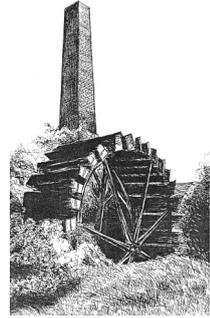


WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM



BULLETIN



Contents

Change The View ...Update	3
Merton Heritage Discovery Day	4
Antiques Roadshow	5
Volunteers Week	6
GLIAS AGM 2019	7
On The Site of Merton Abbey	9
SERIAC 2019	10
Secret Rivers Exhibition	13
Dates for the Diary	14
Melanie's Walks Programme	15

WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

PRESIDENT
Harry Galley

TRUSTEES
Nicholas Hart, John Hawks,
and Fr David Pennells

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
Alison Cousins, Eric Shaw,
Roger Steele, and Michael
Taylor

Editorial

Welcome to our Summer issue of the Bulletin. By the time you read this the museum will have reopened following our squirrel attack. We now have new electrics and new lighting which makes the museum much brighter.

I start putting the bulletin together wondering if there is enough material. That's not ended up being the case this time and the rest of Peter Cousins excellent SERIAC report will appear in the next issue (*see page 10*). Our normal Operations Team report is also missing. That is not to say we haven't been busy! There will be a full update in the next issue and at the AGM in November.

Work has started on decorating the window panels on the building. We hope to unveil these in September so watch out for an invitation to the grand unveiling.

Best wishes,
Mick Taylor (Guest Editor)

Cover Picture:

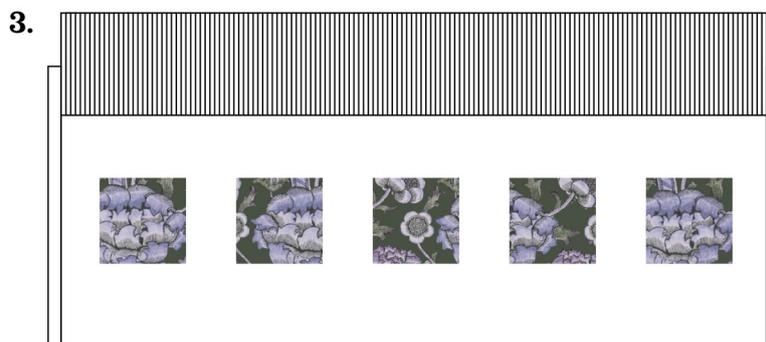
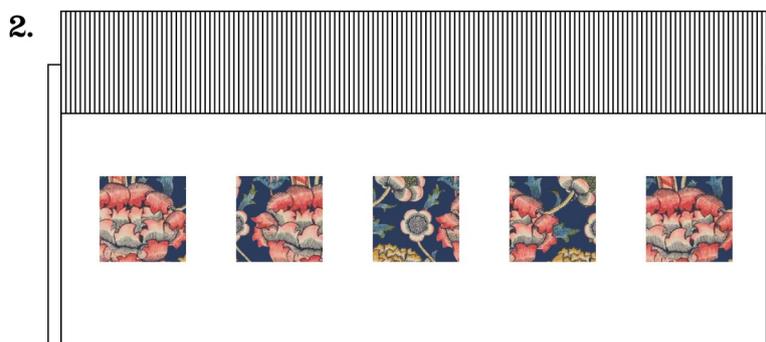
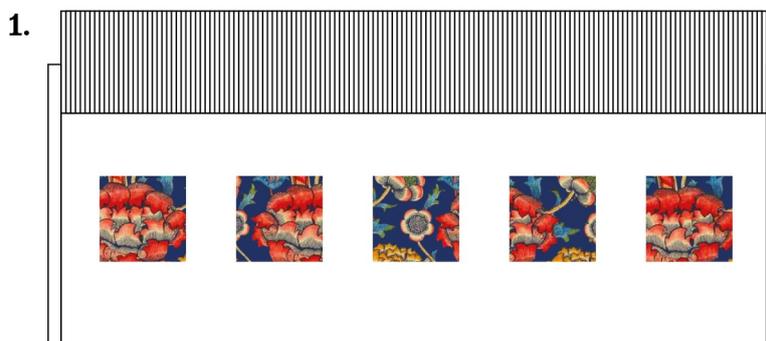
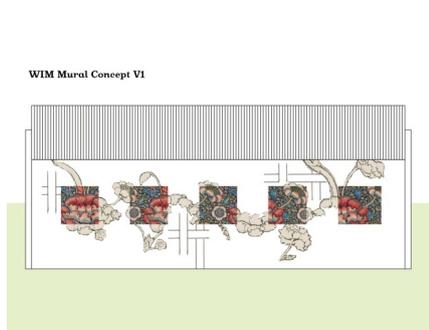
Taken at this years Mitcham Carnival its not where we would normally be on carnival day. In past years we would be opening our new exhibition. Given our issues with the rewiring of the museum and its closure to visitors we took the decision to have a stall at the carnival. manned by Chris Tanner, Jacqueline Godfrey and Alison Cousins. The Deputy Mayor Councillor Edward Foley and his wife visited our stall before he opened the carnival.

