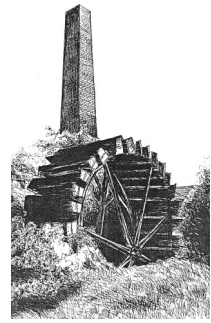


WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM



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

It certainly has been unsettling times during the last few weeks. While restrictions are being eased we still need to take care, be safe and follow the guidelines. At the museum we have been working on a number of things, all from home, to help during the lockdown and for the future.

This is our second issue of the Bulletin since we went into lockdown in March. I hope you enjoy it and as always we welcome your feedback and comments.

Best wishes,
Mick Taylor (Guest Editor)

Cover Picture:

This is a picture of the Ram Inn, Wandsworth as it looked in the 1880s. See page 10 for some current news about the inn.

Operations Team Report

As you would expect, planning for re-opening has been ongoing using what external sources we could muster. At last definitive guidelines for re-opening came from the National Museum Directors Council on June 25th.

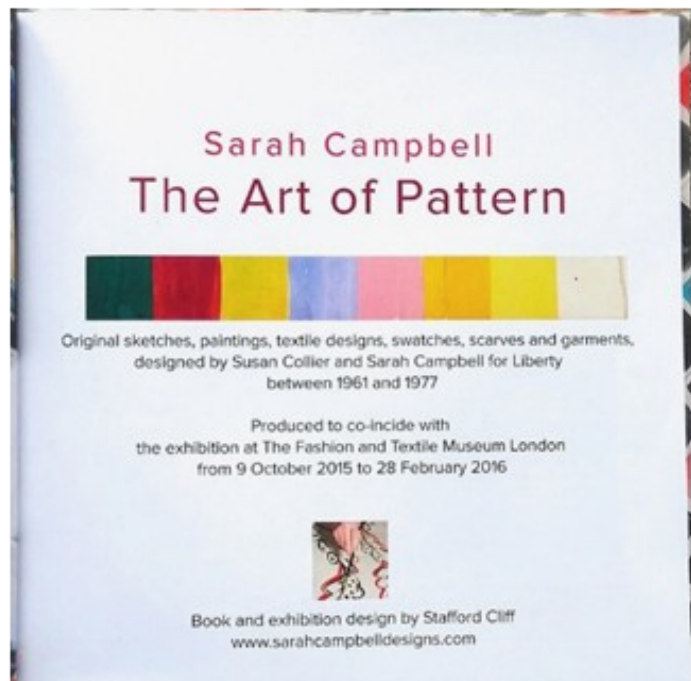
With some relief we realised that we had already covered most of the recommendations contained, and appreciated how lucky we were compared to many other organisations. The team has had its own online meetings, and with some of our volunteers, and one with our Trustees.

We are aiming to re-open in early August as nearly all our volunteers are still on board to support us, and prior to this, the team will undertake a deep clean, remove vulnerable exhibits and protect some interactive ones, position directional guiding, cordon off space-limiting areas, install key notices etc. Our risk assessment and emergency plans have been revised as well, and full training and guidance will be given to all volunteers as to the changes to layout and procedures. Roger Steele has also been making regular inspection visits as per the requirements of our insurance.

We also have a few sets of personal protection items courtesy of Mary Hart.

Despite lockdown, some good things have been coming to us.

In a recent blog, the designer Sarah Campbell announced the publication of “**The Art of Pattern**”, depicting the designs which were on show at the 2016 exhibition of the work of Collier Campbell at the Fashion and Textile Museum. I considered it too expensive to purchase, but Mary Hart generously obtained a **signed copy** for the museum. The book contains designs done by the sisters specifically for Liberty, between 1961 and 1977.



Mick Taylor has also kindly donated : **Bleaching and Calico printing**. A Practical Manual by George Duerr and William Turnbull and **A Topographical and Statistical Description of the County of Surrey** by George Alexander Cooke. Also an article – **The Waterwheels of John Smeaton** by Paul N. Wilson.

The Maldive Islands are not the first location one would associate with a celebration of **William Jessop** on their stamps. But in 1989 they brought out a series of “**Railway Pioneers**”, and Jessop was among the usual suspects such as Brunel and Stephenson. Sadly, the inscription on this 10 Rupee stamp says that he was “the first to use edge rails on his Surrey horse drawn line. 1770” The art work is also rather strange – all the pioneers are reproduced with pinkish-golden hair and all are wearing what look like white nightshirts. Still, the fact that Jessop has been recognised is noteworthy. A full set of these stamps has been donated by Peter Cousins.



Mick Taylor has continued to issue wordsearches and puzzles on a weekly basis on the broad themes covered by the museum.

We are also working on streaming brief versions of a couple of our talks to fill the gaps created from having to cancel our visits. There have been one or two “challenges” with the technology, but watch this space !!

Alison Cousins

The River Wandle and Haydon's Road South Wimbledon

I have been researching Haydon's Road for the last couple of years and I have been struck by the influence that the River Wandle has had on the history of this road.

In my study about John Haydon MP c 1514-86 (1) I discovered that Haydon's Road although it was developed in the years 1860-early 1900's, was an historic road which could be traced back to the fifteenth century, where it was recorded as a track leading to a farm known as Butlers Farm (2). Butler's Farm was owned by William Walter. In the fifteenth century William Walter set-up his right-hand man William Ball and his wife Elizabeth and their four children Katherine, William, Elizabeth and Lettice in a 50 acre farm in Wimbledon which was probably Butlers Farm by the Wandle (3). The Ball family became very wealthy and Butler's Farm was successful and stable. The farm became known as Cowdrey's Farm and it was sold in 1872 and its land used for the development of the suburbs.

In my study of Haydon's Road, the Early Suburbs and Industry (4) I mentioned Merton Mills which were situated on the River Wandle. It was suggested that there may have been a flour mill on this site since the thirteenth century (5). A writer in 1805 suggested that there were seven pairs of mill stones in the building (6). The present building was built in about 1800 by John Rennie. The millers at Merton Mills in 1866 were John and Edward Childs (7). John Childs lived in Mill Cottage along Wandle Bank in 1878 (8). In 1905 Merton Mills became Connolly's Leather Works, up until 1994 (9). There was also a Patent Leather works north of Merton Mills on the west bank of the River Wandle. The building had previously been a calico printing site founded in 1745 and converted to a leather dressing factory in the mid nineteenth century (10). Another industry close to Haydon's Lane and the River Wandle was the sewage works at Byegrove Road, which was close to Merton Mills (11). These works belonged to Croydon Rural Sanitary Authority Company. I believe that the industry workers of Haydon's Road, of which there were many, used the two public houses in Haydon's Road which

were the British Queen and the Horse and Groom and their patronage enabled these two pubs to survive and prosper in the years before the suburbs were completed.



This is a view of Merton Mill from Wandle Bank in July 2018. See the front cover for a picture of the same view from our archive.

Photo: Norma Cox

Finally in my research into the shop history of Haydon's Road for the years 1891- 2019, I discovered that there were Corn Chandler businesses running in Haydon's Road (12). Corn Chandlers are businesses that deal in corn (13). In 1913-14 there were three Corn Chandlers, in 1920 there was one Corn Chandler and in 1940 there were again three Corn Chandlers or Dealers in Haydon's Road. I believe that these Corn Chandlers had been connected to Merton Mill's flour mill trade. These Corn Chandlers' businesses continued after Merton Mill had become a leather mill.

This short study illustrates how the River Wandle has influenced the history of Haydon's Road.

Norma Cox

References and End Notes

- 1 Cox, Norma. 2019. Did John Haydon MP (C1514-86) have connections with Haydon's Road, South Wimbledon? *heritage*; Journal of the Ottery St Mary Heritage Society; Autumn No71 pp 4-6
 - 2 Milward, R. 1996. Wimbledon Two Hundred Years Ago. The Milward Press, London. SW20. p50
 - 3 Milward, R. 1972. Tudor Wimbledon. Wimbledon Society Museum Press, Wisley, Surrey. p41
 - 4 Cox, Norma. 2019. Haydon's Road, the Early Suburbs and Industry. *Newsletter*; Surrey Industrial History Group. No 224 November pp 7-13
 - 5 <https://photoarchive.merton.gov.uk/collections/work-and-industry/97804-connollys-leather-works-merton-mill>
 - 6 Steel, Bob. Coleman, Derek. 2012. River Wandle Companion and Wandle Trail Guide. Culverhouse Books p207
 - 7 1866 Post Office Directory of Surrey
 - 8 1878 Post Office Directory of Surrey
 - 9 See Note 5
 - 10 www.wandle.org/mills/mertonbridge.pdf
 - 11 https://www2.merton.gov.uk/3_haydons_road.pdf.1
 - 12 Cox, Norma. 2020. Haydon's Road: (2) The shops: change over 128 years. *Merton Historical Society Bulletin* No 213 March pp 13-15
 - 13 The Concise Oxford Dictionary. Seventh Edition. 1987. Oxford
- Photograph of Merton Mills on the River Wandle by Norma Cox July 2019
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Birthdays

Our former Curator Meg Thomas celebrated her 80th birthday on April 28th. Meg has been associated with the museum for many years having been seconded in its early days by the Rev Dr Andrew Wakefield. She still remains with the museum as one of our Sunday volunteers.

Our Trustee John Hawks has also had a birthday. Unlike past years he was unable to share his birthday with his family, friends and colleagues at the Chapter House. He did share this delightful drawing of himself.



Of Huguenot Descent

From my earliest years I can remember my mother telling me that her side of the family were of Huguenot descent. She was born a Ferne, and I knew that my cousins (surname Skelton) were a close offshoot of the same family.

Before marriage, my mother worked for the couturier Isobels and was responsible for making the overcoats worn by the young Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret. Much of my needlework and tailoring skills were learned from her.

The only obvious sign of the Huguenot heritage was the French my mother occasionally spoke and taught me. The accent I acquired and the anachronistic wording I learned from her and then repeated in class caused great distress to a series of French teachers at school.

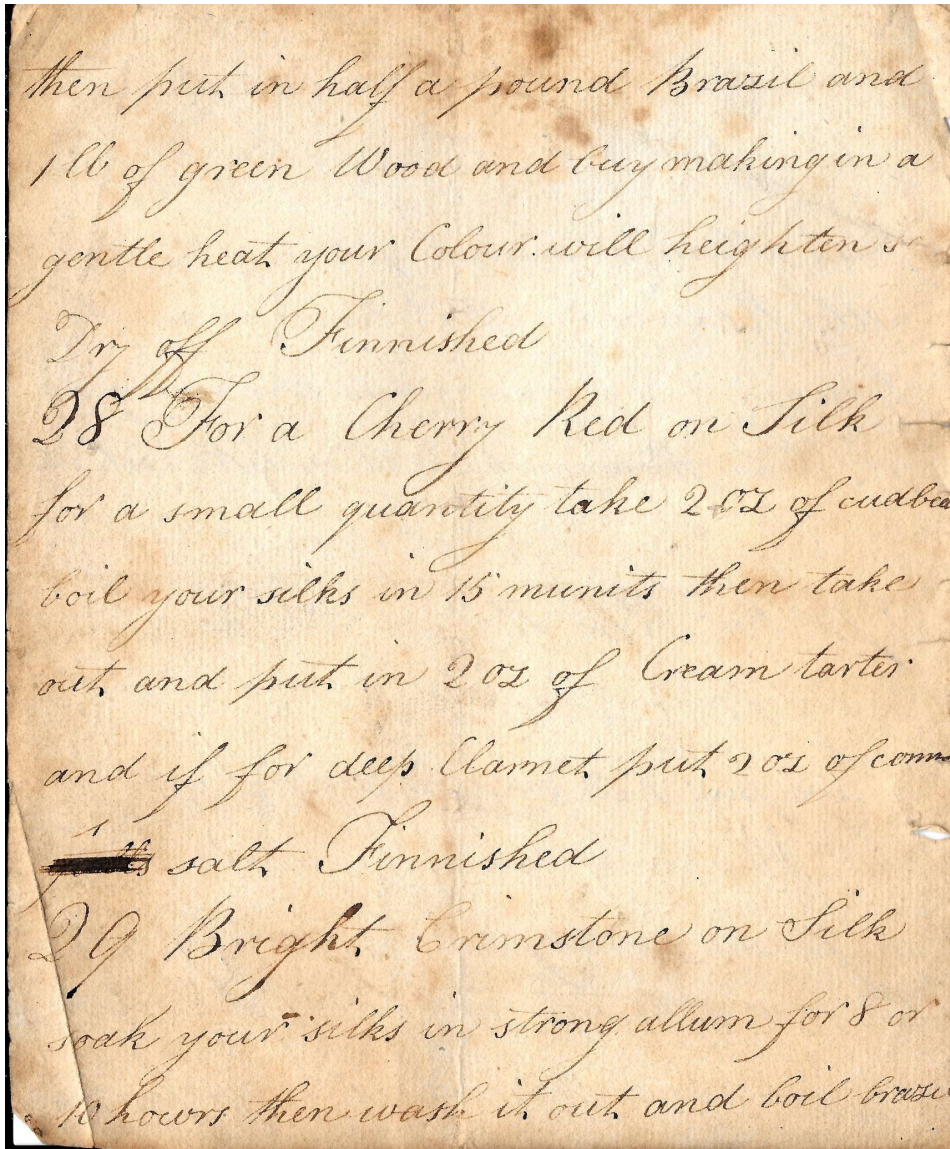
Apart from knowing that the family had been settled in Spitalfields, (another Ferne'ism – their address was in Arundel St, but the family, even generations later, pronounced it A- run- del Street) then our branch moving to Wandsworth, there was little else I knew. There is apparently a Ferne crypt in the Huguenot element of Wandsworth cemetery, but I have never located it.

