



Newsletter 5 February 2008

NEXT MEETINGS

**Thursday 6 March, 8 pm
Molesey Youth Centre Hall
Ray Road**

A talk by Dr Kenneth Brown in two parts – The History of the Cottage Hospitals in Molesey and the NHS as it was in Molesey in 1960. Since this is a History Society, Dr Brown will not deal with the huge changes in the NHS since then and will try to avoid political controversy.

Please note: The Molesey Youth Centre is in the right-hand side of the Henrietta Parker building that also houses the Adult Education Centre (no access from the Adult Centre) and there is parking to the right of the building and also at the rear.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 24 April, 8 pm
St Lawrence School Hall
Church Road**

The business of the AGM will be followed by a talk by John Sheaf

REPORT OF MEMBERS' EVENING

On 15 January, around 100 members braved the wind and the rain to come to St Paul's Church for a social evening and reports from our Research Groups.

There were displays around the Church of photos, maps and other memorabilia and many items had been brought along by members from their own collections.

The Waterways Group have been looking into the history of the islands in the Thames between the Moleseys and Hampton, described as a 'string of pearls'. Their future plans include the Mole, the Ember and Cigarette Island.

**Next meeting: Tuesday 4 March, 8 pm at the Royal British Legion, Church Road
Contact: Jenni Haile, 020 8979 0958, jennihaile@btinternet.com**

The Sports Group reported on their research of The Hurst and all the different events that have taken place over the years – not only horseracing and cricket, but many other sports, such as wrestling and bare-knuckle fighting.

**Next meeting: Thursday 21 February, 8 pm, 6 Green Lane, West Molesey
Contact: Pauline Sieler, 020 8989 7556, pauline.sieler@btopenworld.com**

Hazel Hargraves, a History Society member, who had travelled from Essex for the evening, was related to the landlord of the Castle Hotel and the Davis family and she spoke of her research into her family history, which also included the Birch family who lived in Creek Cottage opposite Hampton Court Station until a few years ago.

The People and Buildings Group is studying the census, and an appeal was made for help in transcribing the Molesey census to make it easy for everyone to use. This Group has subdivided into various topics, one studying local artists, such as Terence Cuneo, who died recently and another which is investigating the history of Matham Manor and the people who lived there.

Schools also come under this Group, and we heard a talk about the interviews that have been conducted with local people who went to Hampton Court school. We also heard memories of World War II, when lessons were interrupted by time spent in the air raid shelters and a terrifying account of the playground of the Girls' and Boys' Central School, Ray Road, being strafed with enemy bullets, when it was a miracle that none of the children was hit. These interviews will be archived for future use.

Next meeting: Tuesday 25 March, 8 pm
Royal British Legion, Church Road
Contact: Anthony Barnes, 020 8979 6744
agbarnes@ntlworld.com

The Transport Group is looking at the impact of developments in the various forms of transport: water, rail and road in shaping Molesey over the years.

Next meeting: Wednesday 27 February, 8 pm
Molesey Methodist Hall, Manor Road
Contact: David Turner, 07940 016255,
dat504@york.ac.uk

All our Research Groups welcome anyone who wants to join with them to research their special interests, and they would be pleased to hear from you.

It was a pleasure to see members who live out of the area, but still have an interest in the history of Molesey – we are so fortunate to have so much of the past on our doorstep.

After the talks, there was an opportunity to look at all the interesting material that had been brought along by members and to enjoy mulled wine, cake and lots of chat with friends old and new. It was a very successful and enjoyable evening and thank you to everyone who helped make it so.

SOCIETY WEBSITE

One of our members, Laurence Shafe, has kindly offered to construct a website for the Society and we have held an initial meeting to discuss how it will take shape. Less than a year after the formation of our Society, this is a very exciting development and we look forward to launching the Molesey Local History Society website in the near future.

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

A tour of Surrey History Centre was very much enjoyed by a group of members recently. Further tours can be arranged if there is sufficient interest from members.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Hampton Court Fire - Clore Centre
Wednesday 21st May
Walk on Thames Riverbank
Wednesday 18th June

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