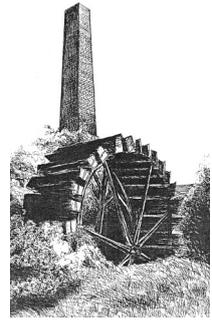


# WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM



# BULLETIN



# Contents

Operations Team Report	3
Ram Inn New Neighbours	4
Brewing Life Continues	5
SERIAC 2019 (Part Two)	6
New Talks	9
Industrial Heritage Walk	10
National Trust Riverlands Project	13
Walks along the Wandle Mitcham Common	14
Dates for the Diary	15
Annual General Meeting Invitation and Information	16
Operations Report on Museum Electrical Rewiring	18

## 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

It is almost the end of another year and Christmas will soon be here. Before that we have Halloween and Guy Fawkes not that there will be any sparks flying around the museum now we have our wiring fixed.

This larger than normal issue of our bulletin includes information about our Annual General Meeting that will take place on 14th November (see page 16).

Our outreach work is keeping us busy. We had two successful walks during Wandle Fortnight and had over 90 visitors on Mitcham Heritage Day. With visits from schools and our talks we certainly don't have time to get bored! We already have bookings into September next year.

As this is the last issue of 2019 I would like to wish everyone an early Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
***Mick Taylor (Guest Editor)***

### ***Cover Picture:***

*Our volunteer John Sheridan lead two walks during Wandle Fortnight in September. The first was from Earlsfield to the head of the Wandle at Wandsworth. John spoke about the history of the mills along the route including the Middle Mill, Wandsworth pictured on the cover of this issue.*

## Operations Team Report

Although we were denied access to the museum during the rewiring our outreach activities continued and the team and Trustees met frequently in the Vestry Hall to discuss progress.

Our thanks to the Trustees for such hands-on support but also to Roger Steele of our team who “set up camp” in the Vestry Hall to be on hand to advise the electrician.

Special events we supported included running block printing sessions at Merton Priory to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Merton Abbey Mills on June 9<sup>th</sup> and for Open House on September 21<sup>st</sup>, a presence at the annual Community on the Green evening on Mitcham Cricket Green on July 9<sup>th</sup>, and a special opening on Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup> for the Mitcham Heritage Day.

The summer means fewer talks but those that I did always seemed to fall on the hottest days of the year. John Sheridan ran his first Wandle walk on behalf of the museum on September 16<sup>th</sup>, from Earlsfield to the Thames, with another the following week.

“Change the View” – the ongoing work to embellish the bland window panels, gained momentum and the decorations on these are almost complete. Two planters have been ordered for the front of the building. We have a new name board for the back of the museum complete with logo.

The digitisation of the collection of negatives is revealing some “interesting” views of the early days of the museum and many local views totally unrelated but fascinating for those with an “interest” in transport or former Merton street scenes of the 1980’s.

### **New Additions**

Although we actually get very few new artifacts those that do come our way are real gems. This is true of a collection of photos taken in the 1970’s to 1990’s by the late Ian Dorrn, of Young’s pubs mostly in the Greater London area. We have digitised these photos to ensure we have a record of those pubs which are long gone. Sir John Young was very appreciative of such dedication shown by Mr. Dorrn and his friend Derek King that he sent them several congratulatory letters ( in his own hand of course )

Mr. Derry Titterton sent us an account book for Causeway Mill, Wandsworth, which he found in his late father's belongings, plus a letter dated 1869 to Thomas Fullwood from "Uncle George". Mr. Fullwood's brother George was a miller there and had also earlier worked at Allsop's Wharf at the Wandle / Thames confluence.

We were also given a copy of a very recent novel featuring a young girl called Alice, who is employed at William Morris's workshop in Merton at the turn of the last century. 100 years later another local girl discovers some of her things. The book is called "South of the River" and is by Marie-Claire Meret, a teacher at the Lycee in S. Kensington.

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## Ram Inn

Having been closed since Young's left Wandsworth 13 years ago the pub known as *The Brewery Tap* will be reopening its doors on the 10th October. Lee and Keris De Villiers, who already run pubs in Earsfield and Wandsworth have chosen to use the original name. Their pub, The Old Sergeant, in Wandsworth houses a mini Young's museum. The pub will have its own brewery on site called SlyBeast Brewing. No doubt one or two of our volunteers will be going along once it opens to sample the beer!



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## New Neighbours



It has been reported that the old Fire Station that shares the Lower Green West with the museum, the Vestry Hall and the new Cricketers House development was sold in June 2019. A pre-application for seven flats has been made. I am sure our friends from the Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage will be keeping a close eye on developments. We will wait and see what happens.

## Brewing Life Continues

The following is from a Press Release put out by Greenland about the former Youngs Brewery site. Plans are also in place for a museum which is expected to open during 2020.

### **Greenland assures Ram Quarter's brewing legacy with Sambrook's deal**

London's oldest independent brewer is set to move to Greenland's Ram Quarter development in Wandsworth, London, keeping the historic tradition of brewing at the former Young's site alive.

Sambrook's will take a 20-year lease with Greenland to establish a new headquarters for its brewing operations across 11,000 sq ft at Ram Quarter, relocating from its current brewhouse in Battersea.



The Ram Quarter under development in April 2016.

The new Sambrook's facility is set within carefully restored Grade-II listed brewery buildings at the development. The London brewer will open a tap room set around Ram's central square with outdoor seating, serving food and its own hand-crafted brews, as well as a bottle shop selling award-winning beers from around the world. The business expects to brew more than 1 million pints at Ram Quarter each year.

Sambrook's also plans to take over a heritage centre delivered by Greenland at the development, using it to present the history of brewing in London, at the oldest continual brewing site in the country.

Brewing has been taking place at Ram Quarter since at least 1533. Famously the site was home to Young's until 2006. Greenland is redeveloping the former industrial site to deliver 713 new homes, alongside 100,000 sq ft of retail, restaurant and leisure space. It has preserved Ram's beer legacy throughout the redevelopment, working with former Young's master brewer, John Hatch, to maintain a nano brewery at the site.



John Hatch *centre* with museum volunteers at a visit we made in December 2017.

The partnership with Sambrook's fits within Greenland's wider masterplan for the development, as it seeks to create a thriving new retail and leisure hub in southwest London.

Chris Daly, Senior Commercial Manager at Greenland (UK), said: "It's poetic that London's oldest independent brewer is setting up home at Britain's oldest operating brewery. We're proud to be keeping Wandsworth's beer tradition alive while creating an exciting new destination in partnership with a local business."

Duncan Sambrook, founder and managing director of Sambrook's Brewery, said: "Our move to Ram Quarter feels like a homecoming. Ram has long been renowned for its brewing pedigree and we're excited to be ushering in a new era of British brewing at the site. It's a fantastic location for us to expand our retail offering, set in the heart of Wandsworth and just metres from the River Wandle after which our most famous beer takes its name."

## SERIAC 2019

Following on from our last issue this is Part Two of Peter Cousins' report on the SERIAC conference in April.

**Short Brothers Aviation at Rochester** by Elizabeth Walker, Great, great niece of the Short brothers.

<http://shortbrothersaviationpioneers.co.uk/>

The 3 Short brothers were Horace 1872-1917, born Durham, Eustace 1875 – 1932, born Durham, and Oswald 1883 – 1969, born Derbyshire. In 1893 Oswald's enthusiasm was fired by the sight of an early gas balloon at Derby. By 1897 he and Horace had bought a balloon and flown it, and soon started making balloons at Hove, later moving to Battersea railway arches. They moved into aircraft manufacture and soon secured an order to build under licence 6 Wright Flyers for Hon C. Rolls and other members of the Aero Club. They set up a factory at Muswell Manor, Leysdown-on-Sea, Isle of Sheppey in 1909, the first aircraft factory in the world. They soon moved to nearby Eastchurch, where in 1911 the Royal Navy sent its first flyers for training, the beginning of the Royal Naval Air Service, and started building seaplanes.

In 1913 they moved to Rochester where water conditions were better for seaplanes, and the Seaplane Works was built. Their planes were a great success in WW1. In 1916 they were awarded the contract to build 2 large airships R31 (*pictured right*) & R32



for which they built the huge hangers at Cardington, Bedfordshire. The airship works was nationalised in 1919. In the depression, the company diversified into building lightweight bus and tram bodies, cars, flat irons, carpet sweepers etc., even a pair of sailing barges. They also started building large flying boats for long-distance airline routes. A military derivative, the Sunderland (*pictured left*), was legendary. In 1933 a new factory was built at Rochester Airport. During WW11 a temporary factory was opened on Windermere, and production was also delegated to Austin Motors of Longbridge. In 1936 they agreed to merge with Harland and Wolff of Belfast.



In 1943 the company was nationalised. By 1947 everything was concentrated in Belfast. Elizabeth and her husband started the appreciation website.

**Rochester Bridge** by Tim Belcher-Whyte, Bridge Engineer to the Rochester Bridge Trust <http://www.rbt.org.uk/>



A view of the bridge from Rochester Castle.

Some of Tim's predecessors were William Cubitt and Thomas Telford. The Medway crossing at Rochester is one of the oldest continuously used bridge crossings, built just after the Claudian invasion of 43AD. The original bridge fell in 1381 when destroyed by ice and was replaced in 1391 on a new alignment on the corner of Rochester Castle and marked the start of the Rochester Bridge Trust. The bridge had to remain free for public use. Originally there was a drawbridge, which was later replaced by a wider central arch for shipping. It was refurbished and widened over the years to cope with increasing road traffic. In 1856 a new cast iron bridge was opened on the alignment of the old Roman bridge. The old bridge was blown up. An opening span was required by the Admiralty, but was never used. The Roman bridge might still be on the river bed, the mediaeval bridge is - it causes scour on the current bridge. The Victorian bridge, built by William Cubitt, was seriously damaged by a ship after 60 years and the cast iron shattered. It was extensively rebuilt in steel with bowstring trusses in 1914. An additional new bridge was built in 1965 -70 on the piers of an old railway bridge, then the old one was demolished from underneath it. It still has some original cast iron bearing rollers – new ones are steel.

**Excavation and recording of the Castle Hill brick and tile works alongside the A21 near Tonbridge, Kent** by Tim Allen, Senior Project manager, Oxford Archaeology <https://pembury.org/history/localities/a21-balfour-beatty/>

The 1797 Ordnance Survey map shows no brickworks, but the 1836 Tithe map does. It is rare to have a complete brickworks to examine. There is nothing special about this one, which had gone by 1940. It was small, local and intermittent, wood fired and never mechanised. It employed 16 people. The kilns were built in a pre-existing quarry. There were 3 kilns, a making shed, 5 drying sheds and 2 pugmills. Pugmills were used for puddling clay, to remove inclusions (impurities). These were horse powered. The site also includes clay pits and ponds. The investigations took place in advance of the Tonbridge to Pembury dualling scheme, and the research is still incomplete.

*Peter Cousins*

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## **New Talks**

The museum has added two new talks to its list of those available. These are:

### **The Wandle Portrayed in Art and Literature**

This illustrated talk looks at how artists and writers have been inspired to paint and write about the River Wandle. Looking back over the centuries it brings us up to date on how people today are still captured by the beauty of the Wandle Valley. The talk includes items from our archive and collections.

### **People and Families of the Wandle Valley**

The River Wandle has long been an attraction to individuals and their families. Some have come to work and have their business on the banks of the river others have decided to live by the river. This talk tells the story of some famous names and those lesser known people who have lived and worked in the Wandle Valley.

A full list of our talks and other outreach work can be found on our website.

## **Industrial Heritage Walk**

Museum volunteer John Sheridan lead two walks along the Wandle as part of Wandle Fortnight. This is his report on the first of those walks. The second will appear in our next issue.

### **Earlsfield station to the mouth of the Wandle, 16 September 2019**

A dozen people met at Earlsfield station to take part in the walk. We reflected on the context 200 years ago: a rural area, a chalk stream with a few mills, and Garratt Lane an unsealed parish highway made of stones and rubble. The railway came in 1838 but did not stop here until 1884, when housing development was well underway and a commuter class was emerging.

Our first sighting of the Wandle was at the bridge on Penwith Rd. Gunpowder was made in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century at premises just out of sight upstream. The Garratt Mills occupied the site from 1730 until a great fire destroyed the building in 1890. One of the main activities here was milling flax seeds for linseed oil which was used for conditioning leather and as a component in paints and varnishes. The flax seeds were imported from France and, when the Surrey Iron Railway was in use (1803-46), would have arrived from the wharf at the mouth of the Wandle by that route.

The point at which Riverdale Drive turns to follow the course of the Wandle was the site of Duntshill Mill. It offered a quiet location for the group to discuss the calico bleaching and printing process, the politics which led to the importation of printed calico from India being banned by the Calico Act 1700, and the development of calico printing on the Wandle. We noted the naming of Flock Mill Place after another activity on the site after the decline of calico printing; and we saw “The Saw Mill”, the only surviving building of the mill complex as it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, now converted to flats.

We strolled downstream alongside the “New Cut”, created to eliminate a meandering course through the meadow and to speed the flow. Crossing Kimber Rd we noted the site of another calico printing works which closed in 1812. A modern trading estate intrudes into King George’s Park. It occupies the site of four large square ponds which were created in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century alongside McMurray’s Royal Paper Mills. The paper

mills were destroyed by fire in 1903 when at the peak of their production of 90 tons of paper per week.

The northern part of the paper mill site was previously occupied by Adkins Mill, named after a medieval miller, and the southern part by another calico printing works. Adkins Mill is an ancient site, mentioned in the Domesday Book, where corn milling, fulling, and copper and iron working were undertaken before Thomas Creswick, self-styled “card maker and paper maker to his Majesty” arrived in 1838, followed by the McMurray brothers in 1854. Later, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, catering equipment and gas mantles were manufactured on the site.

We took the footpath by the polished granite water fountain to the heart of the Adkins Mill site. Here the Wandle flows around the footprint of the former iron mill, now occupied by a Big Yellow storage warehouse. We saw the stopped-up channel which used to flow under the mill and turn the waterwheels that provided power for tilt hammers, shears and bellows. One of our group said she lived in Iron Mill Road nearby.

A short walk downstream took us to the bridge over the Wandle on Mapleton Rd, from where we could see, just short of where the river disappears under the Southside shopping centre, a small promontory that marks a site first recorded in 1654 as a dye works. It is now occupied by a small car park, flats and a health centre. It is said that workers here made the scarlet wide-brimmed felt hats once worn by cardinals.

At the entrance to King George’s Park at the end of Mapleton Rd we joined Neville Gill Close, which marks the course of another “new cut” made in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This cut enabled the small streams that had meandered through the valley to be filled in. The cut was itself filled in around the time of the demolition of the greyhound racing stadium, which occupied much of the present park from 1933 to 1966, and the construction of the Southside Shopping Centre which opened in 1971.

Between 1774 and 1815 this part of the present park was dominated by Henry Gardiner’s textile bleaching grounds. Lengths of material washed beforehand in a wood ash solution would have been laid out in the irrigated meadow to bleach by the combined action of water and sunlight. His calico printing works were located towards the northern end of the park. He was able to survey his 250 strong workforce from his home, Downe Lodge, which still stands on Merton Rd. Among his products were

printed handkerchiefs commemorating American independence, which might have been regarded by some at the time as unpatriotic.

The Upper Mills sat in the heart of what is now the shopping centre. Rebuilt in 1818 by Daniel Watney of the brewing dynasty, the mills were destroyed by fire in 1928, marking the end of nearly a millennium of flour milling in Wandsworth by means of waterwheels which worked horizontal millstones.

The Middle Mill, which was located near the site of the film studios across Armoury Way from the Crane public house, and the tidal Lower Mill near the mouth of the Wandle, were also owned during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century by members of the Watney family. The Middle Mill was sold in 1861 to the Aerated Bread Company, whose products were remembered with little fondness by some members of the group. The Lower Mill was in use at least from 1371 until its demolition in 1898. During that time it suffered at least two fires and was rebuilt many times.

Contemporary illustrations show that by the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century the main Upper, Middle and Lower Mills buildings were substantial four storey constructions. They were built to a clapperboard timber design on stone foundations and with tiled roofs. This was typical of the Wandle mills at the time. In addition one of the two main mill buildings on the Upper Mills site was built entirely of stone.

At various times since the Domesday Book and indeed in all likelihood since Roman times, four water mills in Wandsworth produced flour: the Adkins, Upper, Middle and Lower Mills. Flour-milling on the Wandle was superseded by more efficient roller-milling and manufacturing processes and logistics for bread and other flour products that were established elsewhere.

We had a look at the redeveloped Ram Brewery site, noting the presence of stone railway sleepers from the former Surrey Iron Railway. It is good to know that Sambrooks Brewery have taken a lease on 11,000 sq ft of the listed former brewery complex, and that commercial brewing is set to resume. A “nano-brewery” run by John Hatch, a former Youngs brewer, has been in operation since Youngs vacated the site in 2006, so it can be said truthfully that brewing has been undertaken continuously on the site since the 1550s.

***John Sheridan***

## National Trust Riverlands Project

If you are a member of the National Trust then you may well have heard of this project. Our volunteers Ray Leyden and Eric Shaw brought it to our attention.

Launched in 2018 the trust is working with the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales in helping to restore the health of our rivers. They are looking to raise £5.3m to complete the first phase. The question from me was does it include the Wandle? Maybe it doesn't when you think back to the BBC news reports from three/four years back where the improvements in the Wandle were highlighted.

The article in the NT Magazine said that only 14% of the country's rivers are in good health. Three areas are mentioned in the article :

- (1) Porlock Vale in Somerset with its streams.
- (2) River Cowry in Wales.
- (3) The chalk stream the upper Bure in Norfolk.

The work includes the return of wildlife such as water voles, improvements to river banks, combating invasive non-native species and building new footpaths.

We are lucky that along the Wandle much of this work is taking place. The improvements that were made to the Watermeads in Mitcham, which sadly still remains closed due to a dangerous bridge, work to the banks in Ravensbury Park. Water voles returned to the river in Morden Hall Park and the Watermeads, other pathway and access improvements along with river clean ups and removal of invasive plants.

The Living Wandle Landscape Partnership did a lot of excellent work and it was sad that it ended. As far I know there are still plans for a Wandle Valley Regional Park?

Let's hope that the Wandle is one of the 14% that is in good health. That would certainly make a change from 1970 when the Shell Guide for that year said, in its section on rivers, "the Wandle is virtually no more".

You can find out more about the project by going to:  
[Nationaltrust.org.uk/mag/riverlands](http://Nationaltrust.org.uk/mag/riverlands)

***Mick Taylor***

## Walks Along the Wandle

On page 10 John Sheridan gave a report on the recent walk he did from Earlsfield to the head of the Wandle at Wandsworth. This isn't the first time that John had done this walk and hopefully it won't be the last. As a member of the 'Mapping the Mills' project John helped develop a series of five walks. The museum receives requests for walks and we have done a few over the last two/three years. These have mainly been for groups some of which have been outside the catchment area of the Wandle Valley. As a result we have a range of walks available.

At the moment we do walks on demand however it is planned that next year we will be setting dates for walks . In the meantime if you are a member of a another society, club or group that enjoys an outing then do bear us in mind.

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## Mitcham Common

Did you know that the Museum sits on land that forms part of Mitcham Common. The Lower Green West along with the Cricket Green (formally Lower Green East until the early 1940s), the Fair Green and Upper Green are all part of the common.

The Friends of Mitcham Common have produced a series of five leaflets covering aspects of the common:

- Mitcham Common: an introduction
- The Gunsite and Mill Green
- Seven Islands Pond and Mill Hill
- Mitcham Golf Course
- Mill House and Beyond: a guide to eastern Mitcham Common



Copies are available from the Mill House Ecology Centre and we also have some at the museum. In addition they are available online at: <http://mitchamcommon.org/maps-and-walks/>

The museum would like to express its condolences to the family of Janet Morris who passed away recently. Janet gave us copies of her book on Mitcham Common and never took payment. She had a love for Mitcham Common that few of us will ever be able to match.



# Dates for the Diary

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th November 2019

For full details of our AGM - venue, time, agenda and minutes from last year see pages 16 and 17.

All members, volunteers and their guests are welcome.

## Changing the View Unveiling

Sunday 17th November at 1pm

Over the last few months Siobhan Kneale and her team have worked to prepare the window panels to improve the view to the public of the museum. On this day we will formally unveil their work along with the improvements to the ground surrounding the building.

Formal invitations will be sent for this event.

## Volunteer Get Together

Wednesday 18th December 2019

The museum invites all our volunteers to join us from midday to share a mince pie and a glass of wine to celebrate their work at the museum and give us the opportunity to say thank you.

## New Year Lunch

Wednesday 8th January 2020

Our annual lunch will take place as normal at Park Place, Mitcham. We would like all our members, volunteers and their family and friends to join us at this annual get together.

Further information with cost and timings will follow shortly. We hope you can join us.



# Wandle Industrial Museum 35th Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th November 2019 at 7:30pm

1st Floor Meeting Room  
Vestry Hall, London Road,  
Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UD

## Guest Speaker:

Fiona McKelvie from McBurney and Black  
“Textile Connections; Linen, Liberty and more.”

## Agenda

1. Chairman’s Introduction
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman’s Annual Report and Operations Team Report
6. Appointment of Officers & Members of the Ops Team
7. Presentation of Annual Accounts and Appointment of Reporting Accountant
8. Any Other Business

A light buffet and drinks will be provided from 7pm.

Our speaker, Fiona McKelvie will speak after the main meeting.

# The Wandle Industrial Museum

## Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Held at  
Vestry Hall, London Rd, Mitcham  
On  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 7.30pm

**Chairman's Welcome;** Fr David Pennells SCP took the chair, introduced himself and welcomed Cllr Geraldine Stanford, Deputy Mayor of Merton.

**Apologies for absence;** A list of apologies was tabled (see below)

**Minutes of the previous AGM ;** The minutes of the last AGM meeting held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were presented to the meeting and adopted, subject to minor typographical corrections.

**Matters arising;** There were no matters arising.

**Chairman's Annual Report:** The Chairman read out his Annual Report as previously circulated, and then, in keeping with our new tradition, handed over to Alison Cousins on behalf of the Operations Team to present their Annual Report. The longer written version was circulated, and Alison summarised this for the members.

**Members of the Trustees and Operations Team;** The list of current trustees and operations team members (see below) was presented to the meeting and adopted en bloc.

**Presentation of Annual Accounts:** The statement of Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 together with the Accountants Report to the Directors was presented to the meeting and adopted. Messrs Mitchell Rodrigues were duly re-appointed as the Reporting Accountants.

**A.O.B.** :Cllr Geraldine Stanford was kind enough to add a few words, including her personal appreciation of the work the Museum was doing, and her long-term support dating back to her days as Mayor.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Members were invited to enjoy the buffet provided by the Operations Team followed by a much-appreciated talk by Sarah Gould of Merton Heritage Centre on The Industries of the Wandle during the First World War

### Trustees

Fr David Pennells SCP (Chair), John Hawks, Nicholas Hart (and Company Secretary)

### Operations Team

Alison Cousins, Eric Shaw, Michael Taylor, Roger Steele (and Hon. Treasurer)

## **Operations Team Report on Museum Electrical Rewiring**

The initial problems with the electrics in the museum were identified on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Following an inspection by an electrician the wiring was found to be unsafe and the power was cut off. As a result the museum was unable to open to the public from this time.

The museum's media channels – Facebook and Website - were used to inform the public of our current closure. Members and volunteers along with our Museum Development Officer Yvette Shepherd and our Mentor Chris Taft were informed by e-mail and telephone.

From Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 a weekly emergency meeting between the Trustees and Operations Team took place. These were used to determine contingency plans, use of other space for displays, approach to Merton Council and other actions that would allow the museum to get back up and running. Four joint Trustee and Operations Team meetings took place and the notes of these meetings are held at the museum. The Operations Team continued to meet after these meetings until we were able to reuse the museum. We are grateful to Carol Warren, Vestry Hall Manager, and her team for allowing us to use meeting rooms in the Vestry Hall during this time and until the museum was once more able to function.

Whilst waiting for a decision from Merton Council over the action they would take the museum arranged to get two quotes for rewiring the building. There was concern between the Trustees and Operations Team that the council may decide to close the building given their previous decision to board up the windows when vandals had broken some of the small panes. Our fears were unfounded and we are grateful to Merton Council for making the decision to provide, and fund, a new wiring infrastructure in the building. It was agreed between the museum and Merton Council that all new wiring would be routed within the building avoiding the loft space reducing the possible future issue of squirrel attacks.

The decision was also taken by the Trustees and Operations Team that the 2019 exhibition opening would not take place in June. This was due to the uncertain time scales for any work to take place and the time to

prepare the exhibition. This was replaced by the museum having a stall at Mitcham Carnival.



Busy on our stall at Mitcham Carnival.

Following negotiations with Merton Council rewiring of the building started on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The major work was completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. There were some snagging issues and these had to be resolved before we were in a position to reopen to the public. These were resolved over the next 14 days. The Operations Team would like to express its grateful thanks to Roger Steele for attending on a regular basis to meet with members of Merton Council and work with the electrician daily to ensure the work done met the museums expectations.

The decision was taken following the work to make some changes within the museum. There was also a need to put displays back in place and to clean up after the work was completed. The new lighting is brighter making the displays clearer and improving the rear office work space. We also took the opportunity of reorganising the reception and sales area. Once this work was completed the museum was able to reopen its doors to the public on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Over the period from the initial closure to the reopening information was sent to members, volunteers and others as necessary on the progress of the work. Our Facebook page and website were updated and information included in our quarterly bulletin. It should be noted that whilst one print workshop was cancelled during the period of closure all other outreach work continued to take place.



Museum Mentor: Chris Taft, British Postal Museum and Archive.  
Museum Advisor: Yvette Shepherd, Museum of London (Docklands).

A full colour version of this newsletter is available online at [www.wandle.org](http://www.wandle.org). If any subscriber is happy to receive the newsletter by email, could you please send a request to [office@wandle.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@wandle.org)

You can find us on:

