

# **Single News – the KSM Volunteers News-brief – October 2020**

## ***Sunday working at Kempton***

During the course of this year there has been an increased presence of volunteers working at the museum on Sundays. The Sunday Team Leader is Stephen Fielding and projects undertaken are numerous, including cataloguing of our collection of artefacts and documents, restoration projects and general maintenance. All volunteers are welcome to attend and any stream of work can be progressed. The day often seems to conclude with a trip to the pub! Remember though that there is no Thames Water security presence at weekends and if you do not have a gate entry card you will need to phone someone in the museum to gain access. It is best to let Stephen know in advance that you plan to attend. Stephen recently achieved clearance from a Disclosure and Barring Service check as has Martin Wicks, this will stand us in good stead should we have any minors or vulnerable people wishing to volunteer.

## ***Museum re-opening***

This was discussed at the last Society committee meeting and a provisional opening schedule was agreed starting in March 2021. This will of course need on-going review as the situation develops and there will be no special events until September at earliest. A working group will be set up to monitor the situation and carry out a full review of the steps that will need to be taken to allow us to safely re-open.

## ***Location hire***

There was a small film shoot held in the museum on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October from a company called Lime Films. It was a very secretive affair and I cannot provide any information on what it was and when it might appear on screen but the £400 fee will come in very handy. Hopefully this is an indication that the film and TV industry is starting up again and that we may get more site hires going forward.

## ***Damaged floor repair***

Volunteer Peter Webb has spent much time recently repairing the floor behind the No 9 engine water pumps. A large water leak had led to corrosion of the ironwork in this area and caused the floor to disintegrate. Peter has carried out substantial work to repair the damage and done an excellent job of re-laying the tiles to greatly improve the appearance and safety of this area. And on the topic of water.....

## ***Et plui super unam civitatem!***

The recent heavy rainfall at Kempton has caused some serious problems with water ingress. The crew cabin roof has required extensive repair due to it leaking badly. The repair has not been completely successful and further work is required. The cabin is currently configured to allow meetings to be held with a maximum of nine attendees but remains out of bounds for other purposes. It is now accepted that the cabin has reached end of life and it has been agreed that a suitable replacement will be obtained.

In addition the engine house suffers from ingress in several areas during heavy rain, some of which affects the DC switchboard (hence the picturesque blue tarpaulin draped over this equipment!). Thames Water have been advised and have promised to have the situation investigated.

*For those of you who like me did not do Latin at school, the heading is from the coat of arms and means 'and I caused it to rain upon one community', with the community most definitely being Kempton!*

## ***Volunteer update***

I am happy to say that we have a couple more new volunteers who have recently joined us:

**Liam Forder** – Liam's qualifications include an Architectural Technologist Hons Degree and a Masters in Historical Buildings conservation. His dissertation was based on the protection of historical pumping stations. He has skills in woodworking and welding and has completed Land Rover restorations.

**Louis Bond** – Louis brings further carpentry skills to us as a trainee fine furniture maker. He also restores old workshop machinery and hand tools for use.

Anna is up and away to university, Oxford no less, but we really hope to see her again during the breaks between terms. We all wish her the very best for this exciting next step in her life.

For further information on any of these items or on other things going on at Kempton please speak with your team leader, or see the minutes from the most recent KGES committee meeting located here: <http://www.kemptonsteam.org/kempton-great-engine-society-meeting-minutes/>