The photographs of Eadweard Muybridge are immediately familiar to us. Less familiar is the dramatic personal story of this seminal and wonderfully eccentric Victorian pioneer, now brought to life for the first time in this engaging and thoroughly entertaining biography. His work is iconic: the first icons of the modern visual age. And for the opening act, a foul murder on a dark and stormy night. Skillfully articulating the fascinating history of a now ubiquitous technology, author Brian Clegg combines ingredients from science and biography to create an eminently readable, fast-paced, and surprising story. Generally interesting and well written bio that really would have benefited from the use of Muybridge photographs. Strangely, Clegg uses only a handful, and these are mostly of equipment. Muybridge was born in Kingston upon Thames, in the county of Surrey in England, on 9 April 1830 to John and Susanna Muggeridge; he had three brothers. His father was a grain and coal merchant, with business spaces on the ground floor of their house adjacent to the River Thames at No. 30 High Street. The family lived in the rooms above. After his father died in 1843, his mother carried on the business. Muybridge emigrated to the United States at the age of 20, arriving in New York City. Five years later, he moved to San Francisco in 1855, a few years after California became a state, and while the city was still the "capital of the Gold Rush." He started a career as a publisher's agent for the London Printing and Publishing Company, and as a bookseller. All things to do in Kingston upon Thames. Things to do near Kingston Museum & Heritage Service. Kingston Monday Market. "Out of Order" by David Mach. There are some very interesting and well presented exhibits about the local area. There is also a fascinating temporary exhibition, which shares 20 migration stories of Kingston's South Asian communities, based around objects that have particular family significance. The... Read more.