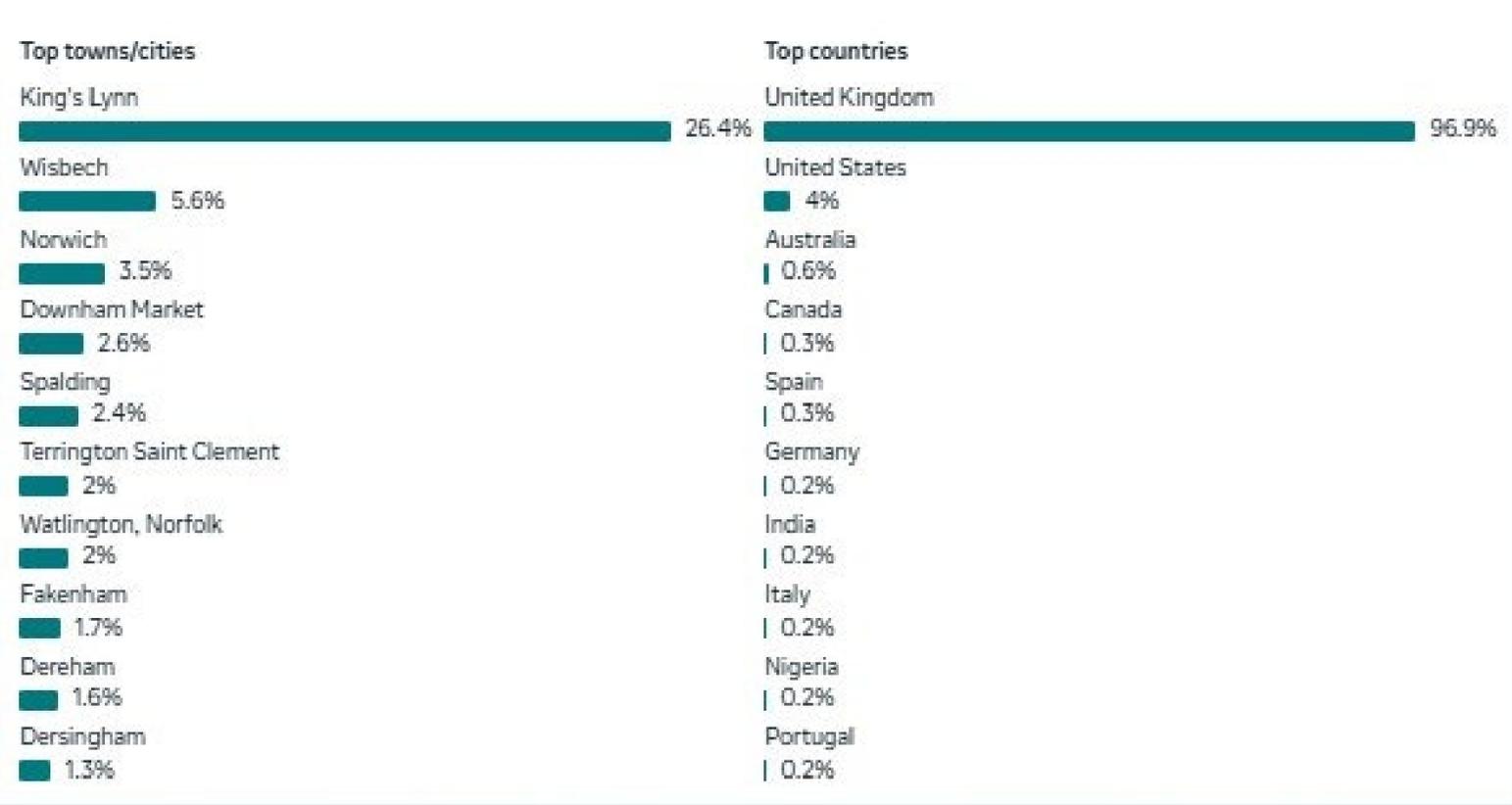
Lynn Museum – New Exhibition: May The Toys Be With You
Opens Tuesday 15 July

May The Toys Be With You showcases one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters from 1977-1985. It is a celebration of the now highly collectable vintage toy line, iconic design work and art of the Star Wars movies.

