

Kingston at Leisure All Fun and Games?

*Saturday 9th April to
Saturday 28th May 2011*

Join us for an exciting journey through the rarely seen records of the Borough's hidden history!

Drawing together the records of clubs and societies from Tolworth, New Malden, Old Malden, Hook, Chessington, Surbiton and Kingston, this exhibition delves into the records of local community groups, illuminating their nature, activities and organisational structure.

Featuring records spanning sports, performing arts, historical, religious, horticultural and residential pastimes, the exhibition highlights the warm and diverse community that exists within the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames.

Showcasing the Community

Kingston at Leisure will extend to the Community Showcase in the Museum entrance area. This space is always available to all active in community clubs and organisations who wish to display what they are all about. This is free of charge and attracts a lot of attention from visitors. Take advantage of this opportunity and contact Tove Bellingham at the museum on 020 8547 6463 to find out more.

Free, drop-in Easter Workshops at Kingston Museum Suitable for children aged 3 to 7

Tuesday 12th April from 1-4pm *Egg-cellent Easter Eggs: Scratch-Pattern Easter Eggs: design your own colourful decoration.*

Tuesday 19th April from 1-4pm: *Easter Palms and Funky Flowers: make a 'handful' of flowers using your fiddling fingers as inspiration!*

Look out for

Exhibition: Kingston at Leisure, 9th April to 28th May 2011

Easter Workshops for children, 12th & 19th April 2011

Brilliant Art exhibiting the Brill Collection, 4th to 25th June 2011



Friends' lectures on 19th April and 21st June 2011 (see page 4)

Muybridge Movement and Me, see this innovative project developed by Kingston Museum and the RBK Community Development Department at www.muybridge.co.uk



Architectural Gems

The Les Kirkin Photo Competition Winners



The winner, Verna Evans with her winning entries (left) and (right) Rose Kirkin with Friends Chairman, Tim Everson: photos by Keith Hathaway

Our 2010 Photographic Competition on the theme of *Architectural Gems, from the Unusual to the Downright Quirky* was a great success with over 60 photographs being submitted. All the entries have been taken into our Local History Collections for future generations to enjoy so thank you to all who took part. Thank you also to our sponsors, The Rotary Club of Kingston upon Thames, Kingston Adult Education and the Friends for their enthusiasm and continuing support which makes the competition possible from year to year.

The prize-giving took place in Kingston Museum Art Gallery on 21st February 2001 and we were delighted to welcome Rose Kirkin, Les's widow, and her family together with members of Kingston Rotary Club as special guests.

Congratulations to the winners who were

First prize : Verna Edwards for *Alleyway: Canbury Park Road: study of brickwork* and *House about that then? The house that didn't grow up and the house about to swallow a car*

Second prize: Keith Hathaway for *Resplendent: County Hall*

Third prize: Heather Mathew for *early morning looking towards the Bentall Centre*

Fourth prize: Margaret Ciano for *Guildhall viewed from the walkway over the Hogsmill, flanked by Charter Quay flats-old and new*

Do you need a speaker?

Nancy Vlasto, a long standing Kingston resident and tireless collector for local charities, is willing to give talks to schools and community groups about her experiences in World War 11. She may be contacted on 020 8399 6944.

Local History Room

The Local History Room has been incredibly busy in the last four months with an increasing amount of email enquiries and visitors to the Local History Room. We have taken part, again, in the Public Services Quality Group of the Archives and Records Association Survey for two weeks from 14th to 25th March. Our participation in this survey provides excellent feedback from our regular and new visitors.

The third Local History Room and Archives User Group Meeting was held on 9th February and was well attended by 19 users. The User Group meetings are proving to be important two-way discussions and, on the main issues affecting the Local History Room, a great support. A new newsletter called 'Group HUG', promoting the work of the Local History Room and Archives will shortly be launched and will be available on our web site, together with the User Group minutes.

Congratulations to Emma Howgill who has been accepted onto the UCL MA course in Archives. Emma has been volunteering with Nikki on the HLF 'Kingston at Leisure' project, cataloguing the new collections with Lauris and Glenis. We all wish her good luck when she starts in September.

Volunteer Forum

The first of this year's Volunteer Forums was held on 16th February in the Local History Room with no less than 16 people attending! The main topics for discussion were the impending demolition of the North Kingston Centre and the unsure future of all the activities currently housed there. We also discussed the financial constraints which will affect the Service during the coming year. The volunteers suggested a visit to the Olympic Village and ideas for advertising at Kingston University. The next forum is scheduled for June 2011.



