

1968 Floods
Friday 19 September – 8 pm
Mole Hall, Bishop Fox Way

On Friday 19th September we shall be holding a meeting to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the 1968 floods. There will be film footage of the floods, some personal reminiscences and a display of photographs. If anyone has any photographs which they would be prepared to lend us for copying or scanning we should be grateful if they would please contact Doreen Freeman tel. 020 8979 0059. There will also be an opportunity to socialise and chat to people about the floods. Refreshments will be available.

Alfred Sisley
Tuesday 18 November - 8 pm
Molesey Youth Centre, Ray Road
West Molesey, Surrey KT8 2LG

An illustrated talk by Nicholas Reed on the paintings of Alfred Sisley, the only Englishman amongst the French Impressionists. In 1874 Sisley spent some time at the Castle Hotel and produced several paintings of the Thames at Molesey. The talk will be entitled 'Alfred Sisley on the Thames at Molesey and the Welsh Coast', coinciding with the exhibition at the National Gallery. Nicholas Reed is a NADFAS lecturer, author and publisher of 'Sisley and the Thames'. We are grateful to the RC Sherriff Trust for their support of this event.

There will be a charge for this event of £3 for members and £5 for guests. We expect this event to be very popular and entrance will be by ticket only. These will be on sale at the 1968 Floods meeting on 19 September. Alternatively, there is a form enclosed with this Newsletter for you to apply for tickets. Refreshments will be available.

Surrey History Centre Tour
Saturday 13 September

We have been asked to organise a tour of Surrey History Centre at a weekend. Unfortunately, the Centre does not normally run weekend tours. However, on Heritage Day, Saturday 13 September, there are tours arranged at 11.30 and 1.30. Anyone interested should contact Surrey History Centre on 01483 518737 to book a place. Heritage day tours are free of charge.

Egham Museum and Holloway Sanatorium
Wednesday 22 October

A visit has been arranged by Surrey History Trust to Egham Museum and the Holloway Sanatorium on Wednesday 22 October. The tour will start at the Egham Museum at 10.50 am for a visit to the museum and a talk by Margaret White, followed by a break for lunch (there are a number of eateries in Egham). The tour will then resume at 2 pm at the Sanatorium, with a talk by Joy Whitfield.

The cost is £5 for both visits. Please contact Karen Rolfe at Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND, tel 01483 518750 by 1 October if you would like to go.

June Riverside Walk
Report by Gail Petipher

Fortunately, we had a fine evening for our June Riverside Walk. Members met at Hampton Court Station to collect an illustrated map and then look around the Creek Road area, before wending their way along the riverbank to Molesey Boat Club. Here, Tony Osborne gave an interesting talk, particularly highlighting the 1805 proposals for the Thames Canal, to facilitate supplies for the Napoleonic Wars, and the 1913 plans for the Molesey Boulevard, which was opposed by the residents at the time.

Many were surprised to learn of the non-conformist church, which opened in Bridge Road in 1886. Still standing, the roof can be spotted from the Creek Road/Bridge Road passageway. Also, those of us who remembered the 'Upper Deck' swimming pool were fascinated to find out that it was so called because the timber sun-bathing area was said to be made from the salvaged decking of the liner, Mauritania, broken up in 1935.

Molesey Boat Club was a particularly pleasant venue for a summer evening. Members were able to look round at the many pictures and mementoes of sporting success on display and we congratulate Molesey rowers for once again making history at the Olympics.

We hope to make the summer walk a regular feature of our programme.

Chandler's Field School

Report by Doreen Freeman

Recently the Society had a request from Year 5 at Chandler's Field School to talk about the changes in Molesey. I was born in First Avenue in 1939, where my parents lived in a Howard House that they bought in 1934 for £345.00, so I thought I would be suitable to talk to the children.

I took along a map of Molesey for each pupil, to show them how many farms there were when I was a child in the area where they or their grandparents are now living. We talked about the school during the war, when there were air raid shelters where the car park is now and how we walked to school over the fields and past Molesey Hospital.

The children were interested to hear about the Hurst Park racecourse, the golf course, Molesey Heath and the many venues that were used for scouts, guides and the youth movements of the time.

On leaving, we discussed how they themselves were involved with the history of Molesey, as they had seen the old youth club and Ray Road girls' school demolished to make way for the new houses. The school itself is now a Community School, all on one site for children from nursery to secondary age.

RESEARCH GROUPS

It is not always possible to give notice of Research Group meetings in the Newsletter. If you are interested, please contact the group leader. Notice of meetings will be sent out via email and posted in Molesey Library.

Waterways

It's amazing just how much water surrounds Molesey. At the moment we are studying the River Caundle and we have got more work to do on this project. We also want to investigate the two large lakes that once formed part of Molesey Heath. Where have they gone? Have they been put into underground pipes? Maybe someone reading the newsletter has got the answer. We would love to hear from you.

We are still pursuing the Thames, Mole and Ember. The more we find out, the more we realise how much there is still to be done.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th September at 8pm in the British Legion Hall, St Mary's Road. Brian Smith will be talking about the River Caundle. We hope to see you then.

For more information please contact:

Jenni Haile - tel 0208 979 0958 email jennihaile@btinternet.com

Sports

The Sports Group met recently and went to the Surrey History Centre.

One of the things that they found out was that the very early balloon flight, that took place in 1785 and was piloted by James Sadler, also had on board William Wyndham, who was an MP and at one point had been Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary. He was an MP in the Buckingham area, so it was interesting that the balloon flight took place from Molesey, as James Sadler was also not from this area. However, he is commemorated in Sadler's Ride on Hurst Park.

We found out about the correspondence related to the Hurst Park Syndicate and the East Molesey Cricket Club. There were polo fields and a lawn tennis club with a pavilion on the Hurst as well.

We would love to hear from anyone who has memories of the tennis club or polo being played there.

Our next meeting is on 15 October 8pm at 6 Green Lane. All are welcome.

Contact: Pauline Sieler - 020 8979 7556 pauline.sieler@btopenworld.com

People & Buildings

The British Legion is no longer available for meetings on Tuesdays. The next meeting will be on Wednesday 24 September at 8 pm at the British Legion, St Mary's Road. All are welcome.

Contact: Anthony Barnes, 020 8979 6744 agbarnes@ntlworld.com

Transport

The next meeting of the Transport group will be on Wednesday 15 October at 8pm in the Methodist Church Hall. All are welcome.

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

WAR MEMORIES

We are thinking of having a meeting to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the start of World War II. Do you have any wartime photographs or memorabilia of wartime in Molesey, or any memories of life during the war in Molesey that you would be prepared to share with us? Please let Doreen Freeman know if you or your family can help us with your memories – tel 020 8979 0059..

2009 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Members' Evening
Tuesday 20 January 2009
St Paul's Church**

Following on from our Members' Evening in January this year we are planning to hold another one next January. If you feel that you would like to contribute in any way, could you please let us know. The evening will follow a similar format to last year with stands for photographs and memorabilia of interest and also speakers from the membership. If you can let us know as soon as possible we would be grateful to hear from you, as there are only a limited number of tables and speaking slots that can be allocated. Please let Pauline Sieler know on 0208 8979 7556

pauline.sieler@btopenworld.com

House History

**Thursday 5 March
St Lawrence School, Church Road**

A speaker from Surrey History Centre will give a talk on how to research the history of your house.

2009 AGM

**Molesey Mills
Thursday 23 April
St Lawrence School, Church Road**

The business of the AGM will be followed by a talk by Brian Smith on the Molesey Mills.

NEWSLETTERS

The committee plans to produce four newsletters a year, primarily to keep you informed of activities and events. However, we should be happy to publish any contributions from members, should you wish to share any of your personal research or items of general interest about Molesey history. We hope you will consider writing a piece for the newsletter, on the understanding, of course, that the committee will have full editorial control.

MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Thank you to all members who took the trouble to give feedback on their subscription forms. Your comments have been considered by the committee and action has been taken where appropriate. We have over 250 members for 2008/9 and hope to continue to build on the success of our first year.

Produced by:
Molesey Local History Society
historysociety@btinternet.com
website: moleseyhistorysociety.org
020 8979 3465

TICKET APPLICATION

**Alfred Sisley on the Thames at Molesey and the Welsh Coast
Talk by Nicholas Reed**

**Tuesday 18 November – 8 pm
Molesey Youth Centre, Ray Road**

NAME:..... NO OF TICKETS: MEMBERS @ £3.00

..... GUESTS @ £5.00

TOTAL: £.....

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY AND SEND YOUR FORM TO:
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 17 MATHAM ROAD, EAST MOLESEY,
SURREY KT8 0SX.**

PLEASE ENCLOSE A STAMPED SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR RETURN OF YOUR TICKETS