



Left to right: Hannah Harte holding Piper, Glen Williams on the roof of the 90 and 100 inch Engine House, Richard Albanese underneath the 90 inch engine.

Hello

Hannah Harte, Museum Director

Welcome to the summer edition of Kew News. We're very glad to have you with us!

As the weather is starting to heat up, the level of activity at the Museum is reaching boiling point! This newsletter is packed with all sorts of goings on, the biggest and potentially most impactful of which is the potential Great Engine House Project. Most of my time, and that of the team, over the last few months has been spent preparing a massive bid to the Arts Council for the project, which, if successful, would invest a total of £2.84 million in one of our most important historic buildings! There's more about what this could achieve within the pages but just to say I'm very excited that it gives us the chance to do something I've wanted to do since I joined the Museum a year ago - see our massive 90" engine in steam! You have all been brilliant at doing your bit to help in donating to our dedicated crowdfunder campaign so we can demonstrate our commitment to the funder. Being able to meet a match funding quota of 10% is critical to winning a bid like this and we are so close to the £256,000 we have to raise.

There's also a warm introduction to all our new team members - and I must say I have been so impressed with how every one of our new team has pulled together to achieve so much activity and positivity for LMWS. We have got real ambition (it's even one of our team values!) and we hope you enjoy seeing that come to fruition!

The Great Engine House Project

Crowdfunder Update

We're over two-thirds of the way through our Crowdfunder appeal - thank you to all those who have donated and shared our appeal so far! We have reached 35% (£17,720) of our £50,000 target and have just over two weeks left to get to the finish line.

The Great Engine House On Film

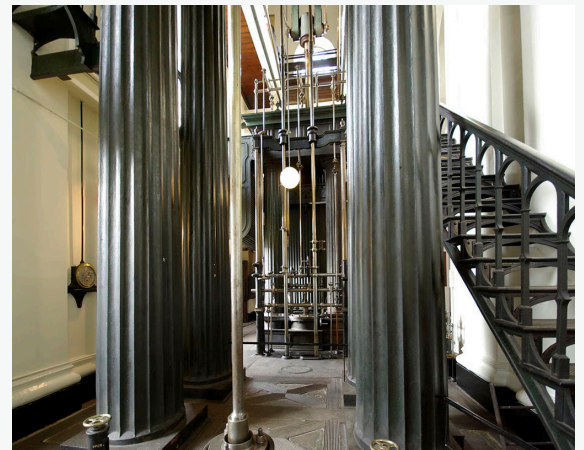
Learn more about the project and hear directly from the people involved in our short film, which is available to view on our [YouTube channel](#). Featuring our Museum Director Hannah Harte, Site and Collections Lead Glen Williams, who explains the challenges facing the building and what has led to its deterioration and the engines it is home too, as well as Project Manager for Steaming into Sustainability Richard Albanese, who gives an insight about what will be done to fix these issues and bring the 90 Inch and 100 Inch back to their former glory.

Our Challenge

Our proposed project will conserve our historic engines, the 90 Inch and 100 Inch, and the Grade 1 listed Great Engine House building. As well as returning the building to a watertight condition, removing damaging past repairs, and reducing carbon emissions, the project will be the first step in returning the 90 Inch to steam.

We are at an advanced stage of receiving a funding grant for the entire project of £2.8 million, BUT one of the conditions of the funding grant is to show widespread public support to save the museum - so we have set a target of raising an initial £50,000 by the middle of August. If we can raise the £50,000, we are much more likely to receive the remaining £2.8 million.

In effect, every £1 donated by the public could unlock £55 in grant funding. To find out more about the project visit our Crowdfunder page. Please donate what you can and share amongst family and friends!



Crowdfunder Reward - Start Up an Engine!

At the Steam Up this past weekend Member Huw experienced one of our exclusive rewards on offer for the Great Engine House Project Fundraiser. On the morning of the Steam up Huw started the Waddon Engine which he described as his favourite engine because "I will get to start two engines, the barring and the main one."

Huw was able to be involved in all aspects of starting the engine with guided support from onsite expert Richard Albanese.

An "Absolutely brilliant experience!" as described by Huw, and he encourages members to take advantage of this unique opportunity to support the museum.

There are currently 4 spaces left on the crowdfunder website to experience this reward, as well check out the chance to take a ride on the Thomas Wicksteed footplate or go on an exclusive tour.



Collections Highlight

Holly Slater

As the new Collections Officer at the museum, I am responsible for managing our exhibits and creating narratives from them. At first glance this item from our collection – The Metropolis Water Bill 1871 – looks rather banal. It is a revision of the 1851 bill of the same name and contains the minutes from the select committee that cross examined water inspectors and chemists who specialised in the filtration of London Water's systems.

