

Single News – the KSM Volunteers News-brief – March 2023

We have lift off!

Kempton Steam Museum has taken a major step forward as an inclusive visitor attraction following the successful installation of a platform lift located in the loading bay. Rising from ground level to the driving floor, this gives vastly improved accessibility to visitors with limited mobility and those attending with infants in pushchairs. Funding for the installation was provided by the London Borough of Hounslow.



This project has been a challenging piece of work. The application for funding was duly approved (with £39k being provided by LBH) and Evolifts chosen as the supplier (the lift was manufactured in Sweden). Substantial preparation work was then required to improve the condition of the floor in the loading bay, fit steelwork to support the framework of the lift and to provide the necessary electrical supplies. This work was successfully completed allowing Evolifts to attend Kempton late in February to install the lift, with this now being fully operational. Some final steps are in hand such as signage and creating instructions on how to deal with any problems such as the lift failing during travel. An Evacuation Chair has also been purchased to allow anyone within the building with limited mobility to be taken out should the lift become inoperative. The final stage of the project will be to remove the now redundant chairlift from the North stairway. Many volunteers were involved in this work but special mentions must go to Martin Wicks, David Lawrie and John Anderson for successfully obtaining the funding, and also to Jerry Scholefield and Dave Lewis for planning and leading the preparation work.

Volunteer support for steaming weekends and static Sundays

We will soon kick off our 2023 season with the first steaming weekend and as always are dependent on volunteer support to give our visitors a safe and enjoyable visit. Jerry has issued an initial version of the engine operating and tour guide rota for March to June, however we are trying to build a similar rota for the other duties, covering front of house, refreshments and person in charge (some of you will have received an email from June Barber asking you to provide your availability for these roles).

There are some specific areas that need more support:

- We could use a few more volunteers to deliver guided tours. If you would like to give this a go please speak with Jerry or contact me at rabbott@blueyonder.co.uk
- The static viewing Sundays could always use a couple more volunteers in attendance. These days are fairly quiet and guided tours are not delivered but we do need to support visitors and keep them safe.
- Refreshments is a challenging area when the museum is busy. It would really help if volunteers who are between other duties could help with collecting used items and keeping the area clean.
- *Do you have a creative streak in you?!* We would like to create more content for the interactive displays. If you feel that you may be able to help with this please contact Martin Wicks.

Volunteer recruitment

To strengthen the team attempts are being made to recruit more volunteers with particular focus on both open day support and the administrative activities that are required to run the museum.

A recruitment fair will be attended in March and adverts for volunteers placed in various online channels. If you know of anyone who may be interested in joining the team please do bring them along on a volunteer working day or get them to drop me an email.



Kempton Steam Museum is run by a team of dedicated volunteers who work hard to preserve, operate and develop this important heritage site.

Would you like to help us?

Being part of our friendly team is a rewarding and enjoyable experience. There are many different ways to get involved and we need people with all sorts of skills and capabilities.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help us with customer service on our public open days.

We also need help with the support and administrative activities that are part of running a successful museum.



For further information on any of these items or on other goings on at Kempton please speak with your team leader, or view the previous issues of Single News available on the website volunteer area.