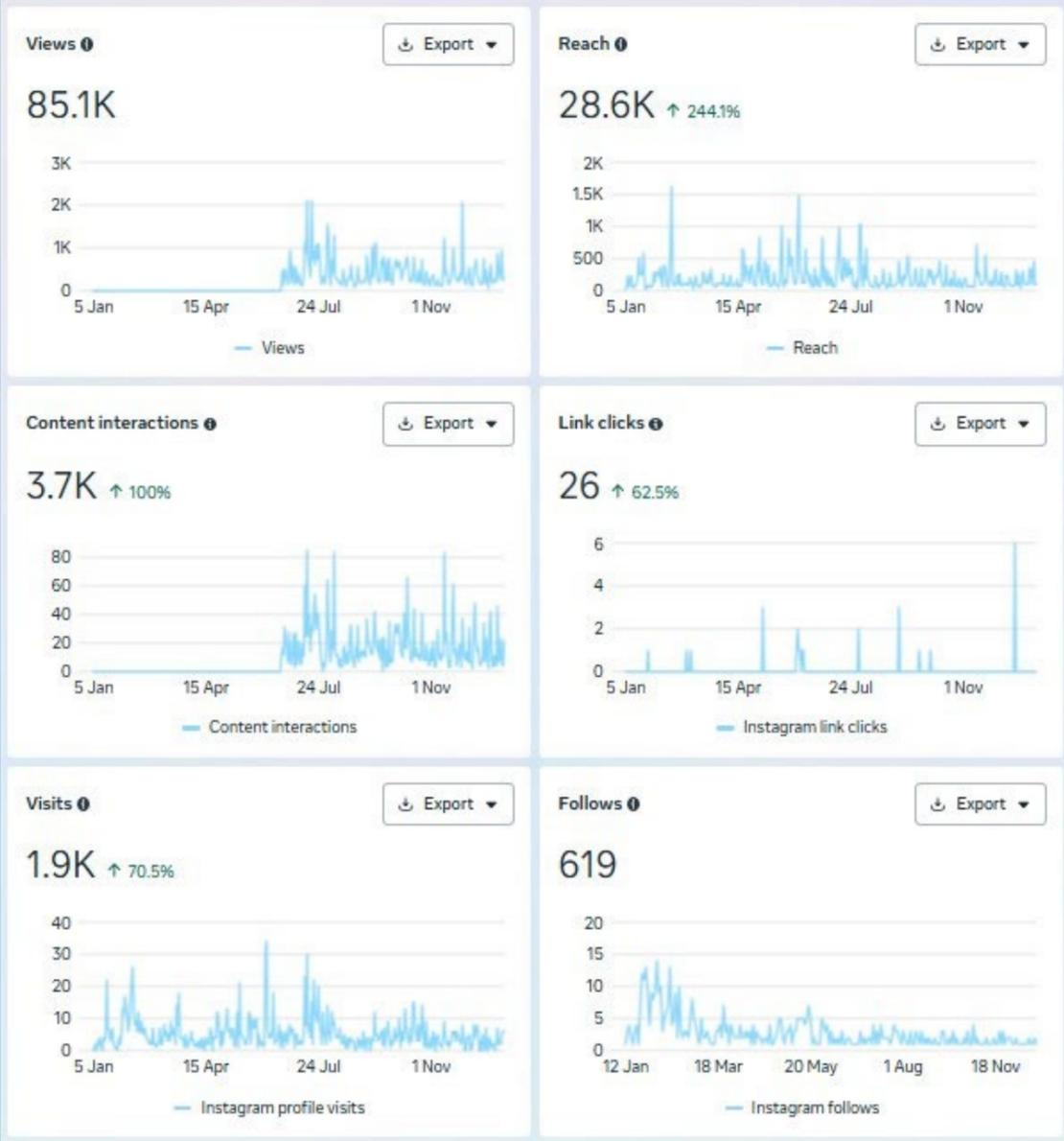
[More info](#)

Social Media

Facebook audience locations



Instagram content metrics

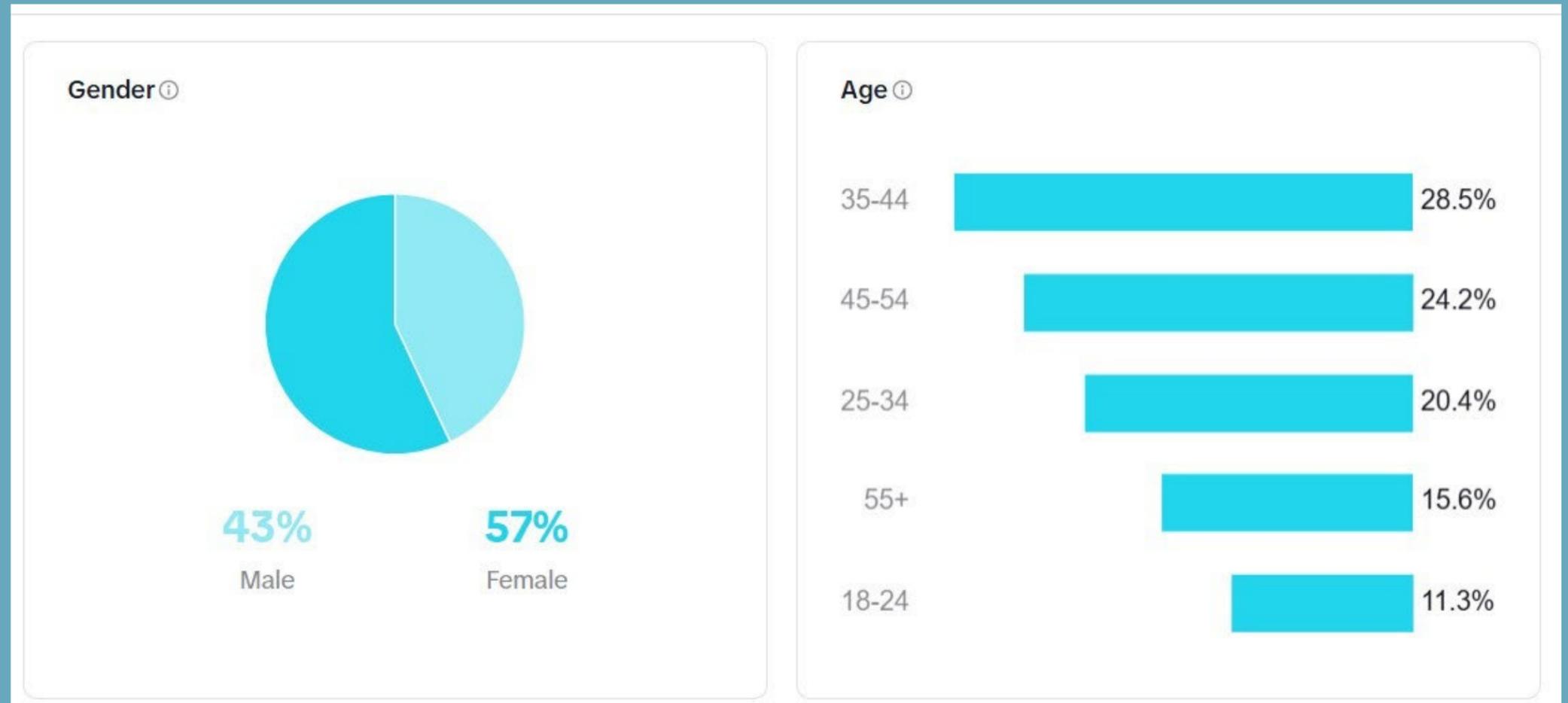


TikTok

Audience location



Audience demographics



Digital Screens



LYNN MUSEUM

MAY THE TOYS BE WITH YOU

**Special Exhibition:
May The Toys Be With You**

15 July 2025 - 30 May 2026

From a galaxy far, far away comes an absolute must-see for Star Wars fans. May The Toys Be With You showcases one of the UK's finest collections of vintage Star Wars toys and original cinema posters, from 1977-1985.

For tickets and more information scan the QR code or visit lynnmuseum.norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk Museums

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Heritage Fund | Norfolk County Council | Funded by UK Government



Christmas 2025

What's On

Norfolk Museums

Ancient House - Father Christmas and Christmas Crafts

Saturday 6 December, 10am - 4pm
Visit Father Christmas at Ancient House and receive a small gift. Join one of our craft sessions, from lavender bags to sweets and more. Child £4.

Lynn Museums - Christmas Through the Ages Family Event

Saturday 13 December, 10am - 4pm
Take a festive trip back through time to discover the celebrations of Christmas past! From the celebration of Saturnalia in Roman Britain, to the decorations of Victorian era. Free

Gressenhall - Christmas 1945

Monday 22 December, 10am - 3pm
Celebrate Christmas 1945 at Gressenhall! Join a fast-paced pantomime, meet a Suffolk Punch horse and see 1899 Panhard vintage car. Enjoy festive crafting and explore WWII stories with costumed characters in a memorable family event. £10 | £9 with a Norfolk Museums Pass

For tickets and more information scan the QR code or visit museums.norfolk.gov.uk

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND | Heritage Fund | Norfolk County Council | Funded by UK Government

New, owned digital advertising screens at Norwich Castle and Museum of Norwich. Commissioned and operating since December 2025. Inclusion of exhibitions and key events for Lynn Museum.

For requests, email sam.tring@norfolk.gov.uk
Include event description and 3-5 key images



Audience Insight - Norfolk Museums Visitor Survey

Citizen Space, the new service-wide visitor survey platform, provides Norfolk Museums Service with a consistent and scalable evidence base across all ten sites.

Monthly post-visit surveys (online ticket buyers), combined with on-site QR access.

39

Data can be gathered on:

- Net Promoter Score
- Visitor ratings
- Motivation for visiting
- Age range
- Gender identity
- Ethnicity
- Norfolk Museums Pass membership
- Household income
- Education
- Disabilities, neurodivergence or long-term health conditions
- How people heard about the museum

Visitor feedback

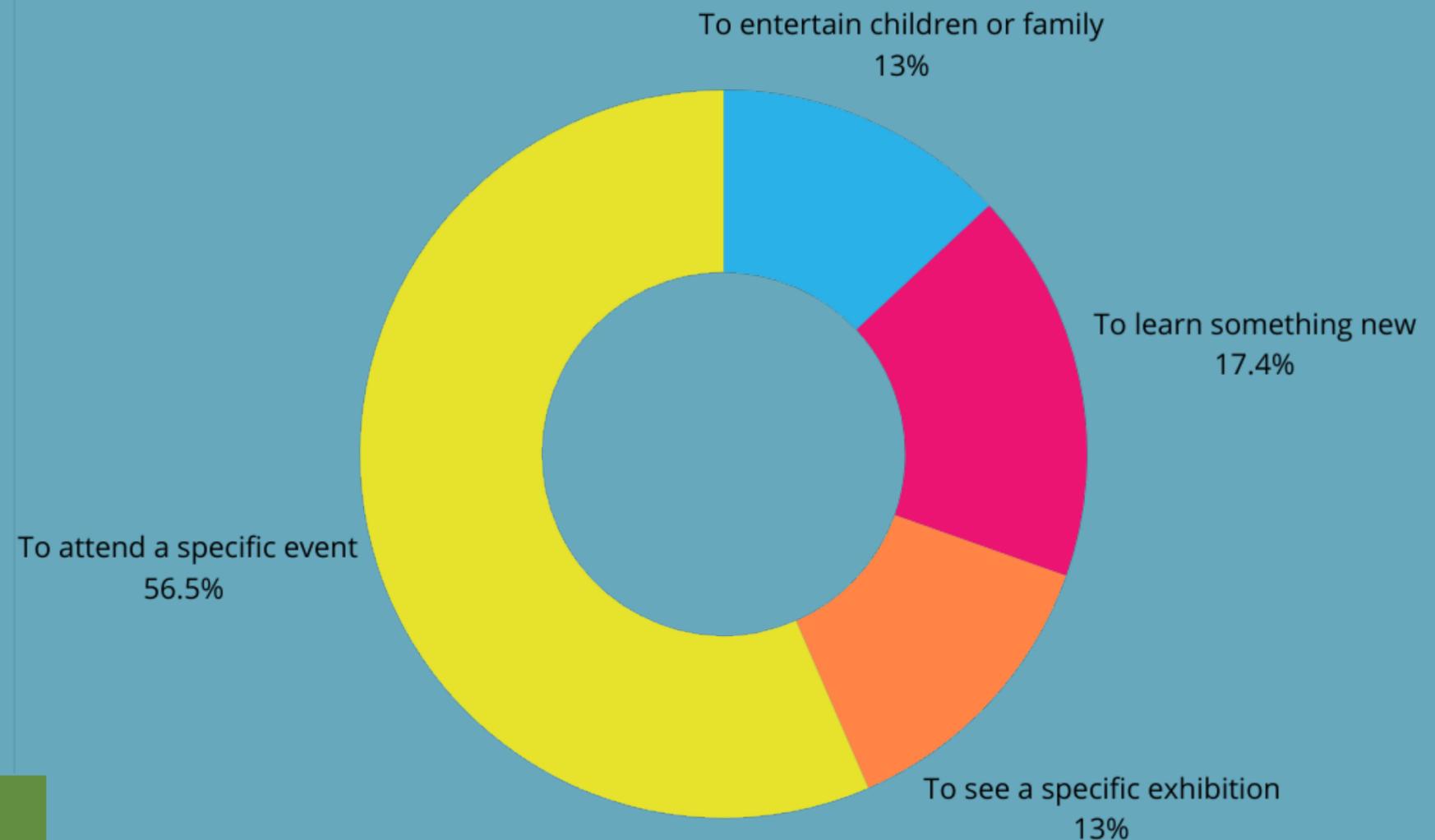
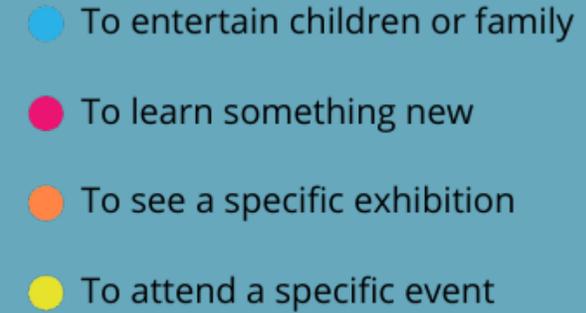
Net Promoter Score

50

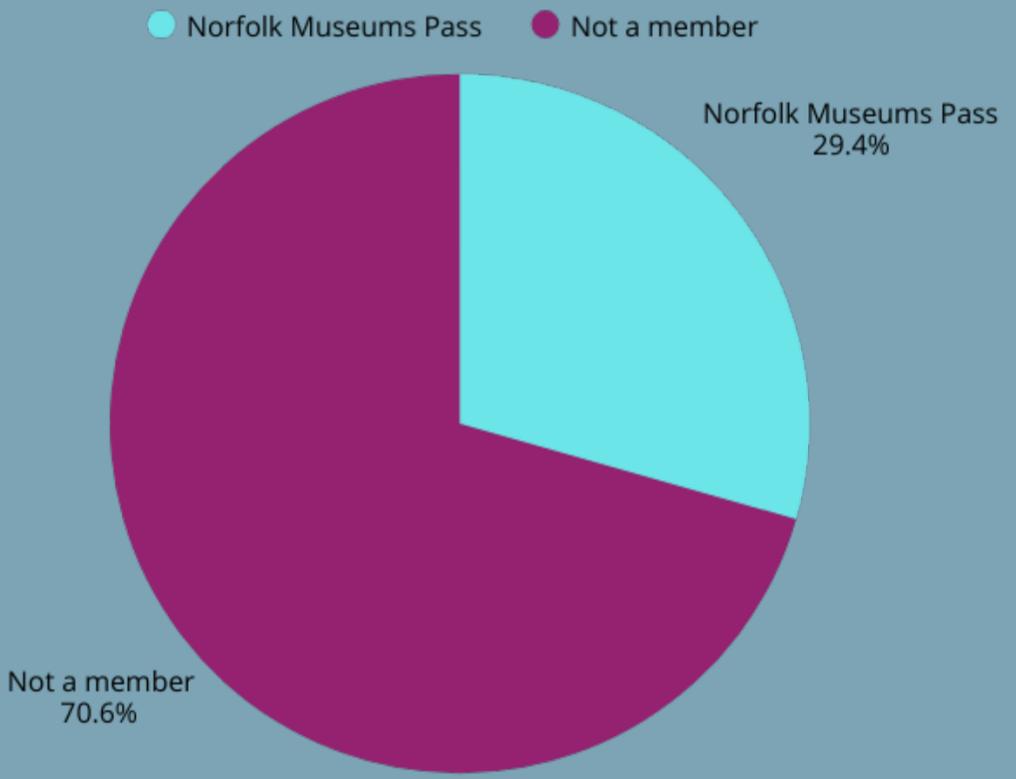
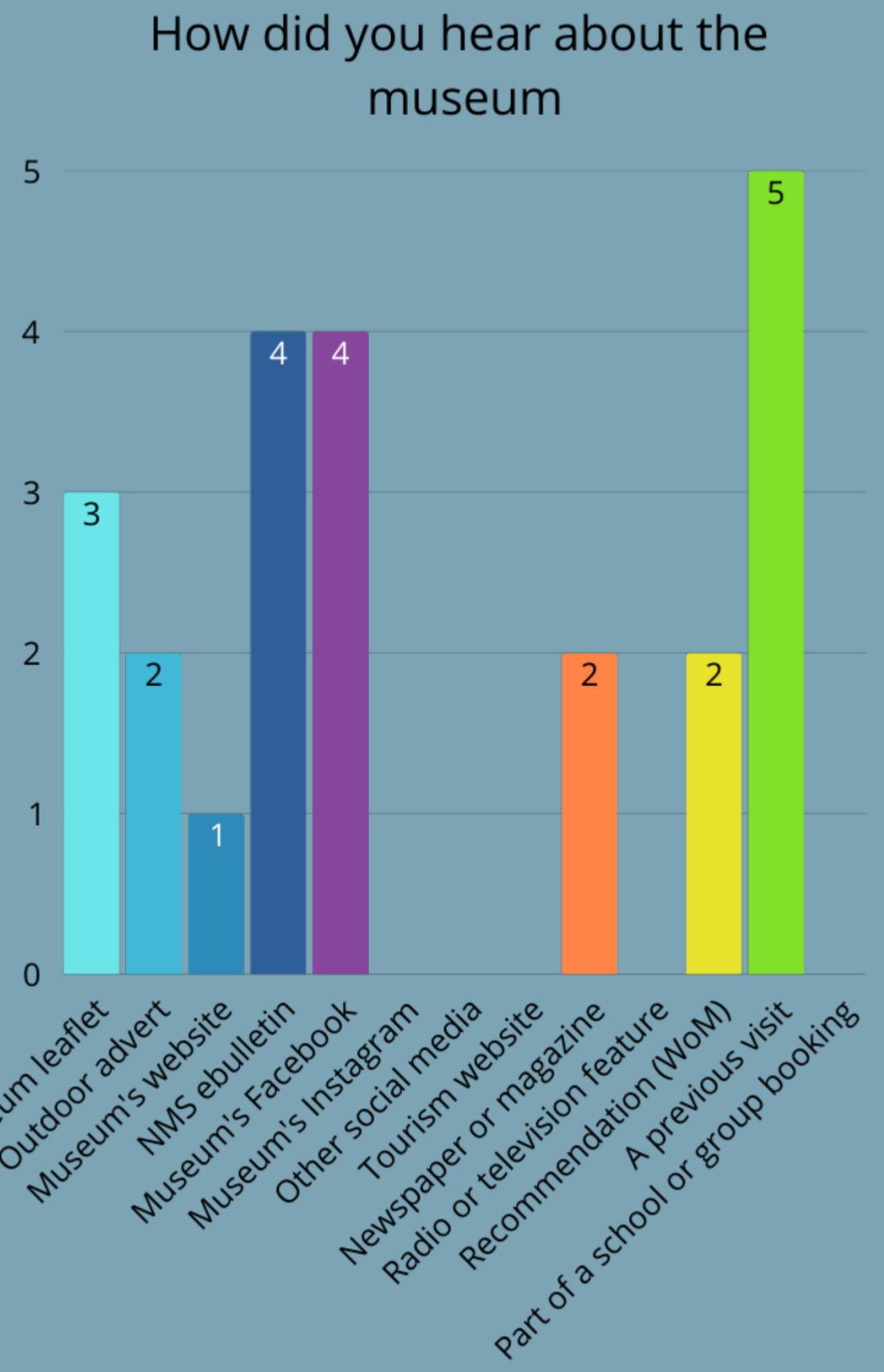
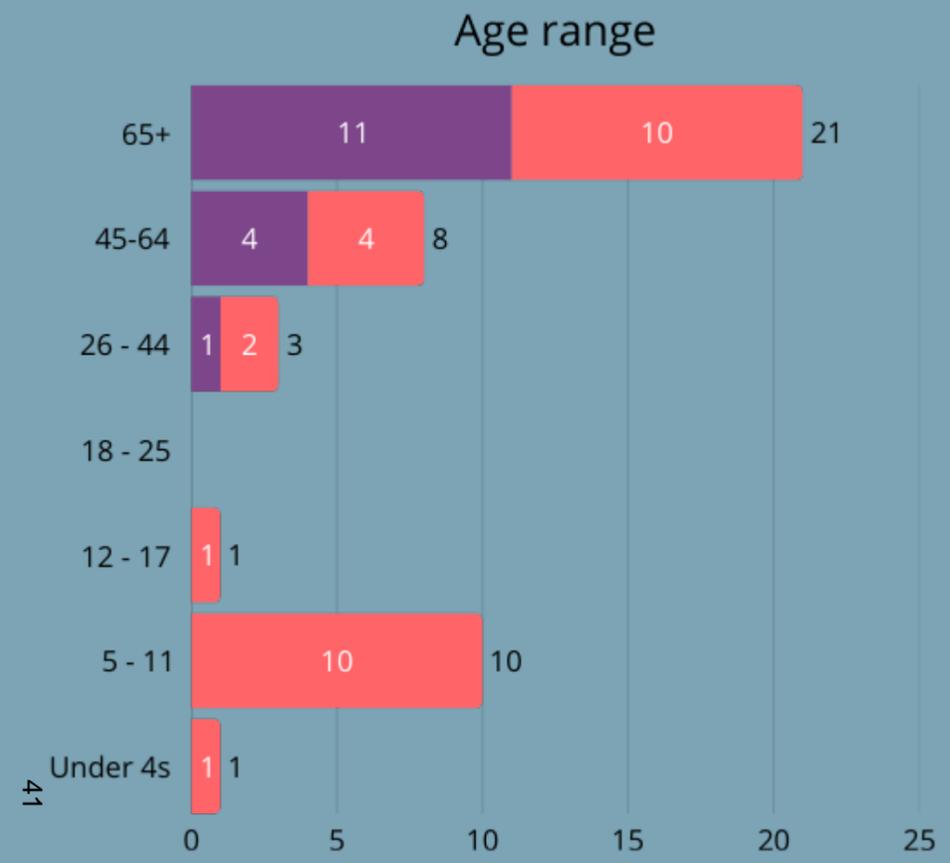
Visitor ratings



Motivation for visiting



Your visitors



Norfolk Museums Pass

Your ticket to a year of visits to Norfolk's top 10 museums

Buy online
for 10% discount!



m Norfolk Museums





43

Norfolk Museums Pass^o



Norfolk Museums Pass^o




Access all eras

One pass. Ten museums.
Unlimited discovery.

museums.norfolk.gov.uk/pass



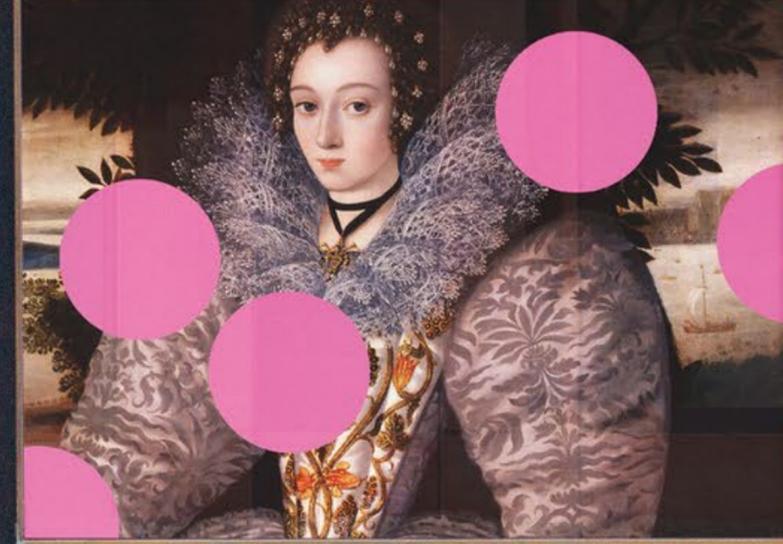
Norfolk Museums Pass^o




Access all eras

One pass. Ten museums.
Unlimited discovery.

museums.norfolk.gov.uk/pass



Norfolk Museums Pass^o





Access all eras

One pass. Ten museums.
Unlimited discovery.

museums.norfolk.gov.uk/pass



Norfolk
Museums
Pass^o



Norfolk
Museums
Pass^o



Norfolk
Museums
Pass^o



Norman Knight
2 adults and children
4583218239664939



Norman Knight
2 adults and children
4583218239664939



Norman Knight
2 adults and children
4583218239664939



Norfolk Museums Pass

One Pass. Ten Museums.
Unlimited Discovery.

Buy online
for a 10%
discount.





Lynn Museum

Home to Seahenge, Lynn Museum reveals West Norfolk's past through Bronze Age finds, Roman treasures, and fairground gallopers.

Tuesday–Saturday
Market Street, King's Lynn PE30 1NL



Ancient House Museum

Explore Thetford's history in a Tudor merchant's house. Discover the story of Maharajah Duleep Singh and life in a 1901 kitchen.

Tuesday–Saturday
White Hart Street, Thetford IP24 1AA



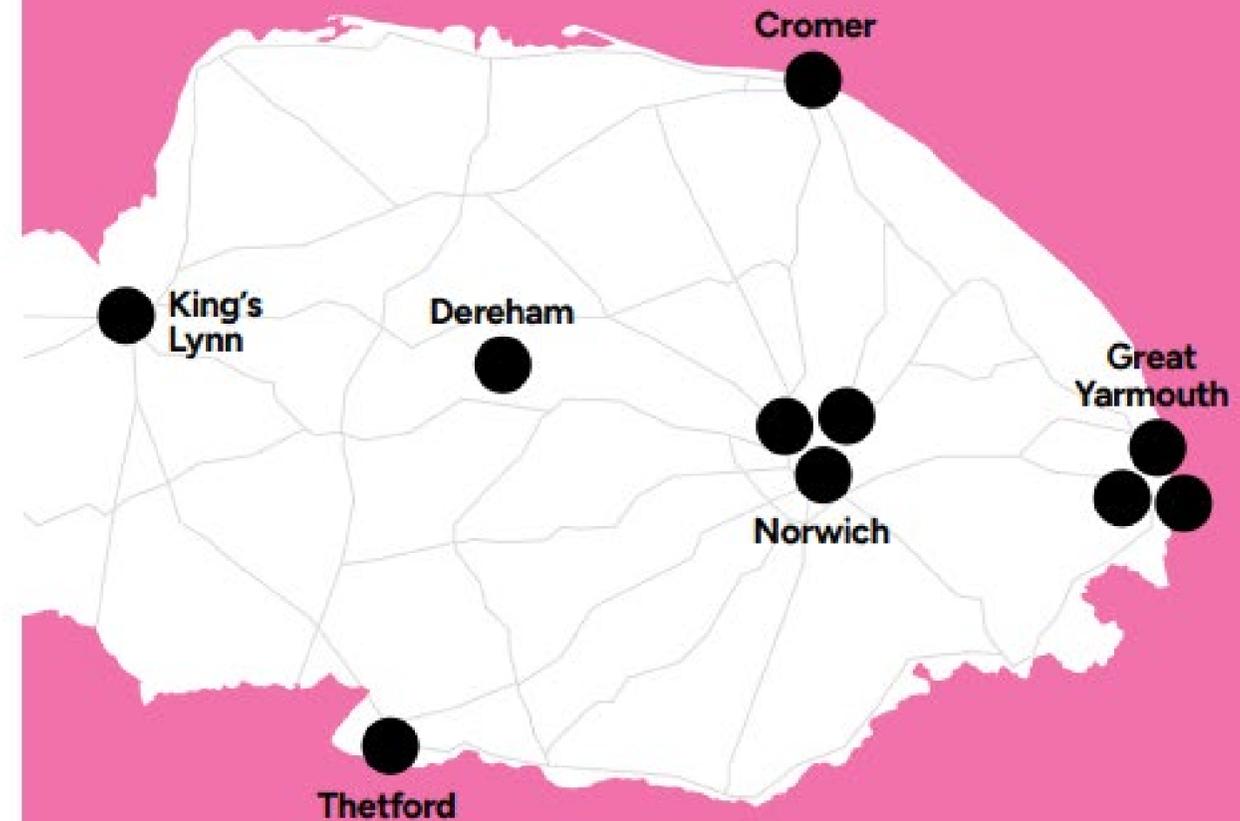
Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse

Experience Norfolk's rural past and the lives of workhouse residents. Explore interactive displays, meet rare breed animals, and enjoy the woodland playground.

Open every day, March–October
Gressenhall, Dereham NR20 4DR



Visit as often as you like
with a Norfolk Museums Pass.



Norwich
Norwich Castle
Museum of Norwich
Strangers' Hall

Great Yarmouth
Time and Tide
Elizabethan House
Tolhouse Gaol

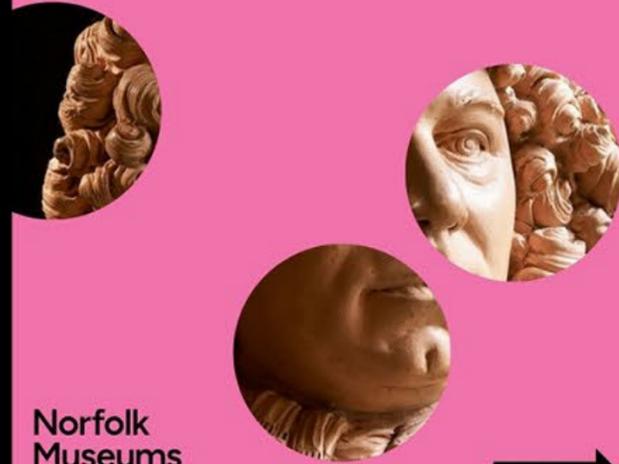
Dereham
Gressenhall Farm
and Workhouse

Thetford
Ancient House Museum

King's Lynn
Lynn Museum

Cromer
Cromer Museum

**Our Top 5
oldest artifacts
of all time.**

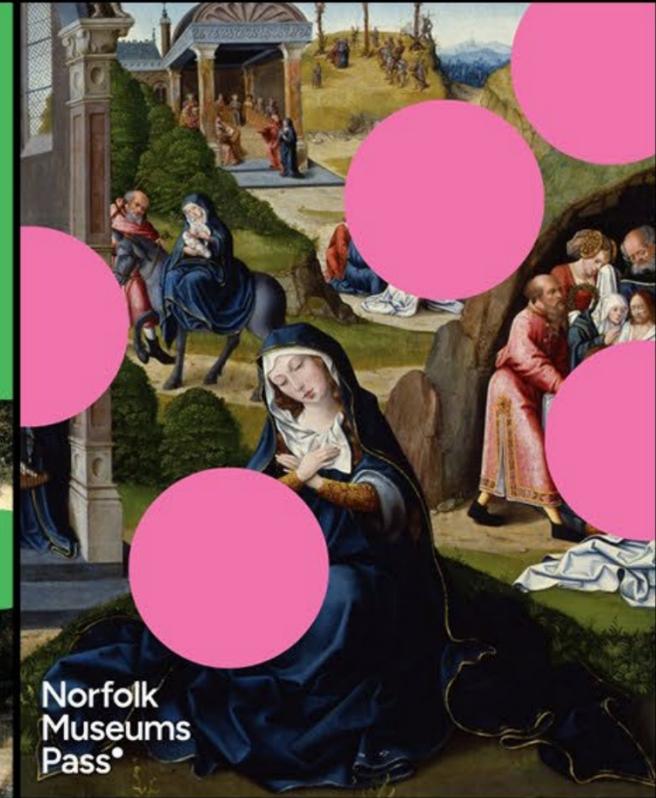


Norfolk
Museums
Pass®



**Norfolk
Museums
Pass®**

**Norwich:
Afternoon
John Crome**

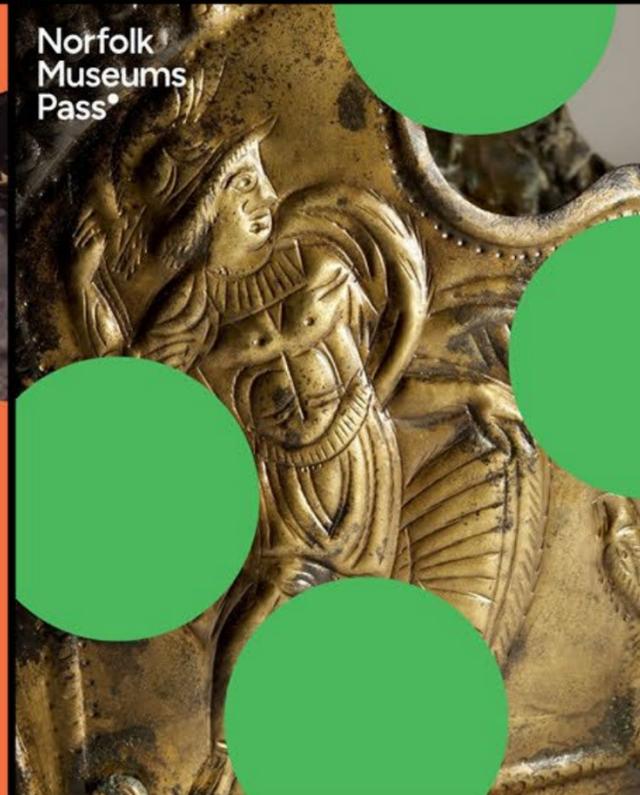


Norfolk
Museums
Pass®



Strangers' Hall

Wander through one of
Norwich's oldest houses, filled
with period rooms and stories
of merchant families, and relax
in the walled garden.



Norfolk
Museums
Pass®

★★★★★

"The Norfolk Museums Pass has
been brilliant for our family.
We've discovered new favourite
days out every month. The kids
love the hands-on exhibits and it
works out to be great value!"

Sarah T, Norwich
Mum of three

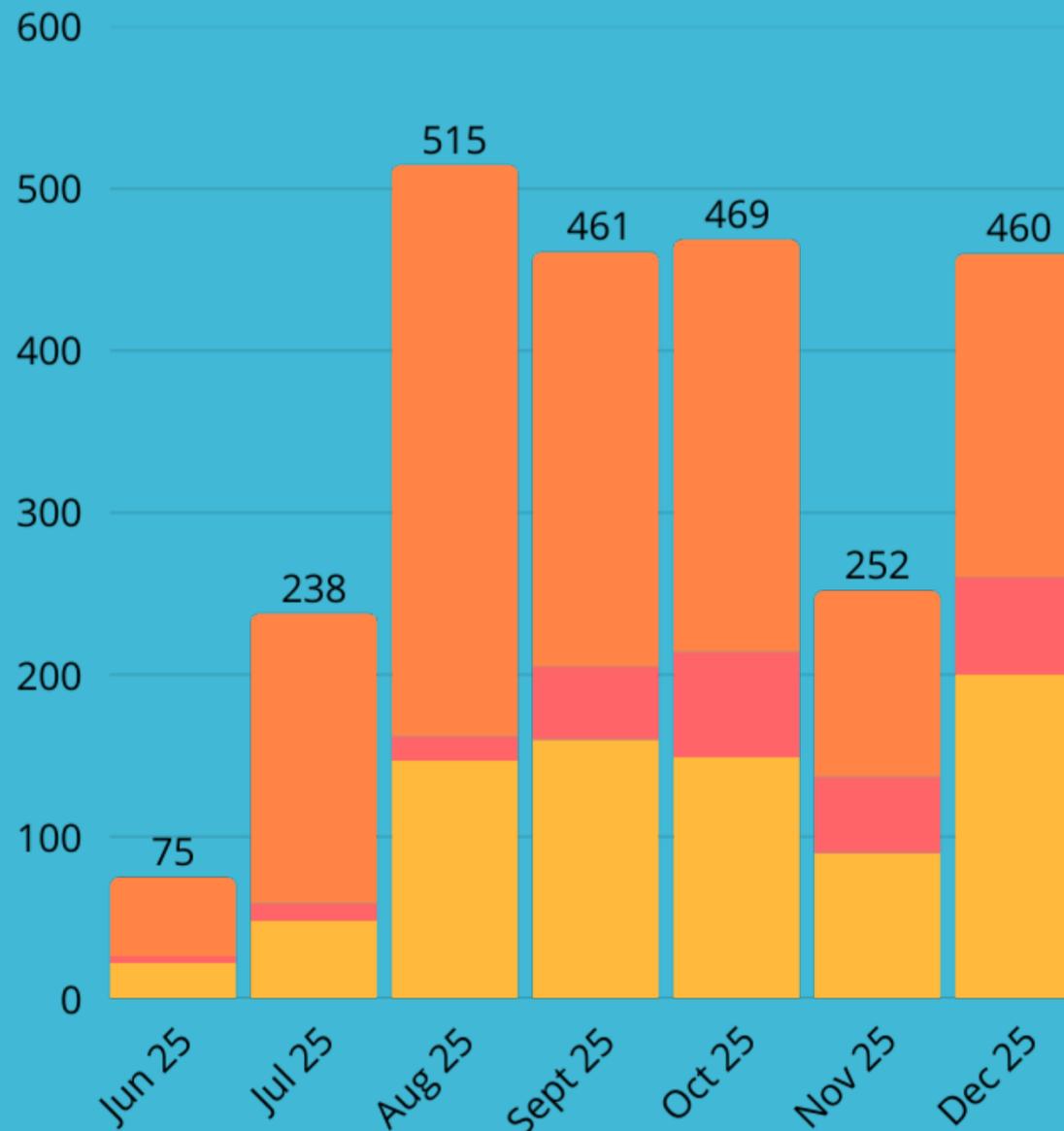
**Roman Cavalry
Helmet**



Unearthed from the riverbed near
Worthing in Norfolk, this stunning
cavalry helmet dazzles with its
thin sheet of gilded bronze and
intricately embossed sea-dragon
and eagle-head motifs.

Norfolk Museums Pass sales growth

Cash, card, cheque Direct Debit
Web sales



Members in
May 25
7490

Members now
Approx. 9725
up 30%

Looking ahead to 2026



June 2026 – June 2027

Working exhibition title: Unboxed: **Secrets from the Lynn Museum Store**

In-house exhibition showcasing rarely seen objects

Broad themes allow: Family events, talks and specialist programming,
community and partner activity

Strong potential to attract local audiences and culturally engaged visitors from further afield.

Possible bus advertising campaign

How the committee can help

- Share key events through local and regional networks
- Support e-bulletin sign-ups
- Continue advocacy for Lynn Museum as a high-quality cultural offer in the town
- Help reach audiences who may not yet be aware of Lynn Museum's programmes
- Encourage visitors to provide feedback via online survey

