

Single News – the KSM Volunteers News-brief – July 2021

Kempton in steam again!

After being closed for 18 months it was great to be back in steam and open to the public again on the 26th and 27th of June. The weekend went extremely well with the results as shown here:

Day	Adults	Children	Takings
Saturday	130	41	£1,481
Sunday	145	57	£1,756

Due to issues beyond our control the overflow car park was unavailable unless needed urgently. This caused concerns about parking but it turned out okay. The normal parking area filled up on Sunday morning but there was always space available in the South car park (where volunteers usually park). Having volunteers present beneath the A316 to direct visitors towards free spaces and answer any questions was much appreciated by visitors, especially those running late for their rides on the railway! KGET Trustee David Lawrie, who was in attendance on Sunday, sent out the following message to Society Chairman, Stephen Fielding, on behalf of the Trust:

Dear Stephen,

Huge congratulations to you and the entire team of volunteers for pulling off a superb opening weekend in spite of the difficult circumstances!

Every part of the visitor experience - from the on-line booking, the reception, the clearly marked and well interpreted route around the Museum, the volunteers actively engaging with visitors, to the refreshments - was positive, professional and very well organised!

All credit to Jerry and his technical team for getting No.6 ready - and it was very good to have it running for an extended period of time so that as many visitors as possible could see and hear it in operation.

Credit also to the many volunteers who made the building spick and span, cleared the "clutter", prepared all the other artefacts and exhibits for display - including the touchscreens - and produced the excellent guidebook. Special thanks to Martin Wicks, who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to set up the booking and payment system, the touchscreen terminals and lots more!

I'm sure that I've missed out lots of people – please thank them too!

The people I spoke to were impressed with the Museum, engaged with the exhibits, keen to learn as much as possible, were clearly having a good time and expressed an intent to return soon.

Onwards and upwards!

Best regards - David.

Upcoming openings

The next open weekend is due on the 17th and 18th of July and this will soon come around! The same Covid-19 restrictions will need to remain in place but hopefully from then on we will begin to see a return to normal operation with the provision of guided tours and supplementary events and displays.

The museum will also be opening for Open House London on the weekend of 4th and 5th September. No 6 will not be run but the intention is to provide guided tours, refreshments and sale of merchandise.

Location hire

A photo-shoot held in the museum on Friday 2nd July went very well and earned us a useful £500.

Two further enquiries for filming have been made and we are waiting to see if these come to fruition.

Arts Richmond ‘Artist of the Year’ competition

On Saturday 28th August Arts Richmond (a charity who support arts and culture in and around the London Borough of Richmond) will be holding their Artist of the Year competition at the museum.

A maximum of 40 artists will be given four hours to paint or sketch a subject or scene of their choice with the results being judged and prizes given at the end of the day. Arts Richmond are excited to use Kempton for this event as it is different in nature to venues typically used in the past. Although no fee is being charged Arts Richmond are promoting the event heavily providing us with good publicity.

For further information on any of these items or on other things going on at Kempton please speak with your team leader, or ask to see the minutes from the most recent KGES committee meeting by sending an email request to me at: rabbott@blueyonder.co.uk

Author: Richard Abbott

Date: 4th July 2021