



THE RICHMOND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Members' newsletter

Issue 96

September 2017



From Henry Mayhew's *London Labour and the London Poor*, 1886

How the less prosperous lived

Poverty and philanthropy is the subject of a new exhibition at the Museum of Richmond, a RLHS members' talk and a revised and reissued publication, *see page 6*

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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

THE SOCIETY RESUMES its 2017 programme this month with a flurry of activity. We will be taking part in the National Archives' Open Day, competing in the annual Know Your Place quiz and launching a revised edition of an important publication, before resuming our monthly talks in October – all of which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to Alyson Barr, who edited this newsletter for the past 20 years and did, as I am sure you will all agree, a fantastic job. She has now stepped down from the role. She will continue to run the Society booksales at our events for the moment but, ideally, she would like to retire herself from this role, too. If there is anyone who might be interested in taking on this job – it's a great way of meeting other members – please get in touch at the email address on page 11.

With a change in editor, it seems a good time to review what we do in the newsletter. One immediate change is that we will no longer be including reports of past Society talks. We intend to use the newsletter primarily to promote upcoming events. We will still provide synopses of our talks, for anyone that missed them, but these will now be placed on the Society website. We also intend to send out occasional email bulletins between newsletters with updates and news of additional events. However, we have never systematically collected email addresses. If you haven't already given us your email address, can you help us rectify this and send it – our address is on page 11. Thank you.

Andrew Humphreys

RLHS Officers and Committee members

President Paul Velluet

Vice-President Iris Bolton

Chairman (and web editor) Robert Smith

Hon. Secretary Elizabeth Velluet **Hon. Treasurer** Roberta Turner

Committee members Alyson Barr (publication sales), Rose Constantine, Johanna Coombes (membership), Simon Fowler (Vice-Chairman, journal editor), Andrew Humphreys (newsletter), Shirley Newton

Assistants to the Committee Christopher Barclay (membership), Leonard Chave (publishing), Judith Church (copy editing and proofreading), Joan Marsh (copy editing and proofreading), Chris Newport (IT)

The RLHS welcomes its new President

We are delighted to introduce Paul Velluet as the new President of the Richmond Local History Society

Paul has had a long association with Richmond, having been born in East Sheen and brought up in George Street, Richmond. Other than for five years studying on Tyneside, he has lived in Richmond and St Margarets ever since. His interest in local history began in his schooldays at St Paul's when he was a member of the Barnes and Mortlake History Society.

After studying architecture at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and working with the GLC's Department of Architecture and Civic Design and local Richmond practice Manning Clamp + Partners, he qualified as a chartered architect in 1975. Over the years since, he has worked in both private practice and the public sector – primarily involved in historic buildings and new development in historic areas, including ten years as Regional Architect for English Heritage London Region. Since 2005 he has worked as an independent consultant, undertaking research into the history and development of diverse historic buildings and sites, and advising on their alteration, extension and development.

Paul has served as a member of the Executive Committee of The Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, the Board of the Museum of Richmond, and the Executive Committee of The Richmond Society, of which he was Chairman between 1984 and 1988.

Paul was one of our founders in 1975 when we were the Richmond Society Historical and Archaeological Section, and over the years since has delivered talks on many aspects of the local history of Richmond, East Sheen and St Margaret's. In the summer of 1980, he established the Richmond Society's popular series of Heritage Walks.



A local historian since school-boy days, our new Society president Paul Velluet



Jane Baxter, guardian and gatekeeper of the Local Studies Collection

Just ask Jane

For more than 30 years, Jane Baxter has been fielding queries and keeping up with the cataloguing at the Local Studies Collection

Most of our members will, I am sure, already know Jane Baxter, Local Studies Manager for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. She has been involved with the borough's Local Studies Collection since 1985 – the same year, incidentally, the RLHS was founded as an entity distinct from the Richmond Society. Back then, when she applied for the job, Jane was working in Lancaster, not far from her native Morecambe. She thought if her application was successful she would move south just for a couple of years. Over three decades later she is still here.

Maybe that is, in part, due to the wealth of fascinating material contained in the collection, which was begun in 1893 by librarian Albert Barkas. It now stretches to over 17,000 books and pamphlets, a similar number of photographs, 4,000 prints, watercolours and engravings,

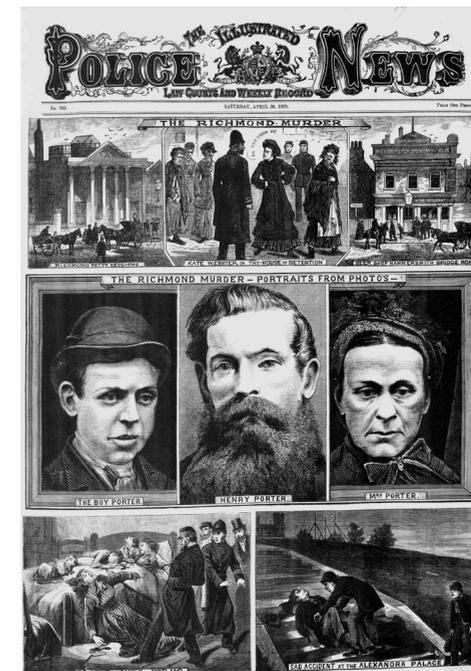
and a similar number of maps. It continues to grow as more donations are made. In recent years the collection has benefitted from the bequests of several notable local historians such as former RLHS chairman and president John Cloake.

Cataloguing has to be fitted around the other duties performed by Jane and her team, the most important of which is dealing with enquiries from the public. Many of these come from individuals researching family history or the background to buildings (including looking for evidence in boundary disputes), and there is a notable interest in sport in the borough, but Jane says no two days are ever the same. As an example, she mentions the time a few years ago when workmen discovered a human skull while they were building an extension to David Attenborough's house, and Jane was asked by the CID to help locate the burial site of the victim in the infamous 1879 Park Road murder.

Another important part of Jane and her team's work is promoting the Local Studies Collection in the wider community. This notably involves going out to schools to talk local history with the children and organising the annual Know Your Place heritage festival, which takes place again this September. Highlights in this, the fifth edition of the festival, include a talk by author and historian Tracy Borman exploring the relationships that Elizabeth I had with the women who influenced her most, a beginner's guide to researching your house and a guided tour of the Poppy Factory. For more information, visit www.richmond.gov.uk/know_your_place.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Jane Baxter will be talking about the Local Studies Collection on Monday 11 December 2017, prior to the Society's Christmas party.



A copy of *The Illustrated London Police News* held in the Local Studies Collection from 1879, featuring the Park Road murder

Poverty in Richmond

Simon Fowler looks at three events – and a revised and reissued publication – that may transform your view of the town’s history this autumn.

Traditionally Richmond’s history has concentrated on the royals, aristocrats and the prosperous middle class. Although important they undoubtedly were to the town’s past and to the local economy, they were only a small proportion of the population. Most people were of the middling sort – tradesmen, market gardeners and boatmen for the most part. But at the bottom of the social ladder – even here in prosperous Richmond – were the men, women and their families who could not make ends meet, who were either in temporary difficulties or were unable or unwilling to look after themselves, those people known as paupers. At long last these people’s stories are beginning to be told.

From 23 September until next April, the Museum of Richmond’s exhibition ‘Poverty in Richmond’ will focus attention on those who slipped into poverty and the aid provided by local institutions from



A corner of Hickey’s almshouses on Sheen Road, built in 1834

Tudor times up to the present day. As Rebecca Arnott, the Museum’s new curator says, ‘Over centuries, the motivation and aims of these organisations have changed but Richmond’s philanthropic nature continues with the charities working today.’

Coinciding with the exhibition, Richmond’s Know Your Place Festival is organising a walk around the town’s almshouses on the morning of Saturday 9 September, with talks by Tony Adler and myself on their histories in the afternoon. The almshouses, most of which date from the 17th and 18th centuries, are some of the oldest and least known buildings in the town. They continue, as they have always, to provide sheltered accommodation for a small number of elderly people.

Also in September, Richmond Local History Society will be publishing a new edition of my *Poverty and Philanthropy in Victorian Richmond*, which was first published as long ago as 1991. I have taken the opportunity to revise – and in various places expand – the text, particularly taking the story back a bit to the 18th century and roughly up to the period between the two world wars. The new book includes more about the almshouses and has a section on vagrants, who have a special place in the town’s history.

Finally, I will be talking about the problem of poverty in Richmond, and where in the town it was to be found, at the Society’s meeting on Monday 9 October. It won’t be an evening for the squeamish.

FURTHER INFORMATION

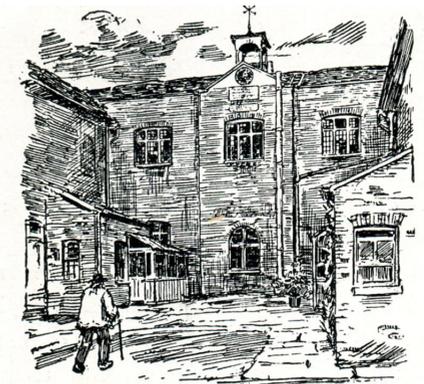
Museum of Richmond, Old Town Hall, Whittaker Avenue, Richmond; 020 8332 1141, www.museumofrichmond.com. Admission free

Know Your Place Heritage Festival

www.richmond.gov.uk/know_your_place

The almshouse tour meets at 11am, Saturday 9 September at St Mary Magdalene’s Church (cost £5). The talks are at 2pm at the Old Town Hall (£3 in advance; £4 on the door)

Richmond Local History Society Simon’s talk takes place at Duke Street Church at 8pm on Monday 9 October. Free to members



Richmond Workhouse



Before Twickenham, the Richmond Athletic Ground was the epicentre of English rugby. The 1886 club pavilion has been listed Grade II

Played in Richmond

Simon Inglis previews his November sporting talk

In the days when ‘sport’ signified hunting rather than ‘games’, the Old Deer Park was a favourite of Henry VI, before James I (a keen sportsman himself) expanded it to over 360 acres. In 1666, Sir Robert Paston mentioned in a letter to his wife that he had just met one of the king’s attendants, ‘who says he saw your son very well engaged in a game of cricquett on Richmond Green.’ Since then, between them, the Green and the Old Deer Park have formed one of the most significant sporting clusters in the London area, not only for cricket but rugby, archery, tennis and golf.

Sport, as I have often said, has long been treated as a marginal area of study by historians. ‘A bit of fun.’ But you do not have to be in the slightest bit ‘sporty’ to appreciate how much its history and heritage have helped to shape our modern environment and identity. Or that sport’s development tells us a great about how society has evolved.

We may no longer hunt deer, but Richmond remains very much a playground for the great metropolis beyond.

Simon’s talk is at 8pm Monday 13 November at Duke Street Church

The Hearsum Collection

Following the great success of last year’s event, Daniel Hearsum has again invited the borough’s local history organisations to celebrate together our shared heritage at the Belvedere, Pembroke Lodge in Richmond Park. It takes place **Sunday 5 November**. There will be short talks on aspects of the history of Richmond Park and a chance to view publications and artefacts.

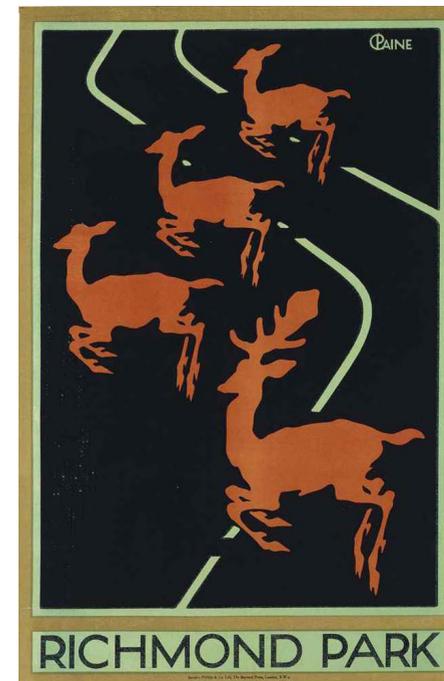
For those who don’t know the Hearsum Collection, it is the most extensive archive anywhere of items relating to the history of Richmond Park. The material includes some 5,000 items covering over 400 years of history, from a map of 1610 showing the area before enclosure by Charles I, to press cuttings covering the second half of the 20th century.

