

David Whitaker: Local Painter A perfect start to the New Year

Look out for

*Retrospective exhibition
on the paintings of
David Whitaker 28th
January to 24th March
(see page 1)*

The Museum is excited and privileged to have, as its first exhibition of the New Year, a retrospective display of the work of local painter, David Whitaker. This is not the first time his work has been on show in our museum; he had a series of exhibitions in 1968, 1970 and 1976. These exhibitions were important to his career as the 1970 exhibition led to his display at the Serpentine Gallery and his subsequent successful nomination for the Mark Rothko Memorial Award (1973). We are very glad to have his work back in the art gallery once more.



*Service changes and
introduction to new staff
(see pages 2 and 3)*

*BBC and the Public
Catalogue of oil and
mixed media paintings
(see page 2)*

Throughout his career, Whitaker explored the effects of colour modulation, contrast and combination on the viewer's perception, creating dynamic, pulsating images in both oils and watercolours. His large-format canvases are vibrant and uplifting, a perfect start to the New Year and a pick-me-up for those dull winter days!

The collection of work on display represents Whitaker's *oeuvre* from the 1960s right through to 2007 when he died prematurely of pneumonia aged only 68. This exhibition aims to reintroduce Whitaker's work to Kingston Borough. He lived and worked in the area from 1959 and his wife Frankie still lives at the New Malden home they purchased together in 1967. He taught widely, from Brighton University to Oxford's Ruskin School, before becoming Senior Lecturer in Painting at Wimbledon School of Art. He was an avid marathon runner and committed member of the Kingston Stragglers. He also pursued interests in football and cricket within the Borough and took inspiration from walks in Richmond Park, Bushy Park, Hampton Court, Wimbledon Common and the Surrey hills.

*Friends' Lectures in
January and March
(see page 4)*

*New books and articles
(see page 4)*

David Whitaker, Composer of Colour is at Kingston Museum from 28th January to 24th March 2012

Tegan joins the Team

Introducing our new Learning and Engagement Officer, Tegan Bennett. She writes:

I'm really pleased to be joining the team at Kingston Museum. My background is in museum education and my last job was as an Education Assistant at the Museum of Oxford. I am passionate about education in museums, especially the way it can make museums more accessible.

I've got a Masters in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester. My dissertation was on under-fives in museums and I am hoping to put my research into practice and set up a programme for our youngest visitors and families at Kingston Museum.

I am looking forward to working with everyone at Kingston Museum and to running an exciting programme of events and activities for schools, families and local people.



Public Catalogue Foundation in partnership with the BBC

This exciting national project to catalogue all oil and mixed media paintings in public ownership has taken another step forward with the announcement that those from south-west London collections have just gone online.

We have 79 paintings in this category which can be seen at www.bbc.co.uk/yourpaintings. We appear under Greater London whilst Richmond, confusingly, appears under Surrey!

Do take a look at some of our previously hidden gems from our art collection.



A Rainy Day at Kingston by Jan de Clerck, one of our paintings included in the catalogue

Our New Service

After all the upheaval of the re-commissioning of the Service this year we are looking forward to the New Year with the new structure more or less in place. We are delighted to announce the appointment of Emma Rummins, currently our Local History Officer, to the post of Curator (below right). Emma has been with the Service for over ten years and brings a wealth of knowledge of local history and our collections (particularly Muybridge) to her new role. Her energy, knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm will be a great asset to the Museum and she has lots of plans and ideas she is itching to implement when she moves to her new post in January!

We are pleased to welcome Tegan Bennett to the Service as our new Learning and Engagement Officer (left). Tegan started in December and is already settling in very well and planning our offer to schools and community groups. She will be working closely with Emma and Tove, our Exhibitions Officer. Our Temporary Heritage Assistant, Amy Graham (below left), has proved a wonderful addition to the Team, turning her hand to anything required of her through the autumn when our staffing levels have been very tight.

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Rod Lewis who has been a hugely valuable and reliable member of staff for eleven years. Happily Rod has been successful in obtaining another job within the Council so we hope he will continue to visit us and we wish him well in his new post.

We are sorry to lose Amirah Rahman who has been a Saturday Heritage Assistant for five years. Amirah already has a full-time job with the Council and felt unable (for good reasons!) to work every Saturday (as the new post requires) instead of every second Saturday. Her willingness to help out with staff cover at short notice and at private views was much appreciated. We have interviewed for a replacement and hope to have the new person in post by January.

Finally, Emma's move to the Museum has left a black hole in the Local History Room. We hope to arrange temporary cover for the post while going through the recruitment process to replace her. This will of course mean that cover in the Local History Room will be tight for a few months but we hope to be all singing and dancing with all posts filled by the end of the financial year.



Contact Us

Kingston Museum
Wheatfield Way

Kingston upon Thames KT1 2PS
Tel. 020 8547 5006

E-mail:

Kingston.museum@rbk.kingston.gov.uk

and at

Kingston Local History Room
Room 46

North Kingston Centre
Richmond Road

Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE
Tel. 020 8547 6738

E-mail:

local.history@rbk.kingston.gov.uk



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.

A C C R E D I T E D
M U S E U M



MUSEUMS LIBRARIES ARCHIVES
COUNCIL



NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS

Friends' Talks and Events

Please note that all the talks in 2012 will now take place on a **THURSDAY** in the Museum Art Gallery and start at 7pm with tea and coffee being served from 6.30pm. To avoid disappointment, call to book a place on 020 8547 5006. The full programme will be included in the Museum's 2012 leaflet.

Thursday 2nd February 2012

The Restoration of the 18th Century Water Gardens at Bushy Park by Kathy White

Thursday 15th March 2012

Kingston's Colourful History from archives and illustrations by John Pink and Allan Brown, Kingston Tour Guides and Local Historians

Letter from Chairman, Tim Everson

Heritage in Kingston is facing a busy time next year. All systems are go on the All Saints Church heritage project which will see the Coronation Stone move to the north side of the church, closer to its original setting and a more obvious location for sightseers. We have also just heard that the Kingston Aviation centenary project has been awarded an HLF grant for next year. This aims to celebrate Kingston's aviation heritage since Tommy Sopwith founded his aeroplane factory in Canbury Park Road in 1912. An oral history will be compiled interviewing those who worked there and at the Richmond Road works and there will be a large exhibition in the Market House and Market Place in early June (throughout the Diamond Jubilee weekend). We will of course also have the Olympic Road Race going through Kingston. The Museum will be fully involved in all these events so it will be a busy first year for Emma Rummins, the new curator. The Friends will also be holding our own Diamond Jubilee party. I hope you all had a refreshing Christmas and have a peaceful and prosperous 2012.

A good read!

Tim Everson has just published a new book called *New Malden Through Time*, which is available in the Local History Room or the Museum price £14.99.

Anne McCormack has published an article on Reginald Brill and the origins of the Museum's Brill Collection in the 2011 edition of *Surrey History*, published by the Surrey Archaeological Society. It contains previously unseen illustrations of paintings of Kingston done for the national wartime art scheme known as 'Recording Britain'. Copies of the Journal are available from Anne (020 8398 5245).