

**Terence Cuneo**  
**Talk by Carole Cuneo and Peter Collins of**  
**the Cuneo Society**  
**Tuesday 10 November 2009**

**Report by Terry Chambers**



*Terence Cuneo – Self Portrait*  
*By kind permission of Carole Cuneo*

Terence Cuneo's mascot made an early appearance at this packed meeting in St Alban's School hall, as everyone was delighted to find a chocolate mouse waiting on their chair.

Carole Cuneo, the artist's daughter, told tales of life at 201 Ember Lane and many of us were surprised to hear that she had been sent to board at St Joseph's Convent (now St Albans), from where she was able to see the family home. Nonetheless, Carole spoke of the fun and excitement of her childhood. Her father made cars, tricycles and even a roundabout for the children and they had a model railway in their garden (Carole later owned the model railway shop in Molesey). There were pantomimes with fantastic backdrops at Christmas and always a big New Year's Eve party.

For his painting of the Coronation in 1953, Cuneo had to complete over 53 individual portraits and everyone but the Queen and Prince Charles came to the house. The children would have to pose in gowns and stand on a wall in the garden so that he could see how the garments hung.

Peter Collins, Chairman of the Cuneo Society, then gave an illustrated talk, which showed what a prolific artist he was, covering fifteen major subjects. Probably best known for his railway paintings, many of which were used as posters (e.g. the Tay Bridge with a train thundering across the river – 1958), he is also renowned for his paintings of ceremonial events, book and magazine illustrations, military and equestrian paintings and much more.

The Coronation painting was damaged when it was stuck in transit on the Great West Road, and it was returned to Cuneo for repair. The painting was given back to the Palace with the addition of a tiny mouse in full regalia sitting happily in the grand surroundings. The Queen did not ask him to remove it, and thereafter the trademark mouse would make an appearance in his paintings, perhaps running away from a train (or on skis, as in one of the paintings on display). His first 'Mouse Painting' depicted a mouse painting an Edam Cheese, which Cuneo nervously took to his next exhibition. He need not have worried; it was the first painting to be sold.

This meeting was a rare opportunity to hear first-hand about the private life of a renowned artist, whilst at the same time learning about the incredible variety of Cuneo's body of work. For more information visit the Cuneo Society website [www.cuneosociety.org](http://www.cuneosociety.org).

*Many thanks to Terry Chambers, who wrote a detailed account of this meeting, from which this report has been taken. If you would like to read the full account, please email [historysociety@btinternet.com](mailto:historysociety@btinternet.com) or telephone 0208 979 3465 and it will be sent to you.*

**Magical Molesey  
Molesey Lock  
Saturday 5 December**

We were again welcomed by Tudor & Co for the Magical Molesey Christmas event, where we showed a presentation on Molesey Lock. It was a busy afternoon, with many members popping in for a chat and to see the photos of the lock in its heyday. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Molesey was the most popular lock on the river. The Surrey Comet of Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1895 recorded that on Molesey Regatta Day, Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup> 1895, 4,000 boats, 112 launches and 8 barges passed through the lock and 1,292 tickets were issued for boats using the rollers.

You will be able to see this presentation at our Members' Evening on 19 January.

**Members' Evening  
Tuesday 19 January 2010  
St Paul's Church, Palace Road  
Doors open 7.30, Talks 8pm**

The Members' Evening will follow a similar format to last year with stands for photographs and memorabilia of interest and also speakers from the membership. If you wish to speak, or have a stand please let us know as soon as possible as there are only a limited number of tables and speaking slots that can be allocated. Contact Pauline Sieler on 020 8979 7556  
[pauline@sieler.co.uk](mailto:pauline@sieler.co.uk)

This meeting is intended to be a social evening. Refreshments will be served and there will be an opportunity to have a leisurely look at maps and photographs and chat to other members about their interests. Those who attended last year's meeting may remember that the church was rather cold, and we will take steps to ensure that everyone gets a warm welcome this year.

**Family History & the Media,  
Talk by Dr Nick Barratt (of TV's 'Who  
Do You Think You Are?')  
Tuesday 9 March 2010, 8 pm  
Imber Court, Ember Lane,  
East Molesey KT8 0BT**

Dr Nick Barratt obtained a PhD in history from King's College London in 1996, editing the 1225 Exchequer pipe roll and several Exchequer receipt rolls from the 1220s when the National Archives/Public Record Office maintained a site at Chancery Lane. He joined the National Archives/Public Record Office at Kew later the same year as a reader adviser.

Nick started work in television whilst working at the BBC as a specialist archive researcher for a number of programmes. His valuable links to the largest archival institutions in the country and his expertise helped lay the foundation of the network he has in place today. The enormous popularity of 'Who Do You Think You Are' and the widespread interest in family history should make for an entertaining and instructive evening.

Refreshments will be available from the Imber Court bar.

We anticipate that this will be a popular meeting, so please reserve your place by completing the form below. There will be no charge for members, but guests will be charged £5. If you wish to invite guests, please enclose an SAE, so that guest tickets can be sent to you.

**Special Interest Groups**

Since the formation of Molesey Local History Society in 2007, individual members and the Special Interest Groups have made an enormous contribution to the Society with their research. Members have presented the results of their work at Society meetings, and generally the efforts of members have resulted in a considerable body of material, which it is important to preserve. The Committee is considering how best to collect this material and to make it available to future researchers.

**Transport**

Meetings for 2010 have been arranged for Wednesdays 20th January, 21st April, 21st July, 20th October. All meetings will be at the Methodist Church at 7.30 pm. The intention will be to decide upon a topic and meetings will focus upon planning and research.

**David Turner, 07940 016255  
dat504@york.ac.uk**

**People & Buildings**

This group meets every second month on the last Wednesday, and is currently working on Wartime in preparation for the Society meeting in November. The next meeting is on Wednesday 27 January 2010 at 8 pm at the Royal British Legion, St Mary's Road.

**Anthony Barnes, 0208 979 6744  
[agbarnes@ntlworld.com](mailto:agbarnes@ntlworld.com)**

## Waterways Group – our Swan Song

Since the start of our group in September 2007, we have covered a broad range of topics focusing on the four Molesey rivers – the Thames, the Mole, the Ember and the Caundle – and the associated industries, employment and leisure activities taking place on and alongside these rivers.

We have visited, explored and reported on all the Thames Islands – Platt’s Eyot, Benn’s Eyot, Garrick’s Island, Tagg’s Island and Ash Island, Molesey Lock - and of course that imposter Cigarette Island (no longer an island since the coming of the new Hampton Court Bridge).

Our archives currently consist of nearly 30 paper-based files occupying four box folders, plus digital computer records comprising several powerpoint presentations, hundreds of photos of local history scenes and old maps, and copies of articles gleaned from local libraries.

Brian Smith’s contribution has been of particular note, with his presentations on the water mills of Molesey and the effects of the railway on Victorian leisure activities. The group can boast of attendances of over 20 members on some occasions; many have made contributions of photos, personal reminiscences, and local knowledge.

Sadly, although our interest in Molesey Local history will continue, we can no longer lead the Waterways Group, and no more meetings of this group are planned unless another MLHS member wishes to take over – any volunteers?

**Roger and Jenni Haile**

## Wartime

We would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to join the group working to prepare for our November meeting on Molesey in Wartime. We anticipate that this meeting will be of great general interest to Molesey residents and are working hard to gather as much information as possible, so that we fully cover all the many aspects. There should be something to interest everyone, so please join us and help us do justice to this important time in the life of Molesey.

Also, 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, or if you would like to join the Wartime group.

**Doreen Freeman – 020 8979 0059.**

Produced by:  
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Tel: 020 8979 3465

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**Family History & the Media, Talk by Dr Nick Barratt (of TV’s ‘Who Do You Think You Are?)**

**Tuesday 9 March 2010, 8 pm**

***Imber Court, Ember Lane, East Molesey KT8 0BT***

**IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND THIS MEETING, PLEASE SEND IN THIS SLIP WITH YOUR REQUIREMENTS BY FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY. ALTERNATIVELY, EMAIL [historysociety@btinternet.com](mailto:historysociety@btinternet.com). IF SEATS ARE STILL AVAILABLE AFTER THIS DATE, THE EVENT WILL BE ADVERTISED TO NON-MEMBERS. THE MEETING WILL BE FREE OF CHARGE TO MEMBERS, BUT THERE WILL BE A CHARGE OF £5 FOR GUESTS. PLEASE SEND AN SAE FOR GUEST TICKETS (CHEQUES TO MOLESEY LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY). PLEASE NOTE, YOU WILL NOT BE NOTIFIED, BUT MAY ASSUME THAT YOU HAVE A SEAT IF YOU LET US KNOW BY 12 FEBRUARY. TICKETS WILL ONLY BE ISSUED FOR GUESTS.**

**MEMBER:.....**

**GUESTS (£5) .....(please send SAE for guest tickets)**

**Please reserve a place for me/us at the Dr Nick Barratt meeting on Tuesday 9 March.**

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

## Events at Surrey History Centre

### Claiming our history, marking our present, creating our future - Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month takes place every year in February and features the lives and achievements of the LGBT community. This event provides an opportunity for all of us to learn more about the histories of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in the UK and 2010 sees the first time LGBT History Month will officially have taken place in Surrey.

To mark LGBT History Month, Surrey History Centre will uncover the hidden stories of some of Surrey's famous and not so famous LGBT sons and daughters. The archives reveal stories of tragedy and heroism, art and literature, inspiration and success, and will reveal for the first time the LGBT lives that have helped shape the county's culture.

**Surrey's Gay Icons** display will be open to all in the foyer at the History Centre from 2-27 February 2010 (during normal opening times). Admission is free.

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

## Events at Elmbridge Museum

### Get Together: The Story of Community Space in Elmbridge - 16 January to 19 May 2010

Following on from the community faces exhibition in 2008, Elmbridge Museum presents a counterpart about community spaces.

Get Together explores shared space, both past and present. Where do people gather together in Elmbridge? What makes these places special? What are their histories? The exhibition looks at places where people congregate to have fun, worship, discover history, enjoy nature and just to 'be'.

Elmbridge has a long tradition of community spaces. Get Together goes from age-old May Day dances on village greens to 1950s discos and beyond... Discover the Borough's historic common land, earliest theatres, adventurous scout groups and community cyber-spaces of the future.

Learn the history of your favourite hangouts, and open doors to places you never knew existed!

## Invitation - 'Get Together' Exhibition View

Elmbridge Museum invites you, your family and friends to a viewing of our new community exhibition, 'Get Together'. It is an exploration of shared space, both past and present.

The event has a fun 1950s theme – wander around the displays, enjoy retro refreshments and tap your foot along to rock 'n' roll records played by Brooklands FM! Councillor Jan Fuller, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services, will be in attendance from 2.00 pm to officially open the exhibition.

Saturday 30 January 2010 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm  
Elmbridge Museum, Church Street, Weybridge,

RSVP: 01932 843573 or  
[ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk)

## Invitation - The Cobham Ring Unveiling

Event: Displaying Elmbridge Museum's  
Newest Acquisition

Date: Saturday 6 March 2010

Time: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Unveiling: 2.30 pm

Location: Elmbridge Museum

First Floor above Weybridge Library

Church Street, Weybridge

Surrey, KT13 8DE

RSVP: 01932 843573 or  
[ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk)

Free entry and refreshments. Trails and activities for children.

## Family Fun - Free

### Build Your Own House

Saturday 13 February 2010: 11.00 am-1.00 pm  
and 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Elmbridge has a rich and diverse architectural heritage. Be an architect for the day and construct your own scale-model of a building.

### Seeing Things

Saturday 13 March 2010: 11.00 am-1.00 pm  
and 2.00 - 4.00 pm

Microscopes and telescopes allow us to see further than the naked eye.

Discover the magic of these instruments and celebrate National Science and Engineering week.

## Horse Power on the Hampton Court Branch in 1849 By David Turner

On 3 February 1849, two days after the London and South Western Railway's (L&SWR) Hampton Court branch line opened, the *Illustrated London News* published a picture of the new station. Careful observation of the illustration shows a locomotive and four carriages, being boarded by men and women in smart attire. As with most of the illustrated weeklies, the *ILN* was apt to exaggerate events. In the first instance I have been unable to find a locomotive in the company's roster that matches the description of the one in the picture. Of course this is partly due to the lack of pictorial evidence from the period of the L&SWR's locomotives, but it does suggest that the *ILN* illustrator had drawn in a generic 1840s steam engine. The reason for this is simple, steam locomotives were not the first form of motive power on the line.<sup>1</sup>

There are two pieces of evidence that corroborate this. The first is a letter to the *Times* of 13 February 1849, when an anonymous individual named MEDICUS wrote about his journey to London the day before. With more a sense of bemusement, than complaint, he described how on boarding the carriage an 'old grey horse trotted up, saddled and bridled, with some yards of rope attached to his tail,' to be followed by an 'important looking fellow with a whip.' The traveller seemed confused and joked whether the directors were going to put on a contest of horse versus steam power, as 'a diversion for the cockney passengers.' The carriage started to move slowly, with porters pushing at the handles and John Tagg, the Queen's Waterman extorted, 'Here's a proddy punt, fetch my old woman, she'll shove her off.' The traveller leaned out the window and on further inspection found out that a horse, belonging to Evans the Molesey flyman, was daily providing the traction. The journey to Kingston Station (the former name of Surbiton) took 20 minutes, where another train had been waiting 28 minutes for the coaches from the Hampton Court service to be attached.<sup>2</sup>

For many years this was the only evidence that I had. However recently I discovered in the L&SWR's staff magazine, the *South Western Gazette*, a recollection by Thomas Maynard that provides further evidence. He had been on the first train and could possibly be considered the first guard on the line. He stated that initially all that was provided for the line was a 'small truck holding about 20 persons with no roof whatever.' This does of course contradict MEDICUS' description whereby he had to put his head out of the window, indicating a roof was present. Given that contemporaneous accounts are always of far more value than recollections, it is far more likely that MEDICUS was accurate. This said, it is quite possible that by 12 February 1849 roofed passenger accommodation had been provided. Once the journey to Kingston was complete, the truck would be attached to the train from Woking Junction and then pulled back by horse. Maynard confirmed that it was Evans' horse that did the work and also that the practice went on for some time. Maynard also had to provide the services of a Booking Clerk.<sup>3</sup>

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1 The National Archives [TNA], ZPER 34/14, *The Illustrated London News*, 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1849

2 *The Times*, 13<sup>th</sup> February 1849

Thus it is confirmed that horses were initially used on the line. It now only remains to find a cause for this unusual activity. The first possible reason is that there was not a turntable at Hampton Court early on to turn the locomotives. This is confirmed by a Locomotive & Way and Works Committee Minute of the 19 April 1849 in which Albino Martin, the company's resident engineer, was ordered to move the turntable at Datchet to Hampton Court, two months after the line's opening.<sup>4</sup> However there are a number of factors that militate against this explanation. Firstly we find that the turntable is still being worked on in September 1850<sup>5</sup> and while evidence stated above suggests that horsepower was used for some while, it seems unlikely that it would be used for over a year and a half. Thus trains possibly ran tender first, something that is known to have happened.

A more logical explanation is that the L&SWR was suffering a locomotive shortage in the period. A report by Gooch, the Locomotive Superintendent of the company, in 1847 states that the company was 'deficient' in its motive power and that more locomotives should be built.<sup>6</sup> This was an especially pressing concern as in the late 1840s the L&SWR opened lines to Windsor, Guildford, Dorchester and extended the line from its terminus at Nine Elms to Waterloo. Thus it seems quite probable that with the Hampton Court branch being so short the L&SWR found it unnecessary to waste a locomotive when they were in short supply.

The actual cause will probably never be fully determined, but until further evidence turns up, I am going to opt for this reason as it is the most logical.

*The next meeting of the Transport Special Interest Group will be at 8pm on Wednesday 20 January 2010 at East Molesey Methodist Church. We will be discussing a research agenda for the year and where we want to take the group. Please contact David Turner at dat504@york.ac.uk 07940 016255.*

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4 TNA, RAIL 411/174, Locomotive Way and Works Committee Minute, 19<sup>th</sup> April 1849

5 TNA, RAIL 411/174, Locomotive Way and Works Committee Minute, 14<sup>th</sup> September 1850