Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

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Chief Executive
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Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

Kelham Island Museum

- Home of early Sheffield industry
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Kelham Island - 1771
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Kelham Island Museum
• Site of metal working
• 1829 - John Crowley’s Iron Works occupy the island

Advertisement 1879
Kelham Island Museum

- The end of the Iron Works
- Steel making continued into the 20th century
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Kelham Island – Power Station built 1897
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Kelham Island Museum

- Saving the River Don Engine
- Museum opens 1982
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Kelham Island Museum

- Saving the River Don Engine – AGAIN
- 1990s public sector cuts
- Kelham funding cut by two thirds
- No curators and half an education post
- Danger of ‘mothballing’
- RDE would never run again
- Sheffield Hallam University drive creation of new charitable trust to save Kelham
- Kelham Island Museum Ltd created 1994
Kelham Island Museum
• No money
• Falling visitor numbers
• Lack of renewal over previous decade
• Few staff
• What do we do?
⇒ A new vision for the site

THE KELHAM CONCEPT

• The Aim 1981

“The aim is not just that the museum should be a place where people come to admire and marvel at the achievements of the past but that the museum should also be alive, showing what is being achieved today, and having a relevance to the future.”

Sheffield Industrial Museum Trust Prospectus c1981

• The Aim 1995

To create a sustainable, living and working Museum that will be a major leisure destination, represent pride in past achievement, be a showcase for Sheffield industry and innovation, and an inspiration for future generations to continue the tradition of technological advance, fostering industrial change and enterprise by:
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The Rescue & Survival Strategy:

• The Kelham Concept - Why are we here? ⇒ *Achievements of the past, Showcase for the present*

• Clear Aim or Mission - What are we here to do? ⇒ *Inspiration for future generations*

• Clear Objectives - How are we going to do it?

⇒ Create **Change**

• **Immediate Change**
• **Ongoing Change**
• **Permanent Change**
• **The Big Project**
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The Drawing that Saved Kelham Island Museum?
“Children are melted, converted, poured, rolled and hammered......”
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Building the Melting Shop 1996
• The Bessemer Converter
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Building the Melting Shop 1996

- The Bessemer Converter – riveting!
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Building the Melting Shop 1996

- The Bessemer Converter
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Building the Melting Shop

• The Bessemer Converter
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Building the Melting Shop

• The Steam Hammer
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Building the Melting Shop

- The ‘Girders’ providing a unting framework for the ‘experience’
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Melted!
Converted!
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Poured!
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Rolled!
Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

Hammered!
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The New Melting Shop
- The Board loved it
- The local press loved it
- The politicians loved it
- But most of all the children loved it
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The Sheffield Star’s version of The Melting Shop
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The Sheffield Star also sponsored the booklet for The Melting Shop
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Not just the Story of Steel

• Sheffield built cars
• Sheffield Simplex 1922
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Not just the Story of Steel

• Locomotive to take to pieces
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The Result

• Kelham Island Museum saved
• Visitor Numbers up by 50% (1995-1998)
• Earned Income up by 80% (1995-1998)
• Kelham Island Museum Ltd approached to take on sites closed by the Council in 1997 due to more cuts
• Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust formed to include Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and later Shepherd Wheel
• Both Water-powered sites
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Water Power

- Making, using and playing
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Hands On
• Making, using and playing
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Then the Great Flood of 2007
Then the Great Flood of 2007

- Melting Shop destroyed

* * *

_Belfors Manager.....“No John...its all got to go... .......Tomorrow it will swell, the day after it will be covered in mould and the day after that it will fall to bits.....”_
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The Melting Shop – After the Flood

• Doing it all AGAIN!

My memories... The melting shop.
By Georgina

The new museum... Bring back the melting shop.

The new museum...
I love the humungous stemengane
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The Melting Shop – After the Flood
• Doing it all AGAIN!
Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

The Melting Shop – After the Flood

• Doing it all AGAIN!

[Images of people working on large wooden structures and finished products]
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The Melting Shop – After the Flood
• Doing it all AGAIN!
Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

The Melting Shop –After the Flood
• Doing it all AGAIN!
Making It Fun – The Story of ‘The Melting Shop’

The Melting Shop – After the Flood

• Doing it all AGAIN - but in reverse
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The Melting Shop –
After the Flood

• **DONE!**