

Forthcoming Events

In the hope that lockdown restrictions will be completely lifted on 21st June, we have arranged some face-to-face meetings for the remainder of the year. If we are unable to hold any of the meetings as planned, we shall of course notify you as soon as possible.

Tuesday 29th June 7 p.m.
Summer Stroll and AGM
Royal British Legion St. Mary's Road
East Molesey KT8 0ST

We are hoping that the AGM will only take 10 or 15 minutes as, in an effort to save time, we are issuing the accounts and the Chairman's and Treasurer's reports before the meeting. The AGM will be followed by a talk by Roger Hoad on the route of the Summer Stroll which this year will be centred on the old hub of East Molesey village and its importance on the route across the Rivers Mole and Ember to the Dittons and onwards to Kingston and Portsmouth. It will also look at those parts of the Rivers Mole and Ember that have changed the most over recent years.

Maps will be available to collect on the evening or may be printed from our website. If you wish to do the walk after Roger's talk, Roger will be on hand to point out places along the route.

If we are unable to hold this meeting on 29th June, we shall endeavour to re-arrange it for later in the summer.

Wednesday 4th August 10.30 a.m

We are arranging a short walk round St Peter's Churchyard/Molesey Cemetery. Further details concerning this event will be sent nearer the time.

Thursday 16th September 8 p.m.
The Archaeology of Hampton Court Palace
Talk by Ian Franklin
St Lawrence Junior School Church Road East Molesey

Ian, a former State Apartment Warder at Hampton Court Palace, will take us on a trip back through the history of the Palace site from the Bronze Age to the present. You will see artefacts and parts of the Palace never usually seen by the public – because they are in store or reburied! You will see parts of the Knights Hospitaller's settlement, Charles Daubeny's buildings, Wolsey's Palace etc., you will visit excavations in Clock and Base Courts, join the Timeteam as they uncover Henry's Bowling Alley, and visit the Tiltyard Gardens to see the recently discovered remains of the fourth of five of Henry VIII's Tiltyard Towers.

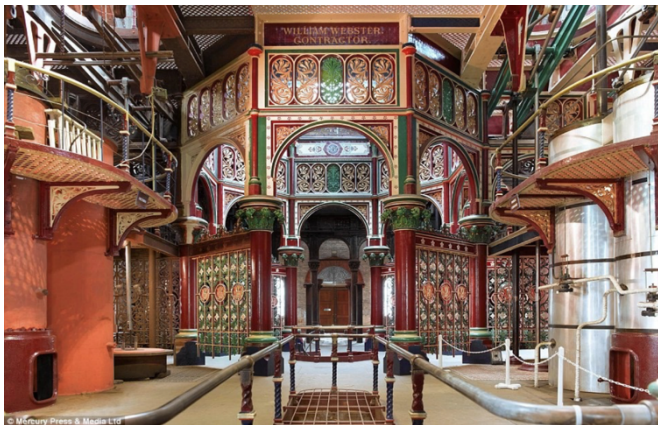
Thursday 25th November 8 p.m.
Molesey's Enclosure Story: Looking for Lost Fields
St Lawrence Junior School Church Road East Molesey

This year is the two hundredth anniversary of the enclosure of Molesey's open fields. It is hard to exaggerate the significance of this event. The manorial system of farming in existence for over 700 years was swept away. A major part of the Society's research effort this year has been to piece together the story of the enclosure. Who was involved? What were their motives? Who were the winners and losers? How did it change Molesey and what traces of its legacy can we find in the landscape today?

DOWN THE DRAIN **Talk by Ray Elmitt** **Tuesday 16th March 2021** **Report by Jenny Wood**

Ray's extremely interesting and informative talk was attended by over 50 members. Ray explained that, by the second half of the nineteenth century, how to deal with the human waste generated by an ever-growing population had probably become the most down-to-earth, yet hard to solve, problem facing communities in the Lower Thames Valley. Until 1800, the population had grown at a steady rate, but in the 19th century it shot up from under 9 million to just over 30 million. This necessitated a new approach to sanitation designed to run at a community level rather than, as before, on an individual property basis, where many properties had their own cesspits.

The Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 encouraged local authorities to build public sewers and allowed them to empty these sewers into the sea or any public river. Riverside towns such as Kingston and Richmond built sewer networks emptying into the Thames, which became increasingly polluted.



From 1831, London suffered a series of cholera outbreaks. The cause of the disease was unknown, but it was widely thought to be caused by the smelling of bad air (miasma). To get rid of the smell, the sewer system was regularly flushed, and this led to the Thames becoming even more polluted. In June 1858, the 'Great Stink' led to a swift change in government policy. A prolonged heatwave caused the level of the Thames to drop significantly, leaving raw sewage deposited on the foreshore. The resulting stench forced the Government to take urgent action, and, in just 18 days, Parliament enacted a bill to provide more money to construct a massive new sewer scheme for London.

The scheme was designed by Joseph Bazalgette and consisted of an extensive underground system of sewers which fed into six new main intercepting sewers, terminating at two great riverside pumping stations at Crossness to the south of the river and Abbey Mills to the north. The pumping stations discharged the sewage at high tide so that it would be carried out towards the North Sea. The scheme was completed within seven years and still serves Central London today. (*See photo above Crossness Pumping Station*)

On 3rd September 1878, the SS Princess Alice, a passenger paddle steamer, sank in the area close to Abbey Mills after it collided with a collier. Just before the collision, 75 million imperial gallons of raw sewage had been released from the Abbey Mill Works. Between 600 and 700 people died in the heavily polluted waters, the greatest loss of life of any British inland waterway shipping accident. Public outrage forced the Government to find a way of treating the raw sewage. The treatment process which was adopted was devised by William Dibdin. The process which involved the destruction of the foul matter by the action of living organisms became, and still is, the universal solution for sewage treatment.

Once the Central London scheme had been completed, the Government's attention turned to those communities upstream who continued to discharge their sewage into the Thames. Many of these communities tried without success to acquire land on which to process their sewage by irrigation or filtration. In 1875, the Public Health Act empowered local authorities to act together to complete comprehensive sewage schemes. The Lower Thames Valley Sewerage Board was established in 1877 and various schemes were proposed. However, no agreement was reached on any of these and, in 1885, the Board was dissolved after eight years of effort and £30,000 (£40m) of fruitless rate payers' expenditure.

It was left to each individual authority to come up with its own sewerage scheme. The East Molesey Local Board employed John Charles Melliss as their consulting engineer. Melliss was an advocate of the precipitation method of sewage treatment which used a combination of chemicals to separate the solid and liquid elements and dealt with each individually.

The first proposed scheme went to a public inquiry in January 1890 but was defeated by fierce local opposition. In summer 1891, a new scheme was approved but work on this did not begin for another two years. By March 1894, seven miles of the network were built, the treatment works were completed in October 1895 and the whole scheme came into operation with over 300 houses connected by April 1896. The network was built at two different levels with Shone Ejectors to link the levels. Shone Ejectors used compressed air to raise the sewage at certain points. Examples of Shone Ejectors can still be seen in Palace Road and Langton Road.



Two other examples of Shone Ejectors can be seen on the Home Park side of Hampton Court Road (see *photo above*). These formed part of the Hampton Wick sewerage scheme. Another interesting feature of this scheme is the pipe on the side of the railway bridge at Kingston which, from 1890 carried the sewage across to the Kingston works and in the 1930s was extended to the new treatment works on the Hogsmill river in Surbiton.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE IMPRESSIONISTS

Talk by Michael Robinson

Thursday 22nd April 2021

Report by Paula Day

Jenny Wood introduced Michael as an Art and Design historian and lecturer, and currently a London Blue Badge Tour Guide who, during the Covid crisis, has developed a number of Zoom talks. Michael began by giving us a bit of history about Alfred Sisley, who was born in Paris of English parents, came to London in 1874 and spent some time in Molesey.



Each painting that Michael showed was accompanied by a map showing where the artist was sitting, and a photograph of the current view, whenever that was possible. Starting downstream of Hampton Court Bridge, the first image he talked about was Sisley's "The Thames at Hampton Court", from Thames Ditton, showing the Palace in the distance and The Pavilion, in the grounds of the Palace, on the right of the painting. The second painting is entitled "Regatta at Hampton Court", but no trace has been found of a regatta at Hampton Court – perhaps the rowers depicted in the painting were practising for Molesey Regatta.

Michael went on to talk about the two paintings that Sisley made of Hampton Court Bridge – the third bridge to be built here. The first painting showing the underside of the bridge, with its wrought iron latticework on cast iron pillars, was a departure by Sisley from his usual landscapes, and illustrates his awareness of space and perspective. The second painting which shows the side elevation of the bridge was, Michael believes, painted from the terrace of the Castle Hotel, where he suggests Sisley stayed while he was living in this area. Another painting entitled "The Road from Hampton Court to Molesey" was possibly painted from an upstairs room at the Castle Hotel.





We then continued our “journey” upriver, with paintings of the Castle Hotel, the lock, the weir, and landscapes which showed Tagg’s Island, and another showing Garrick’s Temple to Shakespeare in the distance. With each image, Michael pointed out local landmarks, and in the Q&A session after the talk, there was quite a lot of discussion and debate about some of them. Michael showed us 12 paintings in all, with the painting of Molesey Regatta perhaps being the best-known of Sisley’s Hampton Court and Molesey works.

More than 50 members were able to watch and enjoy Michael’s talk - I wasn’t able to join in with the original Zoom presentation but was able to watch it later on our website, in the ‘Members Only’ section, where you can find a number of the Society’s most recent talks.

ZOOM COFFEE MORNING

Talk by Richard McHardy

Thursday 27th May 2021

Richard’s very interesting and entertaining talk featured three houses in the area of Hampton Court Green – Hampton Court House, Faraday House and Wilderness House. A full report of the talk will appear in our next newsletter, but if you would like to listen to the talk in the meantime you can do so by logging into the ‘Members Only’ section of our website or by viewing it on YouTube using the following link <https://youtu.be/wx8vGkW5Vsl>.

GLENLYN: THE STORY OF A HOUSE

By Anthony Barnes



Have you ever wondered about the history of the house which is now Glenlyn Medical Centre? The story begins in 1875 with the death of Lady Clinton of East Molesey Park. The land was sold to developers. The main road in the Park was continued as far as Green Lane and named Molesey Park Road. Spencer Road, Seymour Road, Beauchamp Road and Clinton Avenue were subsequently laid out and Molesey Park Road was extended beyond the limits of the old Park as far as Ray Road. Glenlyn, 115 Molesey Park Road, was built for Herbert Andrews.

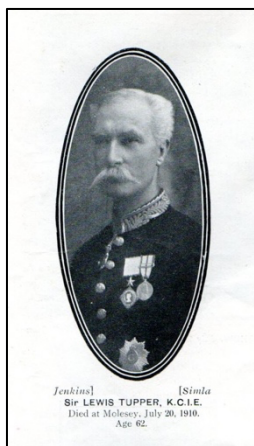
Herbert Andrews



Herbert Andrews was born in Molesey in 1842. He joined the family business established by his father, Thomas Andrews, who had leased the Lower (or Sterte) Mill near Hampton Court Station and begun milling flour before moving into cutting timber and slate. Herbert married Louisa Lock in 1864 and they went on to have five children. In 1878, Herbert Andrews and his brother-in-law Walker George De Forges Garland bought large swathes of land on the former East Molesey Park. In 1882, Herbert Andrews acquired the Glenlyn plot in his own name. The house itself was probably built by Jesse Wheatley who erected many of the large houses in East Molesey Park, including his own, called Moleside, which was located next to The Wilderness. (The site of Moleside is now occupied by Field Close.)

Herbert rose to prominence in Molesey as a member and later Chairman of the East Molesey Local Board responsible for its elementary schools. Under the pseudonym ‘THE MOLE’, Herbert Andrews published a quirky, but engaging, short history of East Molesey in 1893 which he dedicated to The Rev. Henry Hollingworth, Vicar of St. Mary’s. One of its memorable phrases is the sentiment ‘See Rome, and die, if you like... but see Molesey, and live contented’.

Herbert Andrews lived at a number of addresses in Molesey but in the 1887 Kelly’s he is listed as owner of Glenlyn. He was living at Westfield, (now No. 18) Spencer Road at the time of his death in 1913.



Sir Charles Lewis Tupper

Sir Charles Lewis Tupper (1848-1910) had an eminent career as an administrator in the Indian Civil Service holding a number of important government posts mainly in the Punjab between 1871 and 1906. He was widely recognised as an expert in Indian political law. Tupper was one of the founders of the Punjab University and became its vice-chancellor in 1900-01. He also helped to create the Punjab Law Society. He lived at Glenlyn from 1907 and became a member of Surrey County Council as well as President/Chairman of the Kingston Division of the National Service League.

Arthur and Mabel Pumfrett

19 11 . Marriage solemnized at <u>the Parish Church</u> in the <u>Parish</u>								
of <u>St. James's, Westminster</u> in the County of <u>London</u>								
Columns	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
48	<u>Seventh October 1911</u>	<u>Arthur John Powys Pumfrett</u>	<u>Full age</u>	<u>Bachelor</u>	<u>Merchant</u>	<u>St. James's St. S.W.</u>	<u>George Pumfrett</u>	<u>Lt. Colonel in the Army</u>
		<u>Mabel Andrews</u>	<u>Full age</u>	<u>Spinster</u>		<u>Sunnyvale East Molesey</u>	<u>Herbert Andrews</u>	<u>Gentleman</u>
Married in the <u>Parish Church</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the <u>Established Church</u> by Licence <u>John E. T. Little</u> on after by me, <u>Curate</u>								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Arthur John Powys Pumfrett</u> in the Presence of us, <u>Herbert Andrews</u> <u>Mabel Andrews</u> <u>Charles S. Double</u>								

In 1911, Arthur John Powys Pumfrett (1870-1942) married Mabel Andrews ((1867-1929), the daughter of Herbert Andrews. Arthur's father, George Pumfrett, had taken part in the Charge of the Light Brigade in 1854. (George died at Highclere, Arnison Road in 1906 and is buried in Molesey Cemetery.) Arthur lived at Glenlyn for over twenty years (from at least 1918 to 1939).

A Nursing Home (1939-c1951)

In 1939, Mrs Rafella Talbot Godfrey acquired the house. The Council approved her application for the erection of extensions to provide a central lounge and two wings each comprising of 6 bedrooms, 2 nursery rooms, WC, bathroom and sink room for use as a nursing home.



One of the residents was the celebrated pianist, composer and teacher Amina Goodwin (1862-1942) who was a friend of Mrs Talbot Godfrey. Amina Goodwin had been a child prodigy and went on to study under renowned pianists such as Camille Saint-Saëns, Franz Liszt and Clara Schumann. As a performer she was much admired for her technical ability and artistic style. She founded the London Trio (1899-1927) which performed Chamber music concerts throughout Europe. Perhaps not surprisingly, in the last few years of her life at Glenlyn she "could not be persuaded to play the rather inferior upright piano in that establishment!" (from *Musicians of Note* by John Searle, 2015 – see Online Collection on www.moleseyhistorysociety.org).

Glenlyn in the Late 1950s

The future of Glenlyn hung in the balance in 1957-58 when different planning proposals were submitted to create additional housing by either converting Glenlyn or demolishing it. The Council turned down one proposal to build 13 semi-detached houses on the site and another one, to erect a block of 32 flats, was withdrawn.

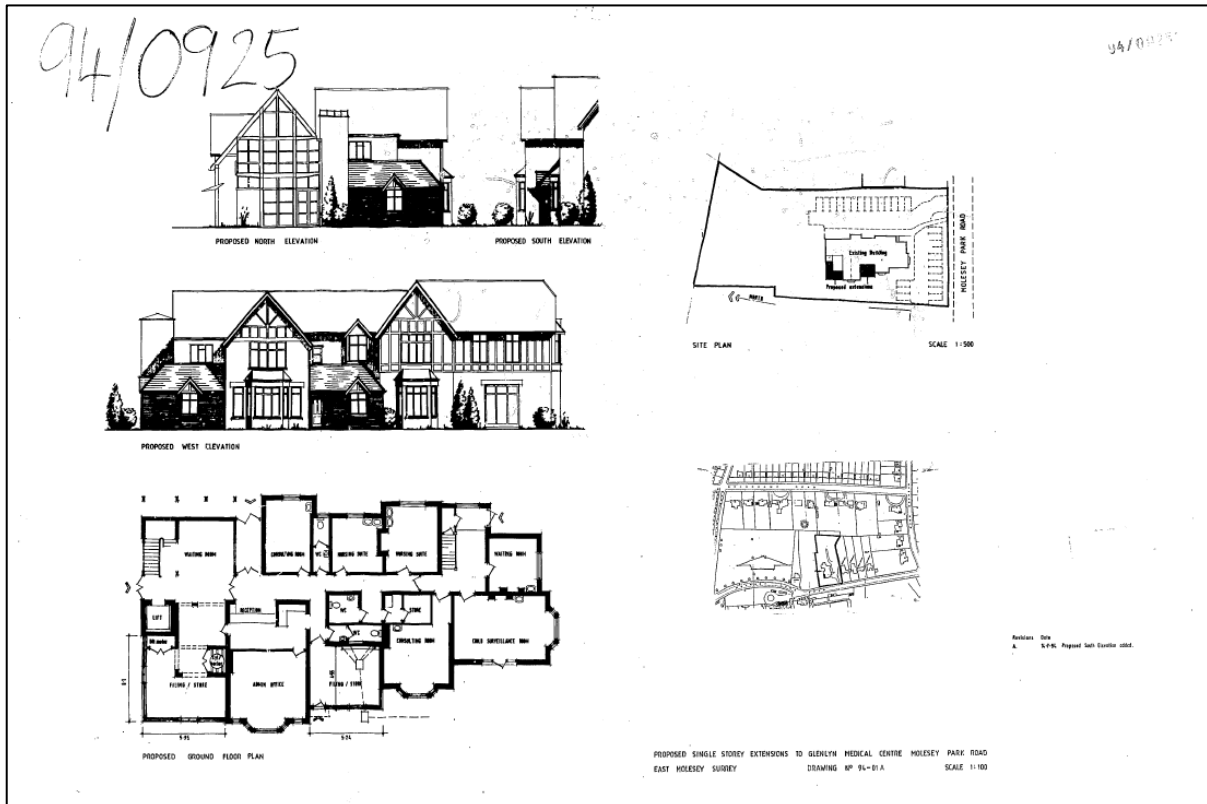
Standard Chartered Bank Staff Hostel and Training Centre

Glenlyn became a staff hostel and training centre for Standard Chartered Bank in the late 1970s.

A Change of Use to Doctors Group Practice

In 1992, the Council received two change of use proposals. The first applicant did not proceed with his submission to convert the hostel into a residential care home for elderly persons. The second application by Drs Dunster, Parry and Browne for permission to build an extension and create additional parking for a doctors group practice was successful and went ahead.

Glenlyn opened as a doctors group practice in 1994. In the following year, permission was granted to open a pharmacy on site for patients and in 2008 to extend the permitted opening hours. (There were 21 local objections mainly on grounds of increased traffic nuisance).



The rest as they say is history.

60 YEARS AGO THE MOLESEY REVIEW - March - May 1961

March Review

This edition reported that Molesey Fire Station had been closed. Local residents had fought for over eight years to keep the station open but to no avail, as the Home Office upheld the views of Surrey County Council and closed the station. Responsibility for all fires in Molesey was transferred to Esher and Walton Fire Stations.

April Review

This contained a report of a meeting held at the end of March to discuss a draft scheme prepared by the Molesey Society to improve Bridge Road visually. The intention of the scheme was that occupants or owners of premises in Bridge Road should aim at a unity of pattern and colour in an endeavour to produce a more attractive environment which would attract custom to their shops and improve the standard of Civic Design in the neighbourhood. Kenneth Wood, on behalf of the Society, said that they were not suggesting major structural alterations and that what was most called for was "PAINT". The Chairman of Esher and Urban District Council, Councillor E. Royston Pike, said that the Council was prepared to make a contribution towards the administrative costs of the scheme of a sum up to £300, or half the amount of the costs whichever was the less.

The draft scheme was passed by a majority of 25 votes to six. It also mentioned that the Minister of Housing and Local Government had given permission to Roberts Radio Limited to erect offices, factory and store on the Island Farm Industrial Estate, overturning the previous refusal of Esher Council.

May Review

There was a feature on a factory in Nielson's yard off Bridge Road. The factory was owned by Mr H. T. Ellaway and produced glass animals. It took about five years to train a worker to maximum efficiency as they needed to be both craftsmen and technicians.

The Review complained about the lack of a car park in Molesey. "There are no car parks nor even spaces for car parks, unless the Council take the initiative and obtains some of the available vacant sites for temporary use as such." It compared Molesey to Esher which had just been provided with two temporary car parks, despite already having a free car park at Sandown. "Why Esher can get action and Molesey cannot is one of those peculiar mysteries that have prevailed since the two districts merged – but it is time the Moleseys stopped being the Cinderella to Esher ..."

Rowland Baker published an article about the 'King Game' or 'Kyngham', an ancient custom which was held before the Reformation and which seems to have originated in Kingston-Upon-Thames. The games were run by the parish officers of Kingston but were also performed in the surrounding villages, including Molesey. The games often made a substantial profit for the funds of the church. The game included the election of a king and queen with nine attendants – the Fool, the Moor, the Spaniard, the Franklin, the Minstrel, the Peasant, the Lover, the Disard and the Friar. All these attendants, except the Minstrel and the Friar, were dancers with bells on their wrists and ankles. The Minstrel played tabour and pipe for the dances, some of which have come down to us in the dances performed by Morris Men. A stained-glass window in Kingston Museum shows the various characters in their colourful costumes. There was also a 'Robin Hood Game' where the characters were Robin Hood and members of his outlaw band; this was sometimes performed at the same time as the 'King Game'.

ELMBRIDGE MUSEUM

Elmbridge Museum has just launched its new website. The address is the same as before: <https://elmbridgemuseum.org.uk/>. Amy Swainston, the Exhibitions and Interpretation Officer at the Museum, tells us that particular pages of interest are these: <https://elmbridgemuseum.org.uk/online-exhibitions/>, for online exhibitions and <https://elmbridgemuseum.org.uk/collections/> for collections. The collections search function is now much more intuitive and brings a whole range of new objects from the museum archive to the fore. By clicking the 'classifications' button, you can search objects by theme, or click 'objects in focus' to see more in-depth pieces about particular objects. The Museum produces these pieces bi-monthly.

Amy says that every online exhibition, which the Museum has had, has been improved in the process of being transferred to the new website. Many more archive photos and information have been included, even in the oldest exhibitions, and Amy recommends having a look at them. At present, it is better to view the new website on a desktop, as the Museum is having a few issues about the way in which it displays on a mobile. The Museum is endeavouring to resolve these issues as quickly as possible.

The Museum is working with a local secondary school on an exhibition to mark the centenary of the formation of the Royal British Legion. The exhibition '100 Years of Remembrance' will be at Dittons Library from late June/July. Students will interpret items of significance from the Legion's history in the Museum's collection, and then produce their own creative pieces in response to the theme of 'remembrance'. These will go on display alongside the original artefacts. There will also be an accompanying online exhibition with object videos, expert interviews, a zoom curator's talk and more.

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS

The address historysociety@btinternet.com is to be discontinued shortly. If you wish to contact us on any matter please use chair@moleseyhistorysociety.org. For membership queries, please use membership@moleseyhistorysociety.org.

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