

Welcome to the first edition of the Molesey Local History Society Newsletter. We have been delighted with the amount of interest that has been shown in the Society.

To date we have 192 members which is a great achievement within our first 3 months. It goes a long way to show the community spirit that is evident in Molesey.

For those not present at our initial formation meeting the Committee are:

Jenny Wood	Chair
Paula Day	Secretary
Jill Wilkins	Membership Secretary
John Hutton	Treasurer
Rita Ashbourne	Committee
Ken Brown	Committee
Doreen Freeman	Committee
Tony Osborne	Committee
Pauline Sieler	Committee

Which decade did you shop in Molesey?

One project that we would like to get underway quite quickly is trying to track back to see which shops were in Molesey in the past.

Do you have any pictures that we could copy (we can organise) or memories of any of the shops as they used to be?

Would you be prepared to help investigate what shopping in Molesey used to be like?

Have you any memories of being admitted to the old Isolation Hospital, the old Cottage Hospital at 55 Pemberton Road or Molesey Hospital before 1948, when the NHS took over? We are seeking information for a talk on the history of Molesey Hospitals.

If you can help with information about either project please contact Pauline Sieler on 020 8979 7556 or pauline.sieler@btopenworld.com



First meeting at the Clore Centre

The first event of the Molesey Local History Society took place on Tuesday 22nd May. Around 100 members met at the Clore Centre, the new education facility at Hampton Court, for refreshments and a brief talk by Rita Ashbourne about the centre.

We then moved across the courtyard into the Barrack Block, where Ian Franklin gave us a fascinating illustrated talk about the Grace and Favour apartments. Ian has been associated with the Palace as a local historian for 25 years, and has been a State Apartment Warder for ten years. State Apartment Warders have been employed ever since the Palace officially opened to the public in 1838.

Since that time, Hampton Court Palace has been constantly popular with the public, with up to 26,000 visitors on one Whit Monday in the nineteenth century. Trippers have come to Hampton Court by boat, coach, bus and tram, the latter from as far as the Embankment on the longest tram route ever in London. Highlighting its resort status, Ian even showed us pictures of children bathing on the foreshore in front of the Palace, circa 1910.

The barrack building that we were in was built in the 1660s, and mounted regiments were stationed at the Palace until 1914. He regaled us with a number of stories regarding the troops, and showed slides of the door marked "liquor store", some police graffiti from the

1890s, and a Second World War pill box, disguised as an ice-cream kiosk!

The Palace not only had its own school, which opened in 1877, but also resident firemen until the 1950s, and its own football team! One of our members admitted later that he'd actually played in the team in the 50s!

And of course for the spiritual needs of residents, there was the Chapel, where weddings can still be performed under special licence. Well-known marriages included that of Robert Falcon Scott and that of Moira Shearer and Ludovic Kennedy, whose mother was a resident.

After George II left the Palace in 1737, the rooms were occupied by Palace workers and others, and George III decided, as a way of controlling occupancy, that a warrant should be issued to residents, allowing them to stay for their lifetime.



No rent was payable, but residents were expected to pay rates and for the upkeep of the property. For the record, but there have been no new warrants since the 1970s.

Maintenance work was carried out by the appropriate ministry, and some of the apartments were in very poor condition. Ian showed us some amazing slides of the insides of some of the apartments – including some of the antiquated plumbing that survives today!

Many of the apartments were of course at the top of several flights of stairs, and less mobile residents would lower baskets containing a shopping list to Molesey traders' delivery boys, who would then deliver the goods which would be raised by the residents or servants – payment usually being required before delivery!

The Grace and Favour Apartment residents have always had strong links with Molesey. For example, Frances Isabella Poyntz, Dowager Lady Clinton had married Sir Horace Beauchamp Seymour in July 1835.

She owned land stretching from the Mole to the Walton Road and from the Bell to the Europa, which came on the market when she died in 1875.

Another resident, Lady Harriet Hoste, built a school in Manor Road in 1860 – the building next to the Methodist Church, which is now a private house.

Also in Manor Road, at St Ann's Cottage and later Rose Cottage, William Harvey Baldwin, curator of pictures at the Palace, shared accommodation with a warder called William Berridge. Ian is keen to find out more information about Messrs Baldwin and Berridge – if anyone does know more, please get in touch.

Princess Frederica of Hanover, another resident of the Palace, founded a convalescent home in Arnison Road in 1882, and also laid the foundation stone of St Paul's church spire. Other notable Palace residents have included Lady Baden Powell and Beau Brummel.

Ian concluded his talk by answering questions, and inviting anyone who had any connection with the Palace or any special memories, photographs or other memorabilia to come forward, so that they could be contacted at a later date to record their experiences/material for future historians.

If any readers have anything to add to the rich history of Hampton Court, please contact either Ian on iantfranklin@talktalk.net or c/o The Warders Mess, Hampton Court Palace or Sarah Levine, the Volunteer Manager at the Palace (telephone 020 3166 6175), who will both be pleased to hear from you.

Finding out more about Molesey

After our inaugural meeting we put together a list of members' interests that had been expressed at the meeting and included on their application form.

In order to make things a little easier we have grouped them together into themes and put a few examples of the items of interest which might be included in each theme. Obviously these will be added to as we move along.

It would be great if as many members as possible who would like to get involved in learning more about Molesey could let us know which theme they would be interested in investigating a bit further – or sharing any of their information or memorabilia that they have already gathered.

With this in mind some smaller sub-groups could be formed for people with like minded interests. If anyone is interested in joining one of these groups please contact Pauline Sieler 020 8979 7556 or pauline.sieler@btopenworld.com

Please indicate which group you are interested in joining, whether you have information, photos, memorabilia or are willing to look things up etc, your name and e-mail or phone number.

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up at the Clore Centre meeting

We have kindly been given the use of The British Legion Club to hold our 'get togethers'. Dates will be circulated in the near future.

Molesey Themes

Sport

East Molesey Cricket Club
Hurst Park Racecourse
Molesey Boat Club
Motor bikes
Football
Hurst Golf Club

Buildings

History of the schools in Molesey
History of hospitals in Molesey
The Bell Inn
The Molesey churches
East Molesey's connection to Hampton Court
Farms and Dairies (Orchard Lane Dairy)
Mills
History of Molesey houses
Pubs in Molesey
Molesey schools
Hampton Court

People

Alfred Sisley
Terence Cuneo
Family history relevant to Molesey
Social history
GPs

Waterways and Islands

Cigarette Island
Taggs Island
Platts Eyot
The rivers before the flood alleviation scheme
Molesey before the reservoirs
Molesey floods

Transport

Coming of the Railways/Kent Town
Origins of road names

Historical Molesey

Mole Abbey
Priorities

Industries

Gun powder factory
Flour milling
Tanning yards

Other

Molesey Carnival
Molesey during wartime
Molesey scouts
Molesey timeline

Diary dates

27 June Historic Molesey Walk

This will be an informal evening, starting with a display of maps at St Mary's Church Hall, where Tony Osborne will give short talks at different times indicating points of particular interest.

The first talk will be at 7 pm, with the same talk again at 7.45. You will be given a map, with a brief explanation of the suggested route, then everyone can walk at their own pace, finishing at The Bell for a drink and a chance to chat. If you are unable to get to either of the talks, the display will be open until 8.30, and you will still be able to pick up a route and do the walk.

This event has been organised by Tony Osborne, who is a member of the Conservation Advisory Committee, and will open our eyes to some historic elements of Old Molesey that we may not have noticed before. Both Rowland Baker books will be on sale at this event.

The event is free for members and £2 for non-members

7 September History of the 1st Molesey Scout Group

This event at the Scout Hut will start at 7.30 and the doors will be open from 7pm. Molesey was one of the first Scout groups to be set up after the founder Lord Baden-Powell had the idea to run groups to teach boys how to be good citizens in 1907. The evening will consist of short talks with memorabilia and photos on display that have been collected over many years.

The Scout Hut is in Walton Road, opposite the Majestic Warehouse, next to Langton Road. There is limited parking on site (disabled only).

Refreshments will be available.

MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY RECYCLING CENTRE

HELP US CAPTURE THE CHANGING FACE OF MOLESEY

What we want you to recycle

☺ **yes please**

☹ **no thanks**

Memories

Granny's old nightie

Photographs

Auntie's false teeth

Deeds/documents

Grandpa's gas mask

Family history

Dad's motorcycle

Molesey Local History Use It - Don't Lose It

Autumn talk – Family History date to be confirmed

There will be a talk at Mole Hall from the Surrey History Centre entitled Relative Connections: Sources for Family History at Surrey History Centre. This is sure to be a fascinating talk for anyone interested in genealogy and investigating people who lived locally.

January Members Evening date to be confirmed

This will be an opportunity for members to display and talk about their individual interests in Molesey. Details of this event to be confirmed nearer to the time.