

Service Changes

Grace McElwee, Head of Libraries and Heritage, tells us about the changes to Kingston Museum & Heritage Service following a recent review of structure, roles and opening hours.

The changes are in the context of budget cuts that Kingston has had to make as a Council. This year £28,000 has had to be saved from the Heritage budget and a further £14,000 from next year's, making a total of £42,000 of savings. That represents 12% of the total Heritage budget and 18% of the staffing budget. Generally, services across the Council have been facing cuts of 20% and above. The changes also reflect the need to create a 'fit for future' service with a sustainable and solid foundation with learning, engagement, access and development at the core of the service. The new structure brings the two teams together under one Team Leader. The learning and education role is critical for the future development of the service so a new post of Learning & Engagement Officer has been created.



Internal appointments have been made to the new posts: Congratulations to Jill Lamb who is Heritage Team Leader & Borough Archivist (picture above); Sandra Murphy is Visitor Services Officer; Tove Bellingham is Exhibitions Officer; Emma Rummins is Local History Officer and May Cheyne is Administration Officer (full time until next April). Following Peta's departure for pastures new, the next step is to recruit a new Curator and Learning and Engagement Officer. These posts are currently being advertised and we hope to have the posts filled before the end of 2011. Interim arrangements have been put in place. Rod Lewis will continue in his post until the end of the year. In addition, a temporary 24 hour per week Heritage Assistant post has been created to provide cover until the Curator and Learning appointments are made. The current fortnightly Saturday Heritage Assistant, Amirah Rahman, will leave at the end of the year and the post will be advertised.

Volunteers will continue to be a very important part of the Heritage Service under the new structure. To support the new Learning & Engagement Officer post, volunteers will be recruited specifically to support learning activities such as a weekly under fives session, a regular Thursday after school session for children and Saturday family learning activities. With staff reduced in the Museum, it is not possible to cover the existing opening hours. Visitor figures indicate that Monday is the quietest day, so from 10th October the Museum will be closed on Mondays but open until 7pm on Thursdays. The new opening hours are Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10am to 5pm; and Thursday 10am to 7pm. Derek Osbourne, Leader of the Council with responsibility for Arts, Culture and Museum says *we hope the extended hours on Thursdays will result in more people coming through the doors to discover some of the fantastic items on show at our local museum.*

Look out for

Exhibition:
Thames Valley Arts Club, 13th to 29th October 2011

Exhibition:
Kingston Camera Club 5th to 12th November 2011

Exhibition:
Beastly Machines 19th November 2011 to 14th January 2012



Exhibition:
Muybridge in the Royal Academy's Degas exhibition, September to December 2011. Don't miss it!

Farewell to Peta

We all said a sad farewell in September to our Curator Peta Cook who, for the last five and a half years, has made such a huge contribution to the Museum Service in Kingston. Peta has decided to travel the world and also to visit relations in Australia, picking up museum jobs along the way so we wish her luck in all her new adventures.

Peta was meticulous and conscientious in all she did but she will be especially remembered for her promotion of the Muybridge Collection which has put the work of this important pioneer photographer of the moving image on the map locally, nationally and internationally. Peta has worked with the University on a major Muybridge web site, contributed to exhibitions at the Tate and Royal Academy as well as in America and negotiated a large grant to mount an impressive Muybridge exhibition in our own art gallery—she even appeared on BBC's The One Show recently!

Peta has promised to send us emails about her progress so we promise to keep you updated!



Welcome to Amy

A new member of staff, Amy Graham, will be joining the museum team as a Heritage Assistant for 3 months, starting in October 2011. Amy recently moved to Kingston from Newcastle where she worked in the University of Northumbria's art gallery. Amy says *by working for Kingston Museum I would hope to bring to the team my passion and enthusiasm for our built and cultural heritage, along with relevant experience of a gallery /museum setting. Making a valuable contribution to its future, whilst helping to provide a safe, fun and inclusive learning*

Another Great Surbiton Festival

The museum shop took a stand at Surbiton Festival on 24th September and, again, the Festival proved to be a guarantee of sunshine and visitors. We were located between the Library and the Kingston Tour Guides, at the station end of Victoria Road, and were set up and ready for business by 8.30am.

The day was busy and fun: many customers remarked on the attractiveness of the merchandise and, unsurprisingly, Surbiton history books, Surbiton lagoon cards and magnets proved to be our best sellers. This is always a good opportunity to promote the Museum and Local History Room so plenty of leaflets were handed out and we are hoping to get many new visitors as a result.

The final takings were £480—a terrific boost to the shop figures, making the time and energy expended well worthwhile.



Celebrating Kingston Museum volunteers

On 27th July, a very special meeting was held at Kingston Museum. To celebrate the extraordinary commitment and loyalty of Kingston Museum & Heritage Service's volunteers and to demonstrate our appreciation, Head of Service, Grace McElwee was delighted to award certificates of long service.

Grace commented: *when I first started working at Kingston I was struck then by how well-established and well-organised volunteering was in the Service and by the very significant contribution volunteers make. We simply couldn't do such a wide range of things without them as they add enormous value to the services we are able to provide. One of the reasons the Service so much is down to the volunteers: the time, effort, commitment, care, skill and knowledge that they have given and continue to give over many years. The certificated handed out represent collectively 162 years of volunteer service and that is surely something to celebrate.*



Kingston Museum & Heritage Service is based on two sites consisting of a museum and Local History Room with a small number of staff. The support of our volunteers makes a huge difference in our daily work and long term continuity. The Service has 28 volunteers, of which 20 are active on a regular basis. The list of tasks carried out by the team is very varied including welcoming visitors and collections work. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated team.



Local History Room and Archives

Successful month's closure

After a very busy summer, the Local History Room closed on 29th July for a month's closure to enable Jill and Emma to organise the archive and local history collections in preparation for their future move from the North Kingston Centre. The month was very successful and for the first time in years the entire archive collection is now in complete order and re-boxed where necessary. The local history collections were also organised into their collection types and access and location is now ten-times easier.

Jill and Emma would like to thank everyone for supporting the closure and welcome you all back to the Local History Room during opening hours.

Local History Room move postponed

During August, it was officially announced that there will be a delay to the closing of the North Kingston centre for one year. This essentially means that the Local History Room, Archives and Administration Office for Kingston Museum & Heritage Service will remain at North Kingston Centre until summer 2013. We are still awaiting news of our new location but as soon as it is known, The Friends will be the first to be informed.



Congratulations to Emma on her recent marriage to Daniel!

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. The full programme will be included in the Museum's 2012 leaflet.

Tuesday 22nd November 2011

The Great Aircraft Factory in the Richmond Road, Kingston by David Hassard, local resident and researcher

Thursday 2nd February 2012

Bushy Park Water Gardens by Kathy White

Letter from vice-chairman, John McCarthy:

As you will surely appreciate, the Friends are disappointed that the Service is experiencing a serious reduction in its budget. However they also realise that all the Council's services are affected and that at least the Museum & Heritage Service is not being singled out. On a more positive aspect, the Service as a whole still retains its basic shape and one only has to look around at other authorities to see how things could be much worse! In saying this we cannot ignore the personal side in Rod's redundancy, particularly as he has been such a valuable member of the team. Let's hope another Council position can be found for him. Also difficult to swallow is the loss of a day's opening of the Museum, something the Friends fought so hard and successfully against some years ago, but again we do recognise that things are much worse now.

We were very sorry to hear of the death of Joyce James, one of the earliest and staunchest of the Friends and somebody many of you will remember, and we offer our sincere condolences to her husband Arthur.

A matter that the Friends are following closely is the moving of the Local History Room and the Archives when the North Kingston Centre closes. We are concerned that the new accommodation must not only be adequate but easily and readily available to its ever increasing numbers of users.

We were sorry to see the departure of Peta, particularly her work in establishing Kingston Museum on both the national and the international stages with all she did on Muybridge. We wish her well in her journeys around the world.

Preserve our Present for the Future

Please submit your entries for the Les Kirkin competition before 31st January 2012. The theme this year is *Enjoying Life in Kingston's Clubs and Societies-from drum and bass to dramatics*. Do get photographing before it's too late and support a very worthwhile scheme.