

Fun and Games

We have a wonderful programme of exhibitions and events planned for the coming year, all of which are listed in our new programme leaflet.

Due to popular demand, **Muybridge Revolutions** has been extended to 19th March. Don't miss this prestigious exhibition which has linked so aptly to a complementary exhibition on Muybridge in Tate Britain.

Another highlight for the year is our own exhibition on **Kingston at Leisure: All Fun and Games?** which is on show from 9th April to 28th May. Join us for an exciting journey through rarely seen records and explore the diverse leisure-time activities of local communities, clubs and societies in Tolworth, New Malden, Old Malden, Hook, Chessington, Surbiton and Kingston.

Our **Brill Collection** will be on display from 4th to 25th June. The Museum's original collection consisted of 74 topographical paintings, commissioned by Kingston Borough Council between 1955 and 1971, recording through art the changing landscape of the Royal Borough. The Museum Friends successfully re-launched the scheme in 1997 and new paintings have been added to the collection annually. These, as well as many from the original scheme, will be on display—a wonderful trip down memory lane, not to be missed.

This summer's family exhibition, **Doing it for Kids**, is an exhibition of sustainable play design. The project, running from 23rd July to 10th September, explores play types, the importance of play in child development, how toys help mould our kids' values and how they impact on the environment.

Beastly Machines, running from 19th November to 14th January 2012, is by Derbyshire-based artist, Johnny White. Johnny has created a brand-new body of work using the latest pneumatic technology. The work which is humorous and interactive, looks at the link between human emotions and semantics portrayed through mythical creatures and animals. A thought provoking experience not to be missed!

Copies of the new 2011 leaflet are available in the Museum and Local History Room. For more information visit www.kingston.gov.uk/museum.



Beards, Beasts and Moving Images

In September we launched our new Muybridge School Programme. A series of brand-new workshops were devised and advertised to schools and we had a fantastic response.

Key Stage One classes (ages 5-7) have been taking part in the Muybridge menagerie. In this workshop children make themselves as much like Muybridge as possible; they were given a big white beard, they changed their name and collected various animals by thinking about, and acting out, how different creatures move. They then created their own 'moving image' by making a spinning *thaumotrope*.



Key Stage Two (ages 8-11) pupils have been thinking about how people move during our 'Stop...Go' workshops. After looking carefully at Muybridge's images of human movement, children performed their own movement sequences and were photographed in six frames by photographer Rich Bruce. Rich then used the wonder of technology to run the six frames together and create mini-films.

We welcomed Sixth Form students from Southborough High School to the Museum to take part in a Stop-Motion Workshop run by the film and Animation Workshop Company. Everyone involved had a fantastic day and the students produced some really impressive animated sequences.

Kingston Museum on the BBC

Kingston Museum was on TV on 30th November! The BBC documentary *Imagine—The Weird World of Eadweard Muybridge*, featured the Museum and the Local History Room in a programme dedicated to Muybridge's life and work both in Kingston and in America. Presented by Alan Yentob, this fascinating account of Muybridge's achievements— and the infamous incidents that affected his life including the murder of his wife's alleged lover— included shots of the town centre, Muybridge's birthplace and the Museum's ground-breaking *Muybridge Revolutions* exhibition. Well done to Peta for her part in the programme which accorded Kingston's Muybridge collection the acknowledgement it deserves.

If you missed the programme it will be available for a while on BBC i-Player at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007ght1>

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
To all our Friends, Volunteers, Visitors and Newsletter Readers
Best wishes from
The Staff at Kingston Museum & Heritage Service

Local History Room and Archives



Kingston at Leisure Project—update

We are now over half way through the project aimed at identifying and preserving the records of local clubs and societies. We have so far been entrusted with the records of 19 clubs and societies within the Borough. Kingston at Leisure volunteers Lauris Ashton, Emma Howgill and Glenis Ward have been hard at work listing and cataloguing their records and are currently engaged in identifying and highlighting material for a display in the Community Exhibition case at Kingston Museum in January 2011, followed by a

major display in the art gallery in April and May 2011. To discuss the project further please email Nicola.tetty@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

A Kingston 'burning' in 1681

Look at the Kingston upon Thames Society's December newsletter for this poignant story from the archives about the burning in Kingston of Margaret Osgood for murder in 1681. Thank you to David Kennedy for researching this hitherto unknown story!

Remember

to buy a copy of Richard Holmes new book on *Pubs, Inns and Taverns of Kingston* available in the Museum and Local History Room. It's great and the result of many months of painstaking research.

Cromwell House

We have just acquired this charming postcard through ebay (courtesy of one of the Friends) for our local history collections. Cromwell House was located on Kingston Hill just up from the junction with Queens Road. The family in the picture are the Witheridges who moved to Kingston from Fulham in 1904. The postcard is dated 1906. Sadly Edmund Witheridge died in 1910 but there is a lengthy obituary in the *Surrey Comet*, testament to his many philanthropic activities and his generosity in entertaining various groups at his home. His wife, Prudence, continued living in the house until her death in 1924. Both are buried in Kingston Cemetery.



Drawing Room Entrance, Cromwell House, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

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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 25th January 2011

Experiments in Moving-Image Projection, the extraordinary history of the Skladanowsky Brothers in Berlin by Professor Stephen Barber of Kingston University. This is a special Friends' Lecture to coincide with the Museum's major Muybridge exhibition. **Due to limited seating, we advise booking in advance on 020 8547 6460.**

Monday 21st February 2011

Friends New Year Gathering and presentation of the Les Kirkin photographic competition prizes

Monday 14th March 2011

Friends AGM at 7pm

Tuesday 15th March 2011

The History of Lambeth Palace by Allan Brown, Tour Guide for Kingston and Lambeth Palace

Tuesday 19th April 2011

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

Letter from the Chairman

Firstly, I should like to apologise to members for the lack of a Christmas gathering this year. The organisation of this was delayed because of the uncertainty of available space in the art gallery due to the Muybridge exhibition. By the time the Committee realised it could be done it was too late! However, I hope we can all gather together on **Monday 21st February** to wish each other a Happy New Year and to award the Les Kirkin photography competition prizes. The Committee could really do with someone to help organise catering on event days like this. If you can help, please think of volunteering. It would be most welcome.

Please don't forget the AGM in the art gallery on **14th March** and put **1st October** in your diary as we are arranging a coach visit to Dover Castle. This is instead of our June visit so that we can see the newly opened tunnels and other restoration work that will be finished by then. Booking forms and further details will be included in the April newsletter.

We still need a new treasurer. Leslie Green is standing down at the next AGM and if we can't replace him, the Friends will be in a difficult position for the future. On the plus side, I am very pleased to welcome Emma Gittus, previously a volunteer at the Museum, who has agreed to be our Secretary for a year, or maybe two.

I was very pleased to see that English Heritage has erected a smart new panel at the entrance to Coombe Conduit in Coombe Lane West, which will make it much easier for people to find. On the subject of panels, we heard rumours that Cesar Picton's plaque had gone missing from Picton House! I am happy to report that the said plaque is definitely still there (No 56 High Street).

A very Happy New Year to you all. Tim Everson (chairman)