

**Summer Stroll**  
**Kent Town Conservation Area**  
**Tuesday 22 June – 7 pm**  
*Report by Anthony Barnes*



Armed with a specially drawn map, members enjoyed a gentle evening stroll around the Kent Town Conservation Area in June. The stroll had been meticulously planned by Tony Osborne, who afterwards treated us to an illustrated talk on the history of the Conservation Area enlivened by his insights, mysteries and amusing asides.

Despite the delay in the publication of the Council's report on the Conservation Area (pending the judicial review on the development of the Jolly Boatman site), the timing of the event could not have been better, reminding us once again of the periodic threats to the character of the area.

How many people living in Molesey today know how close we came to losing Kent Town in the 1960s? In the middle years of the nineteenth century, Francis Jackson Kent, the Hampton lawyer and property developer, had imposed his stamp on the area that still bears his name by laying out the street plan, building St Paul's Church and selling off plots of land to organisations such as the Westminster Freehold Land Society and Hurst Park Racing Club.

However, by the 1960s, several of the large properties were in a sorry state and Esher Urban District Council planned to re-develop the area by erecting a number of high-rise apartment blocks that would have destroyed the integrity of the area irrevocably. Molesey Residents Association came into being to fight the plan, which was thankfully dropped and shortly after the Council awarded the area its special status. As Tony remarked in his talk, Kent Town is not especially celebrated for its individual buildings although some of the architecture is particularly fine; but it is the environment as a whole, with its mature trees and interesting mix of building styles that makes Kent Town unique and worth protecting.

Tony highlighted two mysteries:

- Where was the precise location of Molesey Prior manor house?
- How did Keen's Alley get its name?

Following the meeting, Maureen Catterson found that Keen's Alley may be connected with the Keen family, who are listed on the 1881 census as living at Bridge Road Dairy and it would be interesting to hear from anyone else who has any information.

**Molesey Carnival**  
**5<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

Once again we had a pitch at the Carnival, and as usual, a large number of members came in to say hello, to have a look at the displays and maps, and to have a sit down. They were entertained by trying to identify photos of Molesey landmarks and many were surprised to find they could not spot locations they may walk past every day

Some new members joined the Society, and we even managed to sell a few more of the Rowland Baker books. If you have any suggestions as to what we might display at next year's Carnival, or would be willing to help out, please do get in touch.

## Sir Julius Vogel (1835-1899)

Pauline Lane, one of our members, came across the name of Lady Mary Vogel while working on the 1901 census for Molesey and decided to do "a bit of digging".

Lady Vogel, born in Tasmania in 1849, was the widow of Sir Julius Vogel, eighth Prime Minister of New Zealand. She was living at Hillersden House, 22 Church Road, East Molesey in 1901; and in 1913 she was living at Matham Manor Lodge in Matham Road. Lady Vogel died in London in 1933.

Sir Julius Vogel was born in London in 1835 and died at Hillersden House in 1899. The Encyclopaedia Britannica describes him as a 'statesman, journalist and businessman known for his bold project to regenerate New Zealand's economy in the 1870s through large-scale public works financed by British loans'. He emigrated to Australia in 1852 attracted by gold discoveries in Victoria and then moved to New Zealand in 1861, where with a business partner he founded the *Otago Daily Times* and turned it into a success. He rose to prominence quickly after entering Parliament in 1863, becoming colonial treasurer in 1869. On and off for the next twenty years he dominated political life in New Zealand but especially as Prime Minister (1873-75, 1876).

He resigned from Parliament in 1889 and returned to London to devote himself to literature and, less successfully, to business. In the same year, he published his only science fiction novel *Anno Domini 2000: Or Woman's Destiny*. It anticipated a Utopian world where women held many positions of authority. (In fact New Zealand became the first country to give women the vote!) Illness and business failure prompted him to apply for a pension from the New Zealand government. He was granted £300 a year in 1896, three years before his death.

Sir Julius and Lady Mary Vogel had four children. The eldest son, Henry (Harry) Benjamin, practised for some years as a solicitor in Wellington. Later he lived in London as a journalist and novelist. He was editor of *The People* newspaper and in 1903 was living at Angle House, Molesey Park, now St Joseph's Convent, Molesey.

### Surrey Life Photo Challenge – Then and Now

Inspired by a recent project with the London Transport Museum entitled *Capturing Croydon*, Surrey Life magazine has contacted us about their photographic challenge.

The idea is to take a photo that sums up your village, then and now, by incorporating an old photo into a modern one of the same location, to encapsulate the ever-changing face of Surrey.

To see how this can be done, take a look at the Surrey Life website and search for 'photo challenge', and maybe you will have some ideas for Molesey.

Submit your best efforts to [matthew.williams@surreylife.co.uk](mailto:matthew.williams@surreylife.co.uk) and you could see them published in *Surrey Life* magazine. Of course, we would be happy to display any photographs at our meetings, or put them in the Newsletter, if space allows.

### British Pathe Terence Cuneo

Whilst researching for the wartime meeting, we have been looking at British Pathe films – [www.britishpathe.com](http://www.britishpathe.com). Members who came to the Terence Cuneo meeting may be interested to take a look at three clips featuring the artist at work – 'Mighty Mouse', 'Railway Artist' and 'Cowboy Artist'. This last clip shows Cuneo riding his horse through the woods and others show him at work in his studio in East Molesey. There are also some of the 1968 floods. Be warned though, these Pathe News clips are fascinating and the hours can fly by as one film leads to another.

### The Elmbridge Hundred An opportunity for Local Historians

The Elmbridge Hundred website is now live and local history societies and other organisations have been invited to contribute by penning biographies of some of the historic figures.

If you are interested in participating in this project by writing a biography of a prominent Elmbridge resident, you can find out who is still awaiting a biographer by browsing the biographies section of the website [www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk](http://www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk). Before starting work, please contact Joanna Tapp at Elmbridge Museum (tel: 01932 843573, [jtapp@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:jtapp@elmbridge.gov.uk)), to ensure that no-one else is researching the same person and to receive a simple template to show how the biography should be structured. As a guideline, each biography should be about 500-1000 words.

**Water Water Everywhere**  
**Thursday 16 September at 8 pm**  
**(doors open 7.30 pm)**  
**Hurst Park Primary School, Hurst Road,**  
**West Molesey KT8 1QW**

**A Talk by Ray Brodie – Park Manager**  
**Bushy Park & The Longford River**

You may have been watching developments in Bushy Park over recent years and it seemed a good moment for us to find out more about the Park and its waterways. Ray Brodie, the Park Manager, will give a talk which will tell us more about the restoration of the Water Gardens, the Heron and Leg of Mutton Ponds, the Longford River and the Diana statue.

Refreshments will be served.  
No charge for members, guests £2.

**Walk Round Walton-on-Thames**  
**Saturday 2 October at 2.30 pm**  
**Riverhouse, Manor Road**  
**Walton-on-Thames KT12 2PF**

One of our members, Bryan Ellis, has kindly offered to lead a guided walk around Walton-on-Thames. The meeting point will be Riverhouse Gardens and the walk should finish around 4 pm by the Riverhouse Arts Centre, where there is a coffee shop for refreshments. To get to Riverhouse Gardens, approach Walton on the A3050 (Hurst Road/Terrace Road), pass the Methodist Church on your right, take the next right turn into Manor Road and the third turning on the right. Pass the Riverhouse Arts Centre (on your left). Riverhouse Gardens are beyond. The Arts Centre has a car park and there is street parking opposite and in Manor Road. Numbers will be limited and places allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Please reserve your place by email to [historysociety@btinternet.com](mailto:historysociety@btinternet.com) or by mail by sending an SAE to Membership Secretary, MLHS, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey KT8 0SX. A form is provided below for your convenience.

**Life in Molesey during World War II**  
**Friday 12 November – 8 pm**  
**Mole Hall, Bishop Fox Way,**  
**West Molesey KT8 2JE**

Based around the experiences of people who lived in Molesey during World War II, this meeting will endeavour to paint a picture of wartime life on the Home Front in Molesey.

We anticipate that this will be a popular event and it will therefore be ticketed. Please let us know your ticket requirements by email to [historysociety@btinternet.com](mailto:historysociety@btinternet.com) or by mail, sending an SAE to Membership Secretary, MLHS, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey KT8 0SX. A form is provided below for your convenience. Members are free of charge, and there will be a charge of £2.50 for guests. Initially, guests will be limited to one per member.

There will be refreshments, and we are planning to include some food cooked from wartime recipes. If any of you would like to try cooking a wartime dish to bring along, it would really help to give us a taste of the past.

We are still interested in hearing from 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.

More specifically, does anyone know anything about any Molesey boats that were used in the Dunkirk evacuation? Please get in contact with any information.

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**Walk round Walton-on-Thames - Saturday 2 October at 2.30 pm**  
**Riverhouse, Manor Road, Walton-on-Thames KT12 2PF**

**IF YOU WISH TO JOIN THIS GUIDED WALK ROUND WALTON-ON-THAMES ON SATURDAY 2 OCTOBER, PLEASE COMPLETE AND SEND THIS FORM TO MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 17 MATHAM ROAD, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY KT8 0SX ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL [historysociety@btinternet.com](mailto:historysociety@btinternet.com).**

You will not be notified, but you may assume that you have a place, unless you hear otherwise.

**NAME:**.....

**Celebrating 150 Years in Manor Road  
East Molesey Methodist Church  
Saturday 11 September 10 am – 4 pm**

East Molesey Methodist Church is organising an open day on Saturday 11th September (10am-4pm) to celebrate 150 years in Manor Road with exhibitions, photographs and memorabilia. ([www.emmc.org.uk](http://www.emmc.org.uk))

**Meet the Author Dan Waddell**

Dan Waddell is the author of the book, *Who Do You Think You Are?* which accompanied the BBC series of the same name. He first became interested in his own family history after the birth of his son. This led him to discover a secret that had remained hidden for decades. He has since written two popular crime novels, *Blood Atonement* and *The Blood Detective* featuring investigative genealogist Nigel Barnes. Dan will talk about why genealogy is so popular today, his fascination with the dark side of family trees and how this led to his crime novels.

Wednesday 15 September 2010, 7.30pm  
Redhill Library, Warwick Quadrant, Redhill  
RH1 1NN Tickets £4 to include refreshments  
available from Redhill Library  
Tel: 0300 200 1001  
[Redhill.library@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Redhill.library@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Claremont Fan Court School  
Open Day and Garden History Lecture  
Sunday 5 September from 1 pm**

Claremont Fan Court School is holding an open day on Sunday 5 September at 1 pm, and the opening lecture of the Claremont Garden Lecture Series will be given by Professor Timothy Mowl at 4.30 pm. Admission is £10 to include access to the grounds, mansion and lecture.

Professor Mowl is Professor of Architecture and Designed Landscapes at Bristol University and is a popular and prolific author and speaker, well known to both garden history scholars and the public. His ongoing project, "Historic Gardens of England", supported by grants from the Leverhulme Trust, is modelled after Sir Nikolaus Pevsner's "Buildings of England". Upon completion, the nationwide project will present historic landscapes and gardens in separate texts, county by county. Ten books have been published to date. Prof. Mowl is an engaging speaker with a long-standing interest in the cultural context of designed landscapes – the people who designed and lived in the now considered historic buildings and gardens.

For more information please contact Kim Stapff, Claremont Fan Court School at 01372 - 473625 or use the following addresses and links [kstapff@claremont.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:kstapff@claremont.surrey.sch.uk) or [moreinfo@greenhistory.co.uk](mailto:moreinfo@greenhistory.co.uk)

**Hampton Court Palace  
Florilegium Exhibition  
Clore Centre  
27-31 October 2010 - 10.00-18.00**

A rare opportunity to see a selection of botanical paintings from the Hampton Court Palace Archive and an exhibition of other paintings by members of the Hampton Court Palace Florilegium Society. The Florilegium's aim is to record the range of plants grown in the Palace gardens, with particular emphasis on the Palace's collection of plants of historical interest.

Entrance to the exhibition is free. Entry does not include admission to Hampton Court Palace.

Produced by Molesey Local History Society  
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Website: [moleseyhistorysociety.org](http://moleseyhistorysociety.org)  
Tel: 020 8979 3465

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**Life in Molesey during World War II  
Friday 12 November – 8 pm  
Mole Hall, Bishop Fox Way, West Molesey KT8 2JE**

**PLEASE SEND A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE WITH YOUR TICKET REQUIREMENTS TO MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY, MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, 17 MATHAM ROAD, EAST MOLESEY, SURREY KT8 0SX. CHEQUES TO MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**MEMBERS (free of charge).....**

**GUESTS (£2.50 – one guest per member).....**