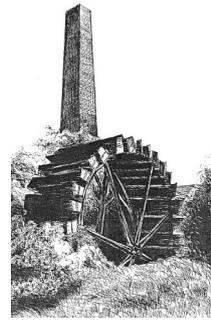


WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM



BULLETIN



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WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

PRESIDENT

Harry Galley

TRUSTEES

Chair: Fr David Pennells,
Nicholas Hart and John
Hawks.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Alison Cousins, Eric Shaw,
Roger Steele, and Michael
Taylor.

Editorial

Welcome to the Autumn edition of the museum Bulletin. As usual you will be able to find out what we have been up to since the summer.

Nicholas Hart covers what it means to ensure items that have been collected during your lifetime or are held by your family are donated to places that would benefit from receiving them.

Our Annual General Meeting is planned to take place face-to-face on 18th November. Separate information has been sent about this.

Please see page 9 which gives details of our New Year lunch which we hope all our members, volunteers and their guests can attend.

Best wishes,
Mick Taylor (Guest Editor)

Cover Picture:

Our treasurer Roger Steele shows the Mayor of Merton Cllr Michael Blunt our model of the Morris Works at Merton Abbey and speaks about the work of the museum. See the message from the Mayor following his visit on Page 3.

Operations Team Report

Regular events are slowly getting back to some kind of normality and so we were able to have our usual stall and children's craft workshop at Merton Heritage's Discovery Day at Merton Civic Centre on August 21st. There were fewer visitors in general but plenty of activity surrounding the "Womble" mascots for the two Wimbledon football teams in the foyer.



Our stall at the Merton Heritage Discovery Day



Simon Cole, who visited our print session, shared how his daughters had decorated their prints.

Mitcham Heritage Day was also revived on Saturday September 11th when we offered two talks on the textile industry, and a Wandle Walk. We had nearly 80 visitors and 15 walkers.

During Wandle Fortnight our volunteer John Sheridan undertook three walks on 14th, 19th, and 23rd September, one of which amid a downpour. See page 4.

On September 21st Mick gave a talk to Dorking Historical Society. Further talks are in the diary but most are not until 2022.

We were delighted to welcome school groups back into the museum, the first being on October 8th from Eagle House School in Sutton, an autistic centre, 2 of whose pupils had come to a workshop with us when in primary school and because they were already doing different types of printing methods had persuaded the teacher to bring them back to us. They were only a small group, but with keen pupils, and a very clued-up teacher, it was a very enjoyable morning. We also had 2 groups from Date Valley

School (on the edge of the Cricket Green) on October 12th. Note – their website indicates that they are “a two-minute walk from the Wandle Industrial Museum “. So that’s us on the map, then!! Each class was time-limited so we could only show the block printing video and let each pupil do a print but they all seemed to enjoy the session.

One Sunday we also had a visit from descendants of the Lelasseur family (founders of John Jakson & Co, distillers of peppermint and lavender). We were able to exchange family photos as ours were from a different branch and showed them some of the fragile pouring equipment we had been given.

“**Design to dress: screen printing at Merton Abbey**” is the title of David Luff’s book published last year, which he kindly donated to us. It is liberally illustrated with unique photos of the staff and processes during David’s time there and will be an excellent resource for both museum “staff” and visiting researchers.

In September we contributed to the annual Museum Survey for the South West Museums Development Team. This year it inevitably included questions on how we had dealt with Covid-19, plus the usual ones on our use of social media, visitor numbers, finance, etc. It’s a useful exercise as it helps us keep up to date with our statistics.

Alison Cousins

Memory Shared

The museum holds a collection of photographs of Young’s pubs. These are shared on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. They get seen by a large number of people. As a result of one the pictures being shared David Higgs sent us this picture.

It shows The Bull, Church Road not far from the museum. David says “Here is a picture of the Bull with my Grandad and Great Grandad standing outside. My dad lived there during the Second World War with his mum. His dad sadly passed away in 1940 when he was only 10 years old.”



Praise for the Museum

The museum was delighted to receive the following email from the Mayor of Merton.

My apologies for the delay in writing. Thank you for inviting me to open the Wandle Arts Festival. It was a great honour to be asked - particularly because it was my first physical event in Mitcham. All my other meetings had been by zoom at that point.

I was impressed, when walking around and talking to the exhibitors, by the depth of knowledge of the specific art techniques that they were describing. There were several new things that I learnt, and as an advocate for lifelong learning I found what I was being told very interesting. I also enjoyed the tour of the museum as I have never been inside before.

