

A Bit of Recent History



Molesey Self-Build 1955

In 1955, the first house to be completed by the Molesey Self-Build Association was handed over to the owners, Mr & Mrs Kirk, by the Admiral of the Fleet Lord Fraser. Located around Central Avenue and Minster Gardens, thirty families put in between 4000 and 5000 hours of work over a period of four years to build their own homes. Civil servants, policemen and others went to night school to train as bricklayers and everyone had to work 20 hours a week in the winter and 25 hours in the summer, sometimes under floodlights. In his speech, Lord Fraser congratulated the Association on their hard work and craftsmanship, for these were the qualities on which the Empire had been founded.

Summer Stroll Tuesday 16 June

On a lovely summer evening around 75 people enjoyed a most pleasant walk by the Mole and the Ember. This is the edge of the Green Belt and not everyone had appreciated that this riverside area was so very green, open and almost rural. Vegetation growth has softened the harsh contours of the Ember Flood Relief Channel.

Tony Osborne's annotated map gave details of the Ember and Upper Molesey Mills and nearby interesting historical buildings. We were particularly fortunate that he had obtained permission for us to go into the garden of the Old Manor House and see the very fine south elevation of the building.

Following Brian Smith's recent talk on the mills, Tony was able to tell us more about these and the old waterways, including the large millpond, which used to lie south of Green Arden, the ford at Tanner's Bridge and the many streams in the area before the building of Island Barn Reservoir. He also told us more about the large houses in the area and the aristocratic families who lived in them and gave us the names of local roads and pubs – Clinton, Poyntz, Beauchamp, Seymour and Spencer.

Many thanks to Ken Brown for kindly writing this meeting report.

The First Line for Leisure - What the Railway did for Molesey Thursday 17 September, 8 pm Molesey Youth Club, Ray Road

Our local railway line was the first in the country to be constructed solely for the purpose of leisure, for visitors to Hampton Court Palace. However, its impact on the area was far-reaching – there was an influx of workers to construct and staff the station; Londoners could escape from the city and enjoy the river, horse-racing on Hurst Park and other outdoor activities. Commuting was made possible and this became a significant factor in the growth of Molesey.

This meeting will be presented by the Society's Special Interest Groups, who have researched the material and have been working together to cover as many aspects as possible of the wide-ranging effects of the railway on the development of Molesey.

Terence Cuneo
Talk by Carole Cuneo and Peter Collins of
the Cuneo Society
Tuesday 10 November, 8 pm
St Albans School Hall, Beauchamp Road,
East Molesey, KT8 2PG

Terence Cuneo's daughter, Carole, and Peter Collins, Chairman of the Cuneo Society, will give an illustrated talk about this famous local artist. Although renowned for his railway paintings, his output was both prolific and varied. He was the official artist for the Coronation and painted the Queen in various settings. This will be a rare opportunity to have an insight into the personal life of this famous artist, who was involved in recording public events in our recent history, and to see a collection of his work.

We anticipate that this meeting will be popular and would therefore ask you to please reserve a place for yourself and your guests by 30 September, either by completing and sending in the form below or via email historysociety@btinternet.com. You will not receive a ticket or be contacted, but may assume you have a place unless you hear otherwise. If seats are still available after 30 September, the meeting will be advertised to non-members.

For more information visit the Cuneo Society website www.cuneosociety.org.

Magical Molesey
Saturday 5 December

We plan to take part again in the Walton Road Christmas event, and Tudor & Co have once again kindly offered to host an MLHS presentation. The subject is still to be decided, and we hope to see you.

RESEARCH GROUPS

People & Buildings

We have meetings planned on Wednesday 23rd September and 25th November at British Legion at 8pm. At the meeting on 23rd September we want to start collecting reminiscences of the Home Front in East and West Molesey during WWII as part of the build up to a members' evening in September 2010 (partly inspired by the anniversary of the outbreak of War this September, but we felt we had to commemorate the coming of the railway to Hampton Court first). It would be great if people could bring along anything from those years that they have got to show us, or just come along with their stories.

For information contact:
Anthony Barnes, 0208 979 6744
agbarnes@ntlworld.com

Waterways

Waterways have been busy preparing for the Railways meeting and have not yet arranged the next meeting of the group. For information please contact:

Jenni Haile, 0208 979 0958
jennihaile@btinternet.com

East Molesey
Kent Town Conservation Area
Community Heritage Initiative Project

Following on from the successful Community Heritage Initiative project (CHIP), six character appraisal/management proposal documents have now been produced, including those for the Old Village and Bridge Road Conservation Areas in East Molesey, as a result of collaboration between consultants, council officers, councillors, representatives from local conservation and historical societies and the wider community. A character appraisal document defines what is special about a particular conservation area, and can be used to inform decision-making and to identify potential areas for future enhancement.

The next project to be undertaken is the Kent Town Conservation Area and work on this is planned to start in the autumn. Interested members of the local community will be very welcome to join the conservation area working group. This will involve attendance at a half day training workshop, a day carrying out the review of the area and a later follow-up meeting to discuss the document which will be drafted by consultants. Anyone interested in participating in this project should contact Mrs Pat Cooper, Conservation Admin Assistant at Elmbridge Borough Council (tel 01372 474822 or email to tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk).

CHIP Meeting Dates:

11.00 - 1.00 Friday 16 October at the Civic Centre – start-up meeting to explain the process.

All day meeting (approx 10.00 - 4.30) Tuesday 20 October – appraisal workshop to be based at the Parish Room, St Paul's Church, East Molesey.

This is an opportunity for residents to learn more about their local area and to have a say in its future management and enhancement.

War Memories

We are hoping to have a meeting to coincide with the 70th anniversary of Battle of Britain. 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 anyone you know can help us with memories – tel 020 8979 0059.

Storage

As you may be aware, we are looking for somewhere in Molesey to store historical material that we have been given. If you have anything of interest that you would like safely stored, please let us know so that we can have an idea of how much space may be needed.

Elmbridge Museum Family Fun Events

The Big Draw - Medieval Tiles

Saturday 10 October

11.00am-1.00pm and 2.00pm-4.00pm

Be inspired! Drop by to design and make your own medieval tile and help celebrate the 10th anniversary of The Big Draw!
Free admission

Dig Deep!

Saturday 14 November

Want to dig a little? A hands-on chance to explore the world of archaeology. Working with the Surrey County Council Community Archaeologist.
Free admission

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Saturday 12 December

A crafty experience to create your own tree ornament. What will you make - three French hens, two turtle-doves or a partridge in a pear tree?

Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult. Free admission

**Elmbridge Museum, Church Street,
Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8DE**

SURREY HISTORY CENTRE

Science Behind the Scenes Tour

Tuesday 8 September 10.30am - 12.30pm or 2pm - 4pm at the Surrey History Centre
Cost: £3.00 Places are limited. Booking is essential. Telephone: 01483 518737.

As part of the 2009 British Science Festival events, take a guided tour of the Surrey History Centre and gain a unique insight into the science behind the scenes.

Surrey History Centre was purpose built to house Surrey's archive and local studies collection, and provide a home for Surrey County Archaeological Unit.

Find out how its design considers every aspect of the collection and conservation of archive documents. Enjoy a fascinating explanation by experts on document conservation techniques. Discover more about the post-excavation processing of archaeological finds.

At Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking, GU21 6ND

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

Discover High Ashurst

Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September

Since September 2007, groups of young people have been working with archaeologists to uncover the footprint of the demolished stately house at High Ashurst. This event includes a guided tour of the site, the chance to meet and see archaeologists in action (and have a go yourself if you wish), as well as looking at some of the discoveries and archive materials.

Tours start at 10am, 12.30pm, 3pm, and last for approximately 2 hours. Please meet at the Coach House, High Ashurst Outdoor Education Centre, off Headley Lane, Mickleham, Dorking, RH5 6DQ. There is limited parking outside the Coach House.

If you would like to have a go at digging, it is at your own risk. Please wear old clothing, appropriate to the weather conditions. All equipment provided.

This event is free but spaces are limited. To book a place contact: Abby Guinness, Community Archaeologist, 01483 518772, abby.guinness@surreycc.gov.uk

**Surrey History Centre Heritage Open Day
Saturday 12 September**

Behind the scenes tours
Surrey History Centre will be providing two behind the scenes tours at 10.30 am and 2pm. Tours take an hour and a half and must be booked in advance.

To book please call 01483 518737.

Book stall - There will be a second hand book stall of local history books and items throughout the day.

**First and Second Steps in Old Handwriting
Saturday 19 September
Surrey History Centre**

Join Surrey Heritage archivists as they take you through the first steps of reading Tudor and Stuart handwriting with the chance to practise reading from copies of items held in the archive.

Beginners session - 10.30am -12.30pm

Intermediate session - 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Tickets cost £5 per session. Places are limited.

To book please ring 01483 518737.

**The Lady and the Poet. John Donne and
Anne More at Loseley Park
Saturday 7 November 2009, 2.30pm at
Surrey History Centre**

A talk and book signing by Maeve Haran.

The Lady and the Poet is the love story of the poet John Donne and his sweetheart Anne More. Theirs was a love that flourished against all the odds, as they faced vehement opposition from his patrons and from her family. The result was a marriage of minds and of "true plain hearts".

Tickets £3.00. Telephone 01483 518737 to book.

And Pray, Sir, Who is Bach?

Thursday 19 November 2009 7.30pm at Surrey History Centre

An evening of piano duet music and readings from the time of Dr Samuel Johnson performed by Penelope Cave and Helena Brown, with a Broadwood square piano of 1795. Tickets: £10.00 to include a glass of wine.

To book please call 01483 519737

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

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**Terence Cuneo
Tuesday 10 November, 8 pm
St Albans School Hall**

IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE TERENCE CUNEO MEETING ON TUESDAY 10 NOVEMBER, PLEASE SEND IN THIS SLIP WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS BY WEDNESDAY 30 SEPTEMBER. ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL historysociety@btinternet.com. IF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE, THE EVENT WILL BE ADVERTISED TO NON-MEMBERS. PLEASE INDICATE IF YOU WISH TO BRING GUESTS (THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF £2 FOR GUESTS ON THE DOOR). PLEASE NOTE, YOU WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED, BUT MAY ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE A SEAT IF YOU LET US KNOW BY 30 SEPTEMBER.

**Terence Cuneo
Tuesday 10 November, 8 pm
St Albans School**

NAME:.....

GUESTS:.....

Please reserve a place for me/us at the Terence Cuneo meeting on Tuesday 10 November.

Send to Membership Secretary, Molesey Local History Society, 17 Matham Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0SX