



Talks and Other Activities

We are able to offer talks on the following subjects:

- **Merton Priory**

Built over 900 years ago the priory was the richest in Surrey. This talk shows you how the Priory has influenced our lives today.

- **Ghost Trains of Merton**

Learn about the railways that existed over the last 150 years in the Merton area and have now disappeared. Find about their role, purpose and legacy.

- **William Morris**

Morris was a renowned artist, textile designer, poet, novelist, translator and Socialist pioneer. Discover more about his life and work.

- **Merton Abbey Mills**

With a history that goes back to the early 1700s, this location had a rich textile printing past, including Liberty's of London.

- **Mills of the River Wandle**

With around 50 mills and a number of different industries the talk covers over 400 years of history.

- **Lavender Industries of Mitcham**

The lavender industry was a massive part of Mitcham during the 18th and 19th centuries. Potter and Moore were one of the best known firms in the area.

- **Brewing along the Wandle Valley**

While Young's was the best known name associated with Wandsworth, there were many other brewers and there is a good local revival.

- **Surrey Iron Railway**

This was the country's first public railway, and parts of the route can still be located today.

- **The Calico People**

A look at the rise and fall of the River's Calico industries, and the people associated during its 300 year history.

- **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.

- **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.

- **Water and Disputes**

This talk is about the historical aspects of the River Wandle and not the geology of the river. It will look at the changing face of the river from its tributaries, what it was used for and how it has changed.

- **From Industry to Homes**

The visual aspect and use of the River Wandle has changed from industrial use to pleasure. In this talk we look at the changed face of the landscape of the Wandle Valley from countryside to housing estates and from mills to homes.

- **Sport Along the River Wandle**

A talk looking at sporting activities from the past and present along the River Wandle – some of which are more disturbing than others!

- **Papermaking on the Wandle**

Looking at the methods used in producing paper along with those mills involved in its production as well as the people who operated the works along the River Wandle.

- **Apprentices, Children and Labour in the Wandle Mills**

With human stories this talk looks at the people who worked in the mills on the Wandle, How legalisation helped improve the conditions that children, women and men worked in and those young people who had their skills recognised.

- **Snuff and the Wandle Mills**

A look at the history of the tobacco product known as snuff. It's growth and popularity in Europe from the common man to the royal courts. We trace the mills and the people on the Wandle that were involved.

- **Jane Morris – The Pre-Raphaelite Muse**

Jane Morris's highly individual beauty was the icon of the Victorian Pre-Raphaelite movement, famous especially from many portraits by her long-time lover Dante Gabriel Rossetti - but in the shadow of her illustrious, multi-talented husband William she has been unfairly neglected by posterity. John Hawks looks at the life and contribution of someone who most certainly was "not just a pretty face".

Guided Walks

We are able to also offer guided walks along the River Wandle looking at the various historical sites on the route. These can be tailored to your needs and area.

Textile Workshop

We are able to run a textile workshop showing the printing method used by many of the textile works along the Wandle Valley including the Morris Works and the Liberty Print Works. You get the opportunity to make your own print. There is a charge for this session.

Talks and walks are provided free of charge but donations to the museum are welcomed.

For further information or to book a talk, walk or workshop for your group or organisation then please contact the museum via e-mail (office@wandle.org) or telephone (020 8648 0127).