It contains the, at times contentious, cross-examination of Mr E Frankland, Professor of Chemistry at The Royal School of Mines by Serjant Sargood. Professor Frankland describes the miserable state of London water as it he states that it has "*a brown sherry colour...with a distinctive colour and taste*".

Like today, the cleanliness of water supply was a hot topic to Londoners in Victorian Britain. The bill stemmed from public discontent about the state and management of London's water systems. The most prominent of these was the 1827 pamphlet called *The Dolphin*, which was written by a disgruntled customer. This pamphlet was so popular that it catapulted the issue of water management into the public psyche.

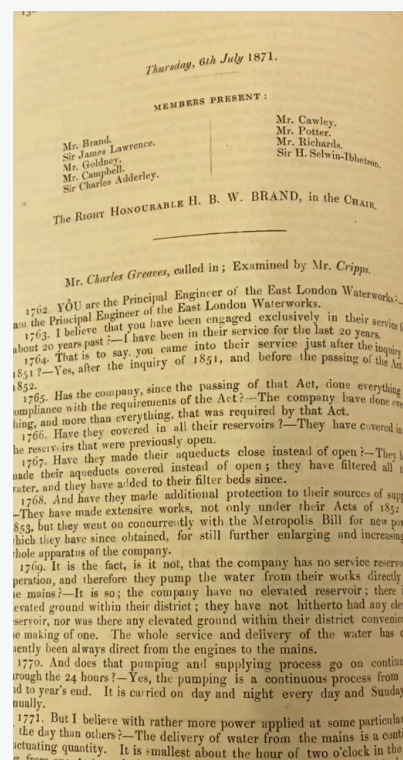
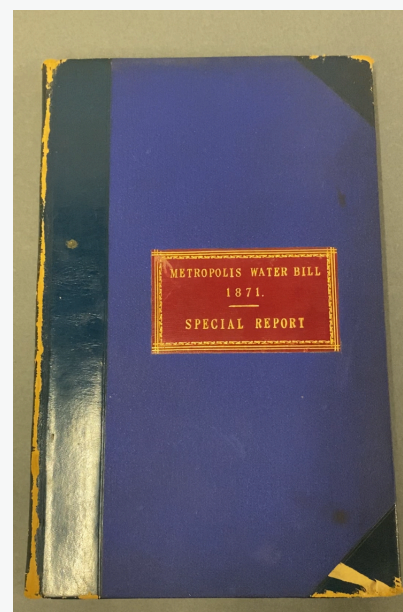
In 1851 the prominent industrialist Sir Benjamin Hall described how the water that was supplied to London "*frequently became tainted with the smell of decaying animal and vegetable matter and had a slightly putrescent smell and taste*" and even, different (often unidentifiable) creatures were located in the water.

Reading further into the bill, it provides us with contradictory and often divisive opinions about the efficiency of London plumbers. One cross examination exchange:

where the barrister cross examining asks: '*You gave the London plumbers a bad character*' – '*Yes*'

'They are very bad, are they not?' – '*Yes, very bad. I have heard elsewhere that there is a habit in metropolitan plumbers to be very bad, because the Edinburgh ones are very bad.*'

This ordinary looking book in fact provides us with a deep insight into the relationship between Londoners and the water companies, and how these companies had to acquiesce to the demands of the consumer. The bill confirmed the powers of the existing water companies and prevented competition by amalgamating companies. Consequently this meant that companies were not allowed to charge more than a fixed charge of 5 per cent.



Reminder that members get access, by appointment, to the Museum library and archive.

Staff Update!

Glen Williams

Site and Collections Lead

Glen is a chartered building surveyor with over 15 years' experience working in the building industry. He is charged with looking after the Museum estate, ensuring that our historic site is maintained, safe and welcoming. Prior to joining LMWS he worked at Oxford University, leading the team of surveyors responsible for planned maintenance across the historic estate. Glen also works closely with our fantastic engineering, gardening and loco volunteering teams and is never afraid to get stuck in, even on the dirtiest of jobs!



Holly Slater

Collections Officer

Holly began her role as a Collections Officer in May 2024, having worked as a duty manager at the museum since August 2022. Holly loves looking after the museum's unique collection of working objects and archives, alongside making the museum's fascinating history accessible. Holly also manages the museum's wonderful team of volunteers. Holly loves to travel, and when not at the museum, she can be found planning her next adventure!

Staff Update!

