



TRUE'S YARD FISHERFOLK MUSEUM REPORT

Report by Museum Curator

February 2026

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

1.1 Exhibition Programme.

Next Exhibition: TY35 *Mother Knows Best*: The Hidden Stories of Women of the North End. To celebrate the Museum's 35th Anniversary we will be shining a light on some of the lesser-known stories of the North End.

Summer Art Exhibition: Your Maritime Heritage

As it is an anniversary year, we're working hard to put on an extra special annual art exhibition. This will be opened on 3rd July by the Museum's Patron Sir Richard Jewson. There will be some exceptional pieces of maritime art from private collections so a rare opportunity for the public to see them. The exhibition will run across July and August.

1.2 True's Talks

Our Spring programme launched on 5th February and will conclude 26th March. Subjects include the latest discoveries in the roof of Oxburgh Hall, Art and the Industrial Revolution, how exhibitions have evolved over time and more. 8 talks in total all by local speakers very popular with audiences 40+ each talk. The Autumn series will launch in September 2026.

1.3 Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture

Planning for the 12th Pat Midgley Memorial Lecture is underway and further details will be released soon.

Other Museum Developments

2. Events

TY35

To celebrate the Museum being open for 35 years we will be holding a series of events spread across the week the Museum originally opened back in 1991.

24th March Tea Party for Northenders

25th March Open Day

27th Noon Exhibition Launch

27th Evening Sea Shanty Evening at Ferry Lane Social

31st March – Official Museum's Anniversary

3. Income Generation

3.1 Museum Fundraising

20th March Beach Café

17th June Midsummer Dinner (Bank House)

9th August Alison's Tea Party (Queen Street)

September

4th September Dr Anderson's Garden Party (King Street)

TBC November TYFM Sailors and Fisherfolk Dinner

3.2 Friends of True's Yard

We are most fortunate to have an active and supportive Friends group. Their events for the year are:

Friday 27th February 2026 Quiz at Ferry Lane Social Club

Saturday 18th April 2026 Pie and Mash

Saturday 30th May 2026 Fish and Chips

Saturday 25th July 2026 Hog Roast

Saturday 5th September 2026 Fish and Chips

Sunday 6th December 2026 Christmas Lunch

4. Partnerships

4.1 The Margery Kempe Trust

The Margery Kempe Trust have invited True's Yard to host a stop on their upcoming town-wide literary trails: The Book of You (Adults) and Scribbles the Scribe's Story Quest (Children). This project is part of the Love Your Market Town initiative, funded by Norfolk County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. These self-directed literary trails aim to drive footfall back to King's Lynn high streets and celebrate our unique heritage as the birthplace of English life writing.

The Margery Kempe Trust are partnering with students from Anglia Ruskin University to co-design the booklet's copy. A student team from ARU will visit King's Lynn on February 23rd to gather inspiration for the prompts.

5. Learning and Outreach

5.1. Activities

Easter Activities

. We will once again be holding family fun days across the Easter Holidays as well as a trail around the Museum.

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 now the new

server has arrived 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 505 Followers (last report 475). Our TikTok has 295 followers (last report 202 followers).

5.4 Website

The creation of our new website has been a real community effort. Our Assistant Curator and also one of our youngest volunteers Keziah have put a lot of work into its creation. It is now live and we're really pleased with it.

8. Visitor Numbers

Visitor Numbers April-January 25/26: 9,008 Last year: 8,787

The summer saw a slight drop in visitors compared to the previous year but we were not alone in this. We were able to claw back some ground with our Christmas events programme funding by the Love Your Market Town Fund.

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.

St Margaret's and St Nicholas Parish Trust £200 to help with pressure washing the Yard.

7 Recommendations

That the Committee notes the report.

Originator of report:

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