CHANGE THE VIEW.....UPDATE

In 2018 we were awarded a *Tesco Bags of Help* grant to *Change the View* of our humble home in Mitcham. Since then we've been working with local artist Portia Dadley (**Morris up Merton**) and designer Dominic Fagan to develop designs.

The aim of the project was to add William Morris inspired panels to the outside of the building, and to plant lavender and herbs in raised beds at the entrance. We're nearly there with choosing the final design and planting scheme and are looking forward to getting the artwork up very soon! Here's a taster of what to expect.

Siobhan Kneale



Merton Heritage Discovery Day

The museum was once again at this now annual event. It is now 25 years since the Merton Heritage Service was founded. Over that time Sarah Gould (*pictured here*) has been in the hot seat as the Heritage Officer for Merton. In recognition of her service and the great work she does many of the organisations across Merton presented her with a number of gifts. This was to say thank you for the support she gives and the work she does to ensure the heritage and the history of Merton is maintained.



Photo by Alan Hutchings
Mitcham Camera Club



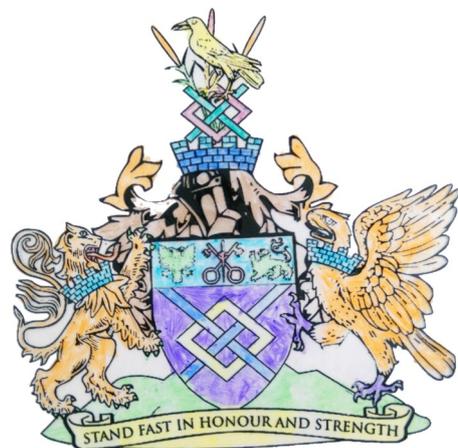
Roger and Mick
Photo by Ray Leyden

The museum had a stall on the second floor and as usual we had our stained glass colouring and printing activities on the ground floor. This year we engaged with Portia Dadley from Morris Up Merton, an excellent group who promote William Morris across the borough, in a different method of printing. All was well received and Roger Steele and I were certainly kept busy.

Over 2000 people attended this years event where we showed for the first time our plans for changing the view of the outside of the museum (*see article on page 3*).

Children and adults have a number of different designs to chose from to colour for they stained glass. The classic designs by Morris and Burne-Jones are often the last to be used. It is even more unusual to see a child or anyone select the Merton Crest but on this occasion one child did pick it as can be seen here.

Mick Taylor



London Borough of Merton Crest

Antiques Roadshow comes to Morden

The long running TV Antiques Roadshow came to town with a visit to the NT's Morden Hall Park on Sunday 2nd June 2019. The sun was shining and people flocked to the show from South West London and beyond.

I had an antique portable typewriter that I thought might create some interest. It was originally owned by a Show Biz couple from the other side of the family who were Music Hall entertainers in the 1930's and once upon a time travelled the world. Valerie had some interesting jewellery items. The show opened at 9.30 am and we joined a long queue specifically for people with items. It took over 2 hours but the boredom was broken when the star Presenter Fiona Bruce came marching past with her film crew and filmed an item on a bridge over the River Wandle. There's no escaping the River Wandle, this famous river which runs all the way through Morden Hall Park. We were grateful for the overhanging trees in the park which protected us from getting burnt by the hot sun



We ended up at the Snuff Mill and there a Volunteer Steward identified with a red sash and a straw hat. He handed us a numbered red wrist band and directed us to the "Reception Desk" located in the Rose Garden. I was then handed a ticket and directed to the "Miscellaneous Table" and joined another queue. Valerie was directed to another desk for jewellery.

I finally saw a well known TV expert Bunny Campione and showed her the antique typewriter. I explained that the typewriter was once owned by "Travelling Showpeople" in the 1930's and this would explain why it was a portable typewriter which I thought would be more unusual. She was very interested because it still had a letterhead in the typewriter with the "Show Act" billed as "Campbell and Rogerson" and dated the 12th July 1937. She is an expert in "Steiff Teddy Bears" so she took the



specification to a fellow expert and came back and said sadly that it was only worth £15-£20! The only shame was that she didn't show him the letter and the show biz history which I thought would have been of public interest. Valerie saw another TV expert Joanna Hardy in Jewellery but this was not of media interest. In conclusion we did not get sent to the appointments area, we did not get a filming slot and finally did not meet the Producer.

However it was a lovely day and it was nice to meet the experts in person and see the TV crews in action. We also bumped into many local people including Alison and Peter Cousins from the Museum who we swapped stories with. I would recommend that if any reader is thinking of visiting a future show and has an item of interest you email a picture of it before the show to get fast tracked by the experts and it could save you having to queue.

Ray Leyden (All photos by Ray)

Volunteers Week

The same weekend as the Antiques Roadshow came to town on the Saturday we had an outing of the museum volunteers in support of Volunteers Week. This is an opportunity for volunteers who do not normally see each other to get together. This year's outing was to Wimbledon Windmill. After a look around the windmill and talking with their volunteers we headed off to the cafe for drinks and cake. This capped off a lovely afternoon and get together. As always we are very grateful for the help and support that we get from all our volunteers.



Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS) AGM 2019

Wednesday 15th May, The Gallery, Allan Baxter Associates, 75 Cowcross Street, Farringdon, EC1

Trinity Buoy Wharf and the proposed historic ships collection for London, by Richard Albanese, Maritime Heritage Project Manager
<https://www.nationalhistoricships.org.uk/news/nhs/visit-trinity-buoy-wharf-london-docklands>

A fascinating talk about an area of London I had visited for the first time a few months before.

Trinity Buoy Wharf was set up by Trinity House in 1803 and was in use until 1988. It is situated on the banks of the River Thames at the mouth of the River Lee on Orchard Place, E14. There is also a peninsula that is caused by a large meander

of the Lee, with Hope Street at its centre. The wharf supported navigation on the Thames and as far as Southwold in Suffolk. The wharf constructed and maintained navigation aids from buoys to lightships. There were two lighthouses for testing purposes and for the training of lighthouse keepers, including in cookery. One was

demolished in the 1920's, the survivor being the only lighthouse in London. There was an isolated hamlet here known as the Village of Bow Creek, a lost village in London, cut off from the rest of Poplar, which was cleared in 1935, by then a slum. The peninsula area now known as City Island was a working area until 2006, but is now a forest of luxury flats. Orchard House was a landmark that was demolished in the 1950's. The Blackwall shipbuilding yards flourished here in C18th, including the Thames Iron Works which launched its ships into the River Lee. They built their last warship in 1911. The wharf has been turned into an arts area with sculpture workshops, galleries and cafes.

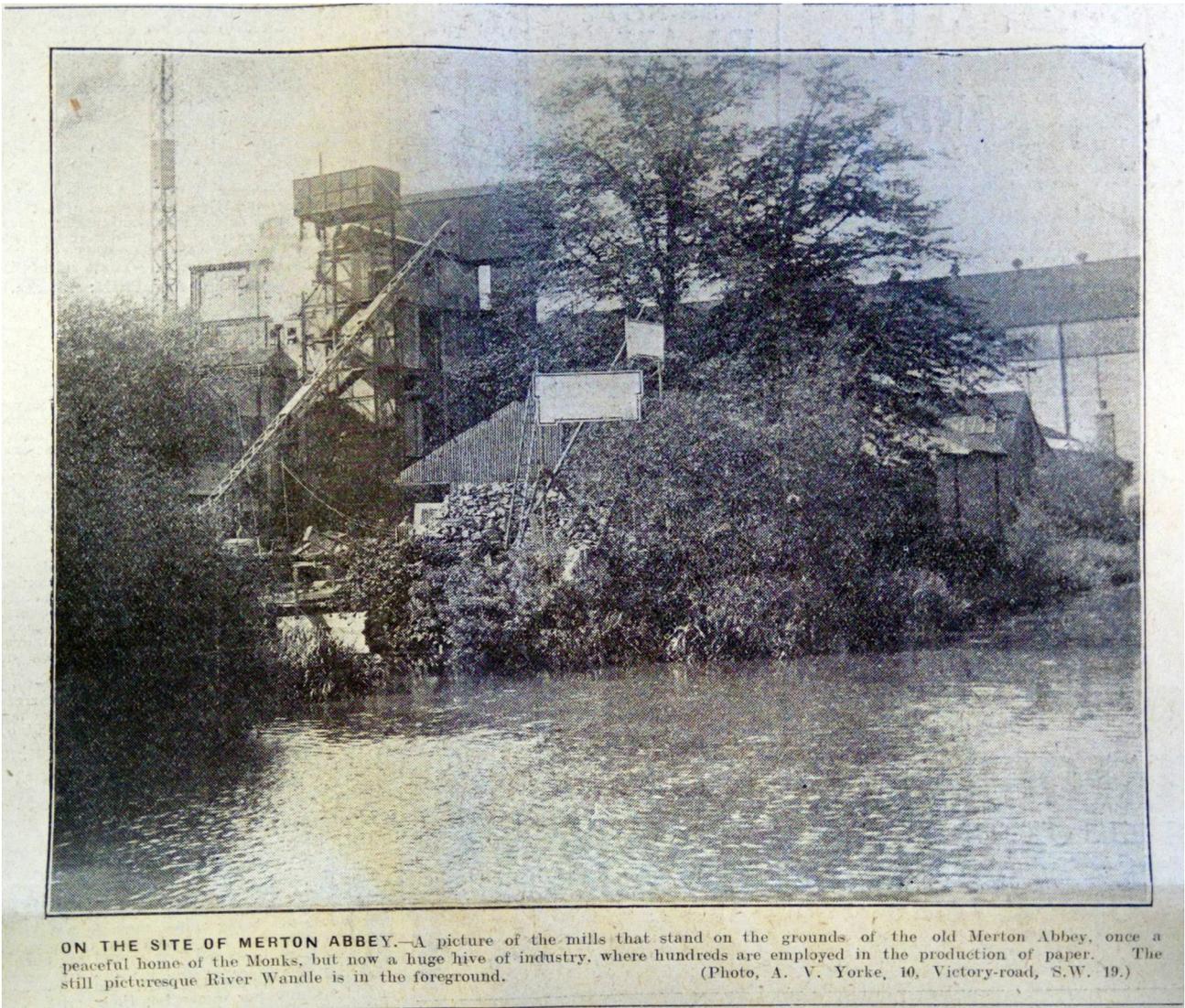


The ships in the collection at Trinity Buoy Wharf or nearby are: the steam Dutch tug 'MT Knocker White', built 1924 as 'ST Cainrock', rebuilt as a diesel in 1962, the Thames 'Tosher' tug 'MT Varlet', built 1937, the rowed Thames barge 'Diana', built about 1890, the Coaster 'SS Robin', built 1889/90 at Orchard House Yard a few yards away, 'Lightship 95', built 1939, used at South Goodwin and converted to solar power in the 1990's, now a music recording studio. The following are at other locations: the tug 'ST Challenge' built 1931 (the last steam tug in London in 1973, which was at Dunkirk in 1940), the 'Calshot Spit' lightship, built 1914, the tug 'SunXXIII' ('Suncrest') a 1960's diesel tug, 'HMS President' (originally 'HMS Saxifrage'), built 1918, a WW1 Q-Ship, formerly on the Thames at Blackfriars, currently in Chatham. They are the last of the big metal boats with London connections. The Royal Docks have been proposed as a home for these ships. Photos below are mine: the Lighthouse and Lightship 95.

Peter Cousins (Photos by Peter)



Lightship 95



On The Site of Merton Abbey

This is a picture from a 1928 newspaper. The caption talks about the mills that stand on the site of Merton Abbey. Of course we know that it was a Priory rather than an Abbey as it lacked an Abbot.

It also states that *hundreds are employed in the production of paper*. Therefore it may be assumed that it is the Board Mills that we are looking at. Owned, I believe, by Reid & Co at the time of the photo. Later pictures of the Merton Board Mills show the three chimneys of the mill and the expansion they had made. After 1940 they had taken over the Morris Works site and their buildings dominated the area. They were pulled down in 1984 to make way for the new Savacentre.

It is also interesting that the caption refers to the River Wandle as *still picturesque*. Did they have a view into the later pollution?

Mick Taylor

South East Region Industrial Archaeology Conference (SERIAC) 2019

Saturday 13th April Dartford Grammar School

Hosted by Kent Archaeological Society

From Ragstone to Riches by Dr Simon Elliott, Hon Research Fellow in Archaeology at University of Kent <http://simonelliott.net/>

