

Do You Remember?



This very attractive shop sign was revealed recently on the Walton Road during the refurbishment of No 78, formerly the Rainbow children's shop. It would be interesting to hear from anyone who has any memories or photos of Caley Bros Greengrocers & Fruiterers.

Members' Research

We have an impressive number of members who participate in the various Research groups and work hard to gather and interpret information about various aspects of the history of Molesey. This was very clear at our second Members' Evening on 20 January at St Paul's Church, where speakers from the various groups presented their findings and members brought along maps, newspapers and artefacts to share with the Society.

Roger Haile of the Waterways Group told us that, from over 20 subjects researched so far, they had focused on two main topics - the lost River Caundle and the Watercraft boatbuilding company.

The River Caundle - which fed into the River Mole after running alongside the Walton Road from a pond in The Priory (now Molesey Football Club) - had been an exciting voyage of discovery for the Group, who had visited various back gardens of local houses and searched many old maps and pictures to trace

its path. Apart from an open, almost dry, ditch behind the first 20 houses in Walton Road, the River is now enclosed in an underground brick built culvert and is invisible at ground level.

Watercraft Ltd started in the 1920s based in what was previously Taggs Members' Club adjacent to Molesey Boat Club. Between 1949 and 1956 they had employed an apprentice called David Harvey; David had been traced by the Group and had been more than willing to share his very detailed and accurate memories of the layout of the building and the boatbuilding activities, which lasted until the 1960s. Many boats - including the famous Watercraft ships' lifeboats - were built there. The building was finally demolished to make way for "The Riverside" housing development.

David Turner, leader of the Transport Group, told us about some of the early Station Masters at Hampton Court Station. They were recruited from across the country and some of them, being single men, lived with the clerks within the Station building itself. For a considerable time following the opening of the railway, there were very few Station Masters at Hampton Court. Clearly valued members of the community, they often received gifts from important passengers, such as Princess Frederica of Hanover, who lived at Hampton Court Palace.

The People and Buildings Group, led by Anthony Barnes, gave a progress report on various projects that they have been working on throughout the year. Some members are continuing to do research on Matham Manor and another small group are putting the information on Molesey from the 1901 census onto a computer database. The Group are planning to contribute to the meeting in September on the anniversary of the coming of the railway to Molesey. One idea is to build up a picture of Molesey before the railway using the 1841 census and to create a trail which members can walk giving an idea of what East Molesey was like in early Victorian times. Rita Ashbourne is collecting and recording memories and would like to hear from anyone who has recollections of Molesey's past.

Stewart Nash brought along a number of pictures, maps and race programmes from the old Hurst Park Racecourse which held its last meeting on 10 October 1962. Stewart gave a short talk about how the racecourse came into existence, the social side of the Hurst Park Club and the impact the course had on Molesey particularly on the Whitsun Monday Bank Holiday when upwards of 30,000 people would converge on the course, the majority of whom arrived at Hampton Court Station and travelled to the course by special buses.

1968 Floods

We were overwhelmed in September when Mole Hall was packed to the rafters with members and guests remembering the 1968 floods on the 40th anniversary. By popular demand of our members, this meeting was repeated on 6 February, again at Mole Hall.

Members again described their personal experiences and we watched TV newsreels of the floods themselves and then film of a year later, when people were still suffering the after effects. Although not so crowded as in September, this meeting was very well attended and on this occasion it was easier to study the photographs and newspaper coverage of this memorable event. Again many stayed on after the main programme to talk about their own memories and experiences.

A total of around 400 people have enjoyed reliving this extraordinary time in Molesey's history and their reminiscences all speak of a wonderful spirit of community in very difficult circumstances. We have been asked to repeat this meeting yet again, but have no immediate plans – maybe on the 50th anniversary.

House History

Jill Hyams, archivist for Surrey Heritage, gave a most interesting talk at St. Lawrence School on 5 March about how to trace the history of your house. 56 members and guests were present.

She gave an introduction to the huge amount of information available at the Surrey History Centre in Woking. The best start is with your title deeds if these survive. To research the physical structure and setting of the house, there are Ordnance Survey maps and, going progressively further back in time, tithe maps, enclosure plans and manorial records.

Electoral registers, trade directories and records of valuations made under the 1910 Finance Acts will provide information on the social history of the occupants. There are also the earlier tithe apportionment lists, land tax returns and rate books. Once the national census returns are 100 years old, they become available to the public.

This is all quite complicated, but there are written guides and indexes available at the Surrey History Centre and search room staff can give more specific information and assistance.

**Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Rd,
Woking GU21 6ND. Tel: 01483 518737**

**2009 AGM
Molesey Mills
Thursday 23 April, 8pm
St Lawrence School, Church Road**

We anticipate that the business of the AGM will take no longer than 30 minutes. Brian Smith will then give a talk on the Molesey Mills – 'A Story of Violence, Scandal, Explosions, Theft and Grave-robbing'.

Refreshments will be served

**The Warrior Monks of the Middle Ages and
their Connections with Hampton Court
Palace
Wednesday 13 May, 7.15 pm
Clore Centre, Hampton Court Palace**

Drinks will be served in the Clore Centre from 7.15 pm and the talk by Chris Gidlow, Events and Live Interpretation Manager at Historic Royal Palaces, will start at 7.45 in the Wolsey Room. The talk will also cover the Knights Templar and Knights Hospitaller at Hampton Court.

Numbers are limited at the Clore Centre and this meeting is initially restricted to members only. If you wish to come, please let us know by 1 May: email historysociety@btinternet.com or telephone 0208 979 3465 (please leave a message). You will not be notified, but you may assume that you have a seat, unless you hear otherwise. After 1 May, the meeting will be open to guests (£2 charge) if there are spare places.

Research Groups – Next Meeting

On Wednesday March 25 at 8pm there will be a combined meeting of the Sports, Waterways and People and Buildings groups at The British Legion, St Mary's Road.

The talk will be about Horse Racing at Hurst Park by Cliff Taylor, who used to be a jockey and raced several times at Hurst Park.

All the Research Groups welcome new members, whether those wishing to engage in active research or who just wish to come along and participate in meetings.

Group leader contact details are given below:

SPORTS: Pauline Sieler, 020 8979 7556
pauline@sieler.co.uk

PEOPLE & BUILDINGS: Anthony Barnes,
0208 979 6744 agbarnes@ntlworld.com

WATERWAYS: Jenni Haile, 0208 979 0958
jennihaile@btinternet.com

TRANSPORT: David Turner, 07940 016255
dat504@york.ac.uk

RECORDING MEMORIES:
Rita Ashbourne, 020 8979 8253
r.jd.ashbourne@btinternet.com

Further Dates for Your Diary

Summer Walk

Tuesday 16 June from 6.30 pm
Green Arden, Spencer Road, East Molesey
St Albans School Hall, Beauchamp Road,
East Molesey 8 pm

Tony Osborne is again organising our Summer Walk, which will follow up on Brian Smith's talk on the Molesey Mills at the AGM. The walk will start from outside Green Arden at the end of Spencer Road and maps will be available there from 6.30 pm. The route will finish at St Albans School Hall in Beauchamp Road at around 8 pm, where refreshments will be served and Tony will give a short talk. If the weather is too wet to walk, please come along to St Albans at 8 pm to hear Tony's talk and collect a map, so that you can do the walk at a later date.

The First Line for Leisure -
What the Railway did for Molesey
Thursday 17 September
Molesey Youth Club, Ray Road

Our local railway line was the first in the country to be constructed solely for the purpose of leisure, for visitors to Hampton Court Palace. However, its impact on the area was far-reaching – there was an influx of workers to construct and staff the station; Londoners could escape from the city and enjoy the river, horse-racing on Hurst Park and other outdoor activities. Commuting was made possible and this became a significant factor in the growth of East Molesey.

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The Warrior Monks of the Middle Ages and their Connections with Hampton Court Palace
Wednesday 13 May, 7.15 pm
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IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY, PLEASE SEND IN THIS SLIP WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS BY FRIDAY 1 MAY. ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL historysociety@btinternet.com. IF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE, THE EVENT WILL BE ADVERTISED TO NON-MEMBERS.

PLEASE NOTE, YOU WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED, BUT MAY ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE A SEAT IF YOU LET US KNOW BY 1 MAY.

NAME:.....

Please reserve a place for me/us at the Hampton Court Palace Meeting on Wednesday 13 May

Send to Membership Secretary, Molesey Local History Society, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0SX

Heritage events at Surrey History Centre

Henry VIII Easter holiday activities for children at Surrey History Centre

7 April – 18 April 2009 during normal opening hours. Drop-in. Free. Parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their children. Pop into Surrey History Centre and learn about Henry VIII, his six wives, his Woking home and what he did for fun, and get creative with some things to make and take home.

Historical Perspectives on Down's Syndrome: Surrey's unique contribution to mental health history

Thursday 21 May 2009 starting at 7.30pm

An evening talk at Surrey History Centre by Professor David Wright, McMaster University, Canada. His talk will explore the achievement of Dr John Langdon Down at Earlswood Hospital, Redhill, 1858-1865, who pioneered the use of photography to study the connection between physical characteristics and mental disorder. Tickets £3. There are a limited number of tickets. To book please telephone 01483 51873

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Rd, Woking GU21 6ND. Tel: 01483 518737

Elmbridge Museum

Coinciding with 150th anniversary of the publication of 'Origin of the Species', Elmbridge Museum presents a new exhibition - 'Adapting Darwin: Inspired by Evolution' which runs until Wednesday 13 May 2009.

'Adapting Darwin' hopes to inspire people in Elmbridge to learn more about the evolutionary drama unfolding on their doorstep. Find out about Darwin's connections to the local area, discover how to spot adaptation in action on our commons and learn how to conserve our precious wildlife.

Elmbridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge, KT13 8DE Tel: 01932 843573

The Henry VIII talks at Hampton Court Palace

**Hampton Court Palace
(30 May 2009 - 15 October 2009)**

A public lecture series hosted in the magnificent Great Hall, in association with *History Today*

30 May

Who was Henry VIII? His biographers discuss....

19.00 – 20.30

Chaired by **Paul Lay**, editor of *History Today*, historians **John Guy**, **Eric Ives**, **Suzannah Lipscomb** and **Derek Wilson**, and historical novelists **Margaret George** and **Philippa Gregory** try together to solve the enigma of Henry VIII.

27 June

How did you keep your head at Henry VIII's court?

19.00 - 20.30

Chaired by **Derek Wilson**, historians **Jessie Childs**, **Steven Gunn**, **David Loades** and **Glenn Richardson** discuss the world of the court and how one survived Henry VIII's wrath.

14 July

Henry VIII: famous for 500 years

20.00 – 21.30

Chaired by **Eamon Duffy**, **David Starkey** considers how the world's most famous king has maintained his reputation for half a millennium.

6 and 8 August

John Heywood's *The Play of the Weather*

19.00 – 21.00

RSC Director **Greg Thompson** directs these two performances of a play originally commissioned and performed for Henry VIII's court. This is part of a collaborative research project led by **Thomas Betteridge** of Oxford Brookes University and funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

These performances will be filmed.

10 September

Henry VIII and the Reformation

19.00 – 20.30

Chaired by **Thomas Betteridge**, **Diarmaid MacCulloch** assesses how much religion there was in Henry VIII's Reformation.

15 October

Henry VIII on Stage and Screen

19.00 – 20.30

Chaired by **Dan Snow**, film historians **Thomas S. Freeman** and **Greg Walker** and RSC Director **Greg Thompson** discuss how representations of Henry VIII in films and plays have shaped our idea of this great monarch.

Tickets £22, available from Hampton Court Palace, by telephone 0844 482 7795 or online from the Palace website.