

<Royal Gunpowder Mills>
on Wednesday, 21st September, 2022.

This visit has been organised by Dr. MC Black.



The Royal Gunpowder Mills are set in a 175 acre site in the Lee Valley, away from towns and villages where the waterways provided power and safe transport to the Thames by barge and alder plantations provided the charcoal. Started in the 1660s and originally a private concern it was taken over by the state in 1784 to ensure supplies for the Navy. Towards the end of the 19th Century cordite replaced gunpowder as the principal product and nitro-glycerine, guncotton, and tetryl were manufactured in the northern part of the site which is now a nature reserve. In 1945 all production ceased with research and development the sole activity until the site closed in 1991. Amongst other things, research was done on ejector seats and fuel for rocket motors. There is a purpose built exhibition centre giving details of the manufacture and use of gunpowder and several of the buildings have been restored and may be open to visitors.

Their website is <https://www.royalgunpowdermills.com>

Travel: Full information about getting to the Mills by both car and public transport here:

<https://www.royalgunpowdermills.com/how-to-get-here>

At the end of Beaulieu Drive, there are a pair of Black Gates on the **right**; use the Intercom on the left hand gatepost to request admission, saying that you are a member of the Institute of Physics party.

If (unlikely) the Intercom isn't answered, try ringing my cell'phone (07880 980 921) and I'll come to the gate and open it manually. The gates will close automatically behind your car.

The web-site shows a map: <https://www.royalgunpowdermills.com/visitor-map>

On entering the site, follow the road [Yellow Arrow] to a roundabout, take third exit and then turn left between two Victorian buildings [Ⓢ Café] on the right. Please park **neatly** on the concrete slab Ⓣ, just past two Ballistic Pendula. Meet in the Café.

Timetable

- 10:30 Meet in Café; Tea & Coffee and toilets;
- 11:00 Watch introductory film in Theatre;
- 11:20 Visit Static Exhibitions in small groups:
 - Armoury – collection of firearms from Matchlock muskets to the present day;
 - Main exhibition;
 - Rocket vault;
- 13:00 Sandwich Lunch in the on-site Café with the volunteer guides;
- 14:00 Guided Tour of site on Tractor Trailer stopping to visit:
 - Green Hut Exhibition – restored Gunpowder Barge and Fire Alarm system;
 - Gunpowder Railway
- 16:00 Depart.

Maximum size of party: 22.

Cost: £27.00 including hot drinks on arrival and throughout the day and sandwich lunch in the Café;

Please book through Dr. MC Black and pay by BACS transfer to Dr. MC Black:

- *Account Name:* **Dr. MC Black**
- *Account number:* **49615505**
- *Sort Code:* **60-22-32**
- Please give your **Name and Initials** as *Reference*

... and send him an email message telling him that you have booked and the full names of each member of your party.

If you are unable to make a BACS transfer, please send a cheque (together with your full names) payable to: "**Dr. MC Black**"; he will provide his street address on request.

All bookings will be acknowledged by email or telephone.

Contact: Dr. MC Black – 01920 467 930 or rems@hardknott.org

Late arrivals: Contact Dr. MC Black on 07880 980 921* and he will try to find you.

* This telephone is usually switched off so don't try to use it before the day of the visit.