

NEXT MEETING

**Tuesday 15 January – 8 pm
St Paul's Church, Palace Road
Members' Evening**

Do you have any memorabilia that you would like to show to other members? If so please let us know. Members of the Special Interest Groups will be talking about their groups and the areas that they are researching. This should be a fun and sociable evening (with mulled wine and cake), so it would be great if a lot of people could come along and learn more about Molesey, share their memorabilia and have the chance for a chat.

FAMILY HISTORY TALK

About 60 members and visitors came to Vine Hall on Tuesday 13th November to hear a fascinating talk by Jill Hyams from the Surrey History Centre about family history sources at Surrey History Centre. A number of our members have already been researching their family history, and some were just starting, but I think we all learned a great deal from the evening.

Jill started by explaining what records were held at the Surrey History Centre, which was opened in Woking in 1998 and holds around five million documents, as well as thousands of books and maps, and illustrations and archive film relating to the county of Surrey. Although Jill's information was

particular to Surrey, she was a mine of information about other sources throughout the country.

Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths began in 1837, and for earlier research, Parish Registers are the key to finding out about your family's past. Another much used resource is the Census, which was taken every ten years from 1801. To supplement information about where people lived, you can use the Electoral Registers – but bear in mind that not everyone had the right to vote. Other sources of information could include Trade Directories, Taxation Records, including the Land Tax Assessments, and even the Poor Rate Assessment. There are also records available relating to the Quarter Sessions, which might contain information about an ancestor who was perhaps a licensed victualler, or even a criminal or insane!

The Surrey History Centre also holds Manorial Records, Title Deeds, Wills, and numerous other records which you might want to search to find out more about how your ancestors lived – for example, school and hospital records. In addition, it holds local newspapers, including copies of the Molesey Review, and a wide selection of papers, photos and illustrations relating to organisations and properties in and around Molesey, together with lots of "how to do family history" books and guides to sources.

All in all, a fascinating talk, proving that the Surrey History Centre is well worth a visit. If you're interested in joining us on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Centre, there are a few places on Thursday 21 February at 2 pm. There is a charge of £3, with car drivers free of charge if willing to offer a lift to other members. If you are unable to go on that date, please let us know and we will arrange another tour, if there is sufficient demand.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On Tuesday 18th November 2008 we will have an illustrated talk on the paintings done at Molesey in 1874 by Alfred Sisley. It will be at the Henrietta Parker Centre Hall and the speaker will be Mr. Nicholas Reed, who is a NADFAS lecturer and has published a book entitled "Sisley and the Thames". The talk will coincide with an exhibition of Sisley's work at the National Gallery.

In contrast, on Thursday 6th March 2008 also at the Henrietta Parker Centre Hall, there will be 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, he will not deal with the huge changes in the NHS since then and will try to avoid political controversy.

THE BELL PUB RENOVATIONS

Good news at last on The Bell. The Heritage Section of the Town Planning Division at Elmbridge Borough Council wrote a strong letter to the owners drawing their attention to the current problems. This resulted in a number of

meetings between EBC officers and The Spirit Group to identify and agree a phased series of works. These are now progressing and it is likely to be an on-going process, which EBC will continue to monitor.

'MAGICAL MOLESEY' EXHIBITION

As part of the 'Magical Molesey' late night Christmas shopping event in the Walton Road, Tudor & Co estate agents kindly hosted a small exhibition on behalf of MLHS, entitled 'Former Large Houses in East Molesey'. Many were surprised to learn of the impressive large houses that existed until fairly recently, particularly those in West Molesey and there was an unexpected benefit in that Tudor & Co had invited their clients, who included people who had just moved here and were anxious to learn about the area. Many thanks to Tudor & Co for joining with us to present this exhibition and for selling the Rowland Baker books, which many bought for Christmas presents. The proceeds from sale of the books were donated to the League of Friends of Molesey Hospital, which was the charity nominated to benefit from the 'Magical Molesey' evening.

Matham Manor

The group researching Matham Manor are wondering if anyone has any memories of past residents or of people who used to work there.

Please contact 020 8979 3465 or historysociety@btinternet.com if you have any information. Many thanks.