

### Henry VIII's Wine Fountain



Weekend visitors to Hampton Court Palace can enjoy a glass of wine in the style of Henry VIII from the fully working re-creation of a Tudor wine fountain that has recently been installed in Base Court.

Inspired by the discovery of the remains of a 16<sup>th</sup> century conduit (or fountain) during a major archaeological dig at Hampton Court Palace in 2008, the new fountain's design is based on detailed research into wine fountains that were commonly used during festivals and celebrations by Henry VIII. A major source for the fountain's elaborate design is the Field of the Cloth of Gold painting, created in the 1540s for Henry VIII and displayed at Hampton Court Palace, and it bears the motto '*faicte bonne chere quy voudra*' (let he who wishes make good cheer). It is hoped that the fountain will help to re-create for modern visitors the atmosphere of merrymaking and revelry for which Henry VIII's 'pleasure palace' was renowned in his time.

*Wine served from 3.45 – 4.45 pm, weekends and Bank Holidays.*

*Celebrations for Henry VIII's honeymoon, including majestic river flotilla and fireworks on 24 July.*

*Action-packed Sport for Kings weekend, featuring fencing and falconry on 28-30 August.*

### Arnold Helcke - Painting of Tanners Bridge

In the last newsletter, we mentioned the painting of Tanners Bridge by Arnold Helcke, which had recently been re-hung in Molesey Library. One of our members, Rosemary Searle, has been able to give us some interesting information about the painter, which she has found whilst researching her great aunt, who worked as a maid for the Misses Jane and Georgina Ward at Matham Manor in the 1890s. Arnold Helcke was born in 1843 in Birmingham and his parents moved to Guernsey during his childhood. He is known primarily as a painter of coastal scenes of Guernsey and France. The first connection to be found with Molesey is that his daughter Ann was born here in 1874 and in the 1881 census he was living in 'The Shrubbery' (between 'Hazelhurst' and 'Lurgan House') in what is now Church Road (a close neighbour of Francis Jackson Kent). He is not found on the 1891 census, and was perhaps living abroad, but in the 1901 census he was at 'Lindsay House', Matham Road, next door to Matham Manor. The date of the Tanners Bridge painting is 1905 and maybe the painting was a gift from the painter to his neighbours at that time and perhaps it 'came with the house', to be discovered by Veronica Tudor Williams when she arrived in the late 1940s.

### The Elmbridge Hundred

The Elmbridge Hundred Project was officially launched at Elmbridge Museum on 1 June. Full details of the project and the one hundred figures chosen to be the 'Elmbridge Hundred' are on the project's website [www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk](http://www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk).

We realise, of course, that there are bound to be notable omissions from the Hundred, but we were disappointed that Alfred Sisley has not been included. Terence Cuneo does feature in the Hundred, but he has been associated with Esher, rather than Molesey. We have written to the organisers to complain! The figures associated with Molesey that have been included in the final Hundred are William (Silver Billy) Beldham (cricketer), Fred Karno (music hall impresario) and Henry Thompson (surgeon, novelist and advocate of cremation). In addition, Dudley Carleton, Viscount Dorchester (diplomat and letter writer) is shown as associated with Imber Court and Sandown House.

## **AGM**

### **Hurst Park Racecourse and my Life as a Jockey - Talk by Cliff Taylor Wednesday 21 April 2010 Report by Jill Wilkins**

We were not quite sure what to expect when, following an introduction by his granddaughter, Harriet, there was a commotion at the door and Cliff Taylor charged into the hall on 'horseback' dressed in full racing silks.

Cliff dismounted from his trusty steed, and went on to give us a brief history of the many sports that have taken place on Molesey Hurst over the centuries, and the huge crowds they attracted. It is thought quite likely that Tudor times saw the Hurst used for horse-racing, as there are records of Henry VIII taking delivery of racing stallions at Hampton Court. It was notorious for duelling and prize-fighting in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, until it was outlawed at Kingston Assizes in 1824. Cricket has been played there since the early 1700s, and the first recorded LBW dismissal took place there in 1795. Molesey Hurst was also the scene for polo, tennis, archery and hot-air ballooning. In 1731, 'Appy' Ampton, the Cockney Derby, saw crowds of 100,000, and racing on the Hurst was described by Charles Dickens in *Nicholas Nickleby*.

In 1887, the Jockey Club in Newmarket, refused to issue a licence to Hampton Races because of the state of the course and the riotous behaviour of the crowds. Cliff went on to describe the formation of a syndicate and the major landmarks over the years in the development of the Hurst as an enclosed racecourse. In 1940, it was closed and used by the Americans as a supply depot for petrol storage. In 1962, although still a popular racecourse with jockeys and punters alike, it was sold for housing.

Cliff then gave us a very enjoyable and lively account of his life as a jockey, from his days as an apprentice at 2s 6d per week (when on one occasion, weighing in at 5 stone, his saddle was made up with so much weight that he could not carry it himself), to riding with the finest jockeys of the day, such as Gordon Richards and Charlie Elliott. He brought his racing saddle along with him and was happy to answer the many questions that were asked by our members.

*Members who missed the AGM have another opportunity to hear Cliff Taylor at Mole Hall on Wednesday 6 October. Elmbridge U3A (University of the Third Age) hold regular meetings there on the first Wednesday of every month except January and August. The hall is open from 2.00 pm to allow time for members to view notices, update news about groups, and generally socialise before the*

*talk at around 2.30 pm. Usual admission £1.00 includes tea or coffee. Non-members are also welcome.*

### **'Getting By' at William III's Hampton Court Talk by Annie Gray Wednesday 19 May 2010 Report by Anthony Barnes**

To the obvious delight of over 90 members of the Society, Dr Annie Gray gave a highly entertaining and informative talk on how to 'get by' at William III's Hampton Court Palace. Dr Annie Gray is an historic food expert and a costumed interpreter (visit her website at [www.anniegray.co.uk/index](http://www.anniegray.co.uk/index)). In the guise of the Countess of Carlisle, she has been a Stuart guide at the Palace for the last five years.

She began by admitting a bias in favour of William III and challenged us all to re-think our views of this king whose contribution to Hampton Court and the nation is often overshadowed by our fascination with that Tudor king (What was his name?). Using telling details of changes in domestic consumption, clothing, eating and drinking, she illustrated how William and Mary's reign marked the birth of modern times and healed the Civil War legacy of the 'broken society' (to coin a phrase).

Dr Gray focused on the significance of the Wren extension to the Palace as an emblem of state power, the rise of the commercial middle class and the taming of the aristocracy under William. She illustrated these changes through the minutiae of everyday life at the Palace: what people wore, the rules of etiquette, what people ate, how they filled their time and how fashion trends were set. Her discussion of the impact of tea-drinking on women's liberation and the rise of coffee houses in stimulating business opportunities for men provided a fascinating insight into social and economic change in the period. The audience especially enjoyed her reminder of the dangers of drinking chocolate from James Wadsworth in 1652 who warned "Twill make Old Women Young and Fresh; Create New Motions of the Flesh. And cause them to long for you know what, If they but taste of chocolate".

### **People & Buildings Special Interest Group**

The People & Buildings Group met on 26 May and talked about the history of Molesey schools. Lots of questions were raised and we have plenty of leads to follow up. The Group would like to hear from anyone who has memories and photos they would like to share. We hope to have another meeting on this topic in the near future. Our next meeting is at the British Legion, St Mary's Road on Wednesday 21 July at 8 pm (topic to be arranged)

## Forthcoming Events

**Summer Stroll - Kent Town Conservation Area**  
**Tuesday 22 June – 7 pm**  
**Talk by Tony Osborne at 8 pm**  
**St Paul's Church Parish Room**  
**Church Road, East Molesey**

The Summer Stroll will focus on the Kent Town Conservation Area, which is currently the subject of a Community Heritage Initiative Project being conducted by Elmbridge Council.

Maps will be available to collect from St Paul's Church Porch from 7 pm, and Tony Osborne will be on hand to point out the highlights of the walk. You may then choose to take a stroll along the route, which includes a couple of cut-throughs of which some of you may be unaware, returning to the Parish Room for a talk by Tony at 8 pm, followed by refreshments.

**Water, Water Everywhere - Bushy Park**  
**Talk by Ray Brodie, Parks Superintendent**  
**Thursday 16 September - 8 pm**  
**Hurst Park School, Hurst Road**

The Parks Superintendent at Bushy Park, Ray Brodie, will give a talk about water in the Park, including the water gardens and the Longford River.

## Autumn Walk in Walton – details to be confirmed

One of our members, Brian Ellis, has offered to lead a guided walk round Walton during the autumn. The date set is Saturday 2 October 2010 starting at 2.30 pm. Details of the rendezvous point will be published in the next Newsletter.

**Life in Molesey during World War II**  
**Friday 12 November – 8 pm**  
**Mole Hall, Bishop Fox Way, West Molesey**

This meeting will feature the results of work being carried out by our members, which has involved archival research and interviews with people who lived in Molesey through the war years. If you know of anyone who has memories or photographs of this time, or who would like to work with us in researching for this meeting, please contact Doreen Freeman on 020 8979 0059.

## 2010/2011 Subscription Renewal Reminder

Subscriptions for 2010/2011 were due at the end of April 2010. If you have not already done so, and would like to renew your subscription, please complete the form below and send it in with your subscription of £5. If your renewal is not received by the end of June, your membership will lapse and you will not receive any more Newsletters. We hope that there is something in our programme of interest to you and please get in touch if you have any ideas for future events.

Produced by:  
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## MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: .....

Telephone: .....

Email: .....

Where possible, to save expense, we would like to use email to send notices and information to you. Please state if you are happy to receive information at your email address as given above. Your email address will not be forwarded to any other person or organisation. YES/NO

Please complete and return with your payment of £5 for 2010/11 and stamped SAE to: Membership Secretary, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0SX

## **Events at Elmbridge Museum**

### **The Elmbridge Hundred Official Opening of Exhibition, Saturday 19 June at 3 pm**

The Mayor of Elmbridge will officially open the latest exhibition about the famous and infamous historic figures of Elmbridge past. Molesey Local History Society has contributed to this community project to select the hundred outstanding figures in the history of Elmbridge. The project will inspire a host of artistic and cultural ventures, from audio-trails to poetic plaques and on-line access. A local artist and writer, Alistair Grant will create a large public artwork called 'The Elmbridge Hundred'.

Elmbridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge KT13 8DP  
Tel: 01932 843 573

## **Surrey History Centre Events**

### **A Taste of Gypsy Life at Bourne Hall Saturday 19 June 2010 11am till 5pm**

Get a taste of Gypsy life; peek inside a painted caravan and enjoy vibrant gypsy music with a selection of traditional dishes cooked on the camp fire. Try your hand at Romany crafts as well as learning about the heritage of gypsies in Surrey. This will be held at Bourne Hall in Spring Street, Ewell. Telephone: 020 8393 9571

### **'Corsets and Cameras' 19th century costume for dating old photographs Saturday 19 June 2010, 2 pm at Surrey History Centre**

A talk by Jane Lewis of Surrey History Centre

An introduction to the history of late 19th and early 20th century fashion, with particular emphasis on the change in women's costume through the years 1860-1920. This talk gives tips and techniques to use when dating or identifying old photographs or drawings, with hints on how to avoid some of the pitfalls that may be encountered. A useful handout will be provided which includes a list of books and websites to use for further reference. Tickets £3.00.

To book please call 01483 518737

## **Woking Palace Community Excavation 2010**

A second season of community excavation will take part at Woking Palace this summer, and there are opportunities available to take part. The dig will be running over three weeks during July, with an Open Day in August.

In order to offer the opportunity to take part to as many people as possible, a morning (9.30am-1pm) or afternoon session (2pm-5pm) will be offered in the first instance. If you would like to take part in the Woking Palace excavation please contact the Surrey History Centre on 01483 518737 or email [education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:education.scau@surreycc.gov.uk)

### **Identification and recording of finds**

Come along to Guildford Museum and see David Williams, Surrey Finds Liaison Officer, for the **Portable Antiquities Scheme**. For metal detectorists and other finders of objects of archaeological interest. Second Saturday of each month 11am to 1pm at Guildford Museum 01483 444750

Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 6ND  
Tel: 01483 518 737

## **The Homewood Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey KT10 9JL**

20<sup>th</sup>-century house and garden designed by the architect Patrick Gwynne reflecting the style and ethos of the Modern Movement. Like Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright before him, he designed everything, including the furniture and fittings, and even the grounds.

Admission charge. Entrance by booked guided tours only – every Friday and the last Saturday of the month from 9 April to 30 October.

Tel: 01372 476424 Fax: 013720476420 Email: [thehomewood@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:thehomewood@nationaltrust.org.uk).