

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

June steaming weekend results

June was a bit quieter than May but still gave good results. This tells us that people still want to come and see the museum as it is without a special event being held.

Day	Adults	Under 18s	Total	Takings	Net income
Saturday	157	38	195	£2,157	£1,846
Sunday	236	52	288	£3,215	£2,795

We now have a break in July and go again on August 19th and 20th with the Science and Technology show. Hopefully by then the marquee planning permission will be granted and the Trust will allow this to be used.

Museum Sunday opening

The museum continues to open for static viewing on the Sundays between steaming weekends from 11am until 3pm. Refreshments are not offered but we do like to give informal guided tours where possible. A fair number of visitors can turn up and it is important that we have volunteers on site to take entry payments, answer questions and ensure that visitors attending have a safe, informative and enjoyable visit. *We are sometimes short of volunteers on these days and are looking to build a team that we can call on to help out with this. If you can help out on the occasional Sunday it would be greatly appreciated.* Please drop me an email to let me know at: richard@kemptonsteam.org

Museum conservation - John Anderson

I don't want to go to prison!

As you know the museum is a Scheduled Monument. This is the highest level of legal protection for heritage assets of which we are the only current stewards and Thames Water is the owner. The protection covers the whole of the museum building and its contents. It makes no difference that the museum is also Grade II* listed, the scheduling is superior.

There are consequences flowing from the scheduling. As the policy statement from DCMS makes clear it is “a criminal offence to demolish, destroy, damage, remove, repair, alter or add to a Scheduled Monument, or to undertake flooding or tipping operations on land in, on or under which there is a Scheduled Monument, unless prior consent has been obtained from the Secretary of State in the form of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC). It is also an offence to fail to comply with the terms of such consents.”

It is clearly important that, as we develop the museum from today and seek accreditation as a museum for the public benefit, we do things in such a way that ensures we run no risks of offending the law. The scheduled assets must be treated correctly and, where there is a prima facie need to do works of any kind, we seek prior approval. Equally, where there is no obvious need for work to be done or change to be made we should leave well alone. Nothing should be thrown away without consideration of its heritage value.

In the Conservation Committee we have agreed that in addition to seeking approval for any works we will follow the ABTEM guidelines. These represent for now the best guidelines designed to help places like us make sensible decisions about how conservation work will be done. It is the role of the Conservation Committee to make the final decisions on such matters.

Recently we made a tour of inspection of the whole museum and identified a list of issues requiring remediation. The list has subsequently been discussed in another tour with Dr Jane Siddell our Historic England inspector, Sean Doran Conservation Officer for Hounslow council and Dr Victoria Reeve for Thames Water. The upshot of this is that we will be applying for a general Scheduled Monument Consent after which we can plan the resourcing and delivery of the consent over time.

We are keen that you can all engage with understanding our responsibilities and the roles that you can play in helping to discharge them. We will be holding a volunteers' meeting with refreshments on Thursday 24th August from 4:30 pm when Jane Siddell and Sean Doran will come along to speak with you and answer any questions. More information will follow about that as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all there in due time.

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.