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## 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 @itvengland. 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](https://www.lynnmuseum.org.uk/whatson)

## 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.





### 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 1/5<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

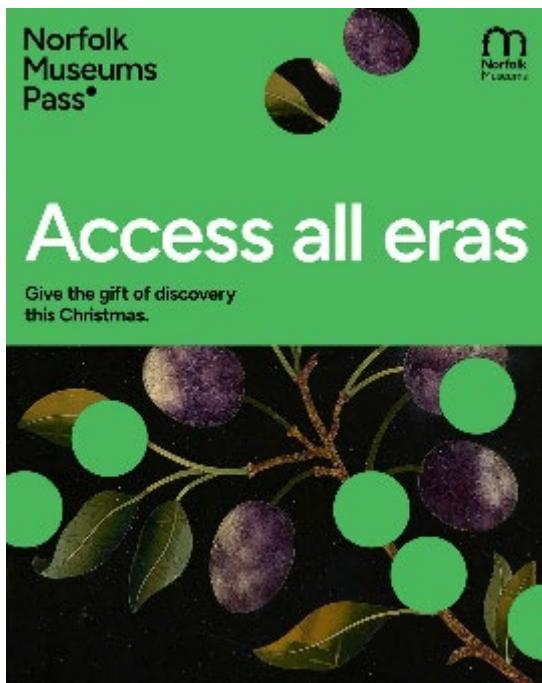
As well as digital delivery, the museum has maintained strong links with local media outlets including the *Lynn News*. Staff continue to contribute to a fortnightly *Picture This* column, with a focus on local drawings, engravings and paintings.

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 Joisce, 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 80<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.visitwestnorfolk.com/.../his-royal-highness-the-duke-of-gloucester-visits-new-exhibition-in-kings-lynn/)

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 Joisce 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.

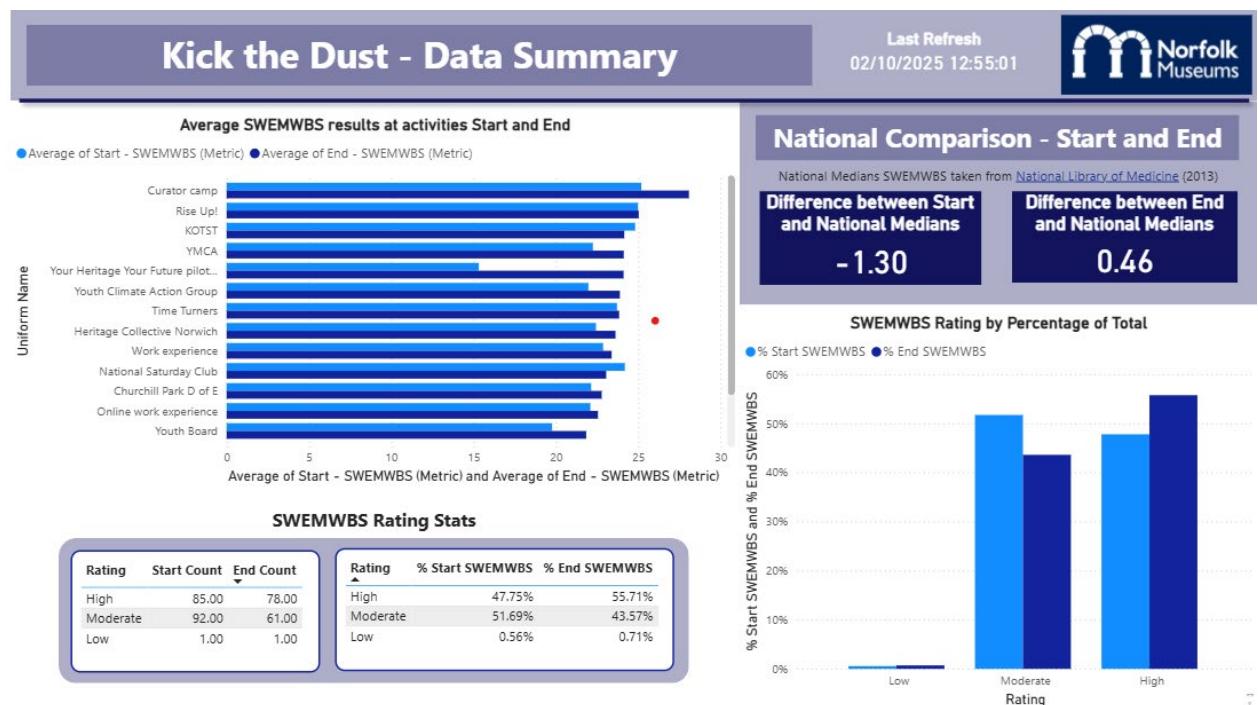
### **Supporting mental health and wellbeing**

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 populations' 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

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