The Romans used Kentish Ragstone for many buildings in London. Septimius Severus built the walls that still define the City. When they invaded in the mid-1st Century AD, they knew exactly where to find the ragstone and the Wealden iron, so they must have visited earlier to spy out the resources. The source were 5 enormous quarries in the upper Medway valley. The stone was transported by river 170km to London. The wreck of a boat carrying 26 tonnes of Kentish Ragstone (picture) has been found at Blackfriars Bridge in London. Dean Street, near West Farleigh, was the largest Roman quarry in Europe at over 2km long. Dr Elliot thinks that the Classis Britannica (Roman Navy in Britain) ran the quarries. These were above the tidal reach of the Medway, so the upper river was canalised for transporting the stone. The industry



Tutsham Mill by Terry Bird

Tutsham was a water powered linseed oil mill at Teston Lock (pronounced Teeston), near West Farleigh. The ivy-covered derelict remains in the grounds of a cottage can be seen from Teston Country Park across the River Medway. This building dates from 1880 but was burned down in 1885. The waterwheel was replaced by a turbine, which is still in situ in the river, but is too dangerous to examine. There was also a steam engine and boiler. The building was substantial and ornate, 184ft long 64ft wide and 45ft high. There was a jetty for river transport to and from the mill. The end product was linseed oil and cake. The seed was crushed, steamed and moulded to make cake, then pressed at 7.5 tons pressure to expel the oil. The cake was sold in 12lb blocks for cattle feed. There was extensive interchange of technology with the United

States and Anglo-American machinery built in Hull by Rose, Downs and Thompson was installed, described in an article in *Scientific American* in 1881. A mill is recorded on the site in *Domesday Book*, and for a time it was part owned by Leeds Priory. John Rennie the engineer built a mill on the site and it was doing well by 1824, but was idle in 1836. The company was not a commercial success and was wound up in 1884, probably the



Picture 1981 from the Mills Archive

victim of nearby competition despite an explosion in demand in C19th. The cake was used for soap, candles, cattle feed, the oil for paint, lubricants, margarine. The machinery was removed for scrap in C20th and the site abandoned.

Sound Mirrors by Robert Hall

Sound mirrors were the precursors of Radar. The Speaker's interest was fired by a visit to those at Denge, Dungeness and concentrates on the mirrors at Fan Bay near Dover. When the National Trust were excavating at their Deep Shelter property they cleared rubble from around the sound mirrors and revealed 2 different designs that did not match the published accounts from 1980's. They do not face France, but up the Channel to Belgium. Aircraft detection started early in WW1, but was a bit haphazard. The RNVR manned the searchlights and the Army manned the guns. The RNVR made home-made listening devices, like ear trumpets. Sound mirrors were first suggested in 1915. A double trumpet could only work in one plane - azimuth (left or right), then 2 more trumpets were added above and below to detect height. They improved after the war with better electronics and mobile platforms. They were used in WW11 during the Battle of Britain and the V1 attacks, as Radar was being jammed. The first sound mirror was at Binbury Manor, Detling, near Maidstone. It was cut from the chalk and the listener stood on a plank in front of it. It did detect airships and a plane, but should have been nearer to the coast, ideally about 300yds. Some were also built at Hythe, Joss Gap (Kingsgate), Fulwell, (Sunderland), on the Rivers Tees and Humber, on the Isle of Sheppey and at Selsey in Dorset. Fan Bay and Joss Gap were working well by

May 1918, but there was a need to detect lower frequency sounds, so bigger mirrors were built. A 200ft mirror was built in Malta, but plans for a bigger mirror at Fan Bay were never fulfilled.



The Sound Mirrors at Denge.

Crossness Engines by Petra Cox, Learning and Outreach Officer, Crossness Engines Trust. <http://www.crossness.org.uk/>

Joseph Bazalgette built London's first sewer system after the Great Stink of 1858. This comprised 6 interception sewers, built by the cut and cover method, 82 miles of main sewers and 1,100 miles of street sewers, and included the Thames Embankments. The sewers were of inverted egg shape, which helps the flow. There was no plan to treat the sewage, just to dump it in the Thames where it would always flow out to sea. Crossness was built on the Erith Marshes for this purpose. Sewage and cholera had still not been linked. Crossness was started in 1859 and opened in 1865. The workforce lived on site in terraced houses, as the nearest village was 2 miles away. The system worked as follows: at flow tide, the sewage was pumped into a storage reservoir until the ebb tide, when it was released into the river. In 1878, the Princess Alice ship disaster off Crossness encouraged the treatment of sewage – 650 people were drowned and poisoned in raw sewage. A new sewage station was built next door, and the pumping station extended. By the 1950s the original Crossness was redundant, left to rot and filled with sand to contain the gas from the residual sewage. Restoration started in 1987 and still continues. The original architect was Charles Henry Driver, who was renowned for his decorative cast iron work. The engines were built by James Watt & Co of Birmingham and were delivered by barge.

Peter Cousins (Editors note: More of Peter's report will appear in our next issue.)

Secret Rivers Exhibition

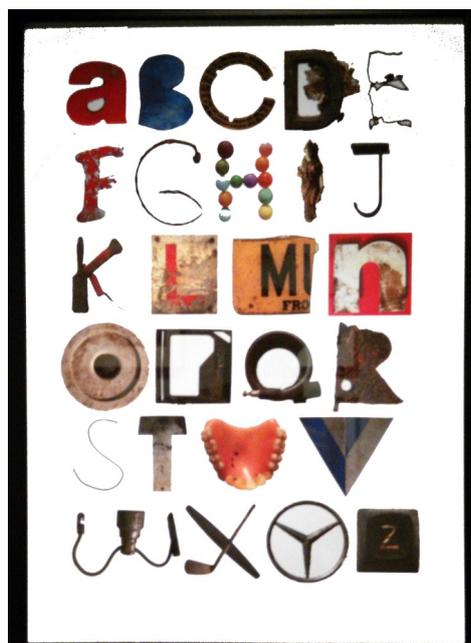
This exhibition is currently running at the Museum of London Docklands. Siobhan Kneale and I attended the opening night. Some how we missed each other but that's another story! The exhibition ties in with Peter Cousins SERIAC report and the item on Crossness Engines. The centre point of the exhibition is a large film showing the work of Joseph Bazalgette and the sewage system. Bazalgette has local links with Merton. He lived in Morden from 1851 and moved to Arthur Road, Wimbledon in 1873. He died in 1891 and is buried in St Mary's Wimbledon churchyard.

The space, given that the exhibition includes all the London rivers, is not that large. The River Wandle is represented along side the River Lea, Today these are the only rivers that are still clearly visible and not hidden in culverts and pipes.

Items included within the section on the Wandle are recordings of people talking about the river, a selection of paintings and photos of the river, a number of toys found in the river and a *Wandle Alphabet* from Jane Porter. This is made from items that she has found in the river when she has joined the many clean ups that take place along its length.

I would recommend the exhibition even if it is just to see the film. It's free so if you have a free afternoon or weekend get along.

Mick Taylor



Jane Porter's *Wandle Alphabet* made from items she found while working on the clean days on the river.



Dates for the Diary

Secret Rivers

24th May until 27th October 2019

Museum of London Docklands

This exhibition traces the rivers of London, some of which are now hidden under our streets. It should include information about the Wandle from the people who have shared its beauty and past.

Mitcham Cricket Green: Community on the Green

18th July 2019 from 4pm

This is a day that the groups and organisations come together to highlight the heritage and history of the Cricket Green area. The museum will be there along with other organisations.

Carshalton Lavender Harvest Weekend

27th and 28th July 10am-4pm

Celebrating its 20th anniversary they open up their gates at Stanley Road Allotments, off Oak Way SM5 4NQ to allow you to pick and then pay for what you have picked. As well as picking your own lavender they will be other activities going on.

Mitcham Community Day

14th September 2019 10am until 4:30pm

A chance to learn about the area around the Cricket Green, Mitcham. Includes behind tours of the Vestry Hall and more. The museum will be open all day and we will also have an exhibition from Merton Heritage Centre.

Wandle Fortnight

14th September until 29th September 2019

As well as all the activities and events that can be found at <http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/wandle-fortnight.html> our new volunteer John Sheridan will be leading a heritage walk along the Wandle on 16th September at 11am from Earlsfield Station to the mouth of the river.

Melanie's Walks Programme



Please email me on mlnnunzet@gmail.com to be added to my mailing list.
Please note the second letter is an 'l' not an 'i'. Or call 07944 833605 for further info.

Come and join us for a free and friendly hour's health walk around Beddington Park or Waddon Ponds **every Friday** morning at 10 am. Meet outside St Mary's Church, Church Road, Wallington SM6 7NJ (Buses: 407 from Sutton, 463 from Mitcham). Refreshments available at church after walk. Voluntary contribution to church funds. Tour of church possible.

Mitcham Common health walk **every Thursday**. Meet 11 am at Mitcham Junction Station, refreshments at Mitcham Golf Club at the end of walk. For details contact the Future Merton Road Safety Team on 020 8545 3206 or road.safety@merton.gov.uk

For all walks starting at Mitcham Junction meet at bus stop on bridge.

Date	Meeting place/time	
Sat 27 July	Carshalton Station 11.30 am	Tenth anniversary of Carshalton Lavender Walk! - Visit to Wilderness Island and Stanley Road Allotments for Lavender Festival, refreshments and other attractions. Bring your own scissors if you want to pick some lavender. 5-6 miles.
Sat 10 August	Mitcham Junction 2.30 pm	Mitcham Common - Visit the ponds and hills of Mitcham Common. 3-4 miles.
Sat 14 Sept	Mitcham Junction 11 am	Mitcham Heritage Day - walk around the green spaces of Mitcham, to include a visit to Mitcham Cricket Club and the Canons. 3-4 miles.
Sat 5 Oct	Mitcham Junction 2 pm	Mitcham Common - Visit the ponds and hills of Mitcham Common. 3-4 miles.

Friends of Mitcham Common - Join for just £10 (5 year membership) and receive a free book about the history of the Common, also regular Magpie newsletters. Email friendsofmitchamcommon@gmail.com for payment details.



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. 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:

