

SHORT TALK, 'MUSEUMS' MIKE DANCE 'HAND HELD COFFIN BIER WEST DRAYTON CHURCH'



- Question: What was Britain's first public museum?
- Answer: The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford. Founded in 1683 by Elias Ashmole an Oxford academic it became the world's first public museum after he gave his "Cabinet of Curiosities" to Oxford University in 1677.

LOCAL MUSEUMS.

THEN AND NOW



Ashmolean may have been the first public museum and opened in the 17th Century, however it would take another 200 years before local museums became established across Britain in the second half of the 19th Century, about 100 were established by 1887 and became the subject of special legislation in 1845. Local museums became part of the movement for educating the working classes which also included the establishment of local libraries and art galleries.



- Founding local museums to start with depended on collections donated mainly by local people of means, this meant that most of what was donated was not local and quite often not relevant. Worthing Museum was started in 1900 by a collection of British birds which had been shot and stuffed by Dr. Howard Nicholls, these were displayed in the old council offices in the town and Dr. Nicholls became first curator with the proviso that he acquire more objects for display. Unfortunately the collection grew very slowly as all he was interested in was birds!

INTRODUCTION

Local Museums started to become a reality in the late 19th Century as part of the move to educate the working classes.

Some museums were purpose built; others were located in existing buildings.



Two of our local museums began life in the early 20th Century, Kingston Museum in 1904 and Gunnersbury Park Museum in 1929 and as with Worthing began with collections donated by local people of note. At Kingston local collector and pottery obsessive Ernest Marsh donated his collection to the museum none of which was made locally but does contain fine examples of Martinware made by artisan potters the Martin Brothers in Southall.

EARLY MUSEUM ACQUISITIONS

Wally Bird from the Ernest Marsh Collection at Kingston Museum.

Part of the Frederick Sadler collection at Gunnersbury Park Museum.





MORE LOCAL EMPHASIS

LUCOZADE SIGN AND PANELS OF LOCAL INTEREST AT GUNNERSBURY. PART OF THE EADWEARD MUYBRIDGE COLLECTION AT KINGSTON



Gunnersbury Museum acquired by gifts and purchase a collection from Major Frederick Sadler former Borough Surveyor for Acton, his collection included stone age artefacts some of which had been dug up while he was digging trenches in the Somme!

Susan Smee the first curator of Gunnersbury Museum was an avid collector of costume a lot of which she donated to the Museum.

STEAM MUSEUMS

OUR TWO LOCAL STEAM MUSEUMS AT
KEMPTON AND KEW BRIDGE



During the late 19th and early 20th Centuries the emphasis on local museums was to educate working people about the natural world, the created world and the British Empire, several local museums began with collections from exotic lands that were definitely not local!

TWO LOCAL ARTISTS HOMES

TURNER'S HOUSE (LEFT) AND
HOGARTH'S HOUSE BELOW, NOW
MUSEUMS DEDICATED TO THE
ARTISTS.



PRESENTATION TITLE



2/11/200X

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TWO NEW MUSEUMS



Spelthorne Museum and The
Museum of Richmond



Over the last fifty years there has been a shift in what local museum's should be about, now there is a real emphasis on local history and archaeology, most museums have lost year natural history collections (Chelmsford City Museum still has theirs) and specialist museums dedicated to local industries and people have appeared in our towns and cities, many of which have a national and international interest.

SPELTHORNE TIMELINE



From 9000 BC to 1999



New museums have opened up to celebrate the local areas they serve and we have two nearby, The Museum of Richmond which opened in October 1988 and is housed on the second floor of the Old Town Hall and Spelthorne Museum which opened in 1980 and is situated at the back of Staines Library.



Museums still focus on education but these days the emphasis is on the town or borough and geared towards residents, schools, local groups and under 5's

Many museums now offer guided tours and visits with the curator so that the collections can be better understood, they also put on exhibitions that look at elements, discoveries or prominent people from the local area. Kingston Museum has an exhibition looking at the River Thames and it's influence on art, Richmond has one on Viscose and Rayon that were developed at Kew, Gunnersbury has one on Sci Fi in west London.

GUNNERSBURY PARK MUSEUM

Children & Families

Little Flamingos: Songs, dance and stories

*On from 12.01.2024 to 08.03.2024
9 February 2024*

Join us for rhymes, action songs, and interactive stories

[Find out more](#)

SET TO STUN



**designing and filming
sci-fi in West London**

The aliens have landed at Gunnersbury Park Museum.
Don't miss our celebration of sci-fi in West London.

FREE EXHIBITION
From 20 October 2023

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Museums these days are very much part of the community and for the whole community, most local museums are free to enter, there is usually a charge for the more specialist ones. All the best one's have a café!



ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW



2/11/20XX

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Finally a museum that often gets overlooked is located at Kew Gardens, the Royal Botanic Gardens have collections of species of plants from every corner of the world, a world famous seed bank and an archive containing written, painted and drawn images plus a herbarium of plant samples of around seven million specimens collected over the last 170 years

NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2024
19:45**