

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

Another good weekend

The October steaming weekend was another good one with our second highest attendance numbers this year, beaten only by August. The final steaming weekend will be on 20th and 21st November prior to our winter break.

Day	Adults	Under-18s	Takings
Saturday	119	24	£1,566
Sunday	167	42	£2,108

Dates for next year

The Society committee have now agreed steaming weekend dates for next year and these will soon be available on the website and on a simple flyer. They will start in March and run to November, but with a break in July. August this year was a very good weekend so this will be repeated in 2022. Some special events will be planned, generally on every other month. Further details on these are to follow.

Making the Museum more accessible

There has been much discussion lately regarding disabled access to the museum.

It is a legal requirement for a building with public access to provide disabled access unless it can be categorically proven that this is not possible. With our chairlift inoperative we are not compliant with this requirement and investigation was undertaken to see if there was an alternative solution. This indicated that a vertical lift could be fitted in the loading bay that would provide access onto the driving level close to the refreshment area. This solution has a number of advantages. It offers a dignified method of access for people with limited mobility with helpers able to accompany them and will also help visitors with children in pushchairs. It would be visitor operated so no volunteer training would be required. The loading bay is a suitable location to fit a lift requiring little work to be carried out on the museum structure and a lift of this sort would offer ease of use and high levels of reliability. This is a difficult decision to make. Moving to a new solution means writing off the financial cost invested in the current chairlift and the substantial effort volunteers have put in to try to bring this back into operation, notably by Alan Staines. However the committee feel this is the right way to go and will be asking the Trust to support this course of action. It is not a cheap option though with an initial quote coming in at £26,000. Further quotes will be obtained and the Trust will investigate to see if external funding can be obtained to cover some of the cost. Thames Water and Historic England will also need to be asked to give approvals for the installation. If approved the intention would be to have the lift installed over the Winter break to be ready for the March steaming weekend.

Society membership renewals

The Society committee have agreed that KGES membership fees, which have remained unchanged for many years now, should finally be subject to an increase from 1st January 2022 as follows:

Individual - £16 (from £12), Family - £25 (from £18), Junior - £6 (from £5), Life - £275 (from £240).

Renewals prior to 1st January will only require the old price to be paid and can be carried out now. The easiest way to do this is to log in to the membership management system and make an on-line payment by card. Note that we no longer use PayPal to facilitate online payments in membermojo but use an alternative provider called Stripe for this service. The membership system is located here: <https://membermojo.co.uk/kemptonsteam/signin>

If you get a screen requesting sign-in with a password, just select '*Sign In without password*', then enter your email address and select '*Sign In with email*'. You will then receive an email with a link which will give you access to your details. Active volunteers will also see their emergency contact details and can add these if they are missing or make any adjustments that may be required.

It's party time!

The Society committee is pleased to announce that the volunteer Christmas party will be held this year on Thursday 16th December at the museum. All volunteers are invited to attend this. Food and drink will be provided by the Trust to say thank you to you all for your continued hard work and dedication.

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