Cherry Irvine

Marketing and Events Officer

Cherry began her role as Marketing and Events Officer in April 2024. With a background in Art History, Cherry has always been passionate about increasing access to art and heritage. In this role, Cherry loves bringing the museum's amazing collection to new audiences through social media, and sharing exciting updates about the museum in newsletters (especially Kew News!). In her spare time, Cherry enjoys visiting exhibitions and local museums.



Manaswini Mallampeta

Finance and Development Lead

Maddy started at the Museum in June 2024. As a Finance & Development Lead she manages the Financial Budget and oversees management accounts, ensuring the museum's financial health. Additionally, she supports the museum's growth by actively seeking and coordinating fundraising opportunities. Maddy loves to travel and Scotland is her next dream destination.

We have also welcomed two new Duty Managers to the team, Vishakha Mehra and Anthony Erotokritou! Make sure to say hi the next time you are in!

“STEAM Explorer”

Danielle Holmes, Engagement and Interpretation Officer

We are currently accepting applications for the Fall session of STEAM Explorer.

STEAM Explorer is a specialized water engineering course for youth aged 13-17.

Participation in this course is free thanks to the generous support and funding of the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators.



The Explorers learn about the history of water in London, how the engines on this site work and how to care for them. Culminating in the experience of firing up the boiler and assisting in the running of the engines for a Steam Up Event.

If you know of a youth who would be interested in STEAM Explorer please head to the museum website for all the information and to download the application form. QR code above.

There are 15 spaces available for the October session of STEAM Explorers and we expect it to fill up quickly!

To express interest and for support in applying please contact Danielle Holmes at learning@waterandsteam.org.uk

Summer Scavenger Hunt

Available July 20th- September 1st (or while supplies last)

Head to the London Museum of Water & Steam for a puzzling summer scavenger hunt! Follow the clues to solve the mystery phrase and then claim your prize!

Cost: £3.50 per scavenger hunt

Fun for all ages!



A very warm welcome to our new volunteers

- Isaac Alajabo, Front of House
- Keith Batten, Front of House
- Liz Etches, Collections & Archives
- Dominik Kaminski, Collections & Archives and Front of House
- David O'Shea, Front of House
- Richard Manion, Engineering
- Max Martin, Train Team
- David O'Shea, Front of House
- Livio Rapisarda, Front of House
- Nimalan Satkurunathan, Train Team
- Margaret Thomas, Collections & Archives
- Anti Toll, Train Team



Volunteer Update: Holly Slater

Hi, my name is Holly and I am the new collections officer at the museum, alongside playing a key role in looking after our unique collections, I am also responsible for the recruitment of volunteers. As a majority volunteer organisation, our volunteers are a key component to the museum's success!

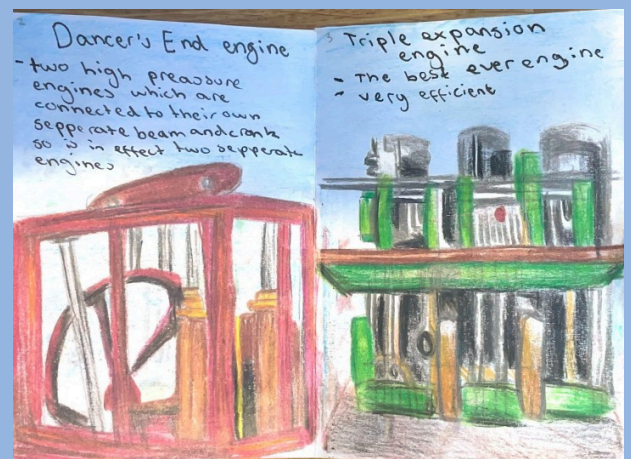
We are always happy to welcome applications from anyone who is interested in volunteering for the museum. We are currently looking to recruit volunteers for our Front of House, Collections and particularly our Train Team. Our train-driving team offers a unique opportunity for volunteers to train to drive our replica Thomas Wicksteed steam locomotive. As a pre-requisite we ask that volunteers hold a driving licence.

If you are interested in any of our fantastic volunteering opportunities please contact holly.slater@waterandsteam.org.uk

Work Experience 2024

Danielle Holmes

This year the museum welcomed 12 Work Experience Students from February to July. These students came from 8 different schools and spent on average 4 days working at the museum. While working the students got to do a variety of jobs; front of house, engineering, organizing cupboards, social media and more! We thank them for volunteering their time with us and we wish all the students the best of luck in their future endeavours!



Hand Drawn booklet made by WEX student Roxy

Exhibition: Time is Running Out

Traveling Exhibit from the Institute of Civil Engineering

August 10-October (end date tbd)

“The exhibition explores the future of infrastructure and the role of civil engineers in helping society respond to the challenges of climate change and meet net zero targets by 2050.

Featuring original hand-drawn illustrations and animations, six children talk to TV presenter and engineer Rob Bell about a wide range of global problems.

This educational exhibition is perfect for families, young people and anyone who wants to learn more about engineering.”

‘Time is Running Out’ is included in admission to the Museum, and is open every day the Museum is open.

Please note: the exhibition is in the Steam Hall Gallery upstairs. We regret that there is no step-free access. Please speak to a member of staff for support to virtually explore the exhibition.

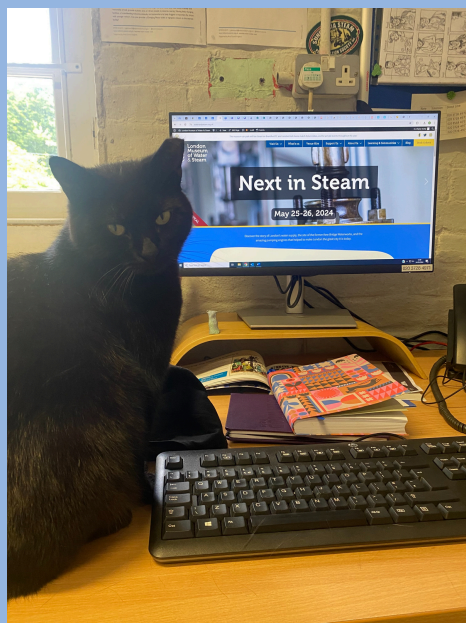
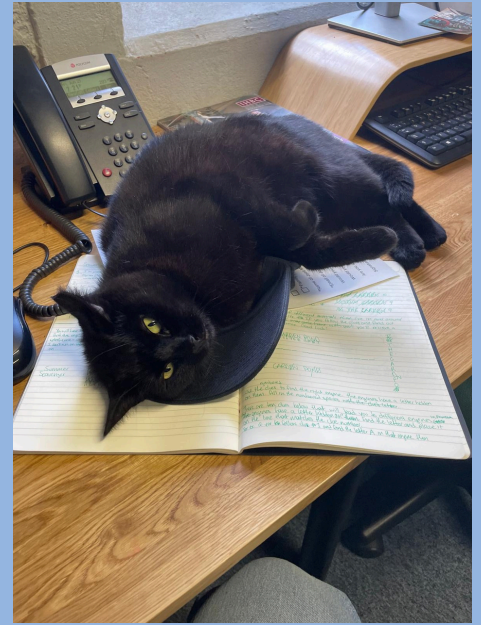


Happy Gotcha Day to Piper!



It has been officially a year since Piper joined the museum as Chief Mouser!

Piper has grown in confidence over the past year. She has also gone above and beyond in her role! Not only does she provide pest control on the museum site, but she has also had such a positive impact in the office - providing the staff with mental health breaks in the form of belly rubs, purrs, and playtime.



Upcoming Events



Creative Mile

August 31- September 1

10am-4pm

The weekend includes artists and makers from Brentford and across the borough of Hounslow for a weekend of open studios and exhibitions.

The museum will be open with free entry for the weekend, and 15 makers will have their art displayed in the Steam Hall and Babcock Room. As well many of the tenants take part in this weekend and open their workshops to visitors.

Members wanted!

Elizabeth Pearcey

Are you free Saturday 31st August or Sunday 1st September? It is the weekend of the Creative Mile - Brentford Art Trail, and we are pleased to say that the museum is taking part again. It is a great opportunity to celebrate all the artists based at the museum. In addition, it introduces the place to the many new residents of Brentford; last year it was cheering to find so many people had managed to visit the museum for the first time. "I had no idea there was so much to see there - and that it was so professionally presented" said one surprised punter.

There will be a Members table this year, to sign up new supporters and solicit donations to the Great Engine House Project. Existing members are needed to man ("person") the table and chat up the visitors. Can you spare an hour or so? Please get in touch with the office to let them know when you are available.

We are also looking for volunteers to support on the day in other capacities.
Email museum@waterandsteam.org.uk to express interest.

Upcoming Events



London Museum of Water & Steam

Next in Steam

October 19-20, 2024

Tickets available now
waterandsteam.org.uk

Ghost Tours at the London Museum of Water & Steam

October 2024
Dates TBA



London Museum of Water & Steam

Next in Steam

November 23-24, 2024

Tickets available now
waterandsteam.org.uk



London Museum of Water & Steam

New Year Steam Up

December 28-31, 2024

Tickets available now
waterandsteam.org.uk

For a full list of upcoming events,
please visit:

<https://waterandsteam.org.uk/events>



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