Participants in the event will be our society, the Hearsum Collection, Barnes & Mortlake Society, Borough of Twickenham Local History Society, Richmond Archaeological Society and the Museum of Richmond. The doors open at 1.30pm, and afternoon tea will be served from 1.30 to 3pm.

The event is free but numbers are restricted and limited to Society members only. Please apply as soon as possible to Elizabeth Velluet by email rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk or by phone 020 8891 3825. Please note that the closing date for applications is Monday 23 October.

West London Local History Conference

Next year’s local history conference will be on the theme of ‘West London in World War I’ and it will be held once more at the University of West London on **Saturday 24 March 2018**. Further details will be available later. Tickets will be for sale at our meetings and by post.



Richmond Park by Charles Paine (1895–1967)

RLHS NEWS & EVENTS

Open day at the National Archives

The National Archives in Kew is taking part in London Open House by holding an open day on **Saturday 16 September**. The event, from 10am to 4.30pm, marks the National Archives' 40 years at its Kew site. The Society will have a bookstall and our president, Paul Velluet, and our vice-chair, Simon Fowler, will be giving talks. Tickets, which are free, can be booked in advance through the Society or National Archives websites.

Special offer The bookshop at the National Archives is generously offering members of the Society a 10% discount on all purchases. You can buy online at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/bookshop – just enter the code LOCAL-RLHS17 in the discount box at checkout. Or quote the code at the till to receive your discount if you are visiting the shop in person. The National Archives Bookshop is open 9am-5pm Tuesday to Saturday.

LAMAS 52nd Conference

This year's London and Middlesex Archaeological Society annual conference, which takes place on **Saturday 18 November**, is on the theme 'Pastimes in Times Past: Entertainment in London'. It will be held in the Museum of London, 10.30am-5.30pm. Further details on the programme, including how to buy tickets, can be found at www.lamas.org.uk.

Richmond History indexed online

Our free online index to articles in *Richmond History* has been extended and updated. It now covers all issues up to and including our current issue, *Richmond History* 38. To read or download it, go to: www.richmondhistory.org.uk/wordpress/journal/index
A printed copy – for reference only – will be available at our bookstalls.

Volunteering opportunities

The Society is run by unpaid volunteers. We're rather thin on the ground and we'd like some additional people on board (they don't necessarily have to be on the committee) to spread the workload and help secure the Society's long-term future. If you're interested in volunteering occasionally or on a more regular basis, please contact our Secretary, Elizabeth Velluet, details on the previous page.

RLHS MEMBERSHIP

We wish to thank all those who have paid their membership subscriptions for 2017. Your support of the Society is much appreciated. The 2018 subscriptions fall due in January; reminders for those who pay by cheque will be sent with the January newsletter. If you have any queries about membership or methods of payment, please contact the Membership Secretary: Johanna Coombes, 10 Courtlands Avenue, Hampton TW12 3NT (020 8979 9670)

Subscriptions: single £12, double £20

Members are entitled to free admission to the talks, the opportunity to join RLHS visits, discounts on our publications and three newsletters a year.

In recent months we were at Richmond's May Fair, and also at the Ham Fair and Kew Fete. Our thanks to everyone who helped on our stands, and a very warm welcome to the 36 new members that have joined us:

Mrs B Barward, Mrs C Biggart, Mr & Mrs R Brill, Ms M Byles, Mr & Mrs S Cockell, Mr A Crane, Mr R Crompton, Mr & