

U3A Shared Learning Project

Hampton and Kempton Waterworks Railway 2019 / 2020



Hampton & Kempton Waterworks Railway

Project Title: Building the Railway Archive

We are now starting a project to build an archive for the Hampton and Kempton Waterworks Railway. We need to collect everything we can find from the early 20th century to the present.

Volunteers on the project will need to visit local and national archives, make contact with those connected with the railway past and present, and search a wide range of publications.

We hope to find photographs, plans, maps, documents, memorabilia, objects and artifacts, personal reminiscences and film.

Having everything in a central archive will assist us in many ways. It will help with providing material for future exhibits and displays; website and social media; publicity material; articles in magazines and future publications; for people researching railway history; and for future talks.

About the railway

www.hamptonkemptonrailway.org.uk

We are arguably one of the best kept secrets in West London and we have one of the oldest working steam locomotives in the south of England. Visitors can ride around the Hanworth Loop – our 2 foot gauge railway line – in period coaches hauled by our 1903 steam locomotive.

The Hanworth Loop is the first stage of a major project to reinstate the historic narrow gauge line that hauled coal from the River Thames at Hampton to the giant steam pumping engines that are in the beautiful listed building adjacent to our railway.

We work closely with the Kempton Great Engines and when the Museum has a weekend steaming we run on a Saturday as well. On these weekends the giant triple expansion steam pumping engine is operating. There are seven full weekend steamings and they each have extra attractions.

How the project works for volunteers

Volunteers on a U3A Shared Learning Project enjoy working as part of team and learning from each other. They develop new skills in research.

To decide if this project interests you, see the railway website or visit us on an open day and learn about the history. The railway is open every Sunday in 2019 until 17 November and some Saturdays.

While some research can be conducted online it will be necessary to visit various archives including: London Metropolitan Archives in Islington, National Archives at Kew and local archives in Hounslow and Richmond.

The first meeting of the group will discuss the overall theme of the project and consider what each person may like to research.

Volunteers should ideally attend all the group meetings to report on progress. Prospective volunteers should consider before committing to the project if they have enough time to attend the meetings and carry out the research.

Some volunteers may have experience of a previous U3A project. Other volunteers are coming with little previous knowledge of a Shared Learning Project. All are welcome. In between meetings volunteers work on their own though they can email each other for advice. Volunteers will need to use Microsoft Word, the internet and email. PowerPoint or Excel may be useful.

For the project to go forward we will need a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 5 volunteers.

What happens at the end of the project

At the end of the project the group deliver a PowerPoint presentation of their research to an invited audience. Each volunteer prepares their own section.

The research from the project is kept in the archive with a short version appearing on the railway website. The material may also be used in future talks and displays.

Meeting dates in 2019 / 2020

Meetings will be every two or three weeks and are all on a Tuesday from 2pm to 3.30pm

- First meeting in September. Outline of the project and agree on each person's area of research.
- Other dates to be agreed between September 2019 and April 2020



Getting to the railway

It is easiest to get to the railway by car where parking is available. Some buses stop near the railway entrance but all require a walk of about 20 minutes. Should you decide to join the group we will explain more about accessing the site through the security gates.

See www.hamptonkemptonrailway.org.uk/visit-us-2/directions/

Location for meetings

Hampton & Kempton Waterworks Railway,
Kempton Park Waterworks, Snakey Lane, Feltham, TW13 6XH

To Apply

For enquiries / application form: Jo Walters jo.walters.slp@gmail.com