



Celebrating our past, present  
and future



Photography by Eleanor Bentall

# KINGSTON 2025 PROGRAMME

Join us for an amazing summer of events,  
activities and much more!



RIVERSIDE WALK  
KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES



[kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025)

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## Foreword

# by Councillor Andreas Kirsch, Leader of Kingston Council



There has never been a more important time to celebrate the power of culture and heritage to inspire, challenge and bring people together. This is why I am so proud to present Kingston 2025 cultural celebration to you.

Thursday 4 September 2025 will be the 1100 anniversary of the crowning of the Saxon King Athelstan here in Kingston in 925. Athelstan was remarkable in many ways; educated under the close guardianship of his aunt, Aethelflaed, he not only united the kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia to create what emerged as England, but he is also known for his strong leadership, promotion of learning, legal reforms and laying the foundations for what developed into characteristic market towns like Kingston. To reflect on Kingston's Saxon history is to explore themes such as the importance of place and geography, the role of exchange and commerce, migration and the assimilation of people that still resonate with us today. Kingston 2025 is an opportunity to use this important Saxon history as a springboard to tell a wider story of Kingston past, present and future and reflect on who we are now.

Kingston 2025 puts Kingston's vibrant and rich culture and heritage front and centre, showcasing the best of local talent and celebrating the full diversity of our shared community.

I'd like to thank our brilliant community partners, supporters and council officers who have worked so tirelessly to shape such a vibrant programme. In particular, I must thank the National Lottery Heritage Fund for its vital support for our community heritage work.

This is a unique opportunity to reflect on where we have come from, celebrate who we are now, and look to our shared future with positivity. I look forward to seeing you at Kingston 2025!

*Andreas*

**Councillor Andreas Kirsch**  
Leader of Royal Borough of  
Kingston Council

# Kingston 2025 - aims, ambition and legacy

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I am delighted to introduce Kingston 2025, our flagship cultural and heritage programme which takes the 1100 anniversary of the crowning in Kingston of King Athelstan, as a springboard to reflect on our past, tell a new, diverse story about Kingston as we are now and look towards the future.

Kingston 2025 is a 6 month borough-wide celebration from May to October 2025. The programme is a collaboration with community and cultural partners who identified three broad themes that shape the programme: sharing our stories, celebrating our place together and looking to the future.

**Save the date!** Kingston 2025 opens with the launch event on **Saturday 3 May** in Kingston's Ancient Market Place. Expect an enjoyable and irreverent mix of street theatre, music and dance, with performers telling a historic tale with an unmistakably contemporary Kingston flavour.

Throughout the programme you can experience an exciting blend of large and small scale public events, exhibitions and performances with something for everyone to enjoy. The digital programme will also be updated with additional events throughout the festival; you can find this on the Kingston 2025 pages at [www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025](http://www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025).

An important aim of Kingston 2025 is to showcase new voices and provide more opportunities for people to engage with their diverse heritage. Therefore, I am thrilled that, thanks to generous funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, a substantial community heritage research project will form a vital foundation for the Kingston 2025 programme. The project will enable residents to focus on the stories that matter to them, including discovering and recording lesser known, untold and contemporary histories for future generations.



Photo credit: **Eleanor Bentall**



Photo credit: **Katie Fells**



More of our communities will be able to access the wonderful collections and research resources of Kingston Museum and Kingston History Centre. I hope that a valuable legacy of Kingston 2025 will be a new confident, contemporary story to tell about Kingston to add to the rich heritage of our past. To hear more about the project and how to participate go to [www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025GetInvolved](http://www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/Kingston2025GetInvolved) or contact us at [celebratekingston2025@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:celebratekingston2025@kingston.gov.uk)

I must thank our indefatigable team at Kingston Council and, crucially, our brilliantly creative community and cultural partners, funders and supporters. It is thanks to them that Kingston 2025 will showcase the cultural richness of our borough and why we can look to the future with excitement and optimism. I look forward to celebrating with you!



**Scott Furlong**

Kingston 2025 Programme Director,  
Corporate Head of Culture and Heritage  
Royal Borough of Kingston Council



Photo credit: **Eleanor Bentall**

## Kingston 2025 launch: Athelstan Among Us!

**Date:** Saturday 3 May 2025

**Time:** 12 noon community performances, 2.30pm main show

**Venue:** Kingston town centre and Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JX

**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Join us for the Kingston 2025 launch on Saturday 3 May in Kingston's Ancient Market Place! Opening at 12 noon with community performances in and around Kingston's Town Centre. Watch K-Pop, drumming, dancing, singing and more!

At 1.45pm the foot stomping Ukrainian brass band, Freedom Pulse, will strike up in the Market Place to prepare everyone for a unique street performance of Athelstan Among Us at 2.30pm. Get ready for a riotous whizz through a thousand years of Kingston's history! With music, dance, plenty of jokes and some surprises along the way, this specially written, one off family friendly show, is not to be missed!

Scriptwriter, **Ciaran McConville**  
 Director, **Josh Mathieson**  
 Composer, **Cheyenne Gibbs-Sing**

## Heritage Bus Tour around the borough

**Date:** Sunday 11 May 2025

**Time:** 1.15pm - 5pm

**Venue:** Meet in front of the Guildhall

**Email:** [mayors.office@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:mayors.office@kingston.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 020 8547 5030

**Website:** [kingston.gov.uk/mayorsevents](http://kingston.gov.uk/mayorsevents)

**Tickets:** £25

A unique opportunity to tour the borough in an old routemaster bus, with commentary on sites of interest by Brian Sullivan (Mayoral Attendant) and Mike Seigel (Kingston's Town Crier and Tipstaff). The tour ends at All Saints Church for guests to view the new tapestries, and enjoy a hot drink and cake. All profits to The Mayor's Charitable Trust, in support of Habitats & Heritage.

**HERITAGE BUS TOUR**

**Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
**1:15pm to 5pm**

Calling at: -The Guildhall - St. Mary the Virgin - Coombe Conduit and All Saints Church aboard a classic Routemaster bus. Hot drinks and cake will be served at All Saints Cafe.

**Booking required. Tickets £25.**  
[www.kingston.gov.uk/mayorsevents](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/mayorsevents)

Registered charity No. 1116094

## Launch of Muybridge Website

**Date:** Thursday 8 May 2025

**Website:** [muybridgeinkingston.co.uk](http://muybridgeinkingston.co.uk)

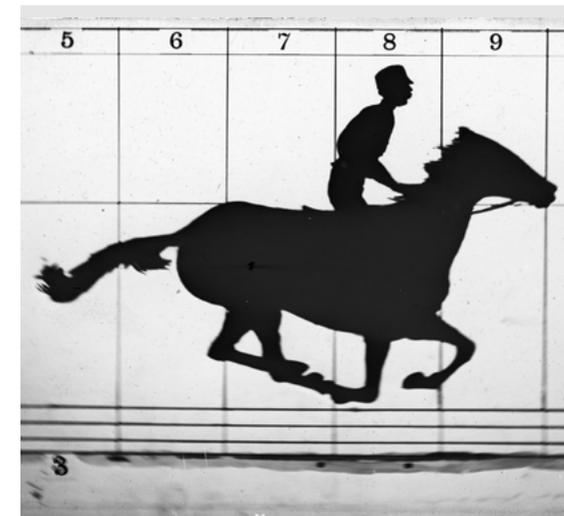


Photo credit: **Muybridge picture of a running horse**

Eadweard Muybridge (1830-1904), a pioneering photographer born and died in Kingston, remains one of the town's most important historical figures. Kingston Museum is the proud custodian of an internationally renowned collection, gifted by Muybridge himself. On the 121st anniversary of his death, the museum will launch a new website exploring his life and work, complete with a searchable online catalogue of its Muybridge collection.

**KINGSTON ADULT EDUCATION**  
Learn • Achieve • Progress

**THE BOROUGH OF KINGSTON UPON THAMES**

New History Workshop!

Get in Touch with History

- Saturday 10 May
- 10am to 12pm
- Guildhall, High Street, Kingston KT1 1EU
- £20 per person

[www.kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation)

## Get in Touch with History Workshop

**Date:** Saturday 10 May 2025  
**Time:** 10am - 12pm  
**Venue:** Guildhall, High Street, Kingston, KT1 1EU  
**Email:** [adult.education@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:adult.education@kingston.gov.uk)  
**Tel:** 020 8547 6700  
**Website:** [kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation](http://kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation)  
**Tickets:** £20 per person (\*30% discount available, subject to eligibility criteria)

Uncover your family history and local heritage in the Kingston archives. Come along to this fascinating Kingston Adult Education workshop where you'll be guided through the treasures of the Kingston Borough archives. Learn how to research your family tree, explore local history, and connect with the past in a meaningful way.



## All Saints Kingston presents: Run For Cover – Tunes Fit for a King!

**Date:** Saturday 10 May 2025  
**Time:** 7.30pm  
**Venue:** All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP  
**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk) **Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)  
**Tickets:** £20 visit [ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston](http://ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston)

Run for Cover, one of Kingston's favourite cover bands, have performed in the area for nearly 20 years playing disco, Britpop, rock and dance. Now they take on their biggest ever gig and fundraising challenge at All Saints Kingston. The gig will be supported by Kingston's Park Brewery who are brewing a special Athelstan Ale to mark 1100 years since Athelstan's coronation.



## Kingston College - Send in the Clowns

**Date:** Thursday 15 May 2025  
**Time:** 6.30pm  
**Venue:** ACT Theatre, Kingston College, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1AQ  
**Email:** [marta.parszeniew@stcg.ac.uk](mailto:marta.parszeniew@stcg.ac.uk)  
**Website:** [stcg.ac.uk/kingston-college](http://stcg.ac.uk/kingston-college)

Join us for a night of dazzling performances, breathtaking choreography, and a whole lot of fun under the big top! From acrobatic-inspired moves to mesmerizing routines, you won't want to miss this spectacular event.

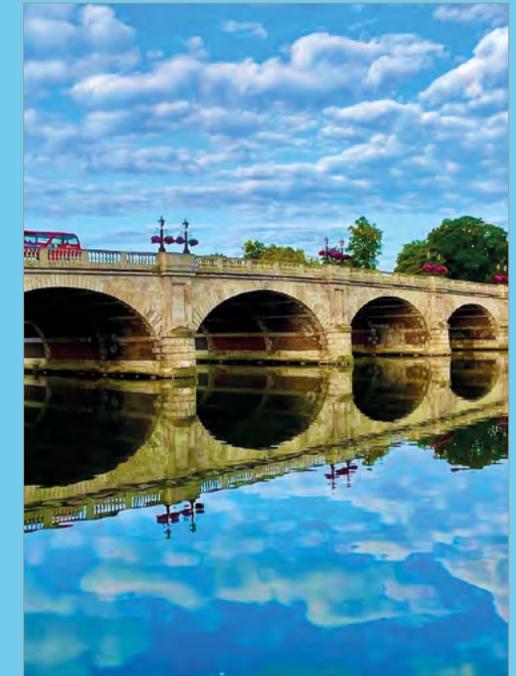


Photo credit: **Capture Kingston 2024 Winner, Amanda Page**

## Capture Kingston 2025 Competition

**Date:** May - October 2025  
**Venue:** Kingston History Centre  
**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk/capturekingston](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk/capturekingston)  
**Entry:** Free at [kingstonheritage.org.uk/homepage/31/capture-kingston](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk/homepage/31/capture-kingston)

Capture Kingston is an annual photography competition sponsored by the Friends of Kingston Museum and Heritage Service. This year, it will launch in May and the theme will focus on capturing moments across the borough of the Kingston 2025 celebrations. Last year's overall winner was Amanda Page with her photograph 'Bridge in Calm Waters'.



## Stanley Picker Gallery

**Date:** 8 May to 19 July and 16 September 2025

**Venue:** [Kington School of Art, Kingston University, KT1 2QJ](#)

**Tel:** 0208 417 4074

**Website:** [stanleypickergallery.org](#)

**Tickets:** Free entry

**Instagram:** @stanleypicker

Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University is a creative hub working with artists, students, academics and members of the local community to encourage innovation and creativity. Alongside special festival projects with artists Diana Puntar and Ian Wornast, the gallery is presenting new work by Stanley Picker Fellows Ilona Sagar (8 May - 19 July) and Davinia-Ann Robinson (from 16 Sept). Outside the venue a temporary 'Shrine' and 'Sauna' have been created by students from the university's School of Architecture & Landscape and local community groups.

Kingston School of Art Degree Show 2025 also runs across the neighbouring faculty from 7-13 June



## Dorich House Museum

**Date:** Thursday - Saturday (seasonal closure 31 July to 3 September 2025)

**Time:** 11am - 5pm

**Venue:** [Dorich House Museum, 67 Kingston Vale, London, SW15 3RN](#)

**Email:** [dorichhousemuseum@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:dorichhousemuseum@kingston.ac.uk)

**Website:** [dorichhousemuseum.org.uk](#)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Dorich House presents new works in bronze by Kingston School of Art REMET competition winners (from 3 May) and an installation by Angela Ford of Studio Raw Origins drawing on histories of forced migration from a decolonial perspective. The museum's garden party (21 June, 1 - 5pm) will preview a show of Icheon ceramics by Han Do-hyun (opening 4 September).

## Kingston College Higher Education Graduate Show 2025

**Date:** Saturday 17 - Thursday 22 May 2025

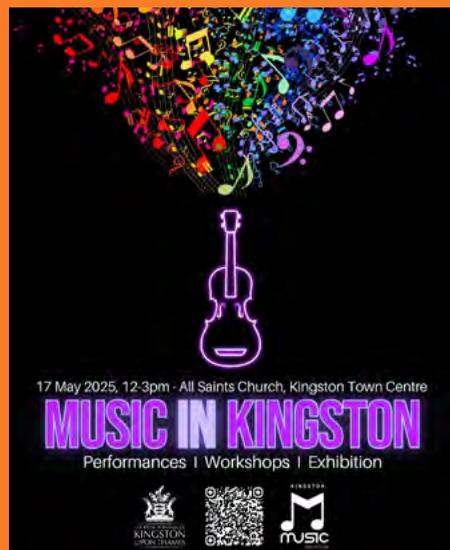
**Time:** Mon - Fri, 10am - 5pm, Sat, 10am - 1pm

**Venue:** Penny School Gallery, Kingston College Creative Industries Centre 55 Richmond Road, Kingston, KT2 5BP

**Website:** [stcg.ac.uk/kingston-college/facilities/penny-school-gallery](#)

**Instagram:** @kingston.college\_creatives

Kingston College presents its Higher Education Graduate Show, featuring students studying tattoo illustration, fashion and textiles. Visitors can expect a diverse mix of illustration and contemporary textiles and fashion, with work that explores unique themes, modern ideas, and innovative techniques.



## Music in Kingston

**Date:** Saturday 17 May 2025

**Time:** 12 - 3pm

**Venue:** All Saints Church, 14 - 16 Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JP

**Email:** [musicservice@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@kingston.gov.uk)

**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk/musicinkingston](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk/musicinkingston)

**Tickets:** Free entry

During 2025, Kingston Music Service will be celebrating music across the borough. Join them for an afternoon of performances, workshops, and exhibitions from some of the most exciting music makers in the borough. An amazing opportunity for the family to try playing all sorts of musical instruments, watch performances from local groups and join in workshops with a variety of musical organisations.



## Fashion Fortnight - Kingston's Swinging Sixties - 60 years on

**Date:** Saturday 17 May - Sunday 1 June 2025

**Venue:** Hollyfield Road, Surbiton

**Email:** [contact@thecommunitybrain.org](mailto:contact@thecommunitybrain.org)

**Website:** [thecommunitybrain.org](http://thecommunitybrain.org)

**Tickets:** Free entry

This year marks 60 years since Kingston's School of Art delivered an astonishing international coup for Great Britain. In St. Gall, Switzerland in 1965, Kingston's students defeated continental counterparts to claim the prestigious International Youth Fashion Design award. The Community Brain will celebrate this story and 60 years of fashion in Kingston and beyond, exploring the role it has played in shaping the lives of its people and their sense of place and culture. Fashion Fortnight will kick off with Mini Day in Surbiton. Celebrate the swinging '60s and come dressed to impress!



## Kingston Museum Community Showcase Re-launch

**Date:** May 2025

**Time:** Thursday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

**Venue:** Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston, KT1 2PSJ

**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Kingston Museum re-launches its Community Case showcasing artworks by the Queen's Promenade Friends (QPF). The QPF is a voluntary group founded in 2019 and dedicated to improving the river promenade in Kingston. The Community Case is open to local organisations and individuals who want to present their creative work and contribution to the culture, heritage and conservation of the borough.



## Mini Day

**Date:** Saturday 17 May 2025

**Time:** 11 am

**Venue:** Hollyfield Road, Surbiton

**Email:** [contact@thecommunitybrain.org](mailto:contact@thecommunitybrain.org)

**Website:** [thecommunitybrain.org](http://thecommunitybrain.org)

**Tickets:** Free entry

The Community Brain invites you to a spectacular day of family friendly activity this spring. Celebrate the ingenuity of John Cooper, the triumph of the Mini Cooper at the Monte Carlo Rally of '65, and wider stories of innovation and cutting edge design in Surbiton. Featuring:

- Over 100 Minis through the ages
- Live music
- Tours of the garage where John Cooper was based
- Screenings of The Italian Job
- Food and drink
- A 'Mini Monte' drive through the streets of Kingston
- Vintage London bus
- Fashion runway - take part on the day

# Opening of Rupert Bear Mural Celebrating Alfred Bestall

**Date:** TBC

**Venue:** Surbiton Station, Victoria Road, KT6 4PE

Ten stunning panels depicting Rupert Bear will be installed at Surbiton Station to celebrate the iconic Alfred Bestall. Organised by visual artist and local resident Stephen Norman Young, the mural will form part of the Surbiton Art Trail, with support from Friends of Surbiton Station. Funded by Kingston Council the tribute honours Bestall's 30 year career crafting Rupert's adventures for the Daily Express. Born in 1892 in Burma, Bestall lived in Surbiton for over 40 years. The mural is designed by Stuart Trotter, Rupert's current illustrator since 2008 as a timeless nod to a bear's enduring legacy.



Image courtesy of: **Stuart Trotter**

## Anglo-Saxon History Talk

**Date:** Monday 19 May 2025

**Time:** 6pm - 7pm

**Venue:** Guildhall, High Street, Kingston, KT1 1EU

**Tel:** 020 8547 6700

**Email:** [adult.education@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:adult.education@kingston.gov.uk)

**Website:** [kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation](http://kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation)

**Tickets:** £10 per person (\*30% discount available, subject to eligibility criteria)

Find out about life in Anglo-Saxon England at the time of King Athelstan in this entertaining one hour talk. Hear about the importance of the role of Kingston upon Thames as a centre of royal power plus the structure of society, the place of religion, and the role of art and culture during Anglo-Saxon times.

**KINGSTON ADULT EDUCATION**  
Learn • Achieve • Progress

**New History Talk!**

**Anglo-Saxon History**

- Monday 19 May
- 6pm to 7pm
- Guildhall, High Street, Kingston KT1 1EU
- £10 per person

[www.kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/adulteducation)

# Kingston Adult Education's Festival of Learning

**Date:** Wednesday 4 - Sunday 22 June 2025

**Time:** 10am to 4pm

**Venue:** Rose Theatre, 24 - 26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1H

**Website:** [adult.education@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:adult.education@kingston.gov.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry



Join us for the Festival of Learning, an annual celebration of Kingston Adult Education, showcasing the talents of our learners through arts, crafts, creative writing, and more. As part of Kingston 2025, their work will express what Kingston means to them, offering an inspiring glimpse into the borough's creativity - with some artworks on sale!

## A 'Royal' Choral Evensong

**Date:** Sunday 18 May 2025

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP

**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

To celebrate the coronation of King Athelstan, the Choir of All Saints Kingston will be joined by the Choir of HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, for a special service of Choral Evensong. This combination of two outstanding choirs promises to be a royal treat. The guest preacher will be the Revd Martin Hislop, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames and Vicar of St Luke's Kingston.





Image: **Diana Puntar**

## Chimera - An Alternative Kingston Heritage Trail

**Launch event:** Saturday 24 May 2025

**Date:** 24 May - 1 November 2025

**Time:** 11am to 1pm

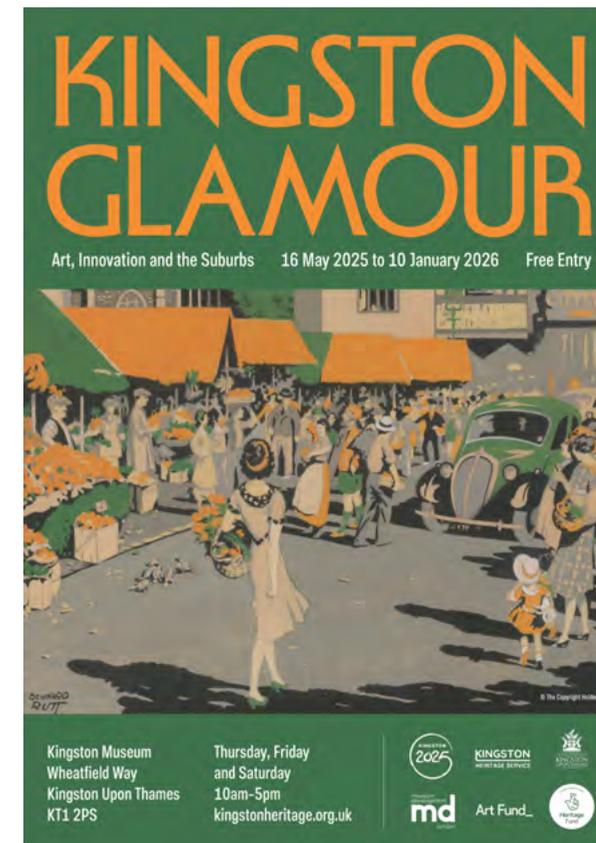
**Venue:** Town House, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, KT1 2EQ

**Tel:** 020 8417 4074

**Website:** [stanleypickergallery.org](http://stanleypickergallery.org)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Chimera is an alternative heritage and sculpture trail around Kingston Town Centre by artist Diana Puntar, co-commissioned by Stanley Picker Gallery at Kingston University and the Royal Borough of Kingston for Kingston 2025. The trail features artworks that explore the transformation of historical objects into symbols of English heritage, with locations including Kingston University's Town House Library, Kingston Museum, Frederick W Paine Funeral Museum and All Saints Church. Puntar's project places new sculptures within existing heritage sites, and ongoing community engagement, to question the role of monuments in shaping collective memory and cultural identity. Pick up a free guide at one of the main trail venues or visit [stanleypickergallery.org](http://stanleypickergallery.org) for information.



## Kingston Glamour Exhibition

**Date:** 16 May - 10 January 2026

**Time:** Thursday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm

**Venue:** Kingston Museum, Wheatfield Way, Kingston, KT1 2PS

**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

This fascinating exhibition will celebrate the borough as a site of aspiration and innovation in the Twentieth Century. Find out about Kingston's glamorous reputation for late night cabaret, race cars and fashion and how it led the way in architecture and modern interior design. Focusing on the 1920s to 1970s, and encompassing Art Deco, the Ace of Spades nightclub on the Kingston Bypass, Suburban Modernism, and Mary Quant and the Swinging Sixties, this exhibition will celebrate Kingston's starring role in the enterprising history of the suburbs. In recapturing a sense of Kingston's stylish past, it seeks to identify contemporary parallels to shine a light on brilliant aspects of present day Kingston.



## Celebrate Chessington

**Date:** Thursday 29 May 2025

**Time:** 12pm - 4.30pm

**Venue:** Churchfields Recreation Ground, Church Lane, Chessington, KT9 2DR

**Email:** [info@celebratechessington.co.uk](mailto:info@celebratechessington.co.uk)

**Website:** [celebratechessington.co.uk](http://celebratechessington.co.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry (purchase tickets for stalls, food and activities @ £1 per token)

Celebrate Chessington is a free family event, run by volunteers for the benefit of the community. Fairground rides, face painting, tombolas, a bbq and much more will be on Churchfields between 12pm and 4pm. In addition, this year to mark the commemoration of Victory in Europe day, come along to see a collection of military vehicles for the first time ever.



and ensemble for this special project. Ten talented young people will play live music over a silent film of archive footage following a short documentary about Eadweard Muybridge.

## Echoes of Kingston - Cine Schools

**Date:** Friday 6 June 2025

**Time:** 4pm - 5pm

**Venue:** [Rose Theatre, 24 - 26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL](#)

**Email:** [info@ciffest.org](mailto:info@ciffest.org)

**Website:** [ciffest.org](http://ciffest.org)

**Entry:** Free to schools

Working with Kingston primary schools and Kingston Music Service, Ciné Schools has created a primary school film unit

## Kingston International Film Festival

64 films, 5 venues, 4 days for all ages

### Pre-festival outdoor screening

**Date:** Saturday 4 May 2025

**Venue:** [Canbury Gardens](#)

### Main Festival

**Date:** Friday 6 June - Sunday 8 June 2025

**Venue:** [Rose Theatre, Odeon, Kingston University Town House](#)

**Website and tickets:** [kiffest.uk](http://kiffest.uk)

The Kingston International Film Festival kicks off on 4 May with screenings in Canbury Gardens of **Chicken-Run** at 1pm, a double bill of silent movies from Chaplin and Keaton and **Grease**. There will be food and drink stands or bring your own picnics.

The main festival runs from 6-8 June with screenings at the Rose Theatre and Odeon with workshops presented by industry experts at Kingston University. The programme includes new and classic features, short and documentary films such as Reawakening starring Jared Harris and Erin Doherty (**Adolescence**), and a 50th anniversary restored version of **Tommy** and **Signs of Life**.



## Kingston Artists Open Studios

**Date:** Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 June and Saturday 14 - Sunday 15 June 2025

**Time:** 11am - 5pm all days

**Venue:** FUSEBOX 2 Bucklands Wharf, Thames Side, Kingston, KT1 1TF

**Email:** info@kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk

**Website:** kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk

Artists throughout the borough will be joining in Open Studios - a nationwide scheme, in which artists open their homes and studios to the public. Visiting is free and artists are happy to talk about their creative process. A trail map is available from [kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk](http://kingstonartistsopenstudios.co.uk). This year KAOS and FUSEBOX are continuing their collaboration with the Kingston Young Artists



Photo credit: **Tideway, Gerald Eccles**

competition which is open to artists between the ages of 17 and 25 living, working or studying in the borough.



## Voices of Hope, Summer Tea Party

**Date:** Saturday 14 June 2025

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** Kingston United Reformed Church

**Email:** choirs@voh.org.uk

**Website:** voh.org.uk

**Tickets:** Free entry

Connect with others, sing along, or simply soak in the atmosphere. Be part of this special occasion that brings people together through the power of music.

Join us for a joyous celebration that brings music, connection and community to life! This special event unites community groups and Voices of Hope's older people's choirs with local residents for a performance with a twist!

## DanceWest Fest Community Showcase

**Date:** Sunday 15 June 2025

**Time:** Performance 1.30pm and 7pm

**Venue:** [Rose Theatre, 24 - 26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL](http://RoseTheatre.org.uk)

**Website:** [rosetheatre.org.uk](http://rosetheatre.org.uk)

**Tickets:** £10, £6 (concessions)

Join us for the biggest celebration of community dance with dance groups of all ages from across Kingston and west London showcasing their amazing talent. Featuring a range of dance genres from contemporary, jazz, folk, hip hop and street. This inclusive and dynamic showcase returns in a long running collaboration between the Royal Borough of Kingston and pioneering community dance leaders - DanceWest.



## Kingston College Summer Show 2025

**Summer Show 2025**

**Date:** Monday 16 June to Friday 27 June 2025

**Time:** Mon - Fri, 10am - 5pm

**Main Event:** Wednesday 18 June 2025

**Time:** 3pm - 7pm

**Venue:** Kingston College Creative Industries Centre, 55 Richmond Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT2 5BP

**Email:** lauren.mason@stcg.ac.uk

**Website:** [stcg.ac.uk/kingston-college/facilities/penny-school-gallery](http://stcg.ac.uk/kingston-college/facilities/penny-school-gallery)

**Instagram:** @kingston.college\_creatives



The Creative Industries Centre at Kingston College hosts its annual Summer Show in June, featuring work from students studying Art & Design, Fashion & Textiles, 3D Design, Creative Media, Graphics, Photography and more. The exhibition is hosted in the Penny School Gallery and college studios, showcasing innovative and diverse works. The main event includes live music, inflatable games and refreshments. It's a fantastic opportunity to support young creative talent and discover Kingston's emerging artists!

# Our Beautiful World - A Primary Singing Festival

**Date:** Monday 16 - Thursday 19 June 2025

**Venue:** Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL

**Email:** [musicservice@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:musicservice@kingston.gov.uk)

**Website:** [rosetheatrekingston.org.uk](http://rosetheatrekingston.org.uk)

**Tickets:** £10, £7 (concessions)

Over four days, 25 local primary schools will join together to celebrate "Our Beautiful World". Each performance will involve massed performances of three new songs composed by local students reflecting our children's thoughts and feelings on living in Kingston in 2025.



## Ian Wornast - A Journey Through Kingston

**Date:** 19 June - 19 July 2025

**Time:** Tuesday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm

**Venue:** Stanley Picker Gallery Project Studio, Kingston School of Art, Kingston University, KT1 2QJ

**Tel:** 0208 417 4074

**Website:** [stanleypickergallery.org](http://stanleypickergallery.org)

**Tickets:** Free entry

A Journey Through Kingston presents an original large-scale drawing by London-based artist Ian Wornast. Following a series of research trips, Ian has interwoven references to the local area, constructing a landscape that centres on the idea of journeying in his unique graphic artistic style. This vivid drawing has been commissioned for a permanent public artwork, for the new Unilever Campus in Kingston by Cube Real Estate. Ian Wornast is a resident artist at ActionSpace, a visual arts organisation that supports learning disabled artists across London.

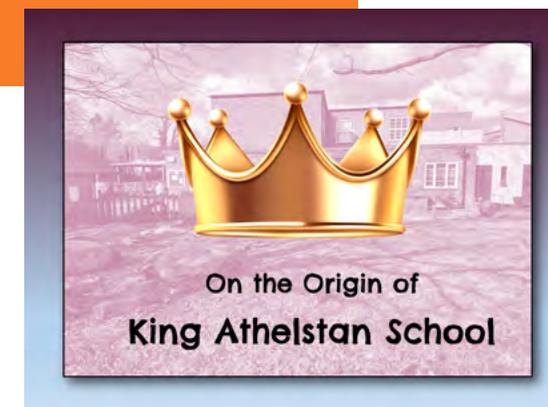
Image credit: **Artist Portrait 2024**  
Photo courtesy of **Ian Wornast and ActionSpace**

# On the Origin of King Athelstan Primary School

**Email:** [sarah@storystorks.co.uk](mailto:sarah@storystorks.co.uk)

**Website:** [storystorks.co.uk](http://storystorks.co.uk)

King Athelstan Primary has served the children of Kingston for a long time. But just how long, and why is it named after King Athelstan? Students will uncover the origin story of their school using historical records and collecting living histories. The story will be published online, along with an Athelstan Historical trail. Can you help? If you have memories of King Athelstan Primary School please share them at [storystorks.co.uk/kapsmemories](http://storystorks.co.uk/kapsmemories)



## Kingston 2025 Summer Reading Challenge

**Date:** July to September 2025

**Venue:** All Kingston Libraries

**Website:** [libraries.kingston.gov.uk](http://libraries.kingston.gov.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Children visiting any of the seven libraries in the borough this summer can take part in a very special Kingston 2025 edition of the annual reading challenge. Running from July until September, children will collect a local clue for each book read and work towards a special Kingston 2025 reward to celebrate their reading achievements.



Kingston's libraries all have a designated children's area. Everyone is welcome to visit and it's free to join and borrow books. There's a wide range of fiction and information books to keep children of all ages reading happily throughout the summer holidays, as well as Saxon crafts and other activities to join in with.

# Bridging Kingston - A Musical Odyssey

**Date:** Saturday 28 June 2025

**Time:** Performance times, 1pm and 7pm

**Venue:** [Rose Theatre, 24-26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1H](#)

**Website:** [fuseinternational.org](#)

**Tickets:** £12, £7 (concessions)

Commissioned specially for the Kingston 2025 programme, talented composer Cheyenne Gibbs-Singh will bring Kingston's history to life through the imaginations

of 150 primary school children from six Kingston primary schools and Southside Youth Group. Premiering on the opening night of Fuse International, this evocative new music production is inspired by different scenes from Kingston's history and created and performed by the young people involved in its development. With a live band and an enthusiastic cast, hear new songs that evoke key moments in Kingston's history.

## FUSE International Festival

**Date:** Saturday 28 June to Sunday 6 July

**Venue:** [Rose Theatre, FUSEBOX & Arthur Cotterell Theatre](#)

**Tickets:** [www.fuseinternational.org](#)

FUSE International is a festival of live performance and creativity. The programme is packed with inspiring, funny and thought-provoking shows that bring us together. With theatre, dance, comedy, cabaret, visual arts and more – there is something for everyone, and it's all created by young and emerging artists from around the world.

This year's programme features a special collaboration with partners from South Korea including a night of Kingston hip hop and Korean K-Pop with dancers from Vital Signz and the Siheung City Youth Foundation. Audiences can also look



forward to an eclectic evening of Classical Korean music meets iconic UK Pop by the world-renowned South Korean conductor Jong Hoon Bae and the Seocho Philharmonic Orchestra, organised with the support of Jane Lim (Anglo / Korean Relations Advisor to Sir Edward Davey MP). Distinkt Company from Bucharest will return with a dazzling version of **Midsummer Night's Dream** inspired by 1980s culture. Thames Youth Music Theatre's will be showcasing a new production of **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat**.



## Kingston Carnival - Drumming Workshop Programme

**Date:** July: 6, 13, 20. August: 3, 10, 17, 31. September: 6,7

**Time:**

**Venue:**

**Email:** [info@communitydrumming.co.uk](mailto:info@communitydrumming.co.uk)

**Website:** [communitydrumming.co.uk](http://communitydrumming.co.uk)

**Tickets:** £60/adults or £100/family

Community Drumming CIC is organising a series of eight drumming workshops to bring the vibrant energy of Afro Brazilian drumming to Kingston Carnival 2025. The workshops are open to adults and children interested in being part of a drumming band during the Carnival parade. Registration fee includes eight drumming workshops, two social events, a t-shirt and a costume for Kingston Carnival.



## Dragon Boat Festival

**Date:** Sunday 20 July 2025

**Time:** 10am - 4.30pm

**Venue:** Canbury Gardens, Lower Ham Road, Kingston, KT2 5AU

**Tickets:** Free entry

The community Dragon Boat Festival includes 50 teams primarily made up of local charities and groups. The event features community stalls, food and drinks, family activities and even a funfair. Join us for this spectacular summer event - a great day out for all the family! Last year's teams raised over £100,000 for their various charities.

# The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim Walk

**Date:** 18 August - 4 September 2025  
**Website:** [athelstan1100.co.uk](http://athelstan1100.co.uk)

The Malmesbury to Kingston Pilgrim Walk will take place over 11 days arriving in Kingston at 10:30am on Thursday 4 September to participate in a joint reception. It will mainly follow historic routes highlighting points with important Anglo-Saxon history. The walk is being organised by the North Wiltshire Athelstan Pilgrim Way team, Malmesbury's



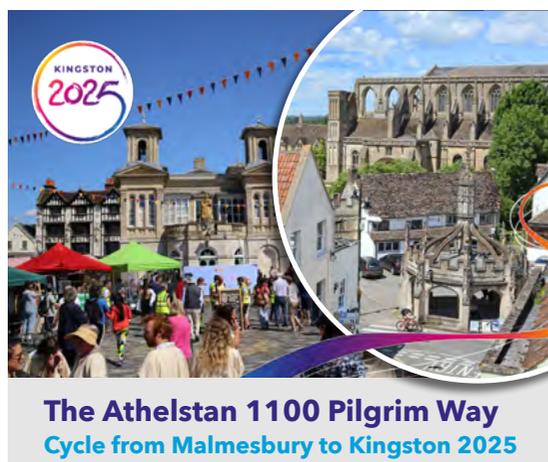
**The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim Way**

Athelstan 1100 team (led by Malmesbury Town Team), and Kingston's Athelstan Coronation Team.

# The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim's Cycle Ride

**Date:** Wednesday 3 - Thursday 4 September 2025  
**Time:** 10am  
**Email:** [hello@athelstan1100.co.uk](mailto:hello@athelstan1100.co.uk)  
**Website:** [athelstan1100.co.uk](http://athelstan1100.co.uk)  
**Register:** Email your name, contact details and cycling club affiliation by 16 May to register your interest.

In 2024, Malmesbury in North Wiltshire celebrated the 1100th anniversary of Athelstan becoming king. On 4 September 2025 Kingston upon Thames is celebrating the 1100th anniversary of Athelstan's coronation as the King of Wessex and Mercia. To highlight the connection between these events the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, a popular network of footpaths and cycleways across North Wiltshire, is being extended to Kingston upon Thames.



**The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim Way  
Cycle from Malmesbury to Kingston 2025**

## Would you like to be part of the Cycle from Malmesbury to Kingston?

We'll be leaving Malmesbury at 10am on Wednesday 3 September, over-nighting in Maidenhead and arriving in Kingston at 10.30am on Thursday 4 September to participate in a joint reception. Club and experienced cyclists will need to be comfortable riding 80 miles a day.

# Royal Borough of Kingston Street art

**Date:** Saturday 23 - Sunday 24 August 2025  
**Venue:** Kingston Town Centre  
**Instagram:** @inkingstonuk and @Theroyalboroughofstreetart  
**Tickets:** Free entry



Image credit: **Street art by irony**

Kingston First, the town's business improvement district, is delighted to support Kingston 2025 with a mural festival. The festival will showcase a diversity of local, national and international street artists, who will create striking large scale murals over the course of a week across Kingston Town Centre.

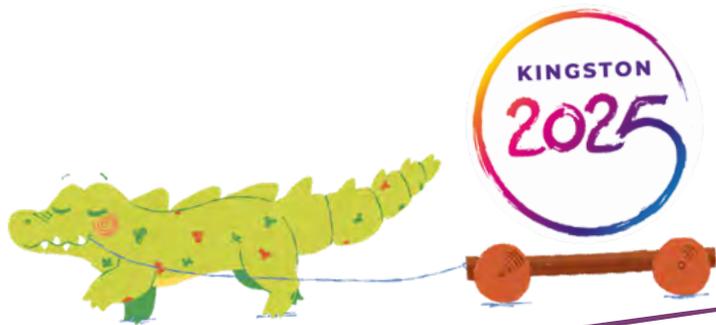
Watch live art being created and visit artists' curated exhibitions, where locals and visitors can buy keepsakes and engage with the artists. Street workshops will also be available for all ages to have a go at spray painting under the supervision of trained professionals. Keep an eye on Instagram for more details.

# Han Do-hyun | Icheon Ceramics

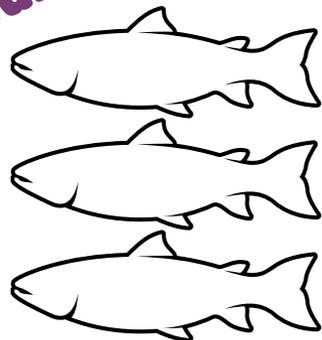
**Date:** Thursday 4 September 2025  
**Time:** Thursday - Saturday, 11am - 5pm  
**Venue:** [Dorich House Museum, 67 Kingston Vale, London, SW15 3RN](http://Dorich House Museum, 67 Kingston Vale, London, SW15 3RN)  
**Email:** [dorichhousemuseum@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:dorichhousemuseum@kingston.ac.uk)  
**Website:** [dorichhousemuseum.org.uk](http://dorichhousemuseum.org.uk)



Dorich House Museum is delighted to show new works by South Korean artist Han Do-hyun, made specially for Kingston 2025. Han was born in Icheon in South Korea and his work has been exhibited in Korea and internationally. In 2023 he was selected as an "Icheon Ceramic Master" in recognition of his skills. We are grateful for the support of Jane Lim, Anglo/Korean Relations Advisor to Sir Edward Davey MP and Mr Young June Park, Chairman of Ahnsei Foundation and former Vice Minister for Trade, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea in realising this exhibition.



Colour Me



### Kingston 2025 Word Search

V V U W B E N T A L L S K J F  
 X V P K I N G S T O N V F I S  
 Y C O C N O Y Q Z M H B U K N  
 G U C H A U H T F N M M T J A  
 B K A H M R P B U M V C E B P  
 E S I Q E P N G W R N M J L P  
 R B Y H W S L I Z H I J D L I  
 G S M I P D S C V H M V T H T  
 B A M S H C S I G A V H E D Y  
 I X Y T I D U Z N W L X E R P  
 S O N O F T I L M G B I C E G  
 R N V R W S H V Y T T N S E A  
 S H T Y D I J E W Q B O O K G  
 L O O S U R B I T O N H N Y B  
 N A T H E L S T A N B O O I X

- Athelstan
- Bentall
- Carnival
- Chessington
- History
- Kingston
- River
- Saxon
- Snappity
- Surbiton

**Psst...**  
**Here are some clues**  
**about what's coming up in**  
**Kingston 2025**



**True or False?**

2025 is the 1100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of King  
 28 Athelstan's crowning in Kingston



Photo credit: Alison Offer

## Athel's Town: Saxon Encampment and Reenactment

**Date:** Saturday 26 - Sunday 27 July 2025

**Time:** 26 July - 10am - 8pm,  
 27 July - 10am - 5pm

**Venue:** Canbury Gardens, Lower Ham  
 Road, Kingston KT2 5AU

**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Join us for a weekend full of the sights, sounds and smells of early mediaeval life - a truly immersive and action packed weekend! Don't miss the Saxon warrior parade over Kingston Bridge at 12 noon on Saturday 26 July as they beat their

passage with shields and chants to Canbury Gardens and Athel's Town: Saxon Encampment and Reenactment.

Explore the tenth century with Regia Anglorum's living history encampment as they celebrate the very best of life a thousand years ago! Enjoy Saxon battle demonstrations, storytelling, games and crafts throughout the weekend.

Find out about age - old crafts, skills and trades at Kingston Museum's Saxon Fayre, back by popular demand at Canbury Gardens with lots of free family fun. With over 35 community stalls, farm animals, falconry displays, music, beekeeping, flax growing, tapestry-making and a working Saxon Forge - there's plenty to keep everyone of all ages entertained!

# Why Athelstan, why Kingston and why now?

Athelstan, first ruler of what we now recognise as England, has long been admired as one of our most effective monarchs. Indeed, in 2021, Athelstan was the unexpected winner of the 'World Cup of Kings and Queens' run by the hugely popular 'Rest is History Podcast'! To what does he owe this reputation? A highly educated and devout King, he gave many books and holy relics to churches and ordered that the Bible be translated into Anglo-Saxon. He was also an innovative and reforming monarch, passing many new laws and striving to ensure that these were enforced with a fairness that set him apart. Athelstan also had an international vision, forging stronger strategic links with the royal courts of Europe than any previous West Saxon King. Perhaps most notable of all was Athelstan's role in taking forward the work of his grandfather, King Alfred, in uniting the lands that now form England... and that is where Kingston enters the story.

Athelstan was born in about 894, the eldest son of King Edward and grandson of Alfred the Great. Shortly after becoming King, Edward remarried and had further sons, whilst Athelstan was sent to Mercia to live with his aunt Aethelflaed, who was to be highly influential in the development of the future King.



Edward died in July 924, having reconquered East Anglia and taken over Mercia following his sister's death but the succession was unclear, with Athelstan taking Mercia but his younger brother Aelfweard being supported in Wessex. However, when Aelfweard also died in July 924, the path became clear for Athelstan to become ruler of both Wessex and Mercia. He was crowned in Kingston **on 4 September 925**.



By the time of his death at Gloucester in 939, Athelstan had secured his position as the most senior leader in Britain, both through deft diplomacy and the formidable military leadership that culminated in the decisive battle of Brunanburh in 937. He was buried at Malmesbury Abbey, having reigned for only 14 years and was mourned as having died too early.

Athelstan's memory lives on in Kingston, whether in the Coronation Stone, reputedly used in the Coronation of at least three Saxon Kings, the names of our schools or in artworks and architectural adornments across the borough. Our Kingston 2025 celebrations come 100 years after the borough celebrated the millennium of King Athelstan's coronation with considerable interwar civic pageantry. They will show a place that has diversified and developed in ways that our forebears could not have imagined, but with a pride in its culture and heritage that they would recognise and appreciate.

Kingston was already a royal estate and had been the location for a major council meeting in 838. More importantly and symbolically it stood at the boundary of Wessex and Mercia. Many of the noblemen in Wessex opposed Athelstan's rule because he was strongly associated with Mercia. By choosing Kingston for his coronation, Athelstan was signifying the joining of the two kingdoms under one ruler. This coronation was also significant as it introduced a new form of service which for the first time included the use of a crown rather than the traditional helmet, a replica of which can be seen in All Saints Church, Kingston. The ceremony in Kingston was also the first use of the royal symbols of a ring, a sword and a sceptre that are still familiar to us today and played the same key role in the Coronation of King Charles III.





## Seven Saxon Kings Embroideries Unveiling and the Athelstan Anniversary Address by celebrated historian Tom Holland

**Date:** Thursday 4 September 2025

**Time:** 2pm

**Venue:** All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP

**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Tickets:** [free.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston](http://free.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston)

To celebrate the date of King Athelstan's coronation, All Saints Kingston is inviting celebrated Athelstan scholars and local dignitaries to unveil the seven stunning embroideries of the Saxon Kings believed to have been crowned on this site. These contemporary embroidery panels have been created by award winning textile

artist Jacky Puzey and embellished by Beatrice Mayfield.

This will be followed by the Athelstan Anniversary Address by Tom Holland, known to many from the hugely popular podcast The Rest is History. His talk, entitled: 'The Golden Generations: The Founding Family of England' will bring to life the amazing feats of Alfred the Great, Edward the Elder and Lady Aethelflaed, and Edward's son, Athelstan, who became the first monarch who could legitimately claim to have unified the whole of England. Ticket required.

## Festival Service for the 1100th Anniversary of the Coronation of King Athelstan

**Date:** Thursday 4 September 2025

**Time:** 6.30pm

**Venue:** All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP

**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Tickets:** [free.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston](http://free.ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston)

An uplifting festival service to celebrate the crowning of King Athelstan on this site. The church choir will be joined by the choir of Tiffin School to sing some much-loved coronation classics, as well as a new

## Festival Choral Eucharist with the Bishop of Southwark

**Date:** Sunday 7 September 2025

**Time:** 9.30am

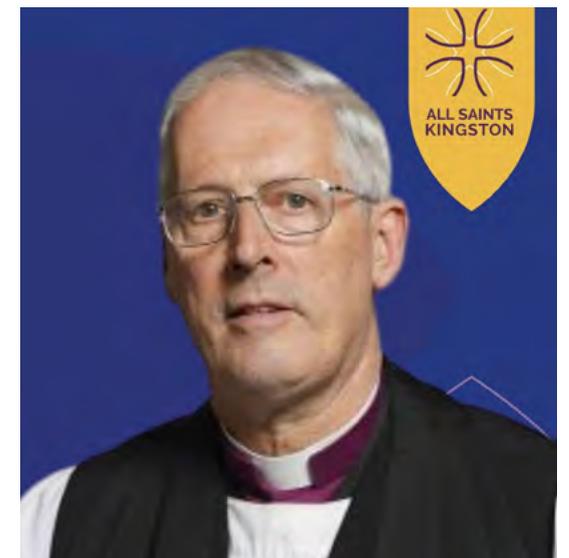
**Venue:** All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP

**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)



"Te Deum" by contemporary composer Marco Galvani, especially commissioned for this occasion. The guest preacher is the distinguished Athelstan scholar The Very Reverend Professor Sarah Foot, Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford University and Dean of Christ Church Oxford. Ticket required.



The Athelstan Anniversary celebrations at All Saints Church conclude with a Festival Choral Eucharist led by the Bishop of Southwark, The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun. At the end of this service the Bishop will bless the Kingston Carnival Parade.

# Public Talks on Seven Saxon Kings Embroideries

Dates and times:

**Friday 30 May**, 10.30am - 12pm  
**Friday 27 June**, 10.30am - 12pm  
**Saturday 26 July**, 1.30pm - 3pm  
**Saturday 30 August**, 1.30pm - 3pm  
**Saturday 27 September**, 9.30am - 11.30am  
**Friday 24 October**, 1.30pm - 3pm  
**Venue:** [All Saints Kingston, Ancient Market Place, KT1 1JP](#)

**Email:** [comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk](mailto:comms@allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Website:** [allsaintskingston.co.uk](http://allsaintskingston.co.uk)

**Tickets:** [£10 ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston](http://£10 ticketsource.co.uk/all-saints-church-kingston)

A series of intimate group talks on our stunning life sized contemporary embroideries, part of the Seven Saxon



Kings Embroidery Project. Seven Kings, including the first “Kings of England” are believed to have been crowned on our site, an important West Saxon Estate. The talks introduce the embroideries and their significant heritage story, the Kings and characters depicted, and the incredible talent that has gone into the design and execution of the panels themselves.

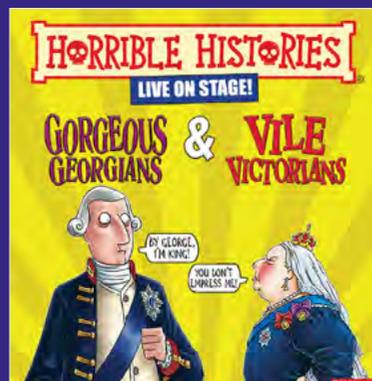
# Horrible Histories - Gorgeous Georgians & Vile Victorians

**Date:** 29 October - 2 November 2025

**Website:** [Rose Theatre 24 -26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL](http://Rose Theatre 24 -26 High Street, Kingston, KT1 1HL)

**Website:** [rosetheatre.org.uk](http://rosetheatre.org.uk)

We all want to meet people from history! The trouble is everyone is dead! So it's time to prepare for Horrible Histories live on stage with the acclaimed production of Gorgeous Georgians and Vile Victorians! Are you ready to swing with a Georgian King? Does the Duke of Wellington get the boot? Would you



stand and deliver to dastardly Dick Turpin? Will you be saved by Florence Nightingale? Find out what a baby farmer did and move to the groove with party Queen Victoria!

# Athelstan Garden opening

**Date:** Saturday 6 September 2025

**Time:** 12 noon

**Venue:** Athelstan Garden, Queen's Promenade

**Website:** [queenspromenadefriends.org](http://queenspromenadefriends.org)

Over the last year, the volunteers of Queen's Promenade Friends have cleared an unsightly area to create a new “Athelstan Garden” with a nod to our local history. The garden will display perennials and spring bulbs, including some Anglo-Saxon plant varieties. The modern block planting style features a colour scheme taken from King Athelstan's coat of arms.

The area will increase pollinator friendly biodiversity and create an attractive garden throughout the seasons. The project has been funded by several organisations and through donations from local residents.





## River Cultures Festival

**Date:** Saturday 6 September 2025  
**Time:** 12 noon - 9pm  
**Venue:** From Ravens Ait to [Canbury Gardens](#)  
**Website:** [kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://kingstonheritage.org.uk)  
**Tickets:** Free entry

Starting at 12 noon, Kingston will celebrate the river and all those who have lived and worked on it over the last millennia with a colourful afternoon and evening of events between Ravens Ait (Queen's Promenade) and Canbury Gardens. Get ready to rewind the clock with a spectacular flotilla of boats ranging from modern day cruisers to Saxons in the year 925!

The cultural diversity, lifestyles and industries of the Royal Borough will be represented in the flotilla with commentary to explain the life of Kingston over the years. Crews and passengers will be dressed to match the era of their craft and to add historical colour.

After the flotilla there will be a series of demonstration events from local sailing clubs who will show all their different craft with crews of all ages in a series of races between Ravens Ait and Kingston Bridge whilst below the Rail Bridge in front of Canbury Gardens the different unpowered craft will demonstrate their racing skills. The powered craft will be moored along the bank on display for all to see.

On land there will be family theatre, music and dance in three locations: Queens Promenade, Eagle Brewery Wharf and Canbury Gardens, alongside community stalls and an area for picnics. Discover the new Athelstan Garden created by the friends of Queen Promenade and listen to music in the bandstand.

The day will then end with a twilight illuminated sail past with the boat lights reflecting on the waters of the River Thames. A lovely free, family event to end the summer.

## Kingston Carnival

**Date:** Sunday 7 September 2025  
**Time:** 12 noon  
**Venue:** Ancient Market Place, Kingston  
**Tickets:** Free entry

In 2025, Kingston Carnival will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a spectacular carnival parade and a day filled with colourful performances, delicious African

Caribbean food and the best ingredient of all - great music. This year's theme takes its lead from Kingston 2025, as we acknowledge the importance of bringing together our many communities in the spirit of tolerance, friendship and togetherness. The carnival parade starts outside the Guildhall, with music stages in the Ancient Market Place and High Street. Organised by Kingston Race and Equalities Council.



# London Design Festival comes to Kingston

**Date:** September

**Venue:** Kingston Town Centre

**Website:** [kts.org.uk/coming-meetings-talks-and-events/](https://kts.org.uk/coming-meetings-talks-and-events/)

This September the Kingston Society is planning to bring the London Design Festival (LDF) to the borough for the first time by participating in this internationally renowned festival. A Design Hub exhibition and Town Talks and Walks will connect

experts and residents to discuss ways to improve the borough for everyone. The walking trails will highlight Kingston's heritage and public art, offering fresh perspectives through a focus on design and history, check The Kingston Society website for further updates.



Other events in the ESEA Culture Festival include the UK national K Pop competition which will be hosted at the Rose Theatre. From K Pop to J Pop to world music, ESEA has it all!

# East Southeast Asian Culture Festival

**Date:** Saturday 13 September 2025

**Time:** 11am - 5pm

**Venue:** Ancient Market Place, Kingston, KT1 1JT

**Website:** [www.kbce.org.uk](http://www.kbce.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

To mark its 10th anniversary, the Korean British Culture Exchange will be organising a special edition of the East Southeast Asian Festival, to celebrate the vibrant diversity of these many cultures. With outdoor performances, workshops, crafts and food, this delightful family event blends wonderful live performances with interactive demonstrations and engaging audience participation.

# Korean Arts Festival

**Date:** Saturday 4 October 2025

**Time:** 7pm

**Venue:** Town House, Kingston University, 55-59 Penrhyn Road, Kingston, KT1 2EE

**Tickets:** £20 adult, under 15, £10

**Website:** [kcauk.co.uk](http://kcauk.co.uk)

The 10th anniversary of the Korean Arts Festival will be marked by this special concert featuring works by Mozart and Handel performed by the Korean Community Choir. Enjoy a soaring rendition of the quintessential Coronation Anthem - Zadok the Priest in a nod to King Athelstan's anniversary.



# Solta o Jogo 3

**Date:** Saturday 8 - Sunday 9 November 2025

**Venue:** [Town House Courtyard, Kingston University, Penrhyn Road, KT1 2EE](#)

**Email:** [info@qmc-capoeirauk.com](mailto:info@qmc-capoeirauk.com)

**Website:** [qmc-capoeirauk.com](http://qmc-capoeirauk.com)

**Tickets:** Free entry

The thrilling third edition of this international Capoeira competition unites over 70 global competitors for an action-packed weekend at Kingston University. Feel the power and rhythm of Capoeira, a captivating blend of acrobatics, technique, music, and art! Watch kids, adults, and expert teams of three compete for medals and trophies. Enjoy cultural performances and an unforgettable celebration of strength, agility, and culture. Don't miss this vibrant showcase of Afro-Brazilian martial arts!



# People and Projects

As part of the borough's special celebrations community grants were awarded to eleven organisations to enable them to develop projects that explore some of the themes, identified through community engagement. Other projects are

taking place supported by Kingston Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Here we shine a spotlight on the passion and commitment of local individuals to work with their communities to bring culture and heritage to life.

## Kanthas of Friendship

Ariadne's Thread

magdalena@ariadnethreadgroup.org  
www.ariadnethreadgroup.org

Magdalena Glowacka, Ariadne's Thread founder, believes that participatory crafts can significantly influence behaviors and social change. **"To sustain mutual respect and acceptance, local communities must embrace cultural exchanges. By engaging with different traditions and stories, we not only enrich our own lives but also build a foundation of understanding and harmony that strengthens us all".**

This cross-cultural project is based on the ancient tradition of textile recycling from Bengal. Participants have been embroidering and block printing, on worn scarves and sarees to preserve old crafts while showcasing their creativity and forward-thinking attitudes.



## Kingston Young Carers Project with Rosetta Life

As part of a heritage community research project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Rosetta Life will be working with Kingston Young Carers. The project will enable Kingston Young Carers to connect with other young people in Plymouth and South Africa to explore their stories through creative workshops. A final film will be shared with audiences as part of Fuse International and made available through the Kingston 2025 archive.

## Whitelight projects

**Venue:** Town Sq, 3 Bucklands Wharf, Kingston, KT1 1TF

**Website:** [whitelightprojects.co.uk/about](http://whitelightprojects.co.uk/about)

Whitelight Projects is a collaboration between photographer Paul Mowatt and artist Zoe Dorelli, with the aim of curating and organising contemporary events in and around South West London. Both Zoe and Paul are based in Kingston and through their relationship with Town Sq co-working space on Kingston Riverside, they have curated exhibitions that feature established and notable artists alongside new talent to showcase innovative and contemporary practice.



## Kingston Carnival celebrates 25 years

Way back in 1988 at the start of his career in Kingston, John Azah - the yet to be appointed Director of Kingston Race and Equalities Council, had an idea - to create a colourful community event that would eventually morph into the present day Kingston Carnival. Now in its 25th year, it's hard to imagine that a funding application for a modest £3k to the local Primary Care Trust (NHS), would lead to development of the annual Kingston Carnival. Despite setbacks along the way, John and his loyal team comprising Prabha Shetty and Javed Rafiq have devoted countless hours to promote Kingston as a place of tolerance, race equality and cultural diversity through the annual Kingston Carnival. This year the carnival on 7 September marks its 25th anniversary - a significant cultural milestone for the borough and team behind the event.



Photo caption: **John Azah celebrating Carnival**

## Finding Home screening - Korean British Culture Exchange

**Date:** TBC

**Time:** TBC

**Venue:** Rose Theatre Cafe

**Website:** [skbce.org.uk](http://skbce.org.uk)

**Tickets:** Free entry

Finding Home is a documentary film that will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Korean British Cultural Exchange. The film will explore themes of identity, belonging, and cultural heritage within East and Southeast Asian (ESEA) communities in the borough. Building on the success of the ESEA Culture Festival, the film will capture deeply personal narratives and lived experiences of those navigating life between cultures. Finding Home highlights the challenges and triumphs of individuals searching for a sense of place and connection to reflect on what 'home' truly means.

## Adventure Through Young Eyes

**Email:** [contact.rhys.paul@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:contact.rhys.paul@kingston.gov.uk) for school bookings

**Website:** [hayesng.cargo.site](http://hayesng.cargo.site)

Hayes Ng, a community artist and researcher, will deliver workshops in local schools and Kingston museum that focus on mapping, object narratives, personal cultural patterns, and collage. He will bring together the stories of over 1000 young people to celebrate the cultural diversity and heritage which will be showcased in schools and at the River Cultures Festival.

An archive and documentary film will preserve the voices of young participants



for future generations. Originally from Hong Kong, Hayes Ng is a lecturer in MA Illustration at Kingston University, his PhD research explores how art-based workshops create opportunities for cultural exchange, helping young people from diverse backgrounds connect with their local community.

## Celebrating Our Place Together - Learn English at Home

**Email:** [info@leah.org.uk](mailto:info@leah.org.uk)

**Website:** [learnenglishathome.org.uk](http://learnenglishathome.org.uk)

As recipients of a Kingston 2025 community grant, this project will highlight Kingston's unique heritage while creating an inspiring cultural experience that will benefit those living in the borough with low-level English language skills. With visits to cultural spots participants will gain

an appreciation of the borough's history while connecting it to their own cultural narratives. This mutual exchange of stories will help to celebrate the contributions of different nationalities and communities to the borough's identity.

# A huge thank you

To all our community partners, sponsors and supporters who made Kingston 2025 possible.

## Sponsors

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## Kingston 2025 Community Heritage Research Project

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund

## Media Partner

Time and Leisure

## Kingston 2025 Community Team

All Saints Church, Kingston  
Creative Youth  
The Community Brain  
Kingston Culture and Heritage Service  
Kingston International Film Festival  
Kingston Race & Equalities Council  
Kingston University  
Kingston Voluntary Action  
Korean British Cultural Exchange  
Rose Theatre  
Rosetta Life  
Stanley Picker Gallery



## Community Participants and Supporters

Adventure Through Young Eyes  
Ariadne's Thread  
Ben Lee  
Cine Schools  
Citizen Zoo  
Community Drumming CIC  
Coombe Academy Trust  
DanceWest  
Dialogue Society  
Dorich House Museum  
Freedom Pulse Band  
Friends of Canbury Gardens  
Friends of Queen's Promenade  
Friends of Surbiton Station  
Groundworks  
Ian Wornast and Action Space  
Jane Lim  
John Adams  
John Lewis Kingston  
King Athelstan Primary School  
Kingston Association for the Blind  
Kingston Artists Open Studios  
Kingston Black Network  
Kingston College  
Kingston First  
Kingston Hive  
Kingston Tour Guides  
Kingston upon Thames Society  
Kingston Young Carers  
Korean Culture & Arts Centre  
Learn English at Home  
Malden Parochial School  
Malmesbury Athelstan 1100 team

Namaste Kingston  
New Malden Residents Association  
New Malden Town Centre Partnership  
North Kingston Choir  
North Wiltshire Pilgrims Way Team  
Park Brewery  
QMC Capoeira-UK  
RBKares  
Refugee Action  
River Users Group 8  
Rockpool Books  
Seocho-gu, Seoul Special Metropolitan City  
South Western Railway  
St George's PLC  
Stephen Young  
Story Storks  
Surbiton Community Forge  
Tamil Heritage Month  
Two Bridges  
Thames Alive  
Traceworks  
Voices of Hope  
White Light Projects

## Special thanks to:

Ciaran McConville, Josh Mathieson,  
Cheyenne Gibbs-Singh

Event Listings	Date	Page	Type
Launch Event	3 May	6	Event
Capture Kingston	May - October	9	Competition
Public Talks on the Saxon Kings Embroideries	May - October	34	Talk
Rupert Bear Mural Celebrating Alfred Bestall at Surbiton Station	May	14	Installation
Kingston Museum's Community Case re-launch	May	13	Exhibition
Dorich House Museum - New works in Bronze by Kingston School of Art	3 May - 30 July	11	Exhibition
Pre-Festival outdoor screening for Kingston International Film Festival	4 May	19	Event/Film
Stanley Picker Fellows Ilona Sagar	8 May - 19 July & 16 September	10	Exhibition
Get in Touch with History	10 May	8	Workshop
All Saints Kingston - Run for Cover gig	10 May	8	Event/Music
Heritage Bus Tour	11 May	7	Tour
Kingston College - Send in the Clowns	15 May	9	Event/Dance
Kingston Museum's Kingston Glamour Exhibition	16 May - 10 January, 2026	17	Exhibition
Kingston College Higher Education Graduate Show 2025	17 May - 22 May	17	Exhibition
Fashion Fortnight - Kingston's Swinging Sixties - 60 years on	17 May - 1 June	12	Event
Mini Day	17 May	13	Event
Music in Kingston	17 May	12	Event/Family
A Royal Choral Evensong	18 May	15	Event/Music
Anglo-Saxon History Talk	19 May	14	Talk
Chimera - An Alternative Kingston Heritage Trail	24 May - 1 November	16	Heritage Trail
Celebrate Chessington	29 May	18	Event/Family
Kingston Adult Education's Festival of Learning	4 June - 22 June	15	Exhibition
Echoes of Kingston - Cine Schools performance	6 June	18	Event/Family
Kingston International Film Festival	6 June - 8 June	19	Festival/Film
Kingston Artists Open Studios	7-8 & 14-15 June	20	Event/Exhibition
Voices of Hope Summer Tea Party	14 June	20	Event/Music
DanceWest Fest Community Showcase	15 June	21	Event/Dance

Event Listings	Date	Page	Type
Our Beautiful World - A Primary Singing Festival	16 - 19 June	22	Music/Family
Kingston College Summer Show 2025	16 - 27 June	21	Exhibition
Ian Wornast Exhibition - A Journey Through Kingston	19 June - 19 July	22	Exhibition
Dorich House Garden Party	21 June	11	Event/Exhibition
Bridging Kingston - A Musical Odyssey	28 June	24	Music/Family
FUSE International Festival	28 June - 6 July	24	Festival
Summer Reading Challenge	July - September	23	Family
Kingston Carnival Drumming Workshops	July 6 - 7 September	25	Workshop
Dragon Boat Festival	20 July	25	Event
Athel's Town: Saxon Encampment and Reenactment	26-27 July	29	Event/Family
The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim Walk	18 August - 4 September	26	Activity
Royal Borough of Kingston Street Art	23 - 24 August	27	Event/Family
London Design Festival - Kingston	September	38	Event
The Athelstan 1100 Pilgrim's Cycle Ride	3 - 4 September	26	Activity
Han-Do-Hyun, Icheon Ceramic's Exhibition	4 September	27	Exhibition
Seven Saxon Kings Embroidery Grand Unveiling	4 September	32	Event
Athelstan Anniversary Address by Tom Holland	4 September	32	Talk
Festival Service for the 1100th Anniversary of the Coronation of King Athelstan	4 September	33	Event/Music
Kingston River Cultures Festival	6 September	36	Event/Family
Athelstan Garden Opening	6 September	35	Event
Kingston Carnival	7 September	37	Event/Family
Festival Choral Eucharist with the Bishop of Southwark	7 September	33	Event/Music
East Southeast Asian Culture Festival	13 September	38	Festival
Korean Arts Festival	4 October	39	Festival
Horrible Histories - Gorgeous Georgians & Vile Victorians	29 October - 2 November	34	Event/Family
Solta o Jogo 3	8 - 9 November	39	Event/Music

Details are correct at time of going to press (17 April 2025)  
but these may change so please check online for updated  
information. New listings may also be added.

[www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/kingston2025](http://www.kingstonheritage.org.uk/kingston2025)

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