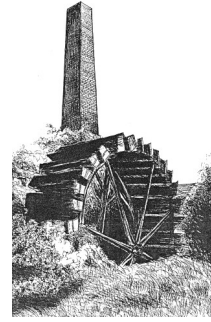


# WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM



# BULLETIN



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## WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

**Founded in 1983**

### PRESIDENT

Harry Galley

### TRUSTEES

Nicholas Hart

John Hawks

Fr David Pennells

### OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Alison Cousins

Eric Shaw

Roger Steele

Michael Taylor

### GUEST EDITOR

Michael Taylor

# Editorial

Doesn't time fly when you are having fun. It only seems yesterday that we left Christmas behind and yet we are just coming into Easter. Hopefully we have left the recent snow and cold weather behind us even if we may be heading into a rain filled April.

The snow put paid to our first attempt to launch the new map *Mapping the Mills: Discover the River Wandle's Industrial Heritage*. The wait seems to have been well worth. All is explained on page 14.

One great thing about working in a museum and taking an interest in heritage is that you never stop picking up something new. This issue certainly has some of that we hope.

On page 9 you will see a comment about the changes to data protection. Please do read it as it applies to you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the bulletin and do please let us have your feedback.

Best wishes,  
**Mick Taylor**

### **Cover Picture:**

Members of the museum, Mapping the Mills Volunteers and The Building Exploratory staff at the launch of the new map *Mapping the Mills: Discover the River Wandle's Industrial Heritage*.  
Picture by Auriel Glanville.

## THE CHAPTER HOUSE TRANSFORMED

It's been thirty years now since the historic site of the medieval Merton Priory was excavated as part of the Sainsbury's development at Colliers Wood. Extensive foundations were revealed, and then, in the nature of these things, backfilled again - but those of the Chapter House were spared, and preserved, albeit very unceremoniously, under Merantun Way.

Since then this impressive relic in its weirdly surreal situation has often been opened by volunteers for events of many kinds - drama, concerts, art exhibitions, religious services, medieval banquets, talks and lectures, school visits, adult group tours - and of course for four open weekends per year, of which a high point has traditionally been fabric block printing for kids provided by our own stalwarts Mary and Nicholas, Alison, Mick and Roger.

Having been at pretty well all of these events, I can testify that the first word every new visitor says on entering the Chapter House is almost invariably "Wow"! And now the wow-factor will be greater still, even if you're familiar with the Chapter House, since the interior is receiving a major Heritage Lottery funded overhaul. "Let there be light" is the order of the day.



The South Wall has now been demolished to be replaced with a glass and a new entrance.

If you've passed by the enclosure recently you'll have seen that the whole of the south wall has been demolished. Specialist builders are replacing it with glass, with a classy new entrance to replace the dingy steel security door we've been using for three decades. The great increase in light will transform the interior, and be the key to much more regular opening, a complete renewal of the layout and exhibits, and much greater access and public awareness of this extraordinary monument.

Phase One of the project will be completed this summer, in time to reopen to the public in September. Phase Two, yet to be funded, will see the creation of a physic garden outside, and of a much improved events venue inside. If you'd like more information about the Chapter House, or indeed would be interested in becoming a Friend or Volunteer, then please keep an eye on the website [www.mertonpriory.org](http://www.mertonpriory.org).

*John Hawks*



An artist impression of the new South Wall and entrance to The Chapter House.

## Morris In Wimbledon

The building of a new hotel in The Broadway, Wimbledon has started. We are pleased to see they have fronted it with the William Morris Trellis pattern.



## Operations Team Report

Once again we held our annual New Year lunch at the Park Place Carvery in Mitcham, kindly organised by Roger Steele.



A late opening in January, recent bad weather, and an early Easter has meant that talks and workshops have been minimal or cancelled but our newest topic – “Calico People”, has been presented twice by Mick Taylor, who, along with Roger Steele also held a printing session for the Trefoil Girl Guides in Surbiton.

Another new recruit, Serena Crouch joined us and has been helping with administration and some archiving.

The museum was also the location for a celebration on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to mark the completion of the “Mapping the Mills” project under the auspices of The Building Exploratory. A beautifully produced map to support four Wandle heritage walks was “launched”, copies of which will be available from the museum.



We were successful in bidding for a Conservation Grant from the Arts Council ( via the Museum of London ) and we put this to good use by buying more archive grade storage boxes for our printing blocks and some large polyester sleeves for our map collection. We had also contacted Zotefoams for some higher grade Plastazote to protect the blocks

and were delighted when the company offered to donate a collection of samples and offcuts to us as part of their remit to support a local organisation. It has been in the area for many years, and in fact, our own Eric Shaw once worked there when it was known as Expanded Rubber and Plastics. We are most grateful to the company for such generosity, and to Liz Papadolambakis in particular for her help.

### **Training**

Siobhan Kneale and Alison Cousins attended two excellent free workshops arranged by the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership. Siobhan's was "Exciting Writing for Interpretation" led by Heritage Insider Ltd. which introduced an interpretation planning pyramid to balance resources, audience, and the story. Alison's was on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) presented by Superhighways, and covered the new principles of this legislation, including consent, rights, privacy etc. all of which will impact on the museum. Resources from both courses will be available at the museum.

### **Finance**

Another steady year. Yet again we have kept running costs below the level of our grant from Merton Council, and the activities of our talks and printing teams have provided the money for our long-awaited new computer and the ongoing upgrading of our displays.

Our major outgoings remain:

Insurance	£704
Audit of Account	£660
Telephone/Broadband	£535
Display and Printing Materials	£300



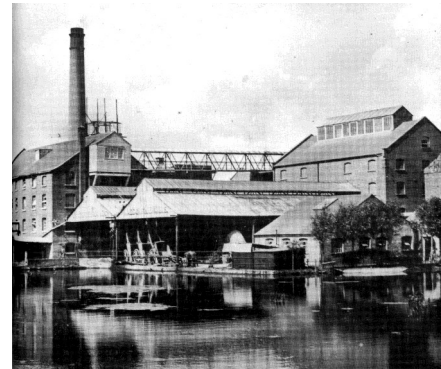
We are grateful to the artist Tony Michael and the Wimbledon Society for permission to reproduce here this cartoon from the March issue of their newsletter. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of wading through the Mayor of London's lengthy plan for the city, this just about says it all.

## Recent Acquisitions

We have added quite a few “new” items to our collection.

Some of the books we have acquired are:

**The Brown family** : ten flour mills in a hundred years. Donated by the author Peter Sinclair, in appreciation of Roger’s help in finding him some relevant photos, and published by the Mills Archive, in 2017, this contains a chapter on Waddon Flour Mill.



Waddon Mill 1907

Steve Purvey’s eagle eyes following online bargains spotted **Five centuries of artists in Sutton** : a biographical dictionary of artists associated with Sutton. This was published by Sutton Libraries & Arts Services in 1989 and compiled by Maureen Beasley.

**Old Surrey watermills**, by J. Hillier, dated 1951, was snapped up by Peter Cousins in a second-hand sale, and Meg Thomas, our former curator, donated two more books on the same subject, **British watermills** ( Syson ) and **Waterpower and watermills** ( Brown ) and two books by Jan Marsh – **The pre-Raphaelite sisterhood** and **Jane and May Morris**.

Thanks to Mick Taylor we now also have a hard copy of **The Wimbledon and Merton Annual** for 1909 containing the chapter on “The River Wandle :past and present” by Montague S. Guiseppi, thus providing us with a source for an earlier copy of the article.

Martin Roberts, who knew Constance Pope well, donated a couple of her Merton Historical Society Local History Notes, namely **Around Manor Road Mitcham** (1989 ) and **More memories of Manor Road and Commonsides East** ( 1991 ).

David Luff also donated several **technical drawings** of the wheel house at the Liberty Mills done in 1983/4.

Two new **glass lantern slides** also came our way from Andrew Hadden, both of which took some time to identify, but turned out to be of Butter Hill Mill and St. Mary's Church, Byfleet.



Mills at Butter Hill,  
Carshalton



St Mary's Church,  
Byfleet

*Alison Cousins*

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## Visit to the Ram Brewing location

In early December a select group of us visited the Ram Brewery housed within the new development to be known as The Ram Quarter, i.e. the former site of Young's Brewery. To ensure it keeps its claim to be Britain's longest continuously brewing site, this activity continues today thanks to John Hatch (*pictured here*) who is employed on part of the site as a Manager, who brews from time to time supported by donations and successful fundraising comedy evenings.



Behind a very insignificant hoarding lies his little kingdom, where we were pleased to see by the gate, a collection of saved sleeper stones from the Surrey Iron Railway. John gave us a detailed tour of the brewhouse and demonstrated how recycled items had been utilised to provide the equipment.





Our merry group after enjoying a pint of John's latest brew.

We then proceeded to the tap room and sampled the latest offering while spotting Young's memorabilia around the walls. John has plenty of artefacts there and in a safer place with which to set up the proposed brewing museum, news of which was of course the prime reason for our visit. ( Ahem ) At last I am able to add "organised a \*\*\*\*- up in a brewery" to my CV. Our thanks to John Hatch for a really informative and jolly visit ( hic ).

*Alison Cousins*

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## Protecting Your Data

**New government legislation requires organisations like ours to contact everyone for whom we hold personal data to obtain consent for continuing to do so. We need to assess what information we keep and why, and to keep it safe and secure. Such data will usually be nothing more than what you filled in on your membership application form or have volunteered to us since. We need to do this by the end of May and you will be contacted by e-mail or post for a response.**

**If you have any concerns about this please contact the museum or go to the website of the Information Commissioner's Office at [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk)**

## The Grove Mill Fire

In February 1909 a fire destroyed Grove Mill at Mitcham Bridge. Produced below is the account of the fire as described in the Mitcham Advertiser at the time.

### GROVE MILLS BURNT.

#### SERIOUS FACTORY FIRE AT MITCHAM, EXTENSIVE DAMAGE.

In the early hours of Saturday morning a fire broke out at the Grove Mills, London-road, Mitcham, a large range of buildings standing on the banks of the Wandle about a hundred yards from the road. As far as can be ascertained the outbreak could not have occurred before one o'clock, for at 12.45 a police constable on duty in the neighbourhood found everything safe. The first intimation that there was anything amiss was conveyed to the manager, Mr. Otto Elston, by the barking of dogs. He lives near the factory, and on investigating the cause of the disturbance found flames showing on the top floor of the principal building, which is three storeys high, and measuring 100-ft. by 60-ft. The first thing he did was to telephone for the Mitcham Fire Brigade, and his message, which was received at 1.27, was supplemented by another from the foreman. The men of No. 1 Brigade, under Capt. Jenner, turned out very promptly, and were on the scene in 13 minutes. Capt. Jenner quickly realised the magnitude and importance of the outbreak, and caused messages to be sent to No. 2 Brigade at Collier's Wood, Sutton and Croydon. No. 2 was the first to arrive, and they got to work with their manual from a standpipe in the main road. Croydon were shortly on the spot with their steamer, and then came Sutton, under Capt. Goslin, with theirs. Firemen from Beddington Corner also gave their assistance.

By this time the fire had obtained a firm hold on the top floor, and it worked its way down slowly but surely. From the first it was seen that it would be impossible to save the building, so the main efforts of the brigades were devoted to saving adjoining premises. It was very fortunate that a plentiful supply of water was to be had from the Wandle and also that the wind did not help the spread of the conflagration to any great extent, for the premises adjacent include the Crown Mills, occupied by Messrs. Whitehead Bros., Ltd., pianoforte felt manufacturers; Wandle House, the residence of Mr. Chas. W. Quinn; Wandle Cottage, occupied by Mrs. Green; and the house of Mr. Henry Bourne, the keeper of the Wandle Fishery. The premises in the greatest danger were Wandle House and Crown Mills, and, as a matter of fact, the well known house near the latter was attacked, but the flames were put out before they had any chance to obtain a good hold. The three steamers were successful in isolating the fire by shifting their hose branches occasionally. The men worked at considerable risk to themselves. The flames leaped far above the roof, which is 60-ft. high, and the glare could be seen for miles. There was a good deal of machinery on the different floors, and the encroaching fire, by weakening the floors, caused it to fall with deafening crashes to the ground. Showers of sparks were thrown up, intense heat was generated, and occasionally masonry fell outside. It was only after two hours incessant labour that the mastery was obtained, and by that time the building was practically gutted, all that was left standing being the four walls. The Croydon and Sutton brigades left about five o'clock. The Beddington Corner men left at 5.30, and the Mitcham brigades returned to headquarters about 6.15, two men being left on the scene with a line of hose attached to a hydrant. The wisdom of this precaution was shown by the fact that when the steamer had gone another slight outbreak occurred, but the men in charge had no difficulty in dealing with it.

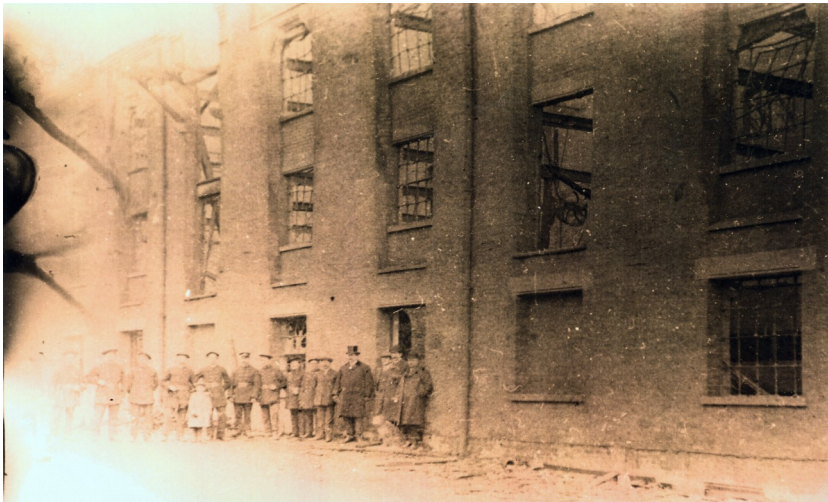
With regard to the cause of the fire it is surmised that a spark from the steam boiler must have come into contact with the roof, for, as already mentioned, the outbreak was first noticed on the top floor. The damage is estimated at about £3,000, which is covered by insurance.

Statements were made in London newspapers that the mills were gutted and that the material manufactured there was of a highly inflammable character. This is not the case. An addition to the main building was entirely saved, as were also the stores containing a quantity of fibre. As to the inflammability or otherwise of this fibre, quantities of it were thrown out of the burning building, and it was found that it would not do anything more than smoulder. The mills are occupied by a company known as "Lyxhayr, Limited," and the article manufactured is known as horse hair substitute, which is used in the upholstery trade. The company have been engaged at Mitcham for between five and six years, and their business gave employment to numerous hands. Arrangements have been made to deal with the orders in hand, so that as little inconvenience as possible will be caused to customers.

A visit to the mills in the morning showed the disastrous effect of the fire. The building involved now consists of nothing but gaunt walls. The roof has entirely disappeared, and the window frames have for the most part been destroyed. The ground floor is heaped high with ruined machinery, charred and twisted beams and girders, and fragments of slate and glass. Portions of machinery can be seen hanging gingerly in mid-air, being caught between the walls and the remains of iron ties. The walls themselves have not been rendered unsafe, and it will probably not be necessary to pull any considerable part of them down.



Grove Mill (*left*) pictured in 1905.



This picture shows the remains of  
the mill after the fire.



Grove Mill in 2011 now converted  
to flats.

## Mapping the Mills: Exploring the Industrial Heritage of the River Wandle

On Thursday 22nd March the museum hosted the launch of a new map charting the Industrial Heritage of the River Wandle. The event was well attended by museum members and volunteers and also the project leaders and volunteers.



Showing off the new map.

Below Nicole Crockett, Director of The Building Exploratory, tells us about the project.

Mapping the Mills is a community heritage project delivered by the Building Exploratory across 2017-2018. The project was commissioned by the Living Wandle Landscape Partnership (LWLP), supported by the National Lottery through the Big Heritage Lottery Fund.

Working closely with the Wandle Industrial Museum, volunteers from across the four Wandle boroughs have researched the river's industrial heritage investigating the locations and histories of the water mills and related buildings that powered the factories of the past.

The research has been collated and has used in the development of "Mapping the Mills" a printed map which outlines a series of walks that share and celebrate one of London's most important waterways.

### ***Mapping the Mills Walks Guide***

The printed map contains four walking routes along the Wandle highlighting the industrial heritage and other key historic places of interest. The map was drawn by illustrator Jane Smith and designed by Glory Hall. The printed map is available at the Wandle Industrial Museum, and will be available later in the year at local heritage centres and libraries. A digital version will be available to download online from the Wandle Library. [www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk/digital-arcive](http://www.wandlevalleypark.co.uk/digital-arcive)

### ***Izi.Travel Tours App***

The four map walks will be available on the online Izi.Travel app. Using geo-location technology, walkers will be able to access more detailed information about the industrial heritage of their chosen walk through mobile devices.

### ***Walks Programme***

The Building Exploratory will provide an opportunity for those interested to experience the four walks outlined on the map during April and May 2018, in partnership with the project volunteers.

Note: See Page 19 for information on the walks planned.

For further information about the project and the upcoming walks series, please contact Katie Russell: [mail@buildingexploratory.org.uk](mailto:mail@buildingexploratory.org.uk) or 020 7608 0775

### ***Wandle Treasures Map***

The Building Exploratory's Wandle Treasures Map (shown below), a beautiful hand drawn artwork celebrating the River Wandle's heritage, is on display at Croydon Central Library until 8 May 2018.



## About the Building Exploratory

The Building Exploratory is a learning and engagement organisation that helps communities to discover the secrets of their local area. It works across London to celebrate the built environment: its heritage, buildings and public spaces. It aims to give everyone an opportunity to share their views about the neighbourhoods where they live and work.

[www.buildingexploratory.org.uk](http://www.buildingexploratory.org.uk)

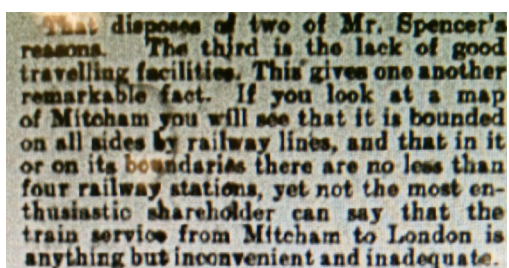
@bulidingexplore

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## Mitcham Station

In 1911 a piece appeared in the Mitcham Advertiser questioning the positioning of the railway stations serving Mitcham. The area had four stations: (1) Mitcham Junction, (2) Tooting, (3) Merton Abbey, and (4) Mitcham. The article asks why is there not a station at Beehive Bridge. What the writer appears to forget is the history behind these stations. I may not be fully correct here. The first, Mitcham Junction,

was built so that the King could travel to Mitcham to play at the golf course. The second, Tooting, no doubt served the local people. However it was some way from the centre of Mitcham.



That disposes of two of Mr. Spencer's reasons. The third is the lack of good travelling facilities. This gives one another remarkable fact. If you look at a map of Mitcham you will see that it is bounded on all sides by railway lines, and that in it or on its boundaries there are no less than four railway stations, yet not the most enthusiastic shareholder can say that the train service from Mitcham to London is anything but inconvenient and inadequate.

The station that is supposed to serve Mitcham for London purposes, viz., the Junction, is 15 minutes' walk from the nearest cluster of houses. Its position, indeed, is absurd, but the railway company must have had good reasons for putting it a mile or two away from the village. It should have been near the Beehive Bridge. Mitcham Station really serves very little useful purpose, landing you at Wimbledon, where you have to change if you want to get anywhere else. Tooting Junction is too far away from Mitcham to be of any use whatever, and as for Merton Abbey Station all it seems good for is to remind you that Merton once possessed an abbey.

Thus we are left with the tramway, which certainly does traverse the heart of the parish, and is far more used than the railway. But even this is not so satisfactory as it might be. The trams should run with more regularity, and the fares

The last two have a more industrial past. Merton Abbey, at the time of the article the area was still part of Mitcham, brought the likes of William Morris to his works and while it stopped carrying passengers it continued into the 1960s to carry goods for the local mills, coal merchants and other businesses in the area.

This leaves Mitcham station. The only one of the four that was part of the Surrey Iron Railway. Its reason for being where it was to serve the mills and the brewery at

Mitcham Bridge. It is this station, now part of the tram network, that is the oldest of the four.

*Mick Taylor*



# EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE SHEETS

The museum has developed an initial set of four education resource sheets aimed at providing information for teachers and other visitors planning group visits or inviting off-site group talks or demonstrations.

They link to specific National Curriculum statements for Key Stage 1 and 2 related to Primary School learning, especially those with a local history focus. The sheets introduce illustrated background notes on major exhibits at the museum as well as suggested learning activities and follow-up research, concluding with what to see at the museum itself or as part of a workshop visit.

The topics covered include "The River Wandle", "Water Wheels and Water Mills", "William Morris in Merton" and "Natural Resources for Dyeing". These are available on the WIM website or on request at the museum. Further sheets are planned in the future.

Martin Roberts



## WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION SHEET supporting KS 1 & 2 History:

**KS1** - lives of significant individuals... who have contributed to national and international achievements  
**KS2** - a study of... a site that is significant in the locality

### WILLIAM MORRIS IN MERTON

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century the Wandsworth area was already known as a base for hard-working craftsmen with skills associated with the textile and printing industries. Merton attracted migrant workers from France known as the **Huguenot** and its mills had attracted felt hat-making, fu and wig-making among many others. It was therefore the greatest artist-craftsman of the Victorian period, shot by the Wandle in 1881, taking over an existing works, expanding business from Bloomsbury in Central London workshops in Merton (see *workshops site model* at the owned by Litter & Co since 1877, producing printed's Close friend **William De Morgan**, a fine-art potter, hair nearby. The Merton Abbey area therefore became a William Morris gaining an international reputation for Morris's first 14 designs were printed on silk in Staffordshire, available, Morris encouraged the employment of odd dyeing techniques. Before chemical bleaching was used sunlight would cover the meadows near the Wandle, the growing textile industry of the Wandle Valley. The production of his sought after printed fabrics and of block printing (see *examples at the museum*). Furniture and carpet making, stained glass and furniture William Morris was also something of a social reformer general working environment was considered much in Victorian factories. Young boys from the local area were on site at the works, followed apprenticeships and he Although he lived in Hammersmith, William would miss progress on his latest designs and processes – but he

Despite the proximity of their operations in Merton, it Arthur Liberty ever met each other. Morris was very a creative production, whilst Liberty was more the independent market of well-to-do London society. Morris was remembered for his association with the British Arts: as one of the most significant cultural figures of Victorian



## WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION SHEET supporting KS 1/2 History & Art and Design:

**KS1** - a study of... a site that is significant in the locality  
**KS2** - understand how key individuals in Design and Technology have helped shape the world  
**DT1** - understand how key individuals in Design and Technology have helped shape the world

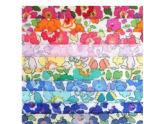
### NATURAL RESOURCES FOR DYEING

People have been dyeing cloth for over 5000 years. Until 1856 all dyes were made from plants or animals. Insects or sea molluscs provided red or purple colouring; plant juices supplied most other colours. The most common dyes found in the Wandle Valley mills were a black from the **logwood tree** and red from the **brazilwood tree**. A red was also obtained from the root of **madder mixed (mordanted)** with alum, and blue from **woad**, and indigo from the **Indigofera** genus of plants.

The dyes were removed from the animals or plants by **crushing and collecting** the juices, or **pulping and fermenting**, or **boiling and condensing** the steam. Once the dyes had been collected they were diluted in large **vats**. The clean and wet fabric was placed into the vat, which was then brought to the boil and simmered until the fabric is the colour required. The cloth was then taken out, rinsed and dried. It was then ready to be made into clothes or coverings for furniture.

At his works in Merton, **William Morris** designed and printed cloth and textiles using natural dyes. The famous **Liberty's** store in Regent Street sold expensive oriental styled clothing, often made from printed silk using natural vegetable and plant dyes. **Arthur Liberty** even marketed a range of called "Liberty Art Colours" which he developed with help from **Thomas Wandle**, who was also printing for Morris. The popularity of these block-printed textile designs led Liberty to work with designers and print at **Edmund Little's** works at **Merton Abbey** by the River Wandle.

Plenty of clean and clear water is essential in the dyeing and printing of cloth. The Wandle, springing from and filtered by the chalk of the North Downs, was able to both power the mills and support the textile printing industry. In 1904 Liberty bought the Little's workshops including the mill wheel, built by Little to power the **Jennys and rising spoons** and the **hydro extractor**, which was like an early spin dryer! When the printed cloth was rinsed of excess dye, the water was discharged freely into the Wandle. Liberty used to joke that they sent their dirty water to William Morris who had his textile print workshops further downstream.



Additional sources of water in the Wandle comes from the site of the **Beddington sewage works** which is now closed down, but a new water source has been reclaimed in the newly landscaped **Wandle Park**, which is the furthest visible spring.

Disputes over the water from the Wandle were common as users wanted to get the greatest flow that they could to drive their mills. Diverting the water channel was made by creating diversions or cuts off the river. A number of these still exist today such as the **Paper Mill Cut** within the **Watermeads**, the **Mill Cut** on **Mitcham Green** and **Rucker's Cut** found in **Morden Hall Park** (created in 1769). Even at Liberty's Mill (now Merton Abbey Mills) and downstream past the former Morris Works (now Sainsbury's/M&S Superstore) the channel is manmade, the original course of the Wandle being what we now call the **Pickle Ditch** near the **Tandem Centre**. Some of these cuts resulted in Mill Ponds such as in **Ravensbury Park** and **Beddington Park**.



## WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

### EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION SHEET supporting KS2 History & Science:

**KS2** - a study of... a site that is significant in the locality  
**KS2** - recognise that some mechanisms including... gears, allow a smaller force to have greater effect

### WATER WHEELS AND WATER MILLS

According to the **Domesday Survey** of 1086 there were 13 mills along the River Wandle. These were used for grinding **corn or wheat** for making bread or used in brewing. By medieval times the **fulling of wool and metal working** had been added. In the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, **dyeing works and bleaching** were also found. Then during the 17<sup>th</sup> Century we see a diversity in manufacturing taking place with the establishment of **leather, dye, iron, gunpowder, copper and snuff mills**, and the popular **calico** printing works. More recently came the **flock, paper and parchment** mills.

Due to the fast flowing and reliable nature of the River Wandle, and its clean water, it was very suitable to drive water wheels. Water wheels, as we know them, started to appear during the medieval period. There are three common types of wheel:

by water striking the bottom of the wheel  
by water striking the middle  
by water striking the top

### Types Of Water Wheels

overshot Wheel	Breastshot Wheel	Undershot Wheel
3% Efficient	50% Efficient	20% Efficient

made of wood, but later they were replaced by cast iron, which was the Wandle most of the wheels were undershot or breastshot. There and **Waddon Mills**; overshot wheels were proved to be the most

ery located inside the mill which would be used for **grinding** (e.g. **corn or leather**). Grinding stones were used, and samples can still be seen **all Park!** Later water wheels were used to provide electricity, a process **ower**. Today the water wheel at **Merton Abbey Mills** provides power

## WANDLE INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM

### VAL INFORMATION SHEET supporting KS 1/2 History & Geography:

of... a site that is significant in the locality  
vic geographical vocabulary to refer to rivers  
stand key aspects of... rivers

### THE RIVER WANDLE

rough the London Boroughs of **Croydon, Sutton, Merton** and **ns the River Thames**. It's main sources are from chalk springs **North Downs** around the **Carshalton** and **Croydon** areas, although **dried up**. The existing spring sources can be found in **Carshalton Waddon Ponds** and more recently **Wandle Park**. The river flows **s) falling 58 metres (136 feet) over its length**. As a result it is fast **houring tributaries** such as the **Graveney, Norbury Brook** and **made it very attractive to be used to drive water wheels**. It is no **Wandle** was described as "**the hardest worked river for its size in** **nerous water mills** along it. It also had the reputation of being the **country, frequently used by Lord Nelson** when visiting Merton.

the river is unclear. It is likely that Wandle, and that of **rom Saxon "Wendlesworth"** meaning "Wendle's settlement". The **t the *hilda burnan* or *highbourne* meaning "loud stream"**. The **urrent name is in 1586**.

**aiter** undertook a survey of the Wandle's **hydrology**, studying the **amount of discharge**. He found the discharge rate at **Earlsfield econd (cu ft/s)**. By 1960 this had dropped to only 60 cu ft/s but in **water, and by channel adjustments especially in the Beddington area**.



## Dates for the Diary

**12th May 2018**

### **Merton Heritage Discovery Day**

The museum will once more be at this annual gathering of heritage groups that takes place in Morden Library and Heritage Centre.

**26th May 2018 until 10th June 2018**

### **Wandsworth Heritage Festival**

The museum has two activities this year:

- 3rd June Talk and Workshop: Printing in the Wandle Valley at the museum from 11:30am. Booking required.
- 8th June Talk by Mick Taylor at Earlsfield Library at 6:30pm on the 'Calico People in the Wandle Valley'.

Check out <http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/events> for what else is happening during the festival.

**16th June 2018**

### **New Exhibition Opening**

Our exhibition this year will focus on the Wandle in art and literature.

**8th September 2018**

### **Mitcham Heritage Day**

The museum is once more throwing its doors open from 10am.

Visit <https://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk/> to find out what else is happening that day.

**8th until 23rd September 2018**

### **Wandle Fortnight**

A series of events and activities celebrating the life of the Wandle Valley. <http://www.wandlevalleyforum.org.uk/wandle-fortnight.html> for more.

**16th September 2018**

### **Wandle Trail Celebration**

Events are being planned to celebrate 30 years since the first 'official' walk of the Wandle Trail. More details to follow.

## WALKS



### **Mapping the Mills Walks**

Explore the Industrial Heritage of the River Wandle

**12th April 2018**

Earlsfield Station to the Causeway, Wandsworth

Meet at Earlsfield Station at 10:30am.

**19th April 2018**

Watermeads to Morden Hall Park

Meet at the Watermeads, London Road, Mitcham at 10:30am

**3rd May 2018**

High Street, Carshalton to Hackbridge

Meet outside the Coach and Horses pub, Carshalton High Street at 10:30am.

**10th May 2018**

Morden Hall Park to Colliers Wood

Meet at the Snuff Mills, Morden Hall Park at 10:30am.

All walks should last about one and a half hours. Walks are arranged by The Building Exploratory as part of the Mapping the Mills Project.

For further information and to book please contact Katie Russell

E-mail: [katie@buildingexploratory.org.uk](mailto:katie@buildingexploratory.org.uk)

Tele: 020 7608 0775

### **Merton Historical Society Walk**

**7th June 2018**

The museum will be leading a walk from the Watermeads to Carshalton.

Meet at the Watermeads, London Road, Mitcham at 10:30am

Guests welcome.



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.**



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](mailto:office@wandle.org)

You can find us on:

