



THE
WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM
BULLETIN

Issue 89

Spring 2015

Free to Members
Non-Members 50p

WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

Founded 1986

PRESIDENT

Harry Gallery

TRUSTEES

Chairman:

Rev. Andrew Wakefield

Secretary :

Nicholas Hart

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Alison Cousins

Eric Shaw

Roger Steele

Michael Taylor

EDITOR

Contents

Page	1	Editorial
	2	Operations Team Report
	4	Report of our AGM
	6	Living Wandle Industrial Trail
	7	Fundraising News
	8	Dates For Your Diary 2015

Deadline for Summer Newsletter is Friday 1st May.
All contributions should be sent to the Editor whose
contact details are opposite.

Editorial

After fifteen years Nicholas Hart (pictured) has stepped down as the editor of the Newsletter. We would like to express our thanks to Nicholas for all his hard work and efforts in producing the newsletter. Chasing content and producing the newsletter hasn't always been an easy task. Nicholas is remaining in his role as a Trustee to the museum to continue some of the other



excellent work he does on behalf of the museum. At the same time we would like to welcome Helen Daniels as our new editor.

As a result the opportunity has been taken to make some changes. Hopefully you will have already started to see these. We've changed the name from the Newsletter to the Bulletin. It will continue to be produced four times a year with Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter issues. Whilst the layout has changed you will continue to see some of the usual reports.

With a change of structure at the museum you will find the first report from the new Operations Team. This is made up of our more senior and longer serving volunteers. There is an update from our Chair along with dates for your diary and a review of our Annual General Meeting.

Lastly thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership to the museum for this year. If you haven't yet renewed we hope you will do so. A membership form is printed inside the back cover.

Operations Team Report

The team consists of four long-standing volunteers who are now combining their existing roles with supporting the day-to-day running of the museum, as we have neither a curator nor administrator at present. Meetings take place every three to four weeks following Wednesday closure at 4pm. If you have any matters you would like us to deal with, please contact us. Our details are at the front of the newsletter.

The New Year started with our annual lunch for members at Park Place, Mitcham, on January 20th. Avoiding the Christmas period has been a good choice and our thanks go yet again to Roger Steele for organising this event.

On January 22nd and January 26th respectively, St. Peter & St. Paul and Lonesome Schools visited the museum for fabric printing sessions. With two sessions per day this is quite a call on the time of volunteers, but crucial to our education remit.

We also had further visits from the Secret London groups on February 11th and 17th. These are stimulating events as their members are well-versed in much of London's history and heritage and are keen to learn about the Wandle industries and the area, as most of them so far have been from North or East London. Their leader also asks us to give a bit of background as to how and why we came to work at the museum. The "why" is a question we have been asking ourselves a lot of late!!

On Wednesday February 25th a group from the Living Wandle Partnership and the Building Exploratory visited and were given a talk and printing workshop. We hope to be working in close collaboration with both of these organisations in future.

Three of us gave a talk to St Paul's Guild in Croydon on March 10th, on various aspects of the history of the Wandle, and the

Surrey Iron Railway. This was very well received and has led to further contacts.

The museum applied to renew its Accreditation in October and we have been awarded Provisional Status for the coming year. This will give the remaining volunteers some time to deal with the paperwork involved. Our Mentor and Museum Advisor have both been incredibly helpful and understanding regarding our current staffing levels and we are very grateful to them.

We had hoped to obtain the services of a consultant to advise us on our potential move to Ravensbury Mill, but we were unable to find anyone to undertake the preparatory work. In our present building we are frequently treated to clog-dancing squirrels in the roof and howling draughts through various gaps in the structure but this much-maligned building holds firm. We are currently reorganising the lay-out of the back office space and “weeding” out the accumulations of many years so that nothing irrelevant needs to be moved when we do go.

Michael Taylor produced a Volunteers’ Newsletter which was well received and we now have two new potential volunteers. The most recent volunteers’ meeting was held on Wednesday March 11th at the new time of 4pm. It was good to welcome Meg Thomas in her new role!

Future events include :

We shall have a stand at the Merton Heritage Discovery Day on March 28th in Morden Library, along with other local heritage organisations. Please come along and support us. The final group from Secret London are due to visit on April 2nd.

On April 7th we will also be giving a talk on lavender in Morden Library.

The Alzheimer’s Society has asked for a talk on local breweries on April 22nd. Our local CAMRA member is unable to give this talk but has delegated it to his other half.

The 2014 Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held in January 2015. This year we held it in the Vestry Hall in Mitcham, next door to our current home. It was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Merton Councillor Laxmi Attawar along with several museum members. We were joined later by members of the Mitcham Society to see our guest speaker Katy Gibbons .

The museum chair Andrew Wakefield covered the normal business reporting on the museum activities for the previous year and bringing everyone up to date with the move to Ravensbury Mill. He also announced that two of our Trustees – Meg Thomas and Roger Steele – have stepped down. The chair asked that the meeting approve Ray Leyden as a Trustee with a specific remit on Ravensbury Mill. This was agreed subject to Ray confirming that he wished to take up the role.

It was formally announced that after more than 20 years of service to the museum that Meg Thomas was retiring as our Curator. Meg joined the museum as a result of attending a meeting, explaining that she had written about the environmental condition of the River Wandle and then being talked into becoming part of the museum by our chair Rev Andrew Wakefield. A presentation was made to Meg by the Deputy Mayor. This comprised a William Morris patterned scarf, a book from the recent William Morris Exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery and bouquet. Meg's knowledge and expertise will be sadly missed by the museum. She will however continue to be a Sunday volunteer and we are grateful for that. Thank you



The second half of the meeting was taken up with a presentation by Katy Gibbons from the University of Portsmouth. Katy teaches 16th Century History. She grew up in Mitcham and her mother continues to live in the area. When she was 17 she wrote a paper about the Dissolution of Merton Priory as part of her college work. We now have a copy of this at the museum, which was the subject of her presentation. The audience found it of great interest. Katy gave us a guide to the build up to the final days of one of the richest priories in the country. Hopefully the work planned for the Chapter House in Colliers Wood will enable a greater number of people to know its influence on the world we live in today.



A final thank you must to go to Alison Cousins for her catering for the evening, Jean and Eric Shaw for running the raffle and Meg and Jeanne Thomas for looking after the drinks.

Industrial Heritage Recording Module 3 – Wandle Guided Walks

There is so much industrial heritage along the River Wandle, it is knowing where to look and what to look for that is key. Module 3 of the Living Wandle Industrial Heritage Recording project aims to stimulate an interest in the rich history of the Wandle through guided walks; these will take in all the important features of the industrial river as well as mapping the locations of all the Mill sites and the industrial buildings. The Wandle Industrial Museum already has a heritage trail for the Wandle which maps all the Mill sites along the Wandle, therefore this project will aim to improve on the great work that has already been carried out. By working together with the Wandle Industrial Museum the project will allow for a number of copies of the map to be printed. Module 3 will also enable the creation of a digital version of the map which can then be accessed via the internet. There will be training opportunities available to new participants as well as existing volunteers at the museum. A number of volunteers will receive training in guiding and curating tours and a selection of volunteers will be trained in digital mapping.

In this module, with the help of an enabler, participants and volunteers will plan and organise guided walks along the Wandle, taking in all the significant industrial features of the river. The locations and information of these significant sites will then be stored as a GIS layer on the Living Wandle web archive, the project is due to take place in late 2016. We would welcome any ideas or thoughts from the Wandle Industrial Museum and its members, in order to create a project with maximum benefit to the Wandle and its communities.

For more information or to provide any feedback please contact Louise Crothall the Project Officer in the Living Wandle team either by email: lcrothall@wandsworth.gov.uk or phone 07500073162.

Fundraising News

Do you know that with GIFT AID for each £1 you pay as a subscription or donate to Wandle Industrial Museum it could claim 25p from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

If you are a UK income tax or capital gain tax payer but do not participate in the Gift Aid scheme could we ask you to consider doing so. For an individual membership of £10 it gives the Museum an extra £2,50 whilst family membership gives the museum an extra £3.75 and it does not cost you a penny.

In the last three years the museum has reclaimed £290 from HMRC. Forms can be obtained from the Museum or down loaded from the Museum website.
We thank you for your support.

Blue Boxes

Will you collect pennies for the museum? We have blue boxes that hold up to £5 in copper and if it is gift aided we could get up to £1.25 from HMRC. If you have a box please return it to the museum by 31st March so that your donation can be included in this year's accounts?

Dates for the Diary

28th March 2015: **Merton Heritage Discovery Day**

Venue: Morden Library, Civic Centre, London Road, Morden

Time: 10-4pm

It is an opportunity to find out about the rich and diverse history of the London Borough of Merton. The day will be attended by historical organisations from across the borough. There will be talks and presentations along with activities for adults and children.

2nd-4th May 2015: **Morden Hall Country Show**

Venue: Morden Hall Park, Morden.

Time: 10-5pm

For more information visit:

<http://www.oakleighfairs.co.uk/morden/>

Can you spare two hours or more to help us over the three days?

13th June 2015

Our **New Exhibition** will open. Watch out for more details in due course.

19th July 2015: **Morden Family Fun Day**

Venue: Morden Park Sports Field.

Time: 11-5:30pm

For more information visit:

<http://www.mordenfunday.org/>

We are hoping to have stalls at all the events above along with providing activities. That can only be done if we have people to man them. If you are able to help us then please contact the museum.

Subscriptions for Membership of Wandle Industrial Museum are now due for 2014-15

I/WE WISH TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP OF THE WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM AS (please tick)

- AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER £10.00
- FAMILY MEMBERS £15.00
- STUDENT MEMBERSHIP £5.00 to age 18

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Are you a UK taxpayer? If so, for every £1 that you give could be worth £1.25 to us, helping to fund our work at no cost to you. All you need to do is tick this box and sign the bottom of the form.

I would like the tax to be reclaimed on any eligible donations or membership subscriptions that I have ever made or will make to the Wandle Industrial Museum until further notice. I confirm that I pay an amount of UK income or capital gains tax at least equal to the tax that the WIM will return.

PLEASE PRINT MEMBERSHIP 2014-15

NAME

ADDRESS:

.....

.....

TEL NO:

E-MAIL:

SIGNATURE:.....

DATE:

Please make cheques payable to THE WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM and send this form to THE VESTRY HALL, LONDON ROAD, MITCHAM, SURREY CR4 3UD



Museum Mentor: Chris Taft , British Postal Museum and Archive

Museum Advisor: Yvette Shepherd, Museum of London (Docklands)

The Wandle Industrial Museum, the Vestry Hall Annexe,
London Road, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 3UD.

Tel: 020 8648 0127

Web: www.wandle.org

E-mail: office@wandle.org

Company No 01792482, Charity No 288655.

~~~~~  
OPEN: Every Wednesday 1 ~ 4 pm;  
Every Sunday 2 ~ 5 pm.

(The Museum may be closed some 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 020 8648 0127 or email to office@wandle.org