



Keats House Consultative Committee

Date: FRIDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2023
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: ALDERMAN'S COURT ROOM, WEST WING, GUILDHALL EC2
Members: Munsur Ali (Chair) Stephen Ainger
John Foley (Deputy Chairman) Steven Bobasch
John Griffiths Jim Burge
Jason Groves Alexandra Lavery
William Upton KC Nicholas Roe

Enquiries: Jayne Moore
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Lunch will be served at the Guildhall Club at 1.30pm

AGENDA

Part 1 - Public Agenda

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**
3. **MINUTES**
To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23 June 2023.

For Decision
(Pages 5 - 10)
4. **PROGRESS AT KEATS HOUSE APRIL - SEPTEMBER 2023**
To receive a presentation on progress at Keats House for April to September 2023.

For Information
5. **MID-YEAR UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES AT KEATS HOUSE**
To receive the report of the Interim Executive Director of Environment.

For Discussion
(Pages 11 - 22)
6. **OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE OPERATION OF KEATS COMMUNITY LIBRARY FROM TEN KEATS GROVE**

For Discussion
7. **QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**
9. **DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**
The next meeting will take place on 03 May 2024 at 2.30pm at Keats House, NW3

KEATS HOUSE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Friday, 23 June 2023

Minutes of the meeting of the Keats House Consultative Committee held at Keats House, 10 Keats Grove, NW3 2RR on Friday, 23 June 2023 at 2.30 pm

Present

Members:

John Foley (Deputy Chairman)

John Griffiths

Stephen Ainger

Steven Bobasch

Jim Burge

In Attendance

Officers:

Rob Shakespeare

Simon Glynn

Jayne Moore

- Natural Environment

- Natural Environment

- Town Clerk's Department

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Munsur Ali, Jason Groves and Nicholas Roe. The meeting was chaired by John Foley.

The Committee welcomed Simon Glynn to his first meeting of the Committee.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

There were no declarations.

3. MINUTES

On DBS checks: A Member sought an update on the matter. The meeting heard that young people were frequent visitors to the House and therefore enhanced DBS checks were appropriate – but that volunteers were always accompanied by a DBS-checked staff member, did not necessarily come to the House very often, and did not meet criteria around regulated activity (therefore they did not meet the frequency and role-based criteria for DBS checks). In the event that a learning volunteer role was developed then it was likely that a DBS check would be appropriate.

In response to a question on the practicality of allocating a volunteer to always be with a staff member, the meeting heard that there was no way of avoiding a situation whereby a volunteer was always with a paid staff member.

In response to clarification on non DBS-checked people in the gardens visited frequently by children, the meeting heard that children were always with

parents or carers and were therefore not the direct responsibility of the House though House staff would always be aware of safeguarding matters (while school groups were accompanied and supervised by teachers and paid staff members – as set out in the risk assessment).

On the inclusion of Keats House in the Destination City strategy, a Member commented that there was no mention of Keats House on the Destination City (DC) website and that there ought to be a link to the Corporation's other assets, including the London Metropolitan Archives. A Member noted that the matter had been raised with the DC executive and that it was being explored. The meeting noted improvements to the Keats House website.

A Member sought clarification on museum accreditation: the Committee heard that Keats House has not yet been invited to be involved, and the Museum will not need to make a submission before 2024.

RESOLVED, That the minutes of the meeting of 28 October 2022 be agreed as an accurate record of the proceedings.

4. **UPDATE REPORT FOR KEATS HOUSE CHARITY, 2022/23**

The Committee noted the report of the Executive Director, Environment together with three appendices: [Draft] Annual Report for Keats House Charity 2022/23; Keats House Divisional Plan 2023-26, May 2023 update; and [Draft] Keats House Activities Plan 2023/24.

Noting the importance of retaining and protecting core funding, a Member asked whether there was any competition for funding for Keats House (KH) in the light of City of London Corporation (CoLC) reorganisation initiatives. The meeting heard that opportunities for access to hitherto untapped funding were being explored across the full CoL heritage portfolio, and that there appeared to be no negative impacts to KH.

A Member asked whether any external funding targets or benchmark expectations had been set. The meeting heard that the current year's income target was fixed, and that KH benefited from the generous CoLC support for core staffing and service delivery. The meeting heard that longer-term targets encompassed an expectation that new posts would be self-funding. The Committee noted that positive or negative balances at the end of the year were directed in or out of the charity reserves. The reserve was expected to be reduced to the charity reserve target level of £20K, and investments were being made in collection cataloguing management software alongside other projects including improvements to the visitor entrance area and the front pedestrian entry area (a dual-height wall).

A Member asked why it had taken so long for the boundary wall to be given attention and whether there was a budgetary impact to the delay. The meeting heard that a combination of factors came into play: London Borough of Camden had initially approved spending to enhance accessibility to the grounds and house to include improvements to toilets, pathways and lighting (partly to facilitate evening events) - however the consultation process had been lengthy,

and costs had increased after the pandemic necessitating further quotes resulting in only partial approval of all the costs. A further proposal was being supported by the CoLC that could draw on a local community levy that would require local stakeholder support.

In response to a question on the expiry date for planning application submissions, the meeting heard that the time limit was three years and that a light-touch reapproval was likely, particularly as some of the project had been started.

Noting that a new councillor at Camden was in place, a Member asked whether councillors had been contacted. The meeting heard that local councillors would be contacted soon.

A Member sought confirmation that best practice among CoL museum accreditation expertise was being shared – the meeting heard that such knowledge was being actively passed on, including expertise at the Guildhall Art Gallery, noting that the level of excellence in governance at CoL was an asset to the museum accreditation process.

A Member sought clarification on the connection with Cardiff University and the rationale behind the support from Cardiff on the current exhibits. The meeting heard that KH also worked with Roehampton University, and that the status of KH within the field of Romanticism had resulted in interest from academics in the field.

A Member pointed out that the CoLC's Education Board was in the process of refreshing its education strategy, and sought confirmation that KH was abreast of that strategy - particularly in respect of outdoor learning. The meeting noted that those links were being actively developed and that plans were being compiled and refreshed with the CoLC's Education Strategy Unit for 2024, noting the importance of nurturing confidence and interest among school-age children.

A Member commented on the relatively slow recovery of private hire events noting that it was a widespread issue among comparable venues, and suggested that ward club events might be worth exploring.

In response to a request for clarification on private hire rates, the meeting heard that admission and hire rates were submitted to the Culture, Heritage and Libraries Committee though there was some flexibility in the case of smaller events that did not require much space.

A Member commented on the lack of progress so far on the issue of the licence. The meeting heard that a draft had been issued and that the frustration on the slowness of the licence's issue was widespread. It was noted that no real progress on the licence had been made since the last meeting of the KHCC and that the most recent licence was issued in 2020. The meeting noted the undocumented status since 2020, and heard that a request had been made

for a document from CoLC to clarify the status until a licence was agreed. Members also noted the impact of the issue on fundraising capacity.

In response to a question on updates to the charities review, the meeting heard that a report on the recommendations was to be submitted to the July meeting of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee. Those recommendations would inform any longer-term strategy and understanding in respect of the next agreement. In response to clarification on what was holding up progress on the licence. Members commented that while an interim licence had originally been designed to support KCL, it was felt that there might be unwillingness to move forward at the CoLC until the recommendations of the charities review had been submitted (to be submitted in July).

5. QUESTIONS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE WORK OF THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Keats Community Library: The Committee heard that the Hampstead Summer Festival was ongoing and that attendance figures were good. Keats Community Library (KCL) saw 12K movements in May 2023 representing a good recovery with a greater proportion of mainly primary school age children using the library (now 55%, as against 45% pre-pandemic).

A Member asked whether KCL events could or should be published on the CoLC's website (given that KCL was arguably a non-CoLC entity), noting that such events were circulated via the 25K-strong mailing list and via KH social media. It was noted that KCL could be linked to the KH website and that there was merit in exploring closer website interactions.

The Committee noted a message from Nicholas Roe setting out his enthusiasm for the Keats Foundation to be involved in the centenary events scheduled for 2025 at KH to commemorate its opening, including a three-day conference in May that year, with funding support from the Keats Foundation to support other centenary-related events that year.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT

A Member commented that there was merit in promoting poetry as an oral experience as well as an experience of the written word, and suggested connections with audiobook producers. The meeting noted that some soundposts already existed in KH and that poetry readings regularly took place. Other oral elements were available and that the oral element of the poetry would continue to be promoted.

7. DATE AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 13 October 2023 at 2.30pm at Guildhall, preceded by lunch at the Guildhall Club at 1.30pm.

The meeting ended at 4.05pm

Chairman

Contact Officer: Jayne Moore
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Committee(s): Keats House Consultative Committee	Date(s): 13/10/2023
Subject: Mid-year update on activities at Keats House	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Bob Roberts, Interim Executive Director of Environment	For Discussion
Report author: Rob Shakespeare, Head of Heritage & Museums, Environment Department	

Summary

This paper provides Members with an update on activities at Keats House between April and September 2023.

During this period, Keats House has continued to rebuild its services and progress a number of priority projects which had been delayed or impacted by the pandemic and its aftermath.

While Keats House is not expected to return to pre-pandemic levels of operation and achievement until 2024/25 at the earliest, year-on-year progress is being made and it continues to support a range of Corporate, Departmental and sector outcomes and priorities.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- Members note activities at Keats House from April – September 2023, as described below and presented at the meeting, and give their views on how these activities support the priorities, aims and objectives outlined within the Corporate Plan 2018/23 and other key strategies, the Environment Department's primary and supporting aims and objectives, and the objectives of the Keats House Charity.
- Members provide their feedback on achievements and any recommendations which they wish to be conveyed to the next meeting of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee, to be held on 20 November 2023.

Main Report

Background

1. Keats House is a registered charity (number 1053381) with the City Corporation acting as sole trustee.
2. Following the conclusion of Phase 2 of the Target Operating Model in the Environment Department, Keats House is managed within the new Culture & Projects Section of the Natural Environment Division. As well as delivering its own priorities and supporting the Natural Environment Division's emerging strategic framework, its activities are designed to contribute to key City Corporation strategies, including for Education, Skills, Cultural & Creative Learning and key sector initiatives.
3. As a registered charity it is required to submit an annual report and financial statement detailing its activities and to ensure compliance with the Charities Act 2011. Due to the timing of this year's Committee meetings, the draft report for 2023/24 will be presented for discussion at the next meeting of Keats House Consultative Committee, on 3 May 2024, and then for approval by Members of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee at their meeting on 15 July 2024. This paper, and the associated presentation at the meeting, is to update Members on activities at Keats House in the first half of the year, i.e. between April and September 2023.
4. In addition to opening to the public, delivering school sessions and a year-round events programme, Keats House is prioritising a number of key initiatives and longer-term projects to enhance physical access to its premises and virtual access to its collections, as identified in its Activities Plan 2023/24 and outlined below.

Current Position

5. The operational team at Keats House currently comprises 2.4 fte staff, made up of four individuals in three main roles. These officers, supported by our casual and volunteer workforce, are prioritising opening the house to the public and rebuilding the public offer, including live events, school sessions and private hires. Divisional Plan projects, some of which are reliant on other internal and external parties, are being progressed by the Head of Heritage & Museums (previously Principal Curator – Keats House), supported by officers within the Culture & Projects section, including those based at Keats House.
6. Between April and September 2023, Keats House was open to the public on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays, 11am - 1pm and 2 - 5pm. Keats House was forced to close on one day during this period and also offered one late opening, until 7pm. Between April and September, 4,206 people visited the house, which was an increase of 28% on the same period in 2021/22 but still only c.55% of visitors pre-pandemic (7,708, April – September 2019).

7. The overarching theme of our programming in 2023/24 is 'Young Romantics in the City', a partnership project with Cardiff University supported through their Innovation for All funding stream. The exhibition, which was co-curated with Dr Anna Mercer, Lecturer in English Literature (Romanticism) and opened in February, reveals the diversity of writers and writing in the Romantic period, through the inter-connected themes of Politics, Class, Gender and Race. Changing object displays have illustrated these themes and we are particularly grateful for the support of the British Library in loaning us their first edition copy of 'The Woman of Colour', which was published anonymously in 1808 and placed on display for the first time in this country from June to October. Preceding and forthcoming object displays have also been supported by London Metropolitan Archives, who continue to help us conserve and provide access to our collections. From November to February, we will be displaying a rarely seen polemic pamphlet by Percy Bysshe Shelley from our own collections, alongside Welsh and English language ballads from the collections of Cardiff University. #YoungRomantics is used for promoting the majority of our programming on social media, which continues to be our main way of engaging directly with our audiences.
8. School visits and live events continue to support the rebuilding of our audiences. Between April and September, a total of 21 school sessions, including our new 'Culturally Speaking' and 'Poetry Versus Colonialism' sessions, have been delivered to 421 students and 49 teacher / carers. Keats House summer school also took place over four days in July, engaging GCSE and A Level students in creative writing workshops led by published authors. From September, both Culturally Speaking and Poetry Versus Colonialism will be delivered with funding provided by the City's Cultural and Creative Learning fund, supporting us to work with key cultural sector partners to deliver on the City Corporation's outcomes for learning, skills and cultural engagement.
9. During this period, we delivered 19 public events, attracting at least 471 people to take part in cultural activities at Keats House. In addition, Keats House continues to work with partner organisations, creative individuals and stakeholder groups to support wider initiatives. Highlights of the spring / summer programme included: The Wild Escape event for Earth Day with Hampstead School of Art; Keats Foundation's annual conference held over three days in May; hosting events for Hampstead Summer Festival, including their Art Fair, outdoor theatre performances and family day; as well as our annual free admission day for Open House Festival. These events contribute to the local cultural and community offer, as well as key priorities including Climate Action and Destination City, as programming and audiences continue to recover following the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.
10. Private hires of the Chester Room in Keats House, which is largely used for book launches and literary / small stakeholder events, and the Nightingale Room in Ten Keats Grove, for private parties and larger events, have been supported by Keats House officers, with income earned from these contributing to the overall income target for the charity.

11. As a condition of the premises licence for 10 Keats Grove, Keats House Consultative Committee receive a twice-yearly report of licensable events held at the House, to ensure that the operating schedule and conditions are being upheld. To report that no activities have taken place to date in 2023/24 under Keats House's premises licence. Hampstead Summer Festival events which involved the sale of alcohol and other licensable activities were covered by TENs obtained by the organisers. Complimentary alcoholic drinks were served at six of the events referred to above and at the Keats Foundation Conference, which made use of the garden in the early evening. Although these did not involve the sale of alcohol they are reported here for completeness. The Premises Licence for 10 Keats Grove was recently renewed for the period to 11 September 2024 at a cost of £180.00.
12. We are actively working with the City Surveyor's Department to deliver the access improvement project, along with associated works to maintain, preserve and enhance the Grade 1 listed house and garden. Cyclical and reactive maintenance works to Keats House and Ten Keats Grove (library building) are also ongoing. Quotes for the already approved access improvements to the paths and garden have now been received and are being considered against available budgets. Plans for the enhanced security of both buildings have now been submitted to the London Borough of Camden, following an advisory visit from their Conservation Officer in June, and are now awaiting the required consents to proceed, with the work still scheduled to take place in 2023/24.
13. Paul Vick Architects have also recently submitted the plans for the replacement of the current dilapidated, wooden boundary fence on Keats Grove to L.B. Camden. The proposed design is for a dual-height brick wall with metal fencing over, which would be more durable and an enhancement to the Grade 1 listed site, which is situated within the Hampstead Conservation Area. We are waiting for their response and the required approvals to proceed before requesting quotes for this project, which we hope to deliver in 2024/25.
14. The licence for Keats Community Library (KCL) to operate from Ten Keats Grove until 31 March 2024, which was approved by CHL at their meeting on 14 November 2022, has been finalised and issued to their Trustees. Since April, KCL have been open for 42 hours / week, Tuesday – Sunday, and the Children's Library has operated from the Nightingale Room for a total of 19 hours on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays according to the licence, and an additional 8 hours on Wednesdays under an agreed arrangement as approved.
15. Following the recommendation of the Charity Review, which was approved by Members of the Culture, Heritage & Libraries Committee on 17 July 2023, an informal meeting was held between representatives of City Corporation and KCL Trustees on 12 September to discuss future options and the duration of any future agreement. Previously officers have recommended that licences are issued to correspond with renewal of the designation of KCL as an Asset of Community Value (ACV), previously nominated by Hampstead Neighbourhood Forum. This was last renewed by London Borough of Camden for five years with effect from 14 April 2021. Officers continue to recommend that the licence agreement corresponds with the ACV nomination, although KCL Trustees have

requested a longer agreement, especially the version which would be in effect from April 2024, to ensure surety of their operation which, in turn, facilitates their ability to fundraise and invest in library improvements and services.

Proposals

16. Members indicate their continued support for the activities and priorities of Keats House in delivering the Charitable Objectives, as well as contributing to Corporate, Departmental and wider strategic and community outcomes.
17. Members provide their views on the future operation of Keats Community Library from Ten Keats Grove, to guide officers and Members in the options to be developed.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

18. The projects and works outlined in this report contribute towards the achievement of the three aims set out in the City of London Corporate Plan 2018-23: Contribute to a flourishing society; Support a thriving economy; and Shape outstanding environments.
19. The projects and works outlined in this report also support the Environment Department to Shape Sustainable Future Environments through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives, and the Education Board's strategic framework.

Conclusion

20. Keats House continues to recover from the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly with regard to visitor numbers and associated income. The effects of the pandemic and subsequent changes in the wider economy are also beginning to ease, enabling priority projects to be progressed. However, income targets for admissions, shop sales, events and private hires will remain below pre-pandemic levels in 2023/24 and, possibly still, the following year. Reductions in operating costs have reduced the full impact of these to some extent, but this is also limiting our capacity to invest in future priorities.
21. Over the next three years, Keats House will need to determine and demonstrate how it can best respond to the ongoing challenges of recovering from the longer-term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, while supporting Corporate and Departmental strategic priorities and delivering audience expectations.
22. A number of delayed projects designed to increase physical and virtual access to Keats House and its collections, need to be prioritised for delivery in 2022/23 and 2023/24. These will contribute to the City Corporation's emerging plan for 2024-19, key Departmental strategies, and a sustainable future for the Keats House Charity, including the 100th anniversary celebrations of the opening of the house to the public in 2025.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Keats House Activities Plan 2023/24

Rob Shakespeare

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YOUNG Romantics in the CITY

KEATS!
John Keats (1795–1821)
'But this is human life: the war, the deeds, The disappointment, the anxiety, Imagination's struggles, far and nigh, All human'

AUSTEN
Jane Austen (1775–1817)
'Men have had every advantage of us in telling their own story. Education has been theirs in so much higher a degree; the pen has been in their hands. I will not allow books to prove any thing'

HAZLITT!
William Hazlitt (1778–1830)
'There was a mighty ferment in the heads of statesmen and poets, kin and people. According to the prevailing notions, a was to be natural and ne

BYRON
George Gordon Byron, Lord Byron (1788–1824)

HUNT!
Leigh Hunt (1784–1859)
'The same people who can deny others everything are famous for refusing themselves nothing'

SHELLEY!
Mary Shelley (1797–1851)
'Beware; for I am fearless, and therefore powerful'

WHEATLEY PETERS
Phillis Wheatley Peters (1753–1784)
'While an intrinsic ardor prompts to write, The muses promise to assist my pen'

ANON
Anon (???? – ????)
'my heart seemed to be thrown back upon itself, and I felt that I was entering into a world of strange
'The Woman of Colour', anonymous, 1808

COLERIDGE
Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772–1834)
'But oh! each visitation Suspends what nature gave me at my birth, My shaping spirit of Imagination'

COLERIDGE!
Sara Coleridge (1802–1852)
'Yet Hope still lives and oft, to objects fair In prospect pointing, bids me still pursue My humble tasks'

MORGAN
Sydney Owenson, Lady Morgan (1781?–1859)
'It is, however, the true spirit of philosophy to draw from the evil which cannot be remedied all the good of which in its tendency it is susceptible'

WORDSWORTH
William Wordsworth (1770–1850)
'Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, But to be young was very Heaven!'

Image: A selection of the diversity of writers included in the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition at Keats House until February 2024, developed in partnership with Cardiff University.



Keats House is provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation

Keats House Charity

Activities Plan 2023/24

The origins of Keats House Charity date back to the 1920s, when a public appeal raised the money to acquire the house and collections for the public. The charity was registered in March 1996 (no. 1053381) and, since 1 January 1997, has been provided by the City of London Corporation as part of its contribution to the cultural life of London and the nation.

The object of the Keats House Charity is:

‘to preserve and maintain and restore for the education and benefit of the public the land with the buildings known as Keats House as a museum and live memorial to John Keats and as a literary meeting place and centre.’

About Keats House today

Keats House is a Grade I listed Regency villa, which was built between 1814 and 1816. It is open to the public as an Accredited Museum (no. 097) and delivers a programme of exhibitions and events, provides formal and informal learning opportunities for all ages and abilities, as well as supporting volunteer, work, creative, and research placements.

The garden is closely linked to the history of the site and today is an important part of the visitor offer.

