





# INTRODUCTION

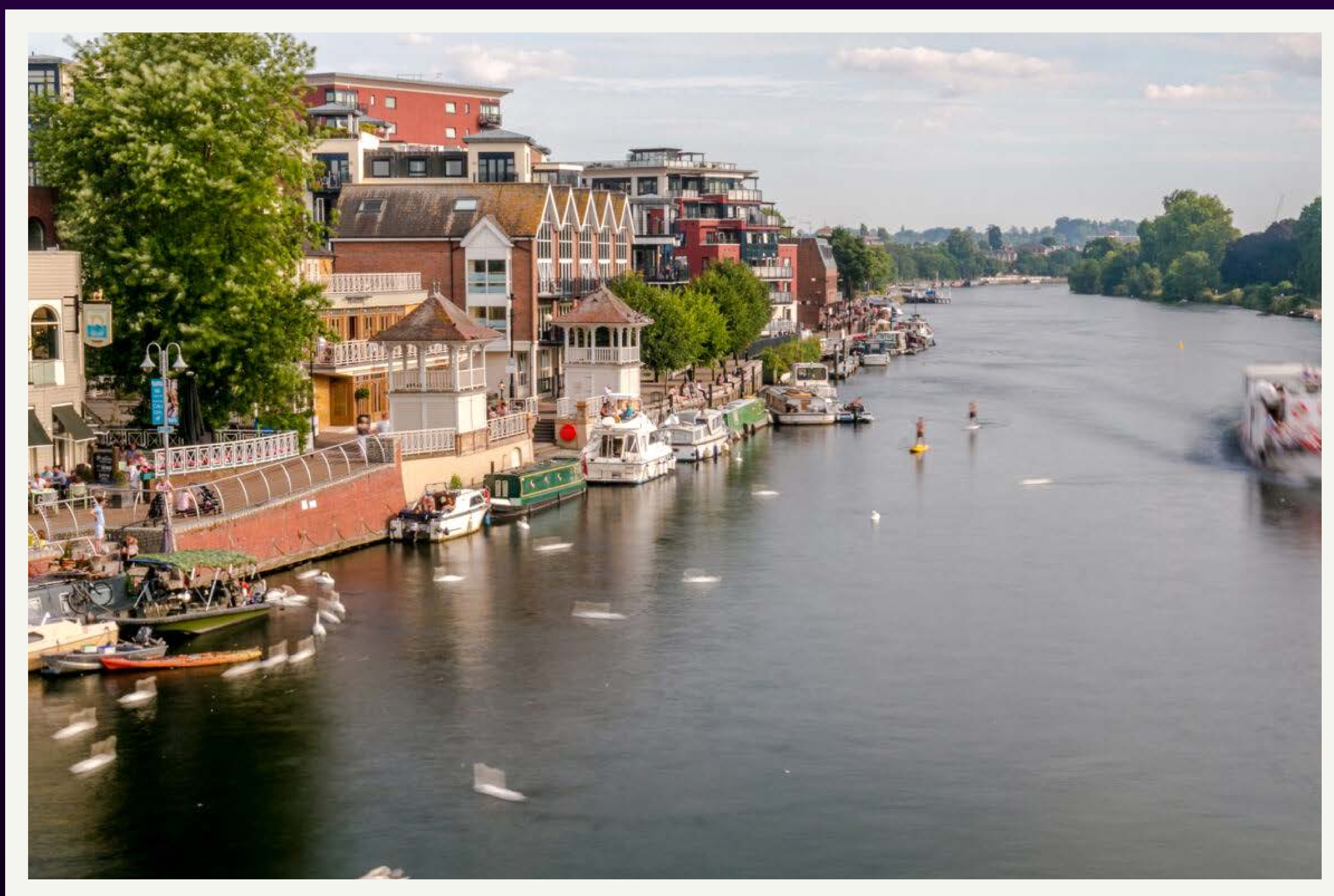
This Educational Resource has been designed for teachers and group leaders to support a free self-led visit to **FUSEBOX** in Kingston Upon Thames.

It acts as an introduction to the venue as both a heritage site and a contemporary youth-led space. It aims to show how the unique heritage held within **FUSEBOX** can act as a bridge to further learning about the local history and culture of Kingston and beyond.

Whilst providing clear links to **Key Stage 2 History**, we encourage an exploration of **FUSEBOX** through the additional lenses of **Citizenship** and the **Creative Arts**.

Research is showing that informal and youth-led settings encourage deeper engagement with Arts and Culture, allowing for learning that is rooted in the worlds of young people and draws on their lived experience.

**FUSEBOX** provides a unique space in which these different modes of learning can come together.



**GET IN TOUCH WITH OUR EDUCATION  
BOOKINGS TEAM**

**[hello@creativyouthcharity.org](mailto:hello@creativyouthcharity.org)**

**or call on 020 8549 2120**

**FUSEBOX, 2 Buckland's  
Wharf, Thameside,  
Kingston upon Thames,  
KT1 1TF**



# WHAT IS FUSEBOX?

**FUSEBOX** is a multi-arts venue for young people, providing a space for sparking imagination and realising dreams.

It is run by **Creative Youth**, a local charity who have long dreamt of having a creative playground in Kingston; a place for young people to produce work, try new things, learn, share and develop their talents. Now that dream is becoming a reality. Situated under John Lewis in Kingston, FUSEBOX is now open to the public.

***It is your space to build your future!***

- ★ **We work with young people aged 5 - 26**
- ★ **We run FUSE INTERNATIONAL, the largest International Youth Arts Festival in the UK**
- ★ **We support a minimum of 1,500 young people each year to engage in the Arts**

Find out more about what we do [here](#)

Click [here](#)  
to watch a short film  
about FUSEBOX





# HERITAGE AT FUSEBOX

**FUSEBOX** is not only an arts space, but also a heritage site. Our space houses the 12th century Saxon remains of the foundations of **Kingston Bridge** as well as the **14th century Medieval Undercroft**.

Discovered during the building work for the John Lewis building in **1986**, archaeologists guided by the Museum of London exposed the foundations of the original Bridge, the cobbled street that led to it and the Undercroft vaulted cellar of a Medieval house that stood beside it.

Previously only visible through a glass window from the street, the creation of **FUSEBOX** allowed for a space where these incredible pieces of history could be **publicly accessible**, and provide an inspirational, contemporary environment for **creativity and discovery**.

## THE SAXON BRIDGE

The stone foundations of the original bridge you can see in FUSEBOX date back to the 12th century [c.1170]

Above it, you can see a timber recreation of the original bridge in typical Saxon architectural design. When it was constructed, the bridge provided the only crossing over the Thames, except for London Bridge.

The bridge remains central to local history as it developed Kingston into bustling, riverside market town.

It underwent various reconstruction over the following centuries, before falling into disrepair in the 19th century.

Construction for the modern Kingston Bridge we see today began in 1925, around 30 meters upstream from the location of the original Saxon structure. Once completed in 1828, the Bridge still connected Kingston's town centre with the Borough of Richmond Upon Thames. Today it forms part of a major road connecting people, transport and communities across the two boroughs.



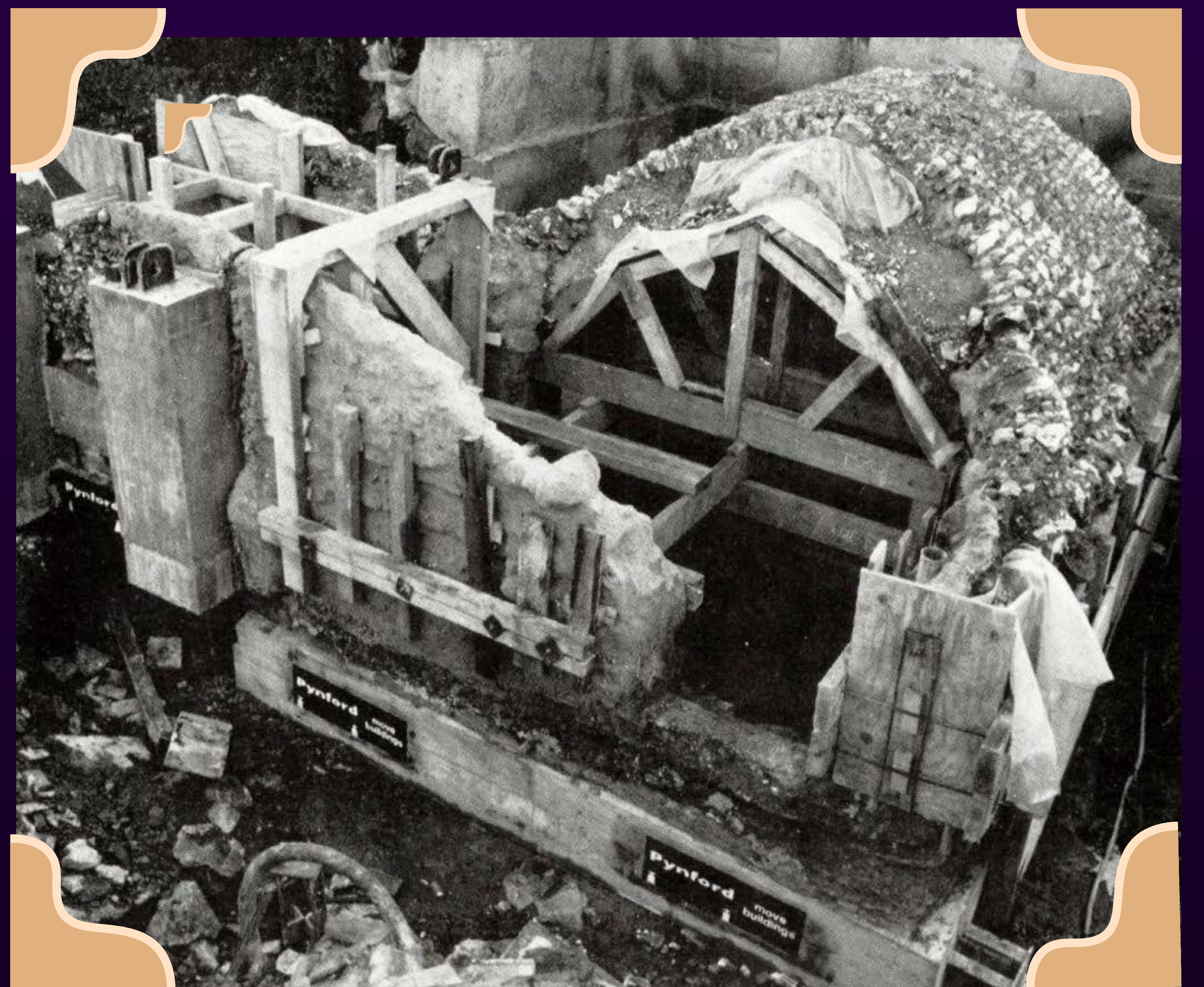


# HERITAGE AT FUSEBOX

## THE MEDIEVAL UNDERCROFT

The Medieval Undercroft is dated to c. 1350. It was originally uncovered in 1900, on the corner of Old Bridge Street and Thames Street, during the demolition of The Rose and Crown public house. The Undercroft was then built over and lost, until it was rediscovered in 1985. Due to its proximity to Kingston Market, it is thought The Undercroft formed the cellar of a merchant's house, and was used to hold goods for trade.

Constructed centuries after the Saxon Kingston Bridge, The Undercroft shows how the bridge allowed people to move via the River Thames and into Kingston. Taken together, both Kingston Bridge and The Undercroft speak to the way in which people have shaped, and indeed continue to shape, their local area.





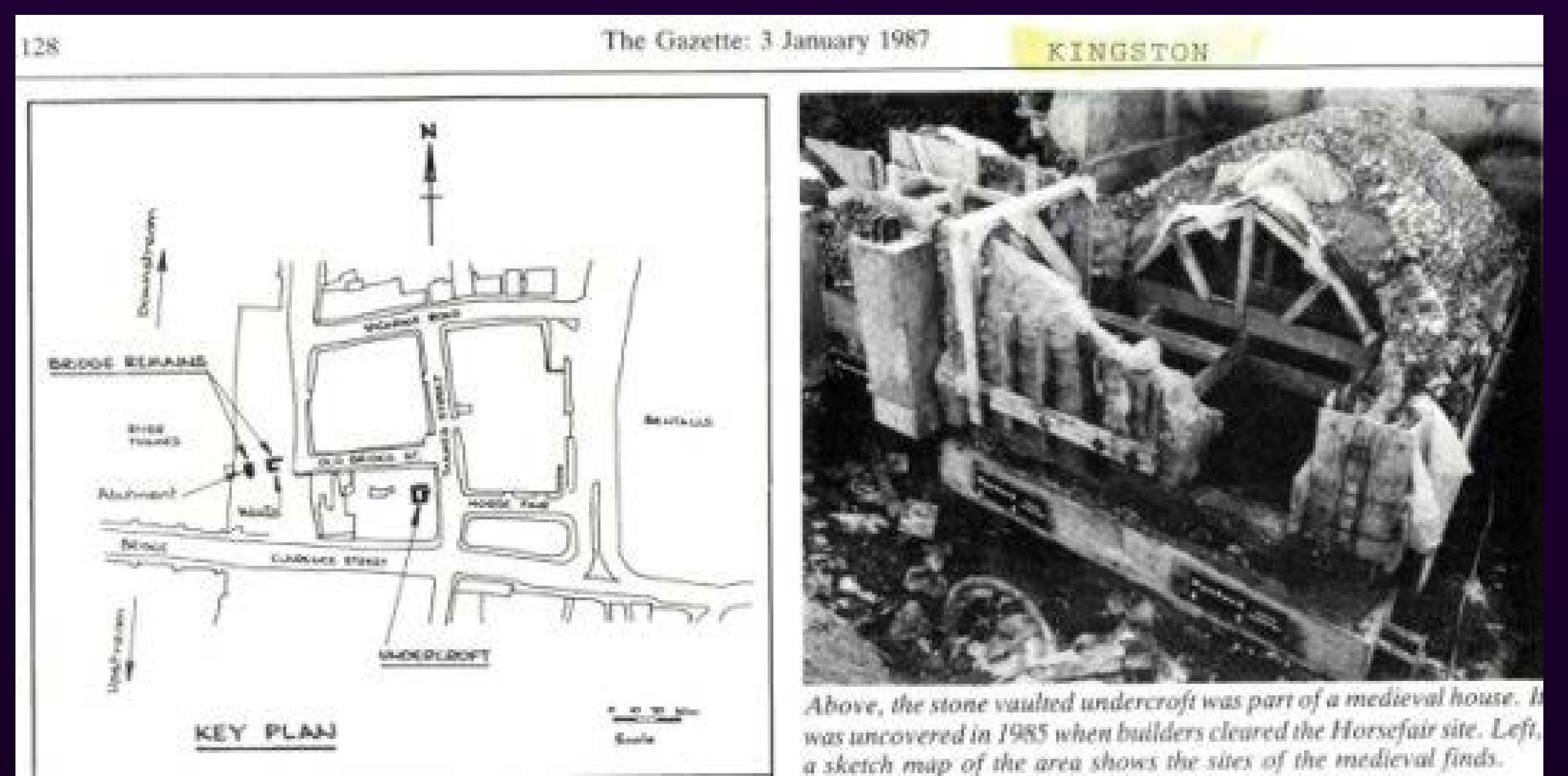
# HERITAGE AT FUSEBOX

## THE EXCAVATION, 1986 - 1990

The discovery of this heritage was made during the construction of John Lewis & Partners in 1986. Planning for the department store began in 1979 but was not completed until 1990, largely due to the recovery, study and excavation of both the Saxon Bridge and Medieval Undercroft.

Once discovered, archaeologists at the Museum of London were brought in to oversee the excavation of the 12th century stonework and timber. It was decided these artefacts would be recovered and positioned in the space they are today, to preserve this heritage whilst also keeping it close to its original positioning.

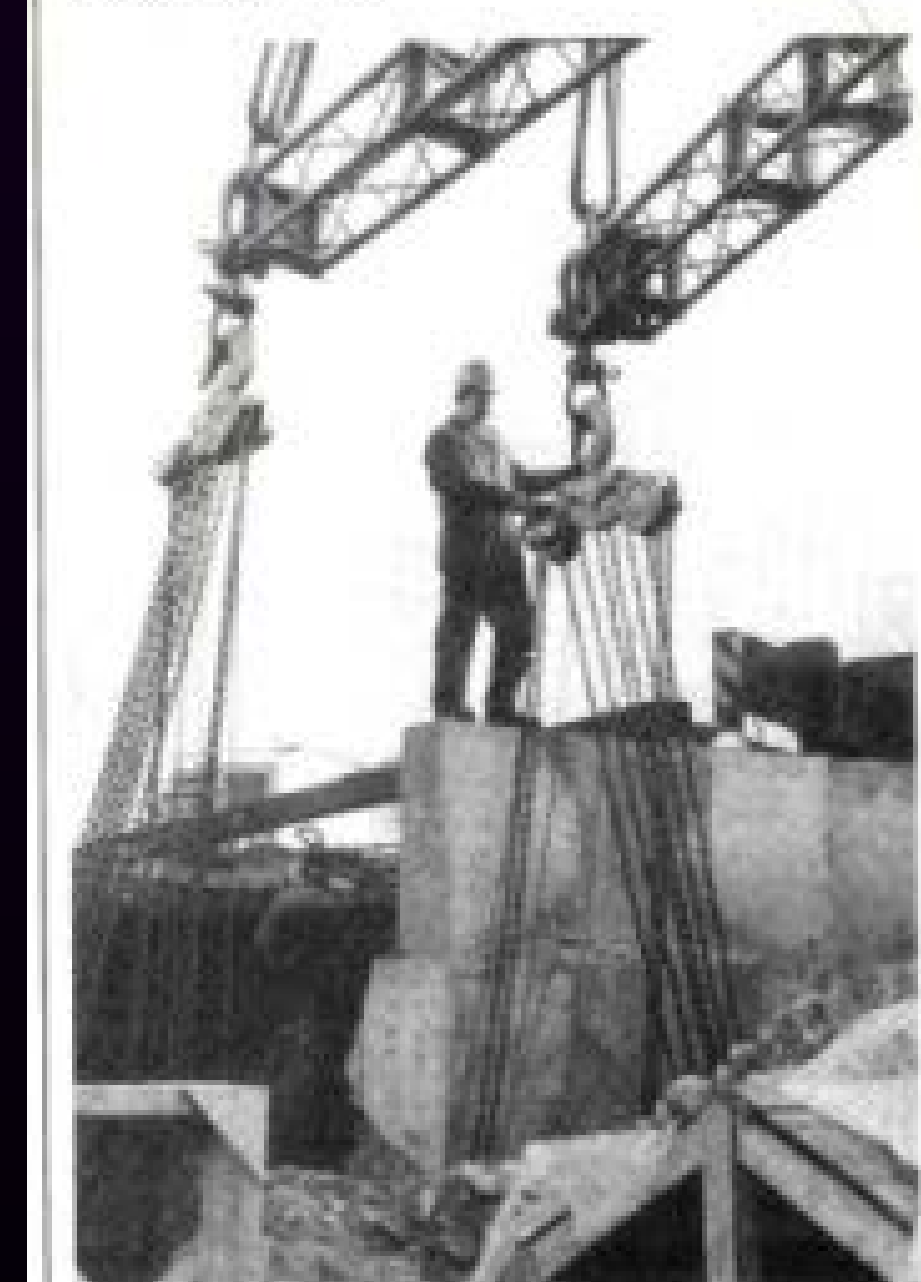
A technique of reinforcing the architecture in concrete was developed, which can still be seen around the curve of the Undercroft and footings on the Bridge. Newspaper clippings from the time described the 1986 excavation, where the artefacts were lifted by crane, as a monumental feat in British architectural history.



### Lifting history

Caroline Dilke reports

Just before Christmas, contractors removed some fragile medieval relics from the Horsefair site at Kingston where a new Partnership department store is being built. The remains of a bridge dating from 1150 and a stone vaulted basement, or undercroft, were transported by lorry through the streets of Kingston and placed in store. They are to be brought back and incorporated into the new riverside development in two years' time.



Above, a workman positions chains to lift the main part of the undercroft, which weighs 70 tons. Right, the fragile structure, which has been underpinned to protect it, is ready to be transported through the streets of



NEWSDESK Tel. 01-4

## 'KINGSTON'S OWN VERSION OF THE M

# Monumental problem solved

● the picture below shows the undercroft's key position beneath the busiest road in the Royal borough! Pumps had to be kept working night and day to cope with flooding. A close-up view of the wooden frame built into the undercroft to give additional support.

AN EVENT unique in the annals of British engineering history takes place in central Kingston this weekend with the lifting of two of the most significant historic monuments ever found in the Royal borough.

Saturday will see the raising of the 600-year-old undercroft, unearthed last year at the junction of Old Bridge Street and Thames Street.

At dawn on Sunday workmen will start moving the 800-year-old remains of the Thames bridge which for centuries made Kingston a focal point of national

by features editor  
**JUNE SAMPSON**



# A BRIEF HISTORY OF KINGSTON

The first mention of Kingston was in AD 838 – as the site of a meeting between King Egbert of Wessex and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Kingston lay on the **boundary** between the ancient kingdoms of Wessex and Mercia, before they were joined in the 10th c. into the United Kingdom. Probably because of the town's symbolic location, as many as **7 Saxon Kings** were crowned there, and it was known as the **birthplace of England**.

The area became an early **transportation centre** because the Thames was 'fordable' – meaning it was shallow enough to be crossed by walking, riding on a horse or in a vehicle. Kingston's strength as a commercial centre increased markedly with the completion of the first bridge across the river in the 12th century.

Kingston was built at the **first crossing point of the Thames** upstream from London Bridge, which gave it its early importance in the 13th century and contributed greatly to its development as a **medieval market town**.

Kingston's first market was recorded in 1242 and the town has been a **major trading centre** since 1170. The medieval Market Place is home to the Grade 1 listed All Saints Church and the 19th Century Market House. Not only a place for the trading of a huge **variety of produce**, the busy town square was a place for public **celebration** and **punishment** – the ideal location for Kingston's criminals to get their comeuppance in the stocks.

Some of Kingston's oldest established **industries** were located around the Market Place, including malting, tanning and candle making. These industries have shaped the look of the Market Place today and contributed to the **economy** of the town.

With the coming of the **railway** in the 1830s, there was a great deal of development to the south of the town. Much of this became the new town of Surbiton. A permanent **military presence** was established in the borough with the completion of The Barracks in 1875.

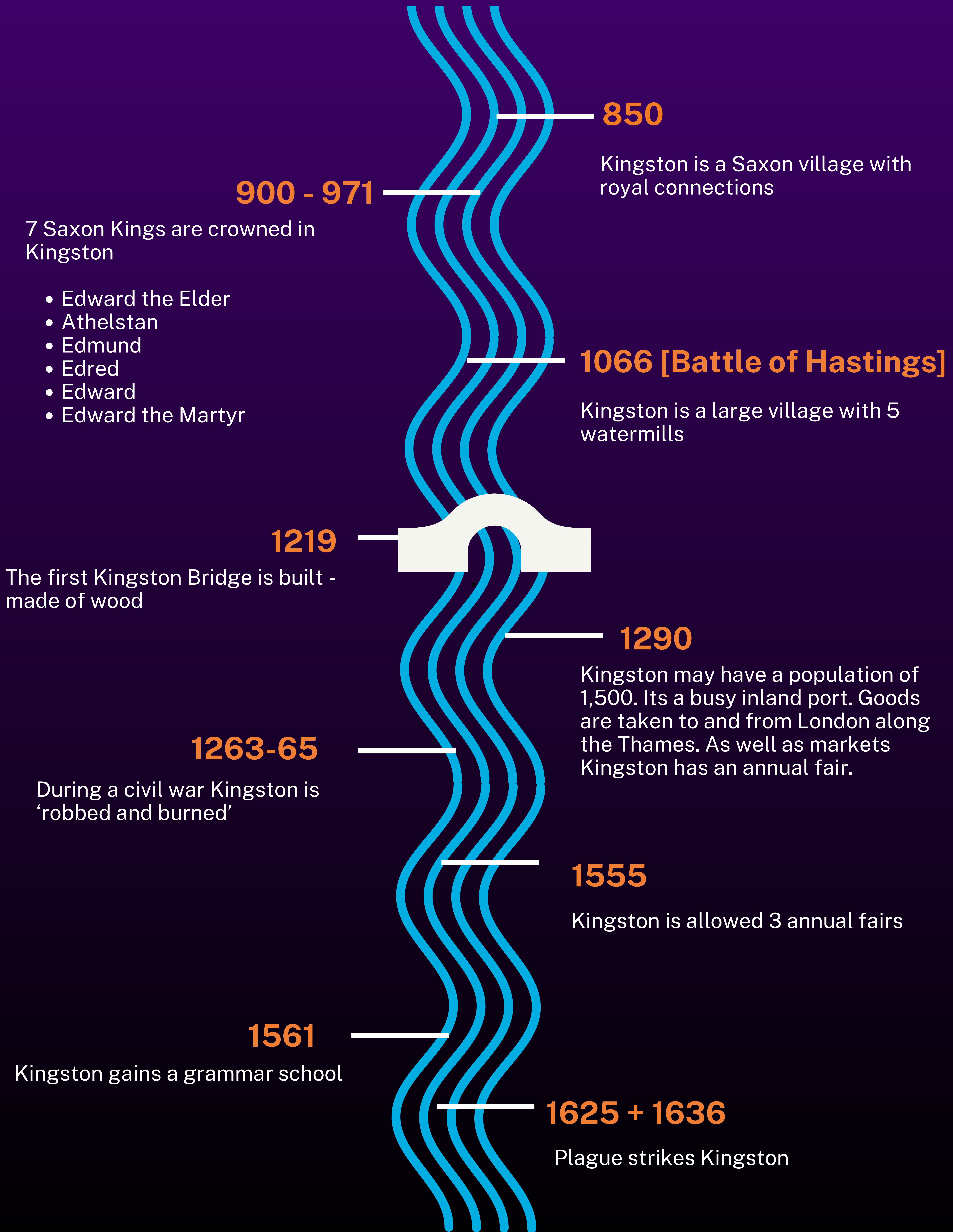
For much of the 20th century, Kingston was a major **military aircraft manufacturing** centre specialising in fighter aircraft. The renowned Sopwith Camel, Hawker Fury, Hurricane, Hunter and Harrier were all designed and built in the town and examples of all of these aircraft can be seen today at the nearby Brooklands Museum in Weybridge.

**Eadwaerd Muybridge**, the pioneering **photographer** known for his advances in capturing motion picture, was born and raised in Kingston and his personal collection can be seen at **Kington Museum**.

The growth and development of **Kingston Polytechnic** and its transformation into Kingston University has made Kingston a thriving **university town** and **creative hotspot**. Many famous musicians, bands and designers studied and performed in Kingston, giving the town a rich **contemporary cultural legacy**.



# TIMELINE OF KINGSTON







**1825**

The decaying wooden bridge is rebuilt in Portland stone with classical Greek features

**1833**

Kingston gains gas light

**1836**

The first police force is formed in Kingston

**1840**

Market House is built

**1841**

Kingston has a population of over 8,000

**1870**

The tolls to cross the bridge are abolished. Huge celebrations line the riverbanks.



**1893**

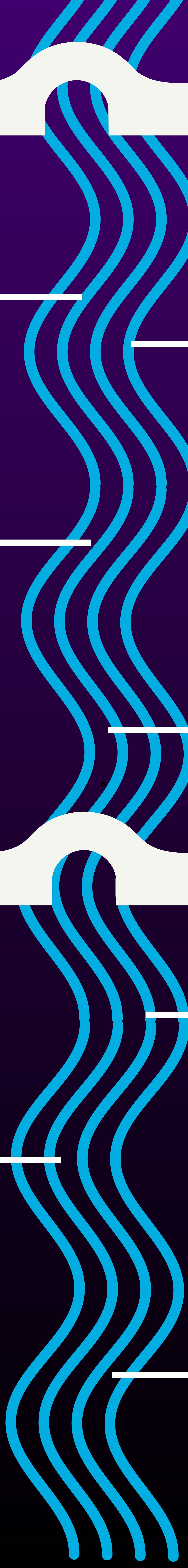
Kingston gains an electricity supply

**1894**

Kingston is made an urban district council

**1897**

Victoria Hospital is built





**1901**

The population of Kingston is booming and it has reached 37,000

**1906**

Electric trams laid along Kingston Bridge

**1912**

Aircraft manufacture begins in Kingston

**1927**

Kingston by-pass is built

**1931**

Buses replace trams

**1935**

The Guildhall is built

**1936**

Kingston Upon Thames is made a borough

**1979**

Eden Walk shopping Centre is built

**1992**

The Bentall Centre opens

**2000**

The bridge is widened for busses and cycle lanes

**2023**

FUSEBOX opens, housing the remains of the original bridge and Undercroft



# FUSEBOX AND KINGSTON

The heritage at **FUSEBOX** can be windows into the wider stories of Kingston's political, infrastructural and migration stories as well a vehicles through which to explore the wider, national historical narrative.

Making relevant local links is a great way of demonstrating how your curriculum reflects the school and its locality, is relevant to your pupils' lives and enriches their understanding of the world around them.

Here are some suggested topics for broader links that can be made from **FUSEBOX's** heritage and some other sites around the town:

1

Why do you think the **12th c.** bridge and **14th c.** undercroft were judged to be **important** enough to **preserve**? What does this say about **national heritage**?



Remains of the Undercroft at FUSEBOX

2

**Engineers** and **archaologists** had to develop **new methods** for moving the undercroft. What do you think this involved? It has been done again to the **Whitefriars** in the City of London.



Excavation of the Undercroft, 1986



# FUSEBOX AND KINGSTON

3

Kingston is one of 5 **Royal Boroughs**. Can you name the others? What do you think it means to be a Royal Borough?



King Mural, Eagle Street

4

Seven Saxon Kings were **crowned** in Kingston at the **Coronation Stone** and the historic **Guildhall**. Can you think of another important recent **Coronation**?



Coronation Stone, Guidhall.  
Click [here](#) for more information

5

The original bridge was the **only crossing** over the River Thames for hundreds of years. What **impact** do you think this had on Kingston's **importance**?



The remains of the cobbled street leading to the original bridge, outside Fusebox



6

This bridge was used as a place to **publically punish** women who were thought to be too **outspoken** or **unruly**. What would we think of that **today**?



Clattern Bridge, which dates to before 1293, High Street

7

Eadweard Muybridge is known as the 'father of **modern photography** and the **motion picture**'. How did photography and motion pictures **change the world**?



Eadweard Muybridge Collection, Kingston Museum

8

What do markets bring to a town? Think about the **diversity** of people, clothing, languages, smells and tastes that a **market you know** has?



Kingston Market, 1200 – present



# HERITAGE IN KINGSTON FUN FACTS

1

Kingston Bridge and London Bridge were the only two passageways across the River Thames until Fulham Bridge was built in 1729.

2

To pass over the original bridge, you had to pay a toll which was very unpopular. When it was eventually made free in 1870 there were festivities and fireworks and a public burning of the toll gates!

3

In 1906 tram lines were laid across the bridge making it the first Thames Bridge to have trams crossing it.

4

Today Kingston Bridge carries a total of 50,000 vehicles per day with 2000 vehicles per hour crossing in each direction at peak times.

5

Clatrung Bridge is the oldest bridge in Greater London. It got its name from the clattering sound that the horses made crossing it.

6

The Kingston Archaeological Society wrote to every member of Kingston Council to plead that the Undercroft could remain where it was found.

7

Kingston was called Cyninges tun in 838, Chingestune in 1086, Kingeston in 1164, Kyngeston super Tamisiam in 1321 and Kingestowne upon Thames in 1589.

8

King Charles I forbid any town within seven miles of Kingston to have any markets, making Kingston the only market town in the area.

9

Eadweard Muybridge's photographs of galloping horses were the first to show that horses have all four feet in the air when in motion.

10

Lots of famous aircrafts were designed and built in the town, including the Sopwith Camel, Hawker Fury, Hurricane, Hunter and Harrier.

11

In the 11th c. Domesday Book Kingston's assets are listed as: a church, five mills, four fisheries, 27 ploughs, and 40 acres of meadow and woodland worth six hogs.

12

Children's book author Jacqueline Wilson grew up and went to school in Kingston and still lives there today.



# LOCAL HISTORY STUDIES

Local history allows us to look at what was happening in a particular area , see the extent to which it is similar or different from what was happening elsewhere, and broaden our perspective from the 'local' to the 'national' and even the 'global' scene.

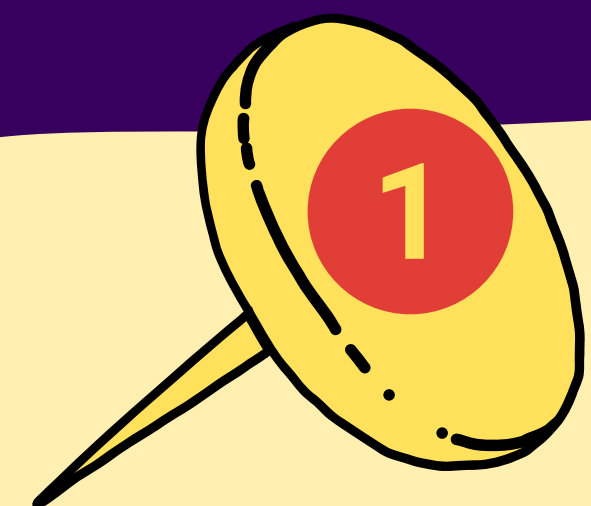
Key benefits of this study for young people include:

- Understand **how** and **why** their local community has **developed** in the way it has
- Learn about the **people** and **events** that **shaped** the place where they live
- Develop a sense of **historical curiosity** about their area and a **sense of place**
- See how **regional, national** and **international** events **impact** their locality. Was this **typical** or was it **unusual**?
- To be aware of the key **features** of their local community and the extent to which they can be an **asset**
- Strengthen their **chronological** understanding and appreciation of **change** and **continuity**.
- Develop their **enquiry** skills and familiarity with a range of resources such as **maps, photographs, census returns and directories**
- Develop an **identity** and **pride** in where they live
- Provide a more **accessible** introduction to **national and international** issues



# KEY STAGE 2 LEARNING

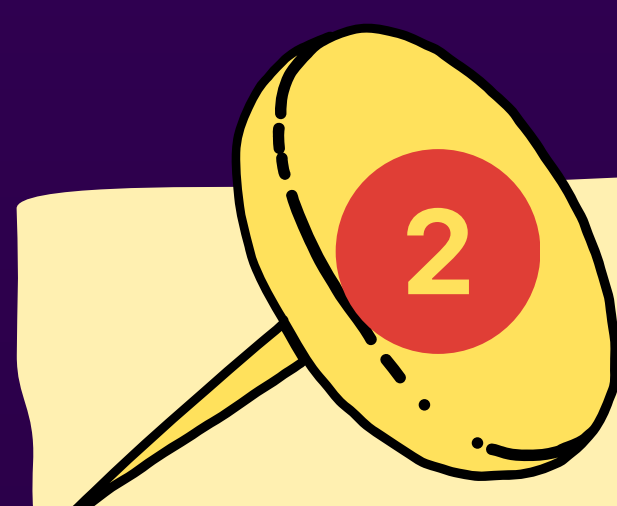
## CURRICULUM LINKS



To address and be able to devise historical questions about **change, cause, similarity, difference, and significance**

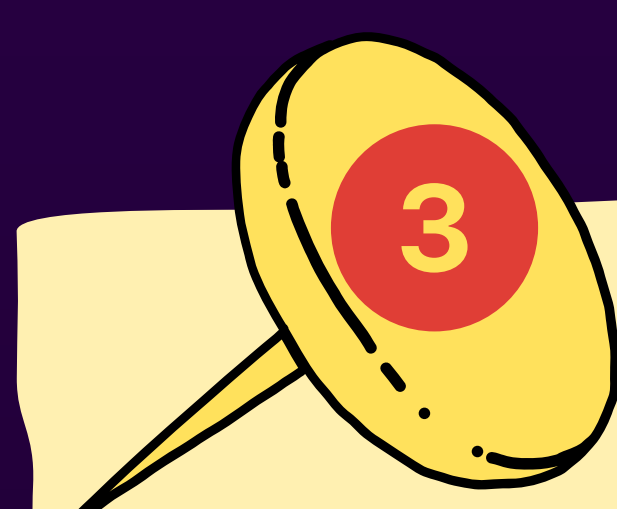
Look at how the **bridge** and the **market** -and their **functions** - changed over time?

How will they have **shaped** the town?



The importance of **sequence** and the **factors** impacting **change** and **development**

Look at why these changes were able to happen and why they might not have occurred at a different time. **What would have been different if Kingston didn't have the bridge or market?**



To note **connections, contrasts** and **trends over time** and develop the appropriate use of **historical terms**.

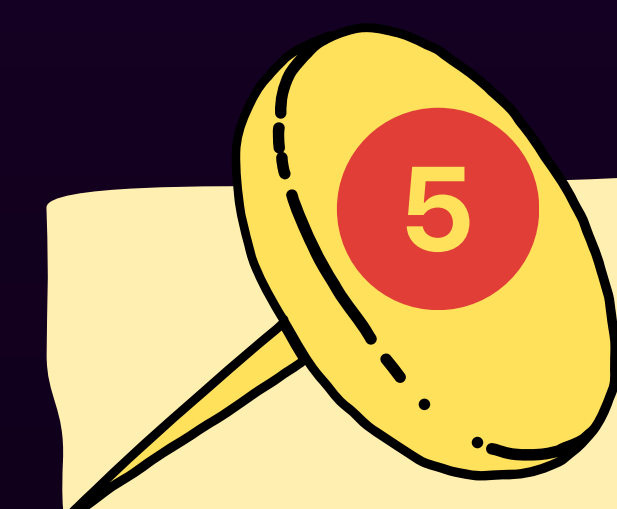
Look at key features of Kingston at different times and explore the significance of different explanations for change. Explore terms **Parish, Charter, Ford, Coronation, Tolls**



To show that **regional stories** can have **global significance**

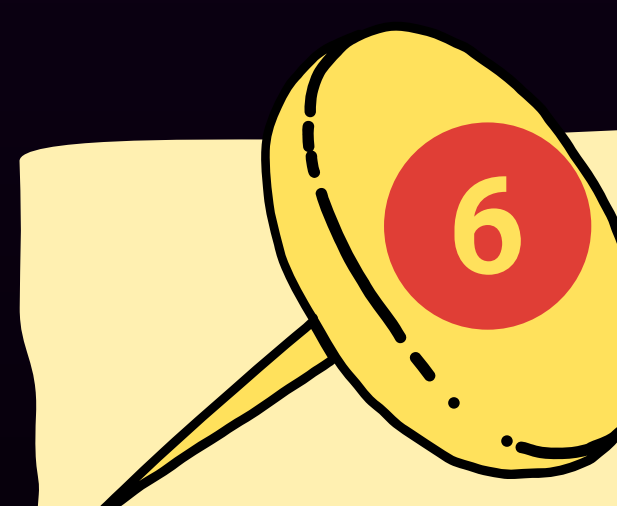
Look at how bridges and markets have impacted **other famous places**. Are there any **similarities?**

Which places are now **linked** to Kingston through **transport, migration and trade?**



To understand how our **knowledge of the past is constructed** from a **range of sources**.

Use sources such as **timetables, maps, photographs, costs, articles** etc to determine who was likely to live or work in Kingston, use the bridge, visit the market?



To think about how **physical geography impacts** on the **development** of a **particular place**

Think about how rivers and bridges create **new links and connections**. Think about how **climate** and **produce** affect **trade** and **culture**.



# KEY STAGE 2 LEARNING

## CROSSS - CURRICULUM OPPORTUNITIES

### Geography

- Understanding 'sense of place'
- Human and physical characteristics
- Types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links
- Impacts of rivers on communities
- How to read maps

### Citizenship

- Ability to talk on issues that affect themselves and society
- Learning to be reflective about their own beliefs and respect those of different people's



### Maths & Literacy

- Analysis of the census
- Understanding old currencies and values
- Communicating the knowledge gained and skills developed.

### Science

- Change of materials over time
- Relationships between living things and familiar environments
- Grouping and classifying things
- using straightforward scientific evidence to draw conclusions
- Technology and transport



# HERITAGE AT FUSEBOX

## A CREATIVE LEGACY

FUSEBOX's dual role as heritage site and contemporary arts venue provides a unique space for impactful learning.

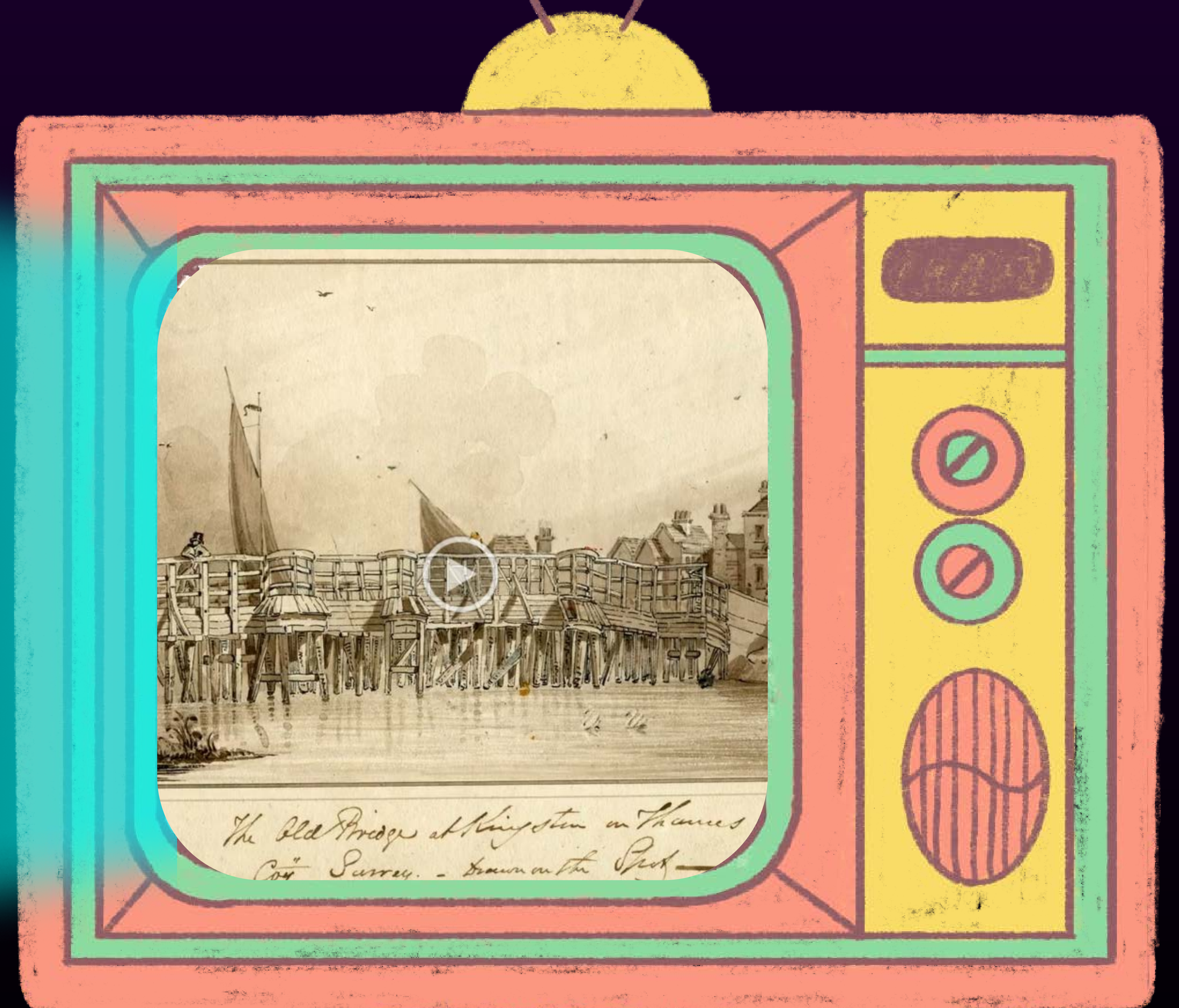
It is our role to preserve and celebrate this heritage for future generations. In doing so, we hope that the artefacts in FUSEBOX provide both a window into the past and a source of creative inspiration in the present.

Bridging photography, graphic design and fine art, Kingston College students designed works for an exhibition celebrating the unique story of Kingston, taking inspiration from the heritage in FUSEBOX to create an imaginative installation.

See more about the project [here](#)



Click [here](#)  
for a link to a film  
made by  
our Young Creatives





# ADDITIONAL LINKS AND RESOURCES

## GUIDANCE

[National Curriculum – Key Stage 1 and 2 History](#)

[National Curriculum – Key Stage 1 and 2 Geography](#)

[Local History Studies Resources](#)

[Building an Outstanding Local History Project](#)

[Sustainability in Heritage](#)

[Museum in Your Classroom](#)

## KINGSTON RESOURCES

[Bridge and Undercroft Factsheet](#)

[Coronation Stone Factsheet](#)

[Leisure and Community Activity Sheet](#)

[Our 100 Histories](#)

## MAPS

[Digimaps for Schools](#)

[Ordnance Survey Mapzone for children](#)

[Britain From Above](#)

## BOOKS

[Geoff Timmins, \*Exploring Local History for Teachers in Primary & Secondary School\*, available from The British Association for Local History.](#)

[Lynne Dixon & Alison Hales, \*Bringing History Alive through Local People and Places\*, Routledge.](#)

## RELEVANT ORGANISATIONS

[Kingston Museum](#)

[Kingston Heritage Center](#)

[Brooklands Museum, Weybridge](#)

[Art, Music, Pop Fashion Project 2024](#)



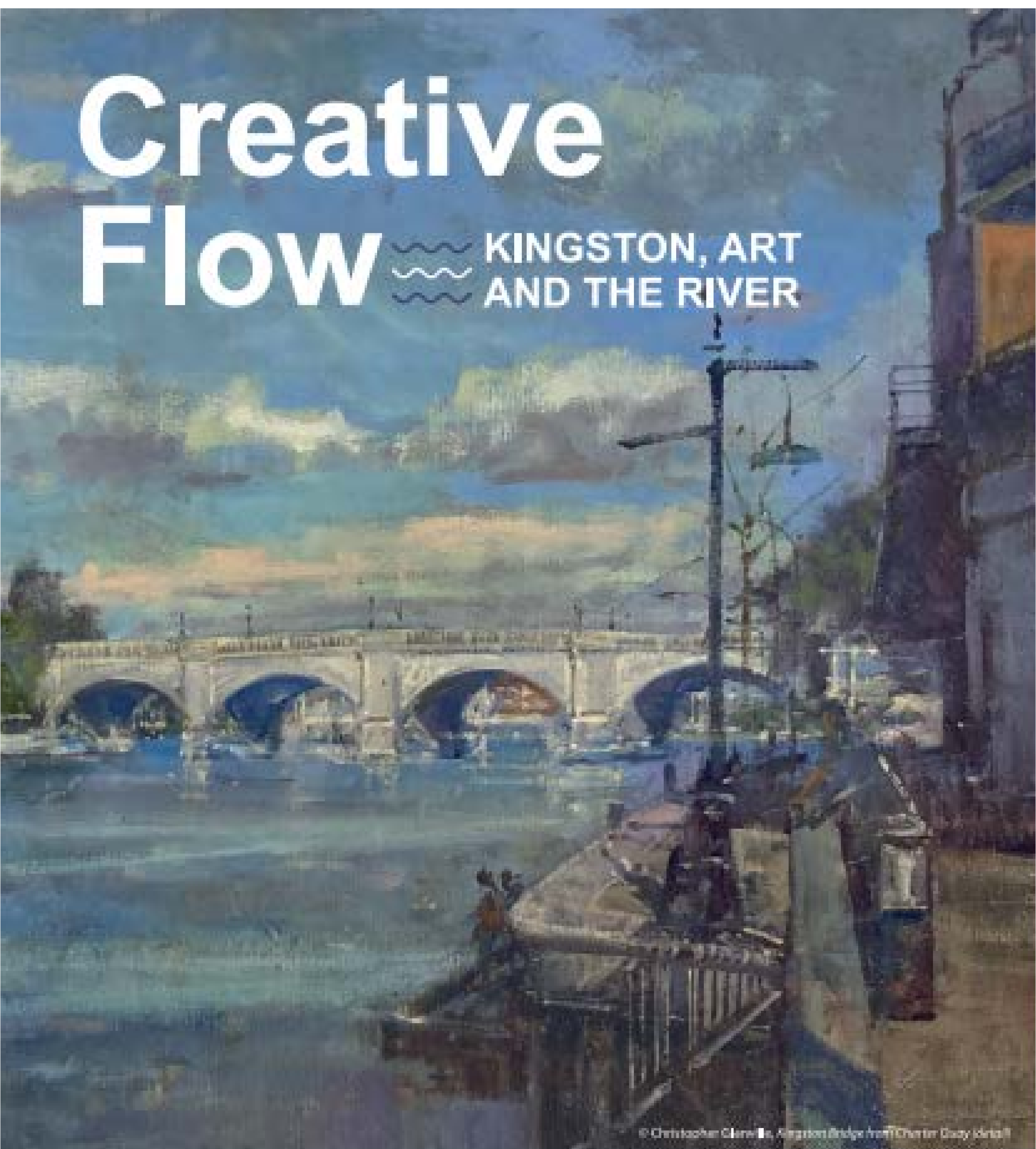
# APPENDIX - CREATIVE FLOW AT KINGSTON MUSEUM

Fri 29th Sep 2023 - Sat 13th Apr 2024

This exhibition explores the role of the river Thames as a major source of creative inspiration in Kingston from the 17th century to the present - a history that includes Turner and the Pre-Raphaelites.

Delving into the wealth of river views in Kingston Museum's permanent collection, and featuring works by locally based, contemporary artists, including acclaimed documentary photographer, Alexander Beer and multi-disciplinary artist, Lyndsay Russell, the show explores the enduring artistic fascination with the idea of being 'upon Thames'. Interweaving local stories into the national narrative, the exhibition presents a familiar form of art through a local lens, while celebrating the continuing resonance of the river Thames for artists and photographers in and around Kingston.

See more about the exhibition [here](#)



**Creative Flow** KINGSTON, ART AND THE RIVER

29 SEP 2023 - 13 APR 2024  
KINGSTON MUSEUM  
[www.kingstonheritage.org.uk](http://www.kingstonheritage.org.uk)

**FREE ADMISSION**

Totally Thames 2023

KINGSTON HERITAGE SERVICE