

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

During the difficult period of the pandemic when we were unable to hold face-to-face meetings, we decided not to ask members to renew their membership in 2021. We kept in touch with our members by increasing the number of newsletters, sending out maps for suggested historic walks around Molesey and arranging Zoom meetings and coffee mornings. Now we are returning to normal, you will receive a reminder in January to renew your membership for 2022. The subscription will remain at £7.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday 25th November

Molesey's Enclosure Story: Looking for Lost Fields
St Lawrence Junior School, Church Road, East Molesey
Talks at 8 p.m. Doors open 7.30 p.m.

This year is the 200th anniversary of the enclosure agreement which swept away the manorial system of farming in existence for over 700 years. Enclosure has always been an emotive issue giving rise to conflicting interpretations.

A major part of the Society's research effort this year has been to piece together the story of Molesey's enclosure. Who was involved? What were their motives? Who were the winners and losers? How did it change Molesey and what traces of enclosure are still visible in the landscape today?

Come along and find out what happened to Molesey's fields and commons. You may even discover the name of the field that was once there on the site where you live!

There will be displays of maps and other information.

Thursday 2nd December

Love Magical Molesey
61 Walton Road KT8 0DP
5–7 p.m.

We are very grateful to Tudor & Co. who have agreed to host us again for this community event. We shall be showing some of our displays from the Enclosure Meeting.

Thursday 13th January

Coffee Morning 11 a.m.
Royal British Legion, St. Mary's Road
East Molesey KT8 0ST

We hope that you will join us for coffee and an opportunity to discuss any local history topic which you would like to mention. The Society's researched meeting in November 2022 will be about Tagg's Island and if anyone has any memories of the Casino Hotel or of AC Cars on the Island we should love to hear from you.

Wednesday 26th January 8 p.m.

AGM followed by a talk by Norma Millard
on the history and First World War inscriptions on the war memorials in Molesey
St Paul's Church, Church Road, East Molesey KT8 9DR

The AGM will be kept as brief as possible. Norma has detailed information on all the people from the First World War whose names appear on the Molesey war memorials and will speak about some of them. She will have her records with her at the meeting to help her answer any specific queries.

Thursday 24th February 8 p.m.
The Kaleidoscopic Life of Horace Walpole
Creator of Strawberry Hill, renowned author, connoisseur, collector
and inexhaustible gossip of the 18th century
Talk by Keith Hathaway
Hurst Park School, Hurst Road, West Molesey KT8 1QS

Son of the first British Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, Horace Walpole was a writer, art historian, man of letters, antiquarian and Whig politician. He had Strawberry Hill House built in Twickenham, south-west London, reviving the Gothic style some decades before his Victorian successors. His literary reputation rests on the first Gothic novel, 'The Castle of Otranto' (1764), and his Letters, which are of significant social and political interest. Keith Hathaway will be giving a talk on this 'renowned author, connoisseur, collector and inexhaustible gossip of the 18th century'.

MEETING REPORTS

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF HAMPTON COURT PALACE
Talk by Ian Franklin
St Lawrence Junior School Church Road East Molesey
Thursday 16th September 2021
Report by Jenny Wood

Ian was the Society's first speaker in May 2007, and we were delighted to welcome him back to talk to us again. Ian was a State Apartment Warder at Hampton Court Palace for 23 years and his love for the Palace shone through as he spoke.

Ian stressed the importance of written sources and, relying on these, gave us a brief rundown of the history of the Palace site from the date of the Domesday Book of 1086 which recorded Walter de St Valery as the owner of Hampton Court to the time of Henry VIII. By 1180, there was a preceptory of the Order of the Knights Hospitallers on the site. In 1236, the Knights Hospitaller of the Order of St John Jerusalem acquired the manor of Hampton and built or adapted a hall and large barn on the site of Hampton Court. Ian told us that records show that, in 1484, John Wood of Molesey obtained a lease of Hampton Court; other than Wood, nothing is known about other probable lease holders, (Ian challenged us to try and find out more about them), until In 1494, the site was leased to Sir Giles Daubeney who clearly built a more impressive house there; it is believed that a portion of the Tudor kitchens was originally built for him. In 1514, Cardinal Wolsey was granted a 99-year lease of Hampton Court and in the following year he started to build a magnificent Palace. Henry VIII took over the Palace from Wolsey in the late 1520s and began a process of expanding the kitchens and re-modelling the Palace. In 1531, Henry acquired the freehold from the Knights Hospitallers, compensating them with other lands.

Ian then looked at the information which has been discovered by the many archaeological digs in the Palace grounds and surrounding area. He mentioned that there have been Bronze Age finds at the Palace and in Home Park but his talk mostly concentrated on discoveries which have been made about the Tudor Palace. He spoke about the use of dendrochronology (the scientific method of dating tree rings to the exact year they were formed) to help date buildings but pointed out that there are dangers in relying on this as frequently wood from an earlier building was re-used. Dendrochronology indicates that the Great Hall dates from 1532-3, but Ian argued that some of the Great Hall dates from Wolsey's time. He referred to the investigations of Jonathan Foyle who at one time considered that Henry's hall was about 20 feet shorter than Wolsey's but was built on the original cellars of Wolsey's hall and retained Wolsey's bay window. The debate continues...



***The entrance to the Tiltyard Restaurant
with the Tiltyard Tower behind***

Due to his role at the Palace, Ian was able to be involved in some of the digs which took place while he was working there, for example the 'Time Team' dig of 2009. The purpose of this was to try and uncover Henry VIII's eastern bowling alley and the precise position of four of the viewing towers within the area of Henry's Tiltyard. It was known that there were five towers within the Tiltyard but the position of one of the towers, now part of the Tiltyard Restaurant, was known before excavations commenced. The dig found the bowling alley and remains of two of the missing towers. The foundations of a fourth tower were subsequently discovered in 2015, but the fifth tower has still to be found.

In 2017, the remains of two early Tudor buildings were unexpectedly discovered in a small trench excavated during conservation works on a set of historic railings on the West Front. No documentary records for the presence of these buildings have yet been found, and their purpose is unknown, although Ian thought it likely that they were workshops or ancillary kitchen buildings. It has been considered possible that one of the buildings may at one time have been used as a watchtower. The dating evidence discovered during the excavation supports a late 15th to early 16th century construction.



Ian concluded on a lighter note by showing us this photograph of a mummified cat which was discovered behind the walls of an apartment in the William and Mary part of the Palace after the fire of 1986. He suggested that the cat had been put there as an example of "Sympathetic Magic" in the hope that it would ward off mice.

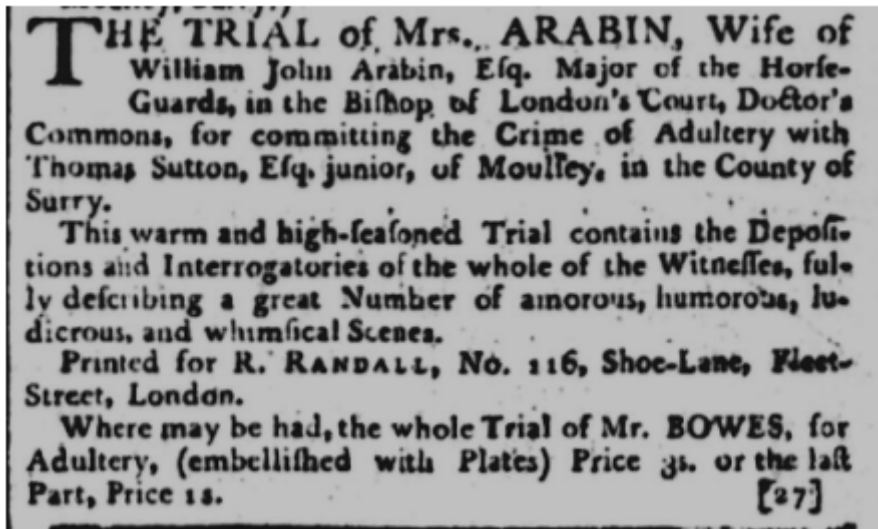
SEX IN THE SHRUBBERY **A scandalous tale of "goings on" in Georgian Molesey** *By Claire Annable*

"With the Georgian trend in landscape architecture, the word 'shrubbery' became one of the favourite printed euphemisms for locations for aristocratic sexual naughtiness. The shrubbery was an essential element in the newly favoured landscape gardens. It provided shelter from the sun and wind, a pleasant area in which to walk or a secluded place to read, picnic or — naturally — to indulge in activities you wished to keep away from prying eyes." (William Sage 2018)

Major William John Arabin married Henrietta, the daughter of Sir Capel Molyneux, in Dublin in 1777 when he was 26 years old and she was 19. The couple spent six or seven months of the year in their country residence, a villa at Moulsey Hurst which they rented from the squire of the manor, Sir Thomas Sutton. While living in Molesey, William and Henrietta had become friends with Sir Thomas Sutton. Within two years of their marriage, Henrietta had embarked on a scandalous affair with Thomas Sutton's son, Thomas Sutton the younger.

In The Trial of Mrs. Arabin February 1786 a witness, James Bradley, tells how in the summer of 1782, he and another man were walking on Moulsey Common by a place called Littlehales Shrubbery which belonged to the manor house, where they saw: "Mrs Arabin upon the ground therein, with her petticoats up and Thomas Sutton the younger upon her in the very act of adultery and when they had finished saw him get up and help Mrs Arabin up from the ground.....and then they walked away together." The witness also reported that he had seen the two of them walking and riding out alone in the neighbourhood before and after the event. Another witness, Maria Haynes, told of seeing Thomas and Henrietta going into a hollow that led to a place called the Spa (located near the area now known as Alders Grove) where she reportedly sat down on the bank and Thomas unbuttoned his breeches. Henrietta told her husband on one occasion that she had been bathing with other ladies when in fact she had been seen riding with Thomas.

On another occasion, a servant recalls seeing, when William was out and Thomas had been visiting the villa, that the curtains were drawn, an armchair tumbled and dirtied with hair powder and black pins on it. A witness recounts how they had seen Henrietta and her lover walking 'arm-in-arm' into a shrubbery near the Sutton's home in Surrey, from which she emerged sometime later, 'her hair tumbled, and her dress very much rumpled and disordered, though when she went out she was particularly neat and well dressed.'



Damages of £100 were awarded against Thomas as a result of the trial. William petitioned for divorce, but Henrietta was unable to be found and it was rumoured she had gone to live in Italy and married a Mr. St George, an Irishman of considerable property. William Arabin's divorce was finally granted in 1789. When Sir Capel Molyneux died in 1797, he left his errant daughter a solitary shilling. When Thomas Sutton the younger died in 1813, he was described by a friend as "a worthy, honourable, religious man, a perfect gentleman, and a ripe scholar in ancient and modern literature".

The explicit content of witness accounts is unprintable in this newsletter but can be found online should you wish to read all the sordid details!

GLENLYN MEDICAL PRACTICE (until 1993)

(continued from September 2021 newsletter)

By Jenny Wood



5 Wolsey Road

After Eddie Knox's death in 1932, Dr Humble bought the practice from Dr Knox's estate and moved to The Hollies. Dr Humble must have recruited Dr Bowling to help in the practice shortly afterwards as the electoral register for 1933 shows Arthur (Tom) Bowling living at 5 Spencer Road. By 1938, Tom Bowling had moved to 5 Wolsey Road where he lived until he died in 1968. Dr Perceval (Percy) Rodger joined the practice in 1938 or 1939 and moved into 5 Spencer Road. The practice became known as Humble, Bowling and Rodger. The doctors all practised from their homes and The Hollies, 5 Wolsey Road and 5 Spencer Road all had surgeries attached to the house. The surgeries at The Hollies and 5 Wolsey Road had direct external access as well as access from within the house and Dr Humble's son presumes that 5 Spencer Road was similarly designed. The surgery at The Hollies consisted of a waiting room with wooden bench seats, a consulting room with a heavily sound-proofed door and a toilet



**Dr John Humble
during his time in the Navy**

During the Second World War, arrangements were made to avoid too many doctors from the same practice being called up at the same time. Dr Humble joined the navy in late 1941, as an RNVR Surgeon-Lieutenant, leaving Tom Bowling and Percy Rodger in charge of the practice. Dr Humble was immediately posted to the Naval Base Hospital in Colombo, Ceylon, but when his son became critically ill in September 1942, he was granted a compassionate transfer home to the UK, arriving back in the Clyde on 31 December. He was then posted to the naval hospital HMS Westcliff (just west of Southend-on-Sea), where he remained until he was 'demobbed' in 1946. He then immediately resumed work with the practice.

Shortly after the Second World War, the practice instituted a duty roster for evenings and weekends and all 'out of hours' calls to any of the doctors were diverted to whichever one was on duty. Calls could happen at any time of day or night. While the doctors practised from their own houses they relied on their wives for help. When a doctor was on call so was his wife who had to be available to take phone calls. After Mrs Bowling died in 1958, Tom Bowling had a live-in housekeeper, Mrs Wallace, who took these calls. Unusually, for the time, Dr Humble's number rang two phones, one in the main hallway by the front door and the other beside the doctor's bed. In Dr Humble's house, the phone was answered by whoever was nearest the phone when it rang, including his son once he had reached the age of 11 or 12.

The working week was strenuous. Dr Humble held surgeries in his house on Monday to Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10:15 or 10:30 a.m. and on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 6 p.m. to 7:15 or 7:30 p.m. Dr Humble's son believes that the practice operated on a 'drop in and hope' arrangement and that very few, if any, appointments were made. House calls were made between 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. on Monday to Saturday and 2:30 to 5:45 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Drs Bowling and Rodger held surgeries with similar hours in their homes but had a different 'half-day' from Dr Humble. The lack of an appointment system has been confirmed by Rod Cowan, who said, "I remember Doctor Humble as a very kindly gentleman with a soft Scottish accent. If you went to his surgery in Palace Road there was no appointment system, you just pitched up in surgery hours, sat on a hard seat and waited your turn. You sometimes sat there for a very long time! But he would make house calls if you were too ill to get to the surgery. To me he became a hero when my mother requested he advise me that I should eat my greens, which I hated, as they were good for me. His response was that he didn't like them either!"



The practice had no nurses or any such help, although they did rely on the services of the District Nurses. Until around 1950, there was a part-time secretary, Doris Warnford (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.) who worked at The Hollies dining table. She was succeeded, full-time, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (but probably not Wednesdays) by 'Granny' Knox, the widow of Eddie Knox. For pharmaceutical help, there was a small dispensary within the waiting room at The Hollies but for anything more major Dr Humble called on F. C. Kent, Chemist, (now Molesey Park Pharmacy) on the corner of Spencer Road and Walton Road. Dr Humble's wife kept the practice accounts. (

Dr and Mrs Humble on their Silver Wedding Anniversary, 30th April 1955)

In the early 1950s, the practice took on Dr John Munro who practised from his house at 2 New Road, West Molesey, and in 1960 Kenneth Brown joined the practice. Dr Humble had been at school in Dumbarton with Ken's father and when he heard that Ken was looking for a practice, he contacted him. Ken agreed with the practice to buy from them a plot of land that had been a nursery garden at 25 Seymour Road and build a house and surgery on it. The doctors asked Ken to join them because they knew that Hurst Park Racecourse was likely to be developed and they wanted another partner to help with the additional work that would result. At this time, the practice had a strong Scottish presence as all the doctors, other than Dr Bowling, were Scotsmen with degrees from Glasgow University.

In 1961, Dr Munro left the practice to work in the pharmaceutical industry for the Ames Corporation, who specialise in equipment for diabetes, and he was replaced by Dr Colin Dunster who took over the house at 2 New Road and continued to practise from there. In the mid-1960s, the practice moved into a central surgery at 15 Seymour Road and all the doctors stopped practising from their homes.



15 Spencer Road

Over the next few years, there were several changes in personnel. Dr Bowling died in 1968 and was replaced by Dr Mike Parry. When Dr Humble retired in 1973 he was replaced by Dr Robin Browne, and when Dr Rodger retired, he was replaced by Dr Ian Coxon. The practice was later joined by Dr Steve Brant and by Jane Coxon who practised under her maiden name of Dr Jane Gray as a part-time partner. As the practice grew, it bought the bungalow at 13 Seymour Road and incorporated this into the building at 15 Seymour Road.

Ken Brown said, "Medical practice was very different in those days. The relationship between the doctors and their patients, and also between the doctors and their staff was much more personal. We all had personal lists of patients and right up until I retired in 1992 the practice did not use deputising services and provided total out of hours care. At least one of the doctors was on call 24 hours a day 365 days a year. The practice held a party for the staff and their partners in one of the doctor's houses each year. Everyone knew where the doctors lived and they and their families were part of the local community."

In 2008, Ken gave a talk to the Society about the NHS in Molesey in the 1960s.

For the text of Ken's talk, which gives a lot of detail about life as a GP in Molesey at that time, please see www.moleseyhistorysociety.org/NHS_Molesey_1960s.pdf

In December 1993, the practice moved to Glenlyn.



Opening of Glenlyn 4th December 1993

L to R Robin Browne, Kenneth Brown, Mike Parry, Sian Brittan, Ian Coxon, Jane Gray, Colin Dunster, Steve Brant

60 YEARS AGO

THE MOLESEY REVIEW - July - October 1961

July

Subject to costs and certain conditions, the West Molesey War Memorial was to be re-sited on part of the West Molesey recreation ground. The memorial originally stood in the road on the corner of Walton Road and New Road.

August

On a recent Saturday morning, the Police had prevented intending shoppers from parking in Bridge Road, much to the annoyance of the shopkeepers who complained about "unprecedented slack trading". The Police said that they needed to take action when they were alerted to a traffic hold up and that it was hard to envisage a long-term solution to the Bridge Road bottleneck. The Review pointed out that the traffic delays were caused by the buses which could not get down the road and that there was no need for the buses to use Bridge Road. They suggested that one solution would be to divert main road traffic via Creek Road.

Esher U.D.C. wanted to demolish Radnor House but Surrey County Council argued that it was a historic building of architectural merit.

A planning application was being submitted for the development of 1½ acres of garden ground at 'Moleside', Molesey Park Road for the construction of a cul-de-sac and 13 houses.

September

The Minister of Housing and Local Government granted permission for a development of houses and shops on about 54 acres of Hurst Park racecourse and car park. The development was to be confined to the western half of the racecourse, the majority of which lay above the peak flood level of 1947. Hurst Park was to remain a racecourse until the end of 1962, with the proposed development taking place in 1963,

The last few acres of Island Farm were going to disappear when the builders moved in sometime during October, The installation of a new organ at St Paul's Church had been completed.

October

The Molesey Society applauded the decision on the development of Hurst Park as "highly satisfactory" and "a triumph for commonsense". Over half the area of Hurst Park had been saved and 67 acres of open land were available to be used as public open space. The Molesey Society and the editor of the Review urged Molesey residents to make their views known so that "a really imaginative scheme can be made for creating a park of beauty and enjoyment of 67 acres."

An article by Rowland Baker looked at the ancient customs in East and West Molesey at the time of Harvest, All Soul's Day, Guy Fawkes Day and Christmas. After the completion of the harvest, all the workers, their families and friends gathered in the great barn for a harvest supper followed by music and dancing. On All Soul's Day, November 2nd, a donor would traditionally distribute alms to the poor in the hope of saving his soul from damnation. By 1250, the manor of Apps Court, which was owned by the Crown was let to a tenant, part of whose rent was to be paid by distributing to the poor on All Soul's Day a barrel of ale and a quarter of corn made into bread for the benefit of the souls of the King's ancestors. This custom continued until the Apps Court estate was sold to the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company in 1898. Local inhabitants petitioned for its reinstatement and, in 1903, the Charity Commissioners approved a scheme for the annual payment to the poor of West Molesey and Walton on Thames of the interest on a sum of £200 which had been paid to the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds by the Metropolitan Water Board, the successors of the Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company. On November 5th, many villages had a large bonfire in a central position. In East Molesey, before the bonfire was lit there was a procession round the village, which in Victorian times was led by the Molesey Mechanics Band. One Christmas custom which was practised in East Molesey for many years was the Mummers' Play. The troupe of mummers, who were the local villagers, disguised with comic masks and costumes went round the houses in the village on Boxing Day performing their play and were given refreshments at each house. In later years, they seem to have visited the local inns instead. The play, which was mostly in verse, was traditional and was handed down from generation to generation

ELMBRIDGE MUSEUM

New Exhibitions

'Objects of Empire Revisited' which reinterprets 11 new items from the collection, to continue the legacy of the original Objects of Empire project. <https://elmbridgemuseum.org.uk/objects-of-empire-revisited/>

Upcoming new exhibition 'Literary Elmbridge'. This will open at Walton Library and online on 24th November and looks at literary figures and books in the Elmbridge Museum collection. It's being launched alongside the R.C Sherriff Trust Literature Competition which is now in its 17th year and themed around 'enigma' this year.

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