

Membership Renewal 2013-14

Subscriptions for 2013-14 are being held at £5. We hope that you will find plenty to interest you in our programme for the coming year and look forward to seeing you at our meetings.

There will be an opportunity to renew your membership at the AGM. However, if you are renewing your subscription by mail, please ensure that you enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your completed form for return of your membership card. This helps us to keep costs down.

You will notice that there is an opportunity to tell us what you think about MLHS on the renewal form. All your comments and suggestions will be discussed in committee and, whilst we may not be able to respond to you individually, we will give serious consideration to all the views of members.

Committee

We would like to hear from any members interested in joining the Committee and helping us to continue to build on the success of MLHS since its foundation six years ago. If the idea appeals to you, and you would like to find out more, please contact Jenny Wood on 020 8979 0889.

Meeting Report

Tuesday 29 January 2013
Sport on the Hurst - 2
Members Evening
Report by Roger Day

Part two of the very successful talk on Sport on the Hurst took place on Tuesday 29th January at St Paul's Church and Parish Room. As with all MLHS events, it proved to be very popular, with over a hundred members along with several guests attending. We were treated to a number of well-researched and very informative sporting histories including golf, duelling, prize-fighting, and naked running!

There was also great interest in the more recent past, with many members recalling happy times at the Upper Deck swimming pool.



The Upper Deck

(date unknown but prior to refurbishment in late 1960s)

In addition to the talks there was a really comprehensive display of historical memorabilia in the church and in the Parish Room and we were particularly grateful to Jonathan White from Elmbridge Museum who brought along a pair of actual cockspurs and a fascinating set of instructions as to appropriate behaviour when swimming in the Thames. The mulled wine and cake was much appreciated, and the whole evening was most enjoyable.

But history is never complete, so if any of you out there can throw any light on past sporting activities on the Hurst, particularly hockey, I know the committee would be delighted to hear from you.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 25 April 2013, 8 pm
AGM
Victorian Hampton - Talk by John Sheaf
St Lawrence School, Church Road, KT8
9DR

Although local historian John Sheaf lives in Hampton, he has been a member of our Society since it was established in 2007 and he has been very helpful with many of our research projects.

Saturday 1 June 2013 Carnival

John is an avid collector of photographs, old postcards, books etc. of Hampton and has kindly allowed us to use his material in many of our displays, particularly relating to the River Thames. Some members may remember that he gave a talk at our first AGM on 'The Thames and Riverside Houses from Hampton Court to Hampton'.

We anticipate that the business of the AGM will take no longer than 30 minutes, and John will then speak on 'Victorian Hampton'. John's talk will trace the main sights of Hampton in Victorian times along the principal roads (particularly along the riverside roads of Thames Street and the Upper Sunbury Road, now known as the A308). Church Street, High Street and Station Road will also be covered. Refreshments will be served, and there will be an opportunity to renew your membership at the meeting.

**Thursday 23 May 2013, 8 pm
(doors open 7.30 pm)**

Hampton Court in Old Photographs (1845-1914)

**An Illustrated Talk by Ian Franklin and
Robert Hoare ARPS**

Clore Centre, Hampton Court Palace

Some members may remember that in May 2007 Ian Franklin gave the first ever talk to the Society on the Grace and Favour apartments at Hampton Court and the people who lived in them. Ian has been associated with the Palace as a local historian for 30 years, and has been a State Apartment Warder for 15 years. Warders have been employed ever since the Palace officially opened to the public in 1838.

Ian and his colleague Robert Hoare, who is one of the Hampton Court "Tudor Cooks" and a historic photography expert, will be talking about historic photographs of the Palace and the photographic pioneers responsible for taking them. Unlike other years, the meeting will be held in the Clore Centre itself, and refreshments will be served after the talk.

Numbers are limited at the Clore Centre, and the meeting will initially be open to members only. If you wish to book a place, please send in the form below (or a note), or email historysociety@btinternet.com before 8 May. After this date the meeting will be opened to guests if there are spare places.

We hope you will drop in and see us for a chat at our tent at Molesey Carnival. We will be showing some of the displays of Sport on the Hurst.

People and Buildings

The People and Buildings special interest group meets on the last Wednesday of every other month. The group is continuing to research 1930s houses. The next meeting is at 8 pm on Wednesday 29 May at the British Legion, St Mary's Road. All are welcome.

Photography at Meetings

We are fortunate that many people and organisations are kind enough to let us use their photographs and material in the displays shown at our meetings. Sometimes these are offered only for a specific meeting and we are requested not to pass them on. If we are to continue to benefit from the generosity of those who allow us to use their material, we must respect such requests. For this reason we would ask our members to refrain from taking photographs of our displays at meetings.

The County of Surrey by Jenny Wood

The name "Surrey" is believed to derive from *Suthridge* or *Suthrige* meaning 'southern region'. Middlesex was so-called because it was the land of the Middle Saxons and Suthridge seems to have formed the southern half of the Middle Saxon territory.

For many centuries the boundaries of 'Surrey' remained unchanged and until the late 18th century the county, apart from its north eastern corner, was sparsely populated and largely rural. The arrival of the railways in the first half of the 19th century led to explosive growth in the population and wealth of Surrey as people working in London could commute to homes in Surrey.

London itself spread quickly across north-east Surrey and its expansion led to the creation of the County of London in 1889. The areas of the modern London boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth were removed from Surrey into the newly created County of London and at the same time Croydon was made into a county borough exempt from county administration. There were no other

major changes to Surrey's boundaries until 1965 when the creation of Greater London swallowed up more of Surrey, with the present London boroughs of Kingston, Merton, Richmond and Sutton and an expanded Croydon being lost to Surrey. However, in 1965 Surrey also gained land as Staines and Sunbury were transferred from Middlesex to Surrey.

These boundary changes make it difficult to know where to find historical records. Surrey History Centre say that broadly they "hold the records that appertain to pre-1965 Surrey – including Wimbledon, Richmond, Kingston, Merton & Sutton – but not including the parishes of Spelthorne which remain with the London Metropolitan Archives."* The records for the areas which were removed from Surrey in 1889 are held either by the London Metropolitan Archives or by the local boroughs, but the Surrey History Centre holds pre-1889 Quarter Sessions records for these areas.

*Surrey History Trust Autumn 2012 Newsletter

Going to a Fight by Jill Wilkins

'Illustrating the Sporting World in all its variety of Style and Costume along the Road from Hyde Park Corner to Moulsey Hurst, 1819'

Etching by Robert Cruikshank (1789-1856) with aquatint and hand colouring

The Graphic Arts Department of Princeton University holds a series of eight prints by Robert Cruikshank entitled "Going to a Fight", showing forty-one numbered scenes joined together to form a panorama, reading right to left. The prints show a group of Londoners travelling to a boxing match on Moulsey Hurst. Landmarks seen along the way include the White Horse Inn and the Diana Fountain at Hampton Court.



Boxing on Moulsey Hurst

'and it proved a sporting day indeed for the FANCY. The attraction was certainly great; independent of that delightful spot, Moulsey Hurst, whose picturesque scenery alone is quite enough to occupy the lover of nature...'
(Piers Egan, *Boxiana, Sketches of Modern Pugilism*, 1829)

The copy held by Princeton was originally in a hand-held cylinder, decorated with a hand coloured and varnished print of two boxers by Cruikshank. Later, a box theatre was constructed in wood and red leather so that the scroll could be viewed through a glass window. You can see how the theatre operates on http://blogs.princeton.edu/graphicarts/2011/05/rip_to_the_fight.html. We are grateful to Princeton University, who kindly digitised the scene of the match and the surrounding crowd especially for us to show at our meeting.

Pierce Egan (1772-1849) wrote a key to the picture, which he described as 'The Fancy Going to a Fight at Moulsey Hurst'. He was an early British journalist, sportswriter, and writer on popular culture

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Thursday 23 May 2013, 8 pm
Clore Centre, Hampton Court Palace
Hampton Court in Old Photographs (1850-1914)
Talk by Ian Franklin and Robert Hoare

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS MEETING ON THURSDAY 23 MAY, PLEASE SEND IN THIS SLIP (OR SEND A NOTE) WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS BY WEDNESDAY 8 MAY. ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL historysociety@btinternet.com. IF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AFTER 8 MAY, THE EVENT WILL BE OPENED TO NON-MEMBERS.

You will not be notified, but you may assume that you have a seat, unless you hear otherwise. After 8 May, the meeting will be open to guests and non-members (£2 charge) if there are spare places

NAME:.....

Please reserve a place for me/us at the Clore Centre Meeting on Thursday 23 May. Send to Membership Secretary, Molesey Local History Society, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey, Surrey

ELMBRIDGE MUSEUM
Elmbridge : A Model Borough

Elmbridge Museum is currently housing miniature models of some of the Borough's buildings, past and present, in a display in the museum's vestibule in Church Street, Weybridge.

The display features houses built in the Seven Hills Road and Between Streets, Cobham, a long-gone public house and TV / Radio shop in Weybridge, and a wonderful manor house in Walton still in existence. If you would like to find out more about the fascinating history of Elmbridge, come and have a look at the display at Elmbridge Museum, and discover the Borough's history in miniature!

Councillor Jan Fuller Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, said, "This display allows residents to view some of Elmbridge's varied architectural styles of buildings through the ages. These models have been painstakingly put together by residents and are extraordinarily true to life. Come and have a look for yourself next time you visit Weybridge".

Temporary Exhibition of Paintings
'Your Elmbridge'

A temporary exhibition of the paintings of Elmbridge which feature on the BBC website 'Your Paintings – Uncovering the Nation's Art Collection'.

A NEW EXHIBITION AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE

This spring, Hampton Court Palace will present a special exhibition full of intrigue, drama and surprise – and at its heart will be six magnificent 17th and 18th century royal beds. For the first time ever, the world's largest and rarest collection of state beds will be on display, telling the story of how and why the bedchamber became the most public and important destination in the palace. The exhibition will also offer a rare glimpse into architect John Vanbrugh's Prince of Wales's Apartments – opened for the first time in 20 years.

Through the stories of their royal owners and servants, visitors will be able to explore the elaborate, sometimes bizarre bedchamber rituals, unusual sleeping arrangements and enjoy the luxurious excesses of the Stuart and Hanoverian courts. Discover what really took place in the royal bedchamber – where heirs were born, marriages consummated, monarchs struck down and died, and all the while important affairs of state were conducted in this most personal of rooms. Most strange of all, these events took place before an audience of courtiers, politicians and family members, who turned everyday life for the monarch into a grand performance.

The remarkable state beds on display have undergone extensive conservation and restoration over some fifty years. Each bed has a dramatic, and often tragic, story to tell – from Queen Anne's magnificent velvet state bed, ordered by a dying queen in her final year, to the infamous 'Warming Pan Bed', the state bed of James II's Queen, Mary of Modena, which was the scene of the royal birth that sparked the quiet revolution that led to the end of the Stuart line.

(27 March – 3 November)

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE
Surrey Railway Archive DVD launch
Saturday 20th April 2pm - 4pm

A railway-themed event to launch the brand new 'Surrey Railway Archive' DVD produced by railway DVD experts SVS Film, in conjunction with Surrey History Centre. The DVD features a compilation of rare film footage and photographs tracing the railway network in Surrey from both private collections and the Surrey History Centre archive. Every Surrey station is featured, including closed branch lines and industrial railways and the footage embraces both the age of steam and diesel. The event will include talks by subject specialists, as well as railway book and DVD sales.

This is a free event but booking a place is essential. Refreshments will be available.

To book, please call Surrey History Centre on 01483 518737 or email shs@surreycc.gov.uk