Recently, however, my Skelton cousins have been carrying out some research, and the results are really interesting, when we consider my involvement with the Wandle Industrial Museum.

In carrying out their research amongst their father's papers there was a jumbled set of Ferne family records. From the point of view of the Museum, the two most interesting finds were a record of a bankruptcy sale in the mid 19th century, and 8 pages from a handwritten recipe book for the creation of colours for the dyeing of silk.

They found a copy of the Derby Mercury of 1756 containing an advertisement which started 'To be sold, the estate and effects of Mr Richard Ferne, Thread manufacturer (now bankrupt)..... Several good buildings, dyehouse, workshop, fine open yard and other conveniences. Situate in Leek, Staffordshire.....' From this it is clear the family were in silk dyeing almost 300 hundred years ago.

The handwritten colour recipes have caused some excitement. An expert from the V&A has said that the handwriting (see illustration below) is consistent with the early 19th century, but the content's 'wobbly' spelling puts the original source material some decades earlier.



It seems likely this valuable Intellectual Property, as we would call it today, was kept in the family and not sold with the rest of the effects and may have been the source of the wealth subsequently acquired by Richard's grandson. I have passed all this information on to Dave Saxby, who, it turns out, was already aware of the Ferne family of mill owners in Leek and will now research this further.

Mary Hart

SlyBeast Brewing

These brewers took over the Ram Inn in 2018 that was part of the Young's site. It was formerly known as The Brewery Tap. The names Sly and Beast come from the two dogs they own. They have started to brew their own beer and we are pleased to say they have one that has an association with the Surrey Iron Railway – 4Foot2. This was the gauge of the rails on the SIR. The label of the beer carries a drawing of the horse and wagons. As well as celebrating the SIR they have beers that celebrate the Beam Engine within Young's Brewery and the date that brewing started on the site.

Over the lockdown period they have been serving take away beer. For more information about their beers visit their website:
<https://www.slybeastbrewing.com/>



Copies of the labels and hopefully a bottle of the beer will be added to our brewing archive.



Dates for the Diary

12th September 2020

Mitcham Heritage Day.

Still in the planning stage but hopefully something for everyone.

12th—27th September 2020

Wandle Fortnight

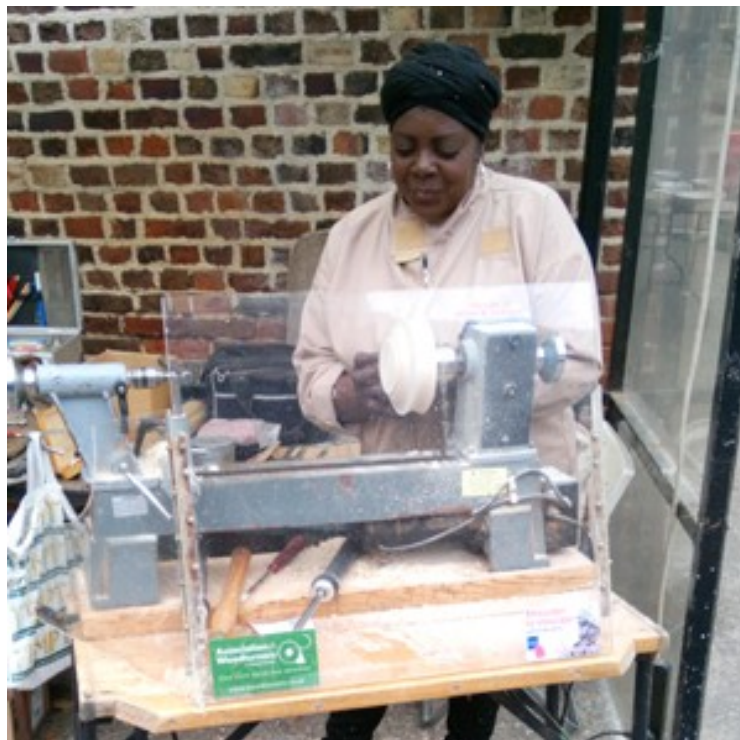
This is still planned to go ahead so keep your eyes peeled for more information.

26th September

Merton Discovery Day

There are plans for a series of activities and events. Watch out for more details in due course.

All events shown here are subject to confirmation.



Wood Turning at Merton Abbey Mills during Wandle Fortnight 2018.



Accreditation 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.

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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:

