



Left to right: STEAM Explorers with Richard Albanese in front of the Dancer's End Engine, Jack-o-lanterns on the Triple for After Dark tours, Volunteers Theo, Ian, and John working on the Easton and Amos engine.



Hello from

Hannah Harte, Museum Director

Autumn is upon us and the evenings are drawing in. This has been an eventful, if rather challenging, quarter and we're even more grateful for the support of our Members. We've had a busy programme of tours and Halloween events in half term week, and it's been great to see some of you here also enjoying our pumpkin display. The display was delivered in an enthusiastic team building afternoon - you can see the evidence on our social media channels!

But we've also faced some adversity that it's going to take time, resources and much effort on the part of our small team to overcome. Earlier in September we had a substantial amount of lead stolen from our forge and carpenters workshop roofs. We must thank our tenants who work from these units for their patience and support while we try to reinstate the missing materials. We are now quickly developing lead beating skills within the team to rebuild on a budget - I am continually blown away by the dedication of our staff and volunteer team at LMWS, rising to meet every challenge.

We also hope you don't mind but we aren't looking our best at the moment, while we wait for some new automatic doors after our own set dramatically failed. So, although this unfortunate incident sadly caused some upset and is going to be costly to rectify, it is going to result in a better provision and welcome to the Museum. Thank you to our community partners, particularly Our Barn, who run our lovely café, and Speak Out Hounslow for supporting us and being patient and understanding while we sort alternatives.

Let's hope that, as we head towards Christmas, there is a bit of seasonal magic in the air, and we can welcome many of you to meet Santa and Mrs Claus and to experience our traditional New Years Steam up! Next year we are celebrating our 50th anniversary, watch this space! We're raring to go and are keen to share the excitement with all our Members!

The Great Engine House Project-Update

Glen Williams - Site and Collections Lead

Well, we did it! With quite a few late nights and assistance from a box of Cadbury's Heroes we managed to successfully submit the grant application to Arts Council for the Great Engine House Project on 15 August.

This marked the completion of a truly mammoth task! The final submission was over 300 pages and comprised written statements, specifications, detailed drawings, survey reports, timelines and of course the all-important financial balance sheets, all undertaken and collated in just under two-and-a-half months. I'd like to thank all those who have assisted in providing technical advice, assistance with surveys and networking.