Outing to the Olympic Village

Following suggestions at the Forum we have now organised a visit. If you would like to be one of the first to visit the village and to join a tour with qualified blue badge guides on 5th June, meeting at 11 am at Bromley by Bow underground station, please contact Penny Pinkney by email at pennypinkney@blueyonder.co.uk to reserve a place. Hurry. Places are going fast!

Caroline and Nikki Goodbye

Caroline Burt, our Learning and Access Officer, worked her last day on Friday 25th February and will now be travelling for a while before looking for work in the North. Her post will unfortunately not be replaced. To prepare for her leaving, Caroline has organised self-led sessions which can be used by schools, devised a new museum trail for children and purchased a table and chairs for children to use in the Town of Kings Gallery. There will also be workshops in the summer led by Natalie Kay, education officer at the Stanley Picker Gallery. Caroline has contributed greatly to the Service and it has been a pleasure to have her on our Team. We wish her all the best for the future!

Nikki Tetley, the project officer for the *Kingston at Leisure* project has very sadly come to the end of her contract but she will still be around to oversee the exhibition that starts in April. Thank you to Nikki for a job well-done and best of luck for the future—we will miss her!

Contact Us

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Please ring us on 020 8547 6440 if you are disabled and require assistance or a parking space at the museum.

Parking is available at North Kingston Centre. For assistance ring 020 8547 6738.

If you are unable to read this document because of disability or language, we can assist you. Please contact the Council helpline on 020 8547 5757 or ask someone to call on your behalf.

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NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Friends' Talks and Events

Please note that all the talks take place in the Museum Art Gallery and will now start at 7pm with tea and coffee being served from 6.30pm. The full programme for the year is in the Museum's 2011 leaflet.

Tuesday 19th April 2011

The 'Kingston at Leisure' Project: the preservation of records of local clubs and societies by project co-ordinator, Nicola Tetley

Tuesday 21st June 2011

The Management of the Commons by Gordon Vincent Chief Executive to the Conservators of Wimbledon & Putney Commons

Saturday 1st October 2011

Visit to Dover Castle. Booking forms enclosed with this newsletter. Further copies will be available from the Museum & Local History Room. Book your place now!

Thank you Waitrose!

We are delighted to learn that New Malden Waitrose has awarded the Friends £220. Thank you to all those who posted their little green discs in the store!

AGM Report

We had a good AGM on 14th March which was attended by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Ken Smith. The meeting conveyed its very special thanks to Leslie Green, the retiring Treasurer, for all his hard work for the Friends over very many years! We still need a volunteer for the post so please let us know if you are willing to help. The meeting voted for a small increase in subscriptions (from £7 to £10) which will take effect from 2012—a very small increase which will help the Friends considerably in its work in support of the Service. Thank you to Tim for providing the liquid refreshments which rounded off the meeting nicely! Anne McCormack

Letter from the Chairman

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the prize-giving for the Les Kirkin Photographic Competition on 21st February. Thanks go to Anne McCormack and several other committee members for the lovely spread which I hope made up for the missing Christmas Party. Thanks to Anne also for keeping the Kingston Rotary Club on board as our sponsors. They do so much work for so many people so it's great to have them supporting our event, and support it they did, with many of their members present. Rose Kirkin kindly gave out the prizes to the lucky winners and was well-supported by both her daughters. The standards for this competition get better every year but we can always do with more entries, so get your cameras out and get snapping. The 2011 competition hopes to capture events at Kingston clubs and societies to support Nikki Tetley's project on the subject which has brought so many good things into the collections. This year the entries were also displayed in the Market House for a week. Thanks to Jill Lamb for this initiative.

On other matters, I was intrigued to learn recently that the gold Celtic coins from Chessington, on display in the Museum, are not the only gold coins found in the Borough. Over 150 years ago, ten or more small gold Byzantine coins (tremissis) dating to the 6th Century AD, were discovered. Unfortunately, it is not clear exactly where or when or how many, and I will need to do some more research.

A final special thank you to all our volunteers. The Museum & Heritage Service is stretched and many staff members have told me they just couldn't manage without our wonderful volunteers, so thank you all very much. Tim Everson, Chairman