

Medieval Machines!

Exhibition

25th July to 12th September

The Dark Ages? Not at all! The Middle Ages were a time of great creativity, scientific advances and technological development.

Medieval Machines is an exciting, family-friendly exhibition which gives people of all ages a chance to try out medieval technologies in a hands-on way, providing insight into the roots of modern technology and encouraging a better appreciation of the inventiveness of our ancestors.



Visitors can learn how to work a medieval catapult, make a stained glass window and even ride a knight's horse—to name just a few. Look out for details of special workshops and events and come along and try your hand at making your own special machine.

Museums at Night at Kingston Museum

Museums at Night is a Europe-wide annual initiative which aims to present museums in new and engaging ways. This year's campaign took place on 15th to 17th May and Kingston Museum was in on the act! On the evening of 15th May there was a showing of the Ben Stiller film, *Night at the Museum*. Children from St Joseph's and King Athelstan schools gathered at the Museum with their parents and after completing a quiz to acquaint them with the museum after-hours, settled down to the film in the art gallery with popcorn and drinks. The event was run in partnership with Kingston Adult Education and Family Learning.

The following evening the Museum hosted a Bollywood event. Dance teacher Monisha Bharadwaj took a group of willing participants through the moves of Bollywood-style dancing. The art gallery was transformed as Bollywood music filled the air. Feedback was excellent. 'We had a marvellous time!' said participant Denise Maline. 'It really was very well planned and organised so thank you all'. 'Museums Night provided a great opportunity to open after hours making the Museum accessible to people who maybe can't visit during the day' said Learning and Access Officer, Caroline Burt who organised the events.



Exhibition and artist led workshops: until 18th July: My Life in a Box, telling your story through art—in a box!

Exhibition: 25th July to 12th September: Medieval Machines: a children's exhibition for the summer holidays

Thumbs Up It's Thursday: Kingston-wide events for the summer holidays

Friends' lecture: Brunel's Tunnel by Robert Hulse, Director of the Brunel Museum, Tuesday 16th June 2009 at 7 for 7.30pm.

Exhibition: 1509 and All That: inspired by the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession, 19th September to 3rd October

'My Life in a Box

**A Unique exhibition where you tell your story through art—in a box!
Until 18th July**

As part of **Kingston Summer Art Season 2009**, Kingston Museum is proud to present this exciting and innovative exhibition: *My Life in a Box*. Visitors will not only be able to witness art in action as our art gallery is transformed into a working studio space but also to become both exhibit and exhibitor. Groups and individuals will use the gallery space to produce artwork which represents aspects of their lives but with one catch—it must all fit inside a box. A series of artist-led workshops will help people design and create their 'Life in a Box'.

The completed artworks will then be added to the growing exhibition in the gallery to provide an inspirational backdrop for further workshops. We will be holding timetabled workshops for established groups and open access drop-in workshops on Saturdays for visitors who wish to participate, so come along.



Did you know that 9th July is **children's art day**? To celebrate, we will be hosting a special under 5s 'My Life in a Box' workshop. Booking is essential on 020 8547 6460.

Get creative inside the box by thinking outside the box!

Thumbs Up It's Thursday

Kingston Museum will be participating in this Kingston-wide event throughout the summer holidays, so come along and enjoy our especial children's events:

23rd July at 1.30 to 4.30pm

Kings and Queens

Make your own crown or princess hat. Have your picture taken with Snap the Dragon. Drop in, no need to book.

30th July all day

Fight!

Join our trained experts for a sword-fighting workshop. Ages 8 and above. £3 per child. Booking essential on 020 8547 6460.

6th August at 1pm and again at 2.30pm

Royal Armouries in Kingston.

Help a knight into his armour and make your own. £2 per child. Booking essential on 020 8547 6460

13th August all day

Medieval Moves

What was Henry VIII like on the dance floor? Join our experts and learn Tudor dances. Ages 8 and above. £2 per child. Booking essential on 020 8547 6460

Local History Room News

Volunteers' Week, 25th Anniversary

Volunteers' Week (1st-7th June) is a national celebration of volunteers and volunteering. To celebrate its 25th Anniversary, the Museum & Heritage Service threw a summer party on 3rd June in the Local History Room to thank all our volunteers for their hard work and support. This was our chance to highlight their enormous contribution to the Museum and Local History Room. We simply couldn't do without them!

London Volunteers in Museums Awards 2009—HMS Belfast

In association with the London Museums Hub and MLA, the London Volunteers in Museums Awards were held on the evening of Tuesday 2nd June at HMS Belfast. The Kingston Museum and Heritage volunteer Team just missed out on First Prize and came a worthy runners-up. Norman Clarkson also came in a well deserved runner-up in the Long Service category. Due to the event taking place on HMS Belfast, numbers were restricted but three lucky volunteers from the Museum and Local History Room and Local History Officer, Emma Rummins attended the Awards ceremony to collect our certificate. Well done to everyone and thank you.



Jean Disspain, Penny Pickney & Mick Donovan at HMS Belfast

Temporary Storage for the Borough Archives

All the earlier borough archives are now in secure storage for up to six months due to essential building work at the Guildhall. Therefore, these records are temporarily unavailable to users at the Local History Room. Jill Lamb is keeping a note of users who wish to access this material so that they can be contacted as soon as they become available. If you have any enquiries relating to the archives please refer them to the Local History Room direct for further information.

New Paintings commissioned for the Brill Collection

On 29th April, the Friends of Kingston Museum & Heritage received on our behalf three new paintings for the Brill collection. The new work, specially commissioned by the Friends will be displayed at a Private View on Monday 29th June in the Art Gallery.

Museum shop

New Greeting card

A recent donation to the Museum caught Sandra's eye: a copy of the Surbiton Lagoon Souvenir Programme, commemorating the opening of the popular local attraction in 1934. The graphic image of an Art Deco bather on the front cover is charming and evocative so Sandra decided to reproduce it as a greetings card for the Museum shop. She is currently developing the card with printers and hopes to have it in the shop within six weeks.

Do look out for it.



Contact Us

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Please ring us on 020 8547 6460 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

Subscriptions

Please remember, if you haven't already paid your 2009 subscriptions that payment would be greatly appreciated. Please send them to Anne McCormack c/o Kingston Museum & Heritage Service, North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Thank you to all those who have renewed their subscriptions and for their continuing support.

Lectures

Friends' lectures are free but donations are invited to cover expenses

Tuesday 16th June 2009 at 7 for 7.30pm in the museum art gallery:
Brunel's Tunnel by Robert Hulse, Director of the Brunel Museum

Tuesday 22nd September 2009 at 7 for 7.30pm
Hillcroft College, Past, Present and Future by Vina Owen from Hillcroft College

Coach Visit

Saturday 4th July 2009: Coach Visit to Fishbourne Palace and Chichester. Contact Ruth Lankester to check availability on 020 8390 7174.

Kingston upon Thames ARCHAEOLOGICAL Society Programme of talks

9th July

70th Anniversary of Sutton Hoo by Dr Angela Care Evans

10th September

New Evidence for early occupation in Britain by Scott McCracken

7th October

Royal Kingston's Archives by archivist Jill Lamb

All KUTAS meetings are held at 7.30 for 8pm in the Mayo Hall (ground floor) of the United Reformed Church at the corner of Union Street and Eden Street. Talks are free but donations of £1.50 welcomed.

Farewell

The Friends joined the staff and many guests at a farewell party for temporary Heritage Assistant Caroline Cornish who left the Museum in May. Caroline, who was covering for staff maternity leave, intends to undertake a PhD but we hope to see her in the Museum as a volunteer from time to time. Known for many things, not least her cakes, we all wish her good luck in her future career. She will be sadly missed.