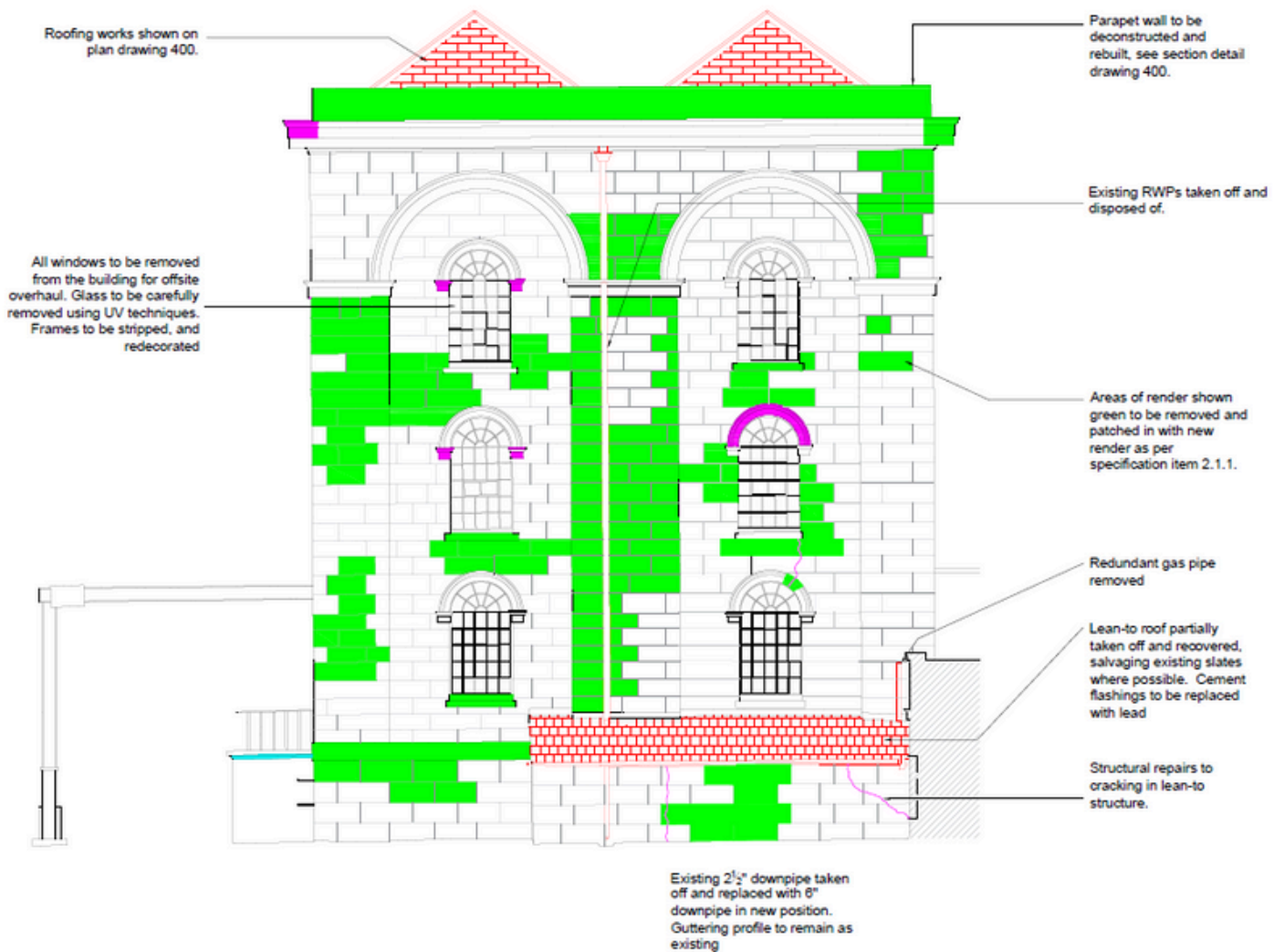
But all of this work and all of these documents would have been pointless without the crucial final element... you. Thanks to all of our fantastic supporters we managed to raise the required match funding commitment of 10% with time to spare, taking in over £200,000 in donations and gifts in kind, of which over £56,000 was raised through the Crowdfunder. This is an absolutely fantastic result, and sends a really positive message to Arts Council, not only about the financial viability of the project, but also the value people place on the Museum. We could not have done this without your support, so from everyone at the London Museum of Water & Steam, THANK YOU!



Topographical survey in progress.

The Great Engine House Project-Update

Glen Williams - Site and Collections Lead



North elevation of building showing work to be undertaken.

We expect to get the final go-head from Arts Council early next year. In the meantime, the project continues at pace. We will shortly be issuing the documents for appointment of the various specialist consultants needed on the project, and are continuing to develop the Listed Building consent application. Further on-site surveys are also planned, including historic paint analysis to determine the original colour schemes in the building, a small trial of asbestos removal from the 100 Inch engine, and further investigation of the Museum's sewer systems. This all with the aim of bottoming out all outstanding 'unknowns' before proceeding with the works. We now just have to wait until the end of January 2025 to find out if we have won the grant.

This project represents a once in a generation opportunity to bring the Great Engine House back to its former glory and is hopefully one of many future projects at the Museum. Keep your fingers crossed and watch this space!



Richard's Roundup

Since my last update in April, we have continued to be busy and there is a real buzz about the place on Thursdays and occasional Saturdays with various projects underway and more maintenance, repairs and conservation being completed. This is all being delivered by a growing volunteer team, including some younger recruits aged 14 to 17 coming via our STEAM Explorer course [page 11]. Exciting times!

Most of our engines and boiler plant are now looking more presentable and are in better working condition through all the volunteers hard efforts of the last six months, here is a list of their achievements to date:

Beel Steam Boiler:

This has given good service over the year since installation and is providing energy cost savings with reliability. We have just drained and opened up the boiler for its 5 yearly non destructive test insurance inspection which it passed with flying colours. All steam and water fittings were removed and opened up, selected areas of insulation, smoke box doors, burner, refractory and firing tube were taken out to give access to the boiler and fire tube all round, so that welds could be tested ultrasonically and thickness readings taken to monitor any corrosion. Some older steam piping above the obsolete Lancashire boiler has been tested too.

The boiler was then reassembled and our friendly combustion engineer via Atlas Boilers Limited set our burner to give maximum efficiency and Simon our ever patient Boiler Inspector passed it all as fit for use under steam. We now have a hotter flame and higher temperatures which has increased our steam generation rate, good for when the Bull engine takes a gulp!

Our new donated water softening plant is installed and we have a water testing kit to ensure we look after the boiler to the best of our ability all with thanks to WCS - Environmental and Hydro X group, who have been incredibly generous in their support.

Thomas Wicksteed Locomotive:

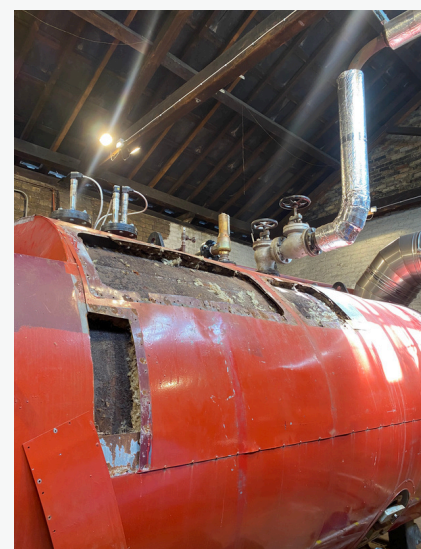
This has also just had its yearly boiler inspection and again most fittings required removal or opening up. The boiler passed its tests, but we must start preparing for the big 10 yearly inspection next year which will see the entire locomotive dismantled and boiler lifted out from its frames!



Volunteers Theo, Martin, Joe, John, and Ben.



Dal from Heatbox Engineering inside the boiler.



Areas of insulation removed from boiler.

Richard's Roundup

Bull Engine:

April's Kew News recorded the installation of a new submersible pump to supply water to the condenser and main pump on the engine. Sadly, after so much work we found that when we turned on the pump, it couldn't quite supply the quantity of water needed to the height involved!

Disappointed and somewhat embarrassed, we had to obtain a new pump instead, which has been very kindly donated at significant cost via a consortium of donors and the pump supplier; Trebles - Fluid Motion Specialists. We now have a long life pump working silently which allows our visitors to again enjoy the engine working. The engine has had a much needed polish and clean and many buckets of rust and debris have been removed from the basement, where new lighting is also being installed.

Easton & Amos Engine:

This engine has had a big clean up all round and has had all the old steam packings removed and replaced to valve and piston rods as they were leaking steam everywhere in ever increasing amounts. The main steam stop valve has also been removed to allow replacement of leaking gaskets, with valve fully overhauled at the same time.

Waddon Engine:

All 33 lubricators have been cleaned, polished and refitted and the engine has had a big clean and polish too.



Overflow from engine suction surge vessel back into basement underneath the Bull Engine.



New WEDA submersible Pump for Bull engine supplied by Trebles



Saeid replacing the steam packings on The Easton and Amos Engine.



Volunteers Theo, Ian, and John working on The Easton and Amos Engine.



Volunteer Richard polishing the Waddon.

Richard's Roundup

Boulton & Watt Engine:

Works to this engine and building have been delayed somewhat, due to other priorities in recent months. Thankfully though the end is now in sight and the new floor slab has been fitted with a new support girder underneath and other floor slabs have had additional support and attention too. Replacement bolts, nuts and studs to air pump top cover are finished having been made within our own workshops.

The air pump piston/bucket is now in the boilerhouse ready to go onto our Broadbent lathe of c 1880, so that the new Green Heart timber piston ring segments can be machined to a smooth round finish to fit the air pump bore. These segments are very hard and the Museum is indebted to Derek Pierce, one of our tenants who has kindly cut and profiled them on his circular saw....we might need to buy him a new blade though! We have explored using rope, engineering plastics and bronze as an alternative to wood, but have decided for the next five years to try wood again, now that we have carefully researched the best type to use.

Air pump and condenser cooling tank have been cleared of silt and debris, something which our younger volunteers have enjoyed doing. They have also cleaned off a great deal of loose rust and scale to basement iron components and have undone and helped lift out the large hinged non return valve for inspection and cleaning between pump and condenser. Hopefully and it's a slim chance, we might just get the engine back into steam in time for Christmas!



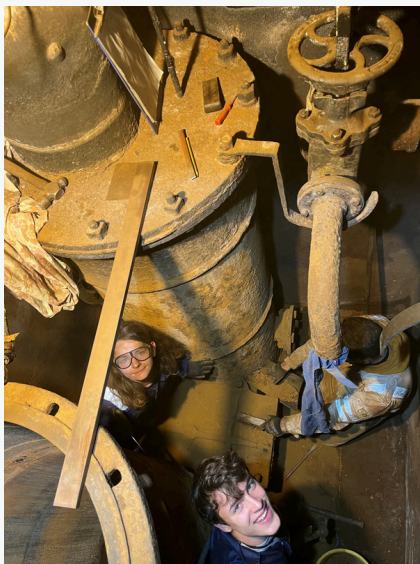
Replacement bolts, nuts and studs made in our workshop.



Tennant Derek Pierce cutting the ring segments.



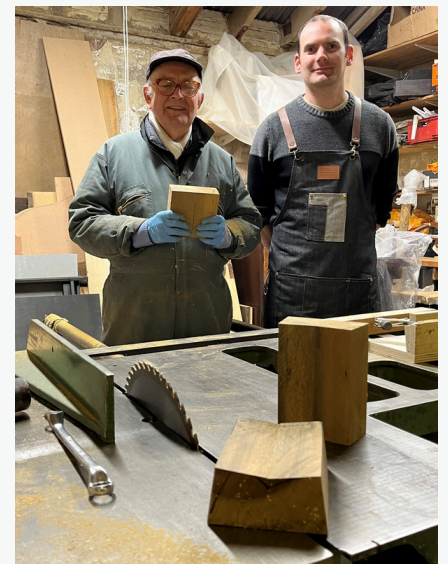
New Green Heart timber piston ring.



Volunteers Theo, Joe, and Richard cleaning the air pump and condenser tank.



Volunteer Richard dismantling non return valve



Tennant Derek Pierce and volunteer Martin Frank.

Richard's Roundup

Hindley Waterwheel:

This pump set has been causing us headaches recently as we are now displaying it working four days a week. Additional hours are causing the three throw pumps, which the wheel drives, to wear out their pump packing sealing rings more quickly, leading to water leaks and wastage.

The pumps originally supplied water at a very high pressure to the village of Maiden Bradley at the top of a very steep hill and were fitted with special leather seals which gripped tightly when under pressure. Now running off load these types of seals don't work and the ones we can fit wear out quickly. Close examination shows that we can't fit any alternatives easily without changing the pump itself, something we do not want to do in terms of a heritage exhibit.

Our solution is to accept the leakage but to capture and channel the water back to the pump suction tank via some new pipework and a collection funnel. This has been fitted and has been a great success.

The wheel and pump are having a big clean up and a full repaint has been started to make it look smart again.

Old Workshop:

We have made a start on bringing this important room and its historic machine tool equipment back into use. The waterworks had the belt driven workshop from new in 1838 and it was used continuously for the upkeep and repair of the engines and boiler plant, Diesel and electric pumps until 1975 when the Museum was formed. Later it was largely used to help with engine restoration and contract engineering work until we built a new workshop with more modern equipment. Used for storage since, it's largely sat locked up, forgotten and a bit unloved, but very much in our forward vision for opening to visitors when funding and resources allow.

We've started a big tidy up, tools and equipment are being carefully sorted and assessed. Machine tools are being oiled and dusted off and an area cleared down one side of the room (of modern equipment added by the museum) so that visitors can safely come in and view the working machinery. The cleared space is temporarily storing artworks being produced by our artist Jasmine [page 8] who is holding an exhibition here in the coming year.



Glen Williams, Ben, Fernando, Richard Albanese, and Mark with the Boulton and Watt air pump piston/bucket.



Power Hacksaw in the old Workshop



View of the Old Workshop from the entrance

Richard's Roundup

Steaming Into Sustainability:

This project funded by the National Heritage Lottery Fund just started a year ago and runs until March. It has mainly allowed other staff and myself to help get the Museum going again in terms of volunteer recruitment, training and participation in terms of maintenance, looking after our collections, exhibits, heritage and working machinery. The list above and previous reports in Kew News hopefully do justice to the big impact that this grant of just under £245,000 has made so far. It's a similar story in regard to the Great Engine House Project and restoration of 90 and 100 inch engines, where we have had paid time to plan and budget for these very important and complex works.

In terms of visitors, we have put on a number of successful events over the year which connect our heritage to the wider issues of the climate emergency and the urgent need for change and we are currently hosting the Institute of Civil Engineers 'Time is Running Out' travelling exhibition which closes 3rd November and it is well worth coming to see.

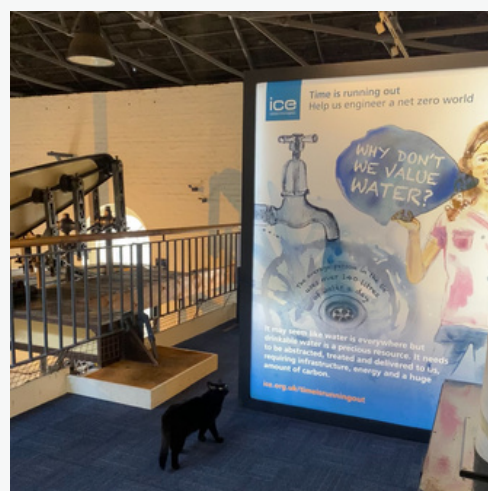
Our resident artist Jasmine Pradisitto has been very busy making up prints, sculptures and paintings for her exhibition early next year and we have been working in collaboration with her. The Museum has helped by supplying and assembling 'sculptural plinths' made up of heritage ironwork and machinery parts, rusty metal and scrap to form part of her wonderful art works.

We are increasingly networking with or supplying advice to other heritage organisations similar to ours so that we can share our journey and ideas on becoming more sustainable, lowering our energy use and with a view to eventually becoming carbon neutral.

Finally, we are still in partnership with 'Steamology' in Wiltshire who are pioneering the design and construction of environmentally friendly steam raising boiler plants, which are fueled by hydrogen and oxygen gas which are mixed to make steam. The gases are being made from electrolysis of water using renewable power. We are exploring funding streams to allow us to set up a temporary exhibition in the coming year with a longer term plan to build and display a working demonstration plant which can be used to run our engines.



'Time is Running Out' pop-up exhibition by the Institute of Civil Engineers.



Museum Cat Piper visiting the 'Time is Running Out' exhibit.



Richard Albanese with artist-in-residence Jasmine Pradisitto.



Collections Update

Holly Slater - Collections Officer

Object Handling Session

On the 19th of October the collections and museum host teams including Liz, Dominik, Mark, Molly, Alyx and David arranged an object handling morning. This offered a rare opportunity for the public to learn about historical items that are stored in the museum's archive.

Photo (right) of Liz and Dominik, as they expertly presented items from our collection to the public.



We presented a total of eight archival items for the session. Below is snippet of two of these objects:

Toilet Paper Dispenser

Despite being manufactured in Victorian London, the toilet paper's history can be traced back to classical antiquity. In the absence of toilet paper, the Ancient Romans used sponges known as tersorium that were disinfected in buckets of vinegar and then reused. In 64 AD the Roman philosopher Seneca recalls the macabre suicide of a German slave who committed suicide by swallowing a tersorium.

Thankfully, toilet paper and its manifestations have evolved considerably since Roman Antiquity. Our toilet paper dispenser was designed by Bury Street whose logo was embossed on the toilet paper. This would have worked as a form of self-promotion in the 19th Century, reminding the user of the brand of the toilet paper that they were using.

The holder was designed for unperforated paper, as it has a cutter and therefore the toilet paper could be cut to the desired length. Typical of Victorian designs, the dispenser is robust as it was made from bronzed cast iron. (sources: history.com, castinstyle.co.uk)



60s Rubber Duck

The Bath Duck has been synonymous with bath-time both in North America and Europe.

In the US the bathtub became a staple in the modern home from 1930s to 1950s. However, it was only after The Second World War that the British people saw this evolution, as the devastation caused by the war prompted the government to undertake huge rebuilding programmes. In 1947 the sculptor Peter Ganine filed a patent for the vinyl 'bath duck' which was painted bright yellow with a famous 'squeaker'. These ducks were mass-produced and sold across the world.

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



Update from the Chair

Hello, my name is John Waxman and I was appointed the new Chair of Trustees in April this year after a competitive recruitment exercise. I'm delighted to say that my appointment was subsequently endorsed by Museum members at October's Annual General Meeting. I have a background in water management having previously worked for the National Rivers Authority and the Environment Agency but I've also worked in the heritage sector too. For a number of years I was General Manager at the National Trust's Cliveden property in Buckinghamshire. I have also served as an Assistant Director at the RAF Museum. Currently I help to run the Crane Valley's river catchment partnership.

I attended the Museum's Steam Up event in May - as a visitor. It was marvellous to see a number of steam engines in action and I was very impressed by the efforts of the staff and volunteers involved. My thanks to everyone who makes these events so special for our visitors, not only bringing the engines to life but also answering questions with great knowledge and enthusiasm.

The Museum's financial position remains a focus of concern for Trustees as the Museum strives to generate sufficient income to cover the cost of day to day operations and also to maintain and repair our historic buildings and engines. There are grounds for optimism though - our new staff structure, entrepreneurial spirit and exciting vision put us in a good position to make the most of the opportunities that lie ahead. And I am looking forward to meeting more of you in due course.

In Memory

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Julian Judd, John Compton, and Des Reilly. All of whom gave such an excellent volunteering contribution to the museum over the years. They will very missed by the London Museum of Water & Steam community. Thank you to Mr. Compton who kindly remembered us in his will too.

We are also hugely grateful to the late Ronald John Sherwood for leaving us a legacy. We have asked around in the team but do not know how Mr. Sherwood was involved with the museum, if anyone has any information we would be very keen to know as we are very grateful to him and would love to know his story.

We have just completed our second year of STEAM Explorer and what a successful year it was! We had 16 youth take part over two courses offered this year, and so far we have retained 3 youth volunteers who do engineering work at the museum on Thursday evenings and some Saturdays. For those who do not know STEAM Explorer is a water engineering course for youth aged 13-17 sponsored by the Water Conservation Trust.

Over three weekends the Explorers learned 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. The Fall session of STEAM Explorers concluded on the October Steam Up weekend.

This course we had 8 Explorers take part, and currently one has already stayed on as a volunteer at the museum. He signed the volunteer paperwork right after the final session and was immediately in a boiler suit and back in the Steam Hall supporting with the engines in steam. You can see photos of this Explorer as well as Explorers from the April 2024 session in Richard’s Roundup.

We hope to see other explorers return as volunteers as well, two of them are waiting for their 14th birthday as that is the age you can start volunteering. Hopefully we will see them back at the museum in the future!

A massive thank you to the Explorers for their enthusiasm and many excellent questions. Thank you to the engineering and train volunteers for working with the Explorers and answering all those excellent questions.

We will be offering STEAM Explorer again in April 2025, if you know a youth with an interest in engineering please share this unique opportunity with them.

To express interest in the April 2025 STEAM Explorer course please contact Danielle Holmes at learning@waterandsteam.org.uk



Volunteer Update: Holly Slater (Collections Officer)

We have had a very busy few months at the museum! The success of our public programmes, front of house, engineering, and collection and archive activities is only made possible by our team of amazing volunteers.

If you are interested in any of our fantastic volunteering opportunities please contact

holly.slater@waterandsteam.org.uk



A very warm welcome to our new volunteers

- Alfie Adams
- Alazar Belay
- Benjamin Brooklyn
- Fernando Candido
- Zaki Chaoui
- Nikhil Chaudhari
- Thomas Doggett
- Nash Gomes
- Great Oaks College
- Alyx Jenkins
- Mark Langston
- Molly Makin
- Joseph Prince Palla
- Aisha Shaikh
- Faiza Sheikh
- Kamronbek Shermatov
- David Temple
- Lapis Wake
- Josephine Woodley
- Nancy Yu

Crowdfunder Reward reminder

Thank you to all those who donated to our Crowdfunding campaign **The Great Engine House Project!** If you chose a physical reward as part of your donation (a pin badge, mug, Piper toy, or train driver kit) then please visit the museum's front desk to receive your reward. You should have received an email about this so do check your junk folders as the email would have come from community@waterandsteam.org.uk.

If you chose one of our exclusive rewards, such as a guided tour, please arrange to redeem your reward before the end of November. If you believe you haven't heard from us, please email us at museum@waterandsteam.org.uk.

Upcoming Events



Santa at the Museum

14-15 December, 21-22 December

The London Museum of Water & Steam presents Santa at the Museum!

Between the 14-15 and 21-22 December Santa will be making a very special trip out of his busy schedule to visit the museum. The Babcock Room will be transformed into Santa's Grotto ready to welcome your little ones.

During your time with Santa, you'll sing a song or two, be able to take some pictures and receive a special present! Recommended for children of all ages.

Six sessions will be taking place each day. Don't miss out and book your ticket now!

Apply your members discount code when you go to check out.

Use code merry20 for 20% off.

Upcoming Events



For a full list of upcoming events,
please visit:

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



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[londonmuseumofwaterandsteam](https://www.instagram.com/londonmuseumofwaterandsteam)