Also within the grounds of the property at 10 Keats Grove, stands a Grade II listed building known as Ten Keats Grove. This was first built as the Keats House Museum and Heath Library, which opened in 1931. Today, it functions as a volunteer run library operated by Keats Community Library (registered charity number 1146702), which is registered as an Asset of Community Value by the London Borough of Camden. The Nightingale Room within Ten Keats Grove acts as an events and private hire space managed by Keats House, including its use by KCL as a Children’s library and for their own fundraising events.

In 2023/24, Keats House will rebuild and reconfigure its services to ensure it remains accessible, relevant and sustainable following the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery period, which will continue to affect the cultural and tourism sectors for some years.

Following the successful delivery of the #Keats200 bicentenary programme from 2018 – 2021, the period 2023 to 2026 will see Keats House: reveal the lives of people connected with Wentworth Place after Keats’s death, including Fanny Brawne and Fanny Keats; support the wider Romanticism 200th anniversaries; reapply for Museum Accreditation; and celebrate the centenary of the opening of the house to the public in May 1925.

Despite the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, this is an exciting opportunity to re-evaluate the significance of Keats and the Romantic poets generally, the ways in which their legacies were preserved, created and reinterpreted, as well as the ongoing significance of these individuals and their poetry to our lives today.

Our achievements in 2022/23

Between April 2022 and March 2023, we:

- **Delivered the 'Keats Inspired' exhibition, events programme and social media**, exploring the influences on Keats and the enduring legacy of his life and works.
- With London Metropolitan Archives, **devised three new object displays, showcasing rarely seen items in our collections**, including a manuscript letter by Percy Shelley and Mary Shelley's manuscript of 'The Heir of Mondolfo' for #Shelley200.
- **Delivered 36 different events**, including poetry readings, talks, book launches, family and literary workshops, and two major conferences for the Keats Foundation and Shelley200, **attended by 1,192 people**.
- Devised and **delivered Summer School at Keats House, engaging 29 young people aged 16 -19 from seven different schools** in four days of creative writing.
- **Supported the learning of 791 students and 107 teachers / assistants from 35 different primary and secondary schools** through 38 taught sessions at Keats House.
- **Achieved Learning Outside the Classroom's Quality Badge**, recognising the safety and quality of the learning offer at Keats House.
- **Diversified our learning offer through continued collaborations with key partners** including Poetry Versus Colonialism, Culture Mile Learning, London Metropolitan Archives and Roehampton University, including two new sessions: 'Keats and the Classics' and 'Culturally Speaking'.
- **Secured funding from and worked with Cardiff University to develop the 'Young Romantics in the City' exhibition**, which opened to the public in Feb '23, until 2024.
- **Supported four major events for Hampstead Summer Festival**, raising funds for two local charities: Keats Community Library and Hampstead School of Art.
- **Supported 638 hours of volunteering by 15 individuals**, who delivered tours and poetry readings for our visitors, as well as helping with front of house and events.
- **Opened Keats House** to the public on 172 days **receiving 5,149 visits in person between April '22 and March '23**.
- **Purchased a Collections Management System – ContentIndex+ –** and began work to clean and import our collections catalogue records.
- **Continued to grow and improve our online engagement**, including a refreshed web presence and the publishing online of seven letters from Fanny Brawne to Fanny Keats, which were also displayed in the house.
- **Worked with City Surveyor's to maintain the conservatory** and replace boundary and garden fences.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our activities and outcomes during the year. Your creativity, time and commitment has helped Keats House Charity continue to recover from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver a creative and engaging programme for its visitors from London and around the world.

Our governance and strategic context

Keats House operates as a registered charity (no. 1053381) with the City of London Corporation as its sole Trustee. It is managed within the City Corporation's Environment Department and reports to the Cultural, Heritage & Libraries Management Committee. The Keats House Consultative Committee, which acts as an advisory body, meets twice a year and includes representatives from the City Corporation and local community / sector stakeholder groups.

Our activities are developed within the framework of the City Corporation's Corporate Plan and the Environment Department's five-year plan. From 2023, Keats House will be managed within the new Culture & Projects Section of the Natural Environment Division. We also support key City Corporation strategies, including for Education, Skills, Cultural & Creative Learning and the Natural Environment, as well as contribute to a wide range of heritage initiatives, led by organisations such as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The City of London Corporation's aims are stated in the Corporate Plan 2018 – 23:

We aim to...

- Shape outstanding environments
- Contribute to a flourishing society
- Support a thriving economy.

Keats House aims to support the Environment Department to **Shape Sustainable Future Environments** through its Primary and Supporting Aims and Objectives, particularly:

- Provide excellent frontline services
- Deliver key strategies (climate action and volunteering)
- Support sustainable growth, vibrancy, heritage and culture
- Provide thriving, biodiverse, relevant spaces
- Financial, Information and Talent Management, Innovation, Engagement & Collaboration and inclusivity.

The main objectives of Keats House Charity in 2023/24 are to:

- **Implement projects and activities identified in the Keats House Divisional Plan and Activities Plan for delivery in 2023/24.**
- **Deliver maintenance and access improvement projects at Keats House**
- **Develop a five-year Improvement Plan for Keats House, to ensure the future sustainability of the Keats House Charity and its operating model.**

The resources we have to deliver our objectives in 2023/24 include:

Staff based at Keats House reporting to the Head of Heritage & Museums:

Keats House Supervisor – Ken Page (1fte)

Interpretation Officer (Programming) – Amy Burgess (0.5fte)

Interpretation Officer (Learning) – Linda Carey (0.43fte)

Visitor Services Officer – Alison Lister (0.4fte) and vacant (0.6fte) to be recruited to in '23.

From October 2020 through to 2024, Keats House is working with Roehampton University to provide a doctoral training placement for Phoebe Lambdon. Funded by Techne Doctoral Training Partnership, this will lead to new research and interpretations of our collections.

We also provide, and benefit from, volunteer opportunities in five main roles: front of house; tour guides; poetry ambassadors; collections care; and event support. Approximately 15 individuals give their time and experience to support our work throughout the year.

Financial:

In 2023/24, the City Corporation will deficit fund Keats House through its City's Cash Fund as follows:

Category:	Annual budget:	Description:
Staff costs:	£245k	Officer salary and on-costs, inc. training.
Revenue costs:	£52k	To pay for the running costs of the premises and our programmes.
Income target:	-£110k	Generated through admissions, shop sales, private hire, events & learning programmes and licences.
Net budget:	£187k*	* In 2023/24 spend may exceed this amount to fund Keats200 legacy projects and other priorities from the Charity's Reserves / grants received.
Other costs covered:	£113k	Support services / maintenance works.

Between April 2023 and March 2024, we plan to:

Contribute to a flourishing society

- Deliver the #YoungRomantics in the City events programme, including talks, live interpretation, creative workshops and special events.
- Continue to support formal learning in primary, secondary and higher education institutions, by providing taught sessions at Keats House and Summer School 2023.
- Support Cultural & Creative Learning partnerships, specifically the Culturally Speaking and Poetry Versus Colonialism programmes, to actively engage with schools with a high pupil premium.
- Contribute to the Folio400 celebrations at Keats House and Guildhall, in autumn '23.
- Develop and deliver a new exhibition for February 2024, exploring the hidden histories of the house and its inhabitants between the 1820s and 1920s.
- Deliver The Wild Escape project in partnership with Hampstead School of Art and Keats Community Library, with funding from the Art Fund.
- Work with strategic partners, North London Open Spaces and local community stakeholders to deliver cultural events, including the Keats Bicentenary Conference 2023 and events for Hampstead Summer Festival 2022.

Support a thriving economy

- Work with our governing body and all stakeholders to develop a sustainable and deliverable Improvement Plan for the period 2024 – 29.
- Review and develop our policy framework to support applications for Museum Accreditation, a recognised learning quality award and Visit England's Quality Assured Visitor Attraction Scheme.
- Review and develop our retail offer and income streams, including private hires, creative project grants and charitable donations.
- Continue to support, develop and diversify our workforce by providing a range of paid and volunteer opportunities, including for young people aged 16 - 18.

Shape outstanding environments

- Make our collections more accessible by launching our new collections management database, including an online, searchable catalogue.
- Continue to work with our major partners (London Metropolitan Archives, the Keats Foundation, K-SMA, KSAA, The Poetry Society, Roehampton University / Techne, Poetry Versus Colonialism and Keats Community Library) and establish new partnerships, to enrich and diversify our cultural offer.
- Support City Surveyor's to deliver the project to improve access in the garden of 10 Keats Grove, with funding from LB Camden's Community Infrastructure Levy.
- Work with North London Open Spaces & Heath Hands volunteers to further enhance the garden at 10 Keats Grove.

To find out more and follow our progress visit:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/keats



keatshouse



keatshousemuseum