



# WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

# BULLETIN



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## **WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM**

**Founded in 1983**

### **PRESIDENT**

Harry Galley

### **TRUSTEES**

Secretary: Nicholas Hart

John Hawks

### **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

Alison Cousins

Eric Shaw

Roger Steele

Michael Taylor

### **GUEST EDITOR**

Michael Taylor

# Editorial

The cold weather makes it 'cold enough for a walking stick' as my wife's Granddad use to say. Yet in our Summer issue I talked about hitting 30 degrees. Don't you love the British weather.

Since the last issue we have had the sad news of the passing of our Chair Andrew Wakefield. There are tributes in this issue from his fellow Trustees and our volunteer Martin Roberts who has been a friend of Andrew's since 1978. Andrew will be greatly missed by all of us at the Museum.

The news about Andrew was followed by the passing of Eric Montague well know for his research and books on the history of Mitcham. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

Finally as we come to the end of another year on behalf of everyone at the museum I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best wishes,  
Mick Taylor

### **Cover Picture:**

*Our late Chairman Revd Andrew Wakefield in his panama hat and the panama hat cake. Find out about this in the tribute from Nicholas Hart on page 3.*

# Tributes to Rev. Dr. ANDREW WAKEFIELD

## A Vice-Chair's Tribute

When Andrew took up his post at St ANDREWS church in 1992, he inherited among his congregation one of our founder members, Stephen Ashcroft, who learned that Andrew had been given the post of Industrial Chaplain for south London by his diocese giving him free licence to spend half his time on wider outreach matters. Stephen roped him in almost immediately. By 1993 Andrew was our membership secretary, and then took the chair by common acclaim in our 1999 AGM.

Initially Andrew took a supervisory role, attending all meetings, and giving us the benefit of his ever increasing knowledge of the workings of Merton Council and the wider community.

The flood caused by a broken boiler in 2004 which put us at serious risk of closure, showed us a real understanding of his presence in the borough when he gave an inspirational address the following summer for our first Summer Opening that made the hard work in re working all the exhibits worth while and underlined the importance of our work in the borough. That first Summer Opening became an annual event which Andrew was pleased to call the formal opening of the Merton Summer Season, and which he exploited to the full to keep our profile high within the borough. No less than 9 Mayors and past Mayors came to our last opening, a tangible proof of the success of this strategy.

The developing problems of our move to Ravensbury was becoming a major concern and the tricky political balancing acts this entailed. Here Andrew's unparalleled contacts in the Council on both sides of the political divide became a crucial weapon in our armoury. The value of this was demonstrated in 2006 when there was a real chance of us losing our grant, and he was there at the front canvassing councillors for us. In our executive meetings at that time, Andrew, realising the passion of the team then for the ultimate move to Ravensbury, took seriously the need for him to play devil's advocate, to keep our plans realistic (so much so that, perversely, it was Ray Leyden who had to exhort him to 'have faith'!) but yet once a decision was made, was just as fierce an advocate of it to the council in our meetings with them.

During these years Andrew was also operating at a London wide level, because of his place in the London Chamber of Commerce. It seems he had a strong view that London would never win its Olympic bid, and promised Ken Livingstone that he would eat his hat if the bid was successful. Ken kept him to his word, hence a rushed overnight order for a panama shaped cake which Mary put together for him. Sadly no pictures of the hat eating ceremony exist.

Initially the Ravensbury subcommittee was myself and Ray Leyden, because we were concentrating on our lottery bid. In the background, though, the growing problems with Ravensbury meant the problems were more political and legal than financial, which is when Andrew and I first became a team.

As a result, I have had the great good fortune to have spent the last 10 years in frequent conversations with him on any and all subjects, as we have fought our way through the negotiations, and I developed a huge respect for Andrew the person, someone with strong convictions and yet happy to accept that others may not share them however 'wrong' their views might be. It is significant of his openness is that, active tweeter as he was, his last tweet, on 26 October 2016, was to celebrate a bible study group he had just attended at the Reform Movement Synagogue in Wimbledon.

I miss him, and the Museum has suffered a great loss. I hope we can honour his memory by continuing to build on what he has helped us achieve so far.

*Nicholas Hart, November 2016*

### **Tribute from John Hawks**

If ever there was a man who was a genuine one-off it was Andrew. He was a virtuoso multi-tasker, so it's difficult to know where to start. For all the eminence and charisma of this larger-than-life man it was impossible not to feel a great affection for him. And if everything he said, both public and private, tended, shall we say, towards the autobiographical, it was always in a spirit of self-satire, and he loved being teased about it. Despite the persona he liked to create this wasn't a vain man, but a warm, generous and deeply considerate man with a huge sense of humour and fun.

For a man of the cloth his personal enthusiasms were individual enough he had a passion for cricket, was an avid collector of cricket books, especially the cricketer's almanac Wisden on which he was an unrivalled expert - and he was a season ticket-holder of Surrey cricket club. But he wasn't just a fair weather fan - he was an eager supporter of Crystal Palace, AFC Wimbledon and Kingstonian F.C. too, and only the most important meetings would be allowed to coincide with their games. Perhaps more unlikely among his consuming passions was championship cycling - Laura Trott, Jess Varnish, Victoria Pendleton and Dame Sarah Storey had no more devoted fan, and he was in the front row of the Velodrome at the 2012 Olympics, and as often as he could thereafter.

And of course it wasn't just sport he loved, but all aspects of local culture and heritage too - drama, music and especially Wimbledon Bookfest, for which he had a ticket to pretty well all the events, and even sponsored one of them, with a comedian and resident of Wimbledon whom he knew well, Andy Hamilton.

In the world outside, an achievement for which he was especially noted was that under his Chairmanship the Merton Chamber of Commerce became one of the most successful such organisations in the country. Among his many other activities he was highly regarded as Chair of the Merton Community Plan, of the London Civic Forum, - he was greatly respected at Merton Civic Centre, to which he was one of very few outsiders who held an official pass allowing him full access at any time to any member or officer.

Perhaps his greatest satisfaction was his work at the religious interface - he was equally at home and respected in Bible classes at the United Reform Synagogue as at a Mosque or Hindu temple, and was proud of his reputation as a rebel against religious prejudice, and especially of his recent award as Honorary Doctor of Divinity at Roehampton University. He was delighted when I first greeted him after the appointment with "Dr Wakefield, I presume", and insisted with that characteristic twinkle of his that at trustee meetings Nicholas and I should make a habit of addressing him with the title. He was an extraordinarily charismatic preacher, and never happier than when he was being



contentious, not to say subversive - the Archbishop of Canterbury himself was not spared his ruthless criticism on Twitter.

Indeed, another thing you couldn't miss about Andrew was his eager appetite for the opportunities afforded by social media, and was a tireless tweeter at every moment of the day - even while you were having a detailed conversation with him about something completely different! But perhaps his greatest love was for his splendidly rotund terrier companion Mr Darcy, who accompanied him almost everywhere - if not on the front seat of his car then in the front basket of his bicycle.

But of course how we knew him best was as chair of the Wandle Industrial Museum ...

## **THE REVD. DR ANDREW WAKEFIELD – THE EARLY YEARS!**

I first met Andrew when he came to our church in Pollards Hill as a newly ordained curate in 1978. We quickly found common ground, not just through age and interests but also our shared concern for encouraging the youth of the parish. Together with my wife we formed a young persons group (the JAM Club) which involved a small group of church and fringe teenagers with a variety of social activities. It was obvious then that he had a desire to bring the church to the wider community rather than just on Sundays. We introduced Andrew to the delights of youth hostelling in places such as Tanners Hatch – it was a struggle for him to forego the comforts of home for basic cooking, washing and sleeping with the YHA, and something he probably never really forgave us for!

We kept in touch when he moved onto Putney in 1982, seeing a lot of him especially when he sadly split from his wife Bobby. Our shared interest in popular music, particularly The Beatles and The Beach Boys led to many great concert outings through the 1980s seeing Wings, Elton John, Genesis, Phil Collins and latterly James Taylor. Many know of his love for Bruce Springsteen but he also had a strong appreciation for Brian Wilson too.

Originally he was a Manchester United fan but I persuaded him to watch some REAL football, and so he became a devoted fan of our CPFC culminating in two great days out to Wembley last season. His ability to relate to ordinary folk rather than just church people was greatly appreciated by those at Selhurst Park, where he was respectfully referred to simply as “The Rev”.

Over the years it was clear that he had a gift for reaching out to others in the community particularly the work place, voluntary groups and schools in the local area; his dedicated development of the roles within Merton Borough came as no surprise and he was immensely proud to receive his Honorary Doctorate in relation to this work – as he never ceased to remind us of!

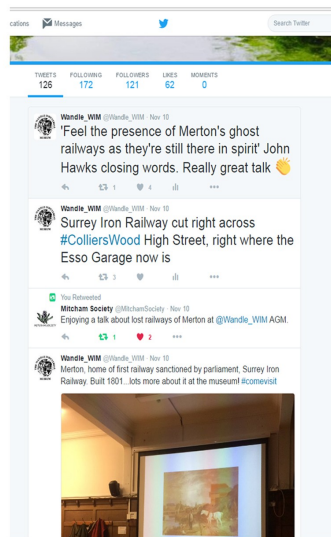
*Martin Roberts—Museum Volunteer*

## **The Museum’s adventures in the Twittersphere**

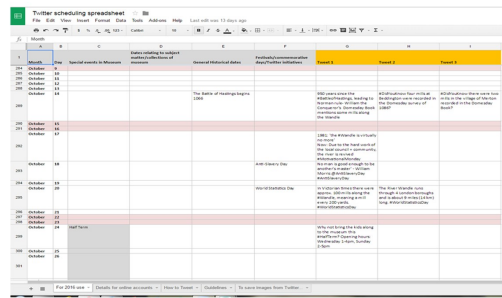
The past few months have been an exciting time for the Wandle Industrial Museum’s online profile. Both myself and Siobhan have been working on developing a Twitter account for the organisation. Twitter is a free online news and social networking service where users post and read short 140-character messages called ‘tweets’. The aim is to create a network of contacts to interact with by following other users, as well as attracting those and others to then follow you. You can join in with popular discussions using ‘hashtags’, which act as a quick means for searching particular topics and discussions across the service, and tweet information you think might be of interest directly to other users using their ‘@’ sign, which is basically their Twitter account name - ours is @Wandle\_WIM. It’s a great way of keeping up to date with what is going on in the local community and networking with other organisations.

I have specifically been working on a long-term plan for Twitter. This involves researching upcoming international, national and local events which relate to the museum’s interests and subject matter. The research is conducted at the beginning of each month, and logged into an Excel spreadsheet. This spreadsheet is basically an in-depth calendar, with all of the days of the year in the first column, followed by columns for

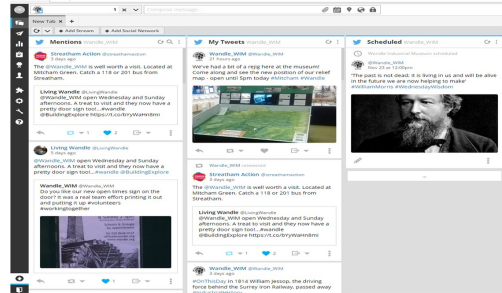
important events and commemorations and finally, space for the exact tweets to be written out. The tweets are then inputted weekly onto a social media management website, or tool, called



Some of the tweets from our AGM



The scheduling spreadsheet



Hootsuite

*Hootsuite*. This allows you to schedule tweets in advance and it posts them for you on any day you want - it makes life a lot easier as you don't have to keep logging into Twitter!

For example, for the nation-wide Anti-Slavery day, we tweeted an anti-slavery quote from William Morris. The hashtag '#AntiSlaveryDay' was used and the '@AntiSlaveryDay' twitter account was also included in the tweet. Tapping into this popular dialogue meant that the post was re-tweeted 7 times and liked 3 times. Further in-depth analysis from Twitter also provides more detailed information about the 'impression' of each tweet, i.e. the number of times people actually saw the tweet on Twitter. The above-mentioned tweet made 1,987 impressions as well as 32 total engagements, i.e. the number of times people interacted with the tweet. This kind of analysis really shows how far reaching this method of engagement can be.

Meanwhile, Siobhan has been focussing on updating the Twitter account with museum events and information. For example, she tweeted during our AGM last month, letting people know what was going on at regular intervals. This proved to be very popular as there was a lot of interaction on the Twitter feed. She has also tweeted about new additions to the museum collection and connects regularly with other local organisations about common interests. This has helped to keep up to date with current happenings in the local area, and also to boost the visibility of the museum.



So how has the account been doing overall? Since joining Twitter in July this year, we now have 121 followers and have tweeted 126 times (as of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2016). We regularly interact with other organisations, with the most recent examples being Streatham Action, Mitcham Society and Living Wandle. Interestingly, some of our most popular posts have been about happenings in the museum. A whopping 580 people saw our tweet in September about the restoration of the museum's relief map, with the post receiving 3 likes and 6 retweets. We hope to continue this good work into 2017, and if you have any questions or want to contribute any ideas to the Twitter profile, then please get in contact with either myself or Siobhan – all ideas welcome!

*Bianca Harrisskitt*

## Flog It

It is not unusual to see De Morgan tiles pop up on television programmes like Bargain Hunt. Recently on a repeat of Flog It, don't you just love BBC repeats, a lady brought in a tile she had found under her floor boards. It was the only tile there so may have been left behind after previous work in her home. The estimate as you can see from this picture was between £200 and £300.



With its famous Merton Abbey mark on the back I sat in front of the television expecting it to sell for around £400 as had previous tiles I had seen go on sale. Much to my surprise it ended being sold for £1550. Shows you what can happen when you have two bidders. Wouldn't it be lovely if the pictures of the De Morgan tiles on the display at the museum were real tiles as some visitors have thought.



*Mick Taylor*

# Operations Team Report

In October we were finally awarded the status of an Accredited Museum again by Arts Council England. This was a demanding exercise for the Ops Team lead by Alison Cousins who ensured that everything needed was in place and the timescales met. We were grateful for the professional advice of our Mentor Chris Taft and Museum Development Officer Yvette Shepherd.

Volunteers Edward Stalker and David Lumb have now left us. Thomas Lyons has done an initial survey of modern industries along the Wandle. We are still anxious to fill the post of Administrator as such work is time-consuming for other volunteers. The turn-out for the Volunteers meeting in August was disappointing but we shall continue to try and find dates which are more suitable.

The AGM was a sad occasion being the first without our chair Andrew Wakefield who passed away in October. John Hawks took the chair and paid a moving tribute to Andrew, and then presented a splendid talk on “The Ghost Trains of Merton”.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> we held a grand official opening of the newly restored relief map of the Wandle Valley. Joyce Bellamy, who with husband Richard had generously provided the funds for all the materials, cut the ribbon and gave a brief speech. Martin Roberts described the work involved and that his back had almost recovered. The opportunity had been taken to swing the model around to face the entrance thus providing a better impact.



We were out and about giving talks to Trellis House in Collier’s Wood, to Coulsdon Probus, Merton Trefoil in Motspur Park, and to the Merton Historical Society.

We did a printing session at Eastway Day Centre and visited a school (new to us) in Wandsworth - L’Ecole de Battersea, and we are planning

to try and expand our outreach, as replies from Merton have been minimal.

We opened on Saturday September 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the Mitcham Cricket Green Community and Heritage Open Day and had a very good response , including a visitor from Australia retracing his roots.

We have had discussions with several other organisations regarding our Wandle Trail map and are monitoring all developments which are planning to create a similar resource.

Finally a group of volunteers and members paid a visit to Parkstead House in Roehampton to see the house and look at the collection of stained glass windows produced at the Morris Works in Merton Abbey. Many thanks to Gilly King for her guided tour and talk.



## South East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference 2016

I attended SERIAC 2016, held in the sumptuous surroundings of Holy Cross Preparatory School, off Kingston Hill, hosted by Surrey Industrial History Group.

We were welcomed by Bob Bryson, chairman of SIHG, and the first presentation was by Dr Geoffrey Mead of the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society entitled Southern Industrial History: a different perspective. Dr Mead outlined the progress of industry through southern England with flint mining in Devon in the Stone Age, iron smelting in the Iron Age, brick and tile manufacture in the Roman era, pottery in the Mediaeval period, then glass making. Sixteenth century brought silk weaving by immigrants, string manufacture for hop cultivation and metal work for arms manufacture. The growth of the leisure industry brought piers and fishing and better roads as the rich of the South East needed to get to the seaside! Heavy industry was represented by electrical machine manufacture and the locomotive works at Brighton. Twentieth century brought the shopping industry and the twenty first

the knowledge industry at universities. Mention was also made of the now defunct copperas industry of Portslade. (Copperas is a green vitriol used mainly for dyeing)

Next Jeremy Hodgkinson of the Wealden Iron Research Group spoke about iron production in the eighteenth century Weald. One highlight was the description of water-wheel powered bellows for seventeenth century furnaces whose power output was measured in puffs per minute – 12 ppm was a good average. The wheel had to turn slower than for a corn mill. Another was the revelation that cannons produced during the Dutch Wars were sold to the Dutch.

The last morning presentation was from Phil Crockett of the British Association of Paper Historians entitled Papermaking – history and development. It is an industry of which the theory has changed little over many centuries, but the mechanisation of the process and increase in quantity has changed out of all proportion.

We were encouraged to visit the Ivy (or Bush) Conduit House in the grounds of the school. The three conduit houses of Coombe were part of the water supply to Hampton Court Palace, built around the 1520s and not switched off until 1876. The three springs harnessed by the conduit houses lay on land owned by Merton Priory. A very useful booklet about the water supply was on sale. The building that now houses the school was probably built as the home of the father of John Galsworthy the author.

After lunch, Paul Sowan of Subterranea Britannica took us through his closely-typed handout What happened at Merstham: a square mile of industrial archaeology in East Surrey. The area has been much altered by roads and railways exploiting the Merstham Gap, a dip in the South Downs allowing a way through for mineral traffic from the south.

Next Malcolm Tucker of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society gave a presentation entitled Ten Green Bottles – the demise of the gasholder? Gasholders were in use from 1813 to 2014 and their development revealed a fascinating variety of types. Many classic examples were lost before it was appreciated that they were worth saving.

The final presentation was by Sheila Miles Viner entitled Researching Berkshire's Watermills and their Industries. Sheila had been awarded a bursary by SERIAC for her research. She has studied over 180 sites, the

oldest being a Roman vertical wheel and a Saxon horizontal wheel. She scampered through the most significant, most notably one at Eton that was converted to supply a fountain at Windsor Castle, and Shenfield Mill on the River Kennet that was owned by Kate Bush.

*Peter Cousins*

*1<sup>st</sup> Sept 2016*

## **Wandle Fortnight walks – Saturday 17 September**

Four walk leader volunteers from the Sutton & Wandle Valley Ramblers led four walks through four boroughs - the event was a great success and enjoyed by all.

They were sustained by 100 “Wandle cakes” provided by the Village Bakers in Carshalton and paid for with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. At every refreshment stop these cakes appeared and were consumed with relish.

The day began at Earlsfield Station and a 9.30 am start meant that just eight walkers turned up for the first leg with Joan. They visited Wandle Meadow Nature Park and the bridge which for so many years was known as the “Bridge to Nowhere” until it finally got joined up. After their refreshments at the Watermill Café, Merton Abbey Mills, they were able to view the Chapter House, Merton Priory, under the big Sainsbury’s/ M&S at Colliers Wood, while waiting for the second group of walkers to join them. So this could be seen as a reward for their early rising!

At 11 am I met a large group outside Colliers Wood station, and we were pleased to welcome Mayor Brenda Fraser and consort, Lloyd Fraser. Twenty four of us then continued along the Wandle Trail towards Mitcham, visiting Merton Abbey Mills, Morden Hall Park and Ravensbury Park along the way. After a walk through the National Trust Watermeads we joined some football fans for refreshments at the Tooting & Mitcham Café Bar (part of the KNK football stadium) and yes, more cakes! When we asked how much we owed for coffee and tea we were pleasantly surprised when we were told it was all free! Melanie then decided to ask for donations to St Raphaels’ Hospice and £26.46 was



*The Mayor of Merton joined the group.*

raised. This amount will go towards the funds which are regularly collected by the Friday Beddington Park health walkers and donated to this worthwhile charity. So a big thank you for their generosity. We think the football fans were probably quite glad when we got out of their way!

After that it was only a short hop via the, not so beautiful, Willow Lane Industrial Estate to the third meeting place, Mitcham Junction station. There, we discovered that one Wandsworth walker had missed the second leg of the walks but she had taken the opportunity to visit Mitcham Cricket Green and the Canons which were unknown to her so she was quite happy about that.

Frank then led sixteen walkers over Mitcham Common and along part of the Beddington Farmlands path. We came out at Hackbridge, the “sustainable suburb” and rejoined the Wandle Trail. After an interesting diversion to Wilderness Island we came through Grove Park to our third refreshment stop at Village Perk in Carshalton. Samantha and her staff gave us excellent service and there was still more cake!

The last part of the walk was led by Steve who told fourteen of us all about the Carew family and their dealings with the Tudors when we were walking through Beddington Park. We visited Waddon Ponds and ended up at the Mum’s the Chef Café in Wandle Park, where yet more

refreshments were consumed and the last cakes.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable day. I was very pleased that the timings all worked out as it was quite difficult to estimate how long refreshments would take and of course how slowly or fast people would want to walk.

There were many Ramblers who participated but also several people who found out about the walks via social media and who really enjoyed getting to know new territories. So thank you to the Wandle Valley Forum and the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership for helping to promote the beauty that the Wandle has to offer and the social and health benefits of getting out and about in the fresh air!

*Melanie Nunzet*



## Dates for the Diary

- **Christmas and New Year:**

Our last day of opening this year is 21st December 2016. We reopen on 4th January 2017.

- **New Year Lunch:**

This will take place on Thursday 12th January 2017. We will once again be going to Park Place, Mitcham. A separate booking is included with this copy of the Bulletin.

## Donations in Memory of Andrew Wakefield

Donations in memory of Andrew may be made to **Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project** (<http://w.mertonfaithinaction.org/>) or to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/In-Loving-Memory-of-Andrew-Wakefield>



**FAITH IN ACTION**  
helping with homelessness



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.**

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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.

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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:

