



## **TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT**

**Report by Museum Curator**

**September 2025**

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

#### **1.1 Exhibition Programme.**

So far we have hosted 4 temporary exhibitions: Community Art, Discover Hanse, The History of the Timber Trade in King's Lynn and Art in the Yard.

#### **Coming up**

- Opening 1<sup>st</sup> November: An exhibition in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Great Gale of 1875.
- Christmas Tree Decorations throughout History

#### **1.2 Summer Art Exhibition**

Once again this summer art exhibition has been a success and in no small part to the team of volunteer stewards and the artists connected to the Museum who produced some incredible work.

We are in the process of organising some art workshops for the autumn.

#### **1.3 True's Talks**

Our autumn programme will launch on 25<sup>th</sup> September and will run to 13<sup>th</sup> November. 8 talks all by local speakers. Subjects include medical care in WW1, Art and the Industrial Revolution, how museum exhibitions have evolved over time and more. All talks will take place on Thursdays between 1pm and 2pm. They remain free to attend and are being streamed online via Zoom, which can be booked via the Museum's TicketTailor page.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thenorthendtrust>

#### **1.4 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture 13th November at King's Lynn Town Hall.**

The 11<sup>th</sup> Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture will be on the commemoration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Gale of 1875 (150 years) in which the Scottish fishing fleet off East Anglia lost 5 boats and Lynn citizens were involved in the retrieval and burial of eight Fife fishermen. With Council support we are currently reconnecting with the fishing communities in eastern Scotland.

#### **1.5 A Victorian Experience: North End Guided Walks Programme**

We relaunched our rebranded North End Guided Walks in June as 'A Victorian Experience' and we now have an online booking system for our walks. Tours on

Wednesday and Friday 13:00-14:30. Take up has improved from the previous year but we are still looking to develop this walks further. One avenue is incorporating local performers as with much of the Old North End and we are currently holding meetings to discuss this possibility.

### **Other Museum Developments**

#### **2. Events**

5th September Dr Anderson's fundraising Garden Party

14th September Heritage Open Day

From 25th Sept True's Talks autumn series

#### **October**

18th October Fish 'N' Chips (FOTY)

October half term Halloween Children's Activities

#### **November**

4th November TYFM Dinner at Duke's Head Hotel in memory of Sailors and Fisherfolk

13th Nov Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture at King's Lynn Town Hall

29th November Ghost Hunt

### **3. Fundraisers**

#### **3.1 The Mayor's Charity of the Year**

We are grateful to the Former Mayor Cllr Paul Bland for his support and selecting us alongside the King's Lynn Sea Cadets his 2024/25 as his chosen charities. Having now received the funds raised we are planning to put them to good use. One project is extending our timeline as it currently ends in 2012. With so much happening 2013-2025 we are looking for suggestions for major historical events nationally, in King's Lynn and the North End.

#### **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 emergency electrical repairs and a new coffee machine.

### **4. Partnerships**

#### **4.1 Hardwick Road Cemetery**

Our staff and volunteers have stepped up to help the Friends of Hardwick Road Cemetery from dissolving and we're working on more collaborative activities between the two sites including the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Gale.

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### **5. Learning and Outreach**

#### **5.1. Activities**

##### **Summer Holiday Activity Days**

Previously, like many museums we utilised a drop in model for our activity days but after feedback we decided to change tactics. The majority of attendees were arriving at the same

times resulting in families having to wait for activities to be available. To combat this we decided have capped bookable spaces for our morning and afternoon sessions. We have had excellent feedback so far for this new system as children were able to get more of a qualitative experience and it had less of a conveyer belt feel. We've also changed up our content with archaeology, Japanese art, cave art, LEGO and games.

### **5.2 Oral History Project- Capturing Memories**

Our Oral History Committee is hard at work capturing new oral histories and so far 20 new stories have been recorded (last report 19) but the focus has been largely on cataloguing and organising the existing collection into the same format.

### **5.3 Social Media**

Currently the Museum's Facebook page has 2.5k followers; Instagram 496 Followers (last report 475). Our TikTok has 272 followers (202 last report). We are slowly making the transition from Twitter to Blue Sky.

## **6 Visitor Numbers**

Visitor Numbers for the year 24/25: 11,701.

## **7 Resource Implications**

### **Grants**

Mayor's Charity 2024/2025

## **8 Recommendations**

That the Area Committee note the report.

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