Thank you for the amazing cake. It was a complete surprise to be presented with a cake and one that tasted so good. I shared it with as many people as I could and I can assure you that it was all eaten. It was very generous of you and the committee. I hope there are more events during my year that I will be able to attend and see first-hand the talent of those that live in our community. Thank you again.

Best wishes,
Cllr Michael Brunt Mayor of Merton



The cake presented to the Mayor was made by Clare from Willow Bough Tea Rooms, Merton Abbey Mills.

On the cake was a picture painted by Vic Hine of the cottages at Mitcham Bridge. Vic's collection of pictures of the Wandle can be seen at the museum.

Picture by Auriel Glanville

Wandle Fortnight Walks

As a contribution to the Wandle Valley Forum's Wandle Fortnight, the museum offered three guided industrial heritage walks along stretches of the Wandle from the delta to Morden Hall Park. The walks were advertised in our social media and were conducted by John Sheridan, who handed out free drawstring bags containing leaflets, and made use of presentation folders and laminated illustrations, all funded by grant from the Wandle Forum.



Twelve people braved heavy rain – see picture above—for the walk from Earlsfield to the delta on Tuesday 14 September. Twenty took part on Sunday 19 September for the walk from Morden Hall Park to Merton Priory Chapter House; the heavens opened after the group had arrived at the Merton Abbey Mills site, where people took shelter in the refreshment outlets and in the Wheelhouse, where Stephen and Clare were very welcoming, and subsequently in the Chapter House where John Hawks gave an entertaining and informative talk. There were fourteen guests for the Colliers Wood to Earlsfield walk on Thursday 23 September; this was a new walk with several points of interest, not least the story of the Summerstown box factory strike of 1908 which was the subject of an article in our last bulletin.

John Sheridan

Photograph by Auriel Glanville

Heritage Bequests To The Museum

At different times the Museum has been presented with various items which have been found by family members following a bereavement and which they thought might be of interest to the Museum. From our conversations with them and others It's become clear that many such items are probably just disposed of because the family members do not realise their significance.

We thought it might be helpful to explain how our readers can ensure that the items they treasure or which have a heritage or social history relevance can be preserved when they are gone if of no interest to their family.

In practise this is remarkably easy whether or not you make a will.

If you wish to do this informally, what you can do is draw up a list of your collectables, curiosities, valuables or other objects of interest and put these into a form of a letter addressed to your next of kin. In that letter you can say what you would like done with these items, or to whom they should go using your own words – no legal jargon required, just be clear. If you do this, we would hope you would name us for any objects of local heritage value or interest, but it's not compulsory.

Though this kind of letter is not legally binding on your next of kin, it costs nothing and it will often be a great relief to them.

A more legally binding process is to insert a clause into your will. I have always found that the simplest way to do this is to make a formal bequest of all your personal possessions to your trustees to deal with in accordance with any letter of instructions you may leave behind. This has the great advantage that there is a legal obligation on your Executors to make sure your wishes are carried out and you can change the letter as often as you want as circumstances change without having the expense of getting your will re-drawn each time.

Of course you can also decide that you would like to benefit a charity such as ours by making an actual financial bequest to us.

The important thing to remember is that those who survive you are often distraught and bewildered as to what to do with the things you have left

behind. It is a benefit to them as much as to institutions such as the Museum that you guide them as to what should be done.

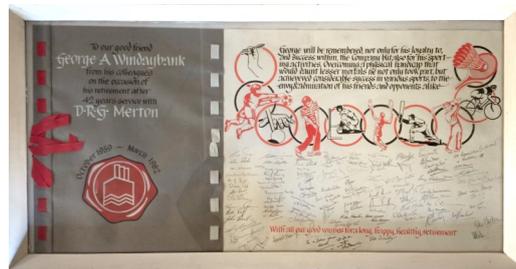
From the Museum's point of view we are in close touch with many similar organisations so it doesn't matter if the item given to us does not fit exactly within our heritage remit. we are always able to find an equivalent organisation who would be only too happy to receive it.

I have asked the Operations Team to place on the website some standard forms of bequest that can be easily used even if you are making your own will. I would always advise having professional help in drawing a will – it's not as expensive as you might think. However, if your plans are straightforward, you can get forms you can use yourself online or from stationery shops/departments.

So, be considerate to those you leave behind, and think of us, too.

Nicholas Hart

A company who cared.



Love of the Wandle

When ever you look at the internet it is common to come across something about the River Wandle. Below are a few items you may find of interest.

(1) A newsletter by the Friends of West Norwood Cemetery in 2009 included a piece on Elizabeth James known as the Watercress Queen. She owned farms in Mitcham and Beddington. Bleaching channels used in the textile industry were turned over to watercress production when chemical bleaching was introduced.

<https://www.fownc.org/pdf/newsletter65.pdf>

(2) Take It Out Wear It Out is a blog about upcycling, refashioning and sustainability with textiles. The individual who runs it collects and recycles clothing she finds along the River Wandle including forming into artistic displays known as *Wandle Wardrobe*.

<http://takeitupwearitout.blogspot.com/2021/>

(3) This is a piece by a Hugh Thompson on WimbledonSW19.com that talks about John Ruskin and his love of the Wandle.

<https://www.wimbledonsw19.com/#!/pages/Wimbledonsw19:info:conriverwandle001>

(4) Lavender is famous across Mitcham and Carshalton. In this article in 2019 by Louisa Alessandra Pini she speaks about the history of lavender and the work of Carshalton Lavender.

<https://www.carshaltonlavender.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Love-of-Lavender.pdf>

(5) Many people walk the Wandle Trail and more so during here Registered Nurse Olivia a resident in Wandsworth. Shares her experience and what she found.

<https://wandlenews.com/river-wandle-walk/>

Note: The museum is not responsible for third party content on these websites.

Stop Press

We are sad to report that the waterwheel at Merton Abbey Mills is once again out of action. This time it is due to issues with the sluice gate that will require repair. If you wish to offer any help to fix it please contact the wheelhouse by emailing stephen5813@outlook.com



Dates for the Diary

Annual General Meeting 18th November 2021

This year we are returning to a Face-to-Face AGM. This will take place in the Vestry Hall. We will be welcoming as our guest speaker Emma Harper from Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service who will speak about the Roman Baths under the A1 and their working mill.

Please see separate document for full details for the AGM.

Museum Christmas and New Year Closure

Our last day of opening will be on Sunday 19th December 2021. We will reopen on Sunday 16th January 2022.

New Year Lunch 12th January 2022

We will be resuming our traditional New Year Lunch on this date. All members, volunteers and guests are welcome. Please page 9 for full details.

Sambrook's Heritage Tours

Based at the former site of Young's Brewery Sambrook's are now offering tours. Housed in a 3-storey building they will take you through the journey of the UK's oldest continuous brewsite from 1533 to today. Led by John Hatch, it tells the story of beer, its evolution over the centuries as well as keeping tradition alive! And what would a beer tour be without tasters?! Samples to be enjoyed and explained on arrival too.

At our museum you can learn more about the history of brewing along the Wandle Valley.

To book the Sambrook's tour go to <https://www.sambrooksbrewery.co.uk/pages/heritage-centre-and-tours>

Invitation to the Wandle Industrial Museum New Year Lunch 2022 For Members and Volunteers

Dear Member/Volunteer,

You are invited to attend our New Year Lunch on Wednesday 12th January 2022 from 12:30 at Park Place, Commonsides West, Mitcham CR4 4HB. Guests are welcome.

Cost is £15 per head for three courses. Wine with the meal will be provided by the museum.

We would be grateful for payment in advance. This may be done by cash, cheque, made payable to the museum and sent to the museum, or by bank transfer:

Sort Code 16-32-45 and Account No: 12263437. Please put your name as the reference.

To confirm your place please reply by e-mail office@wandle.org or telephone 020 8648 0127 giving the name(s) of those who will be attending and the method of payment used.

We look forward to seeing you.





Accreditation Mentor: Emma Harper Welwyn Hatfield Museum Service.
Museum Advisor: Yvette Shepherd, Museum of London (Docklands).

A full colour version of this newsletter is available online at www.wandle.org. If any subscriber is happy to receive the newsletter by email, could you please send a request to office@wandle.org. This helps us to reduce our costs.

The Wandle Industrial Museum, the Vestry Hall Annexe, London Road,
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UD. Tel: 020 8648 0127

Company No 01792482, Charity No 288655.



OPEN: Every Wednesday 1 ~ 4 pm;
Every Sunday 2 ~ 5 pm.
(The Museum is closed Bank Holiday weekends)

The Museum is also open to schools and groups by appointment.



Admission: Adults 50p, Children & Senior Citizens 20p

The Wandle Industrial Museum would like to point out that the views of contributors to this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Museum. We would be happy to give the right to reply to anyone who finds the content contentious.

All contributions and news items gratefully received and appreciated - please feel free to let us know at any time - telephone or write or email to office@wandle.org

You can find us on:

