



MUSEUM of RICHMOND

2020/2021: *a year in review*



2020/2021 may not have gone to plan, but we still achieved a great deal:



- ★ We made our *Queen's Road* exhibition available online, so despite Lockdown, visitors could still visit the exhibition. And they still can, using this link: <http://bit.ly/QueensRoadExhibition>
- ★ Our Digitisation Project continued uninterrupted. Over 75% of the collection is now accessible. By having more of the Collection online, visitors can still explore the treasures we care for.
- ★ The Museum Team have been proactive in recording the historic event of living in a pandemic, by creating the *Lockdown Memories Project*.
- ★ We have supported similar projects with the display of the *Lockdown Richmond Community Quilt*, which we have also made available online: <https://bit.ly/MoRQuilt>
- ★ We held a successful Benefactors' Reception at the Petersham Hotel, courtesy of our Patron Greville Dare
- ★ We have provided remote work experience placements for students.
- ★ We have continued our Discovery Box service to Schools and repurposed our onsite workshops so they can be delivered safely by our Learning Officer in local schools.
- ★ The Museum Team have added numerous videos to our YouTube channel, creating home learning resources for families, as well as creating downloadable workbooks for families to enjoy doing the school holidays. We ran also COVID safe workshops between Lockdowns.
- ★ We held our first ever online talk, *Betty Nuthall, Richmond's very own tennis star* and you can still listen to it here: <http://bit.ly/BettyNuthall>
- ★ We have stepped up the frequency of our social media posts. In the first Lockdown we posted content every single day and have strived to do so ever since, increasing online access to collections and staff expertise.
- ★ When we were able to open to the public, we did so in a COVID secure way, thanks to robust risk assessments. Every visitor who responded to our online survey after their visit rated our COVID-19 measures as making them feel "Very Safe," and when asked to rate their visit overall, 87% of respondents rated the Museum either "Excellent" or "Good," showing we continued to provide a high quality experience.
- ★ We did all this, without staff having to ever go on furlough, thanks to successful grant applications, most notably, LBRuT's Covid Relief Fund.
- ★ In fact, we have expanded the Museum Team. Thanks to funding from NLHF, we recruited a Museums Assistant. Not only did the Team gain a valuable member of staff, we gave a young person training experiences and skills which will enable them to pursue a career in Museums and Heritage.

As an independent charity with two full time members of professional staff and a Board of Trustees, to achieve all of this and to be able to go into 2021/2022 on a strong footing is something we are immensely proud of.



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Looking forward to 2021/2022



We plan on building on these successes in 2021/2022. Digital will become a much more fundamental part of the Museum's offering, embedded in everything we do, adding to what we can offer once we are able to reopen to the public.

2021/2022 will be an exciting time of change and development for the Museum:



The King's Observatory:
Richmond's Science Story



- * A **new Curator and Executive Officer**, Laura Irwin, will be joining the Museum Team.
- * To ensure that The Museum of Richmond remains relevant and resilient, we will be developing a **new Forward Plan, and Learning and Audience Development Plan**, both of which will have Digital embedded in them, changing how we design our exhibition, events and learning programmes.
- * We will begin planning and researching for our **Reinterpretation Project**. The redisplay of the permanent displays and reinterpretation of the collections will show that the Museum incorporates untold stories and tells already told stories from different perspectives, better reflecting the multicultural nature of the Borough of Richmond.
- * February 2021 sees the opening of our new exhibition, *The King's Observatory*. As well as being ready to open when restrictions are lifted, it will be available online and have a digital programme of events for adults and families. This will include a talk by *Patrick Baty, 'The Paint Detective'*, a virtual tour of the exhibition with the Museum Team, and online family workshops for February Half Term.
- * The **Schools programme** will be expanded so we will continue to offer on site workshops, off site workshops, and online workshops. This programme will continue even once restrictions have been lifted to increase our capacity for schools workshops. We will also be expanding our range of **Discovery Boxes**, thanks to funding from The Arts Society, Richmond.
- * The **Families programme** will also be expanded to a blended offering of onsite workshops when we are able, and online workshops and resources, again even once restrictions have been lifted to increase our capacity.
- * We will continue to post daily on our **social media** platforms, further exploring our collections and the stories they hold.
- * **Volunteering opportunities** have always been at the heart of what we can offer, so we will be working on how we can develop remote work experience and volunteer opportunities, a programme that will be able to continue once we are able to welcome volunteers back on site.
- * The Museum will also continue to **work with partners** across West London, including being on the Steering Group for the *West London Museums Group*, fully engaging in *LBRuT's new Cultural Strategy*, and developing an exhibition and events programme to celebrate *The Orange Tree Theatre's 50th Anniversary*.
- * We will be overseeing the installation of a **Memorial Bench for Valerie Boyes**, founding member and former Chair of the Museum, after a successful Crowdfunding campaign.