

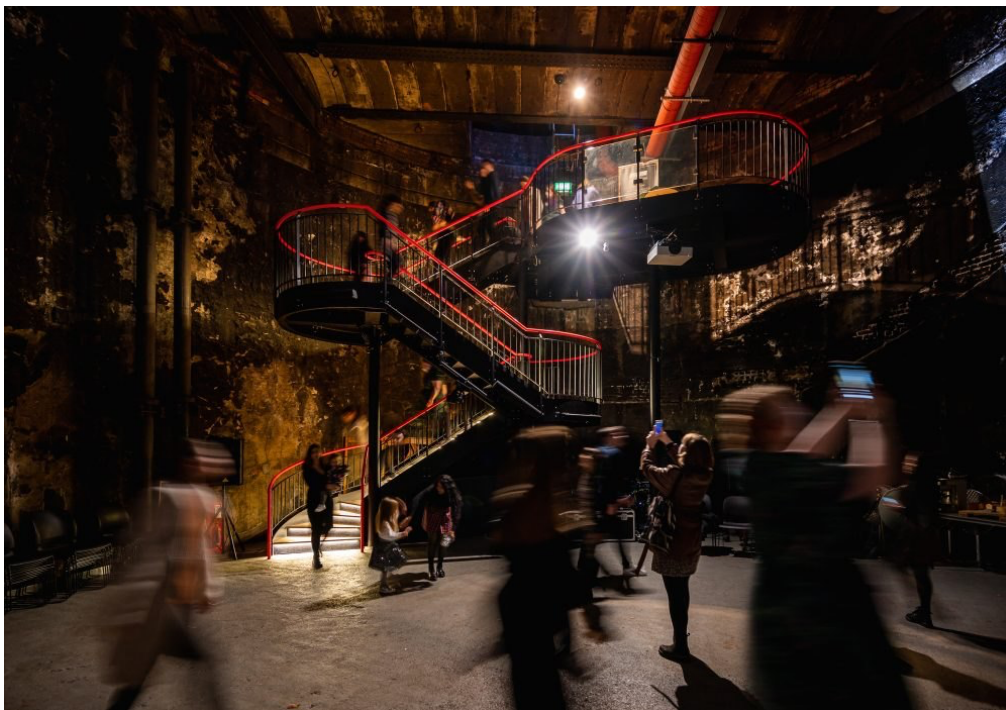


50 giving stories shared as part of The Marketors' Trust's 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2026

No 46: The world-first tunnel, and the modest museum that keeps its story

Two hundred years ago, in the spring of 1825, work began on something the world had never seen: a tunnel dug beneath a flowing river. The Thames Tunnel at Rotherhithe took eighteen years to build, flooded more than once, cost lives and nearly killed the young Isambard Kingdom Brunel. When it finally opened in 1843 it was hailed as the eighth wonder of the world, and it made possible almost every underwater tunnel built since.

The Brunel Museum stands on that very spot, in the Grade II* listed Engine House beside the great tunnel shaft where Marc Brunel and his son changed engineering forever. An educational charity run largely by volunteers, it celebrates one of the world's great engineering dynasties and brings together engineering, music and performance to keep Brunel's extraordinary legacy alive for new generations. The vast underground shaft, once the tunnel's grand entrance, is now a breathtaking venue for concerts and events.



The tunnel's original shaft, now a spectacular underground venue for concerts and events.

For a museum of its size, keeping the story alive takes more than ticket sales. It takes members: the friends and supporters who give a little each year and help secure its future. That is exactly what

The Marketors' Trust set out to strengthen. In 2025, as the tunnel reached its bicentenary, the Trust awarded a £5,000 Charity Grant to fund a new membership campaign, one designed to grow and diversify the museum's community of supporters and turn members into proud ambassadors.



Visitors exploring the museum's exhibition in the Grade II listed Engine House.*

It is a smart place to put marketing to work. Good membership marketing does not just raise money; it reaches people who never thought of themselves as engineering enthusiasts and gives them something to belong to.

Two centuries ago the Brunels turned a seemingly impossible idea into something people could walk through and marvel at. The Marketors' Trust plays a quieter version of the same role: helping a remarkable but little-known cause be seen, understood and supported, so its story carries on into the next hundred years.

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BRUNEL				MUSEUM				
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Website: thebrunelmuseum.com

How to give

Every gift, at whatever level, helps secure the Trust's grants, awards and care for the next fifty years.

To give, go to: <https://www.marketors.org/the-marketors-trust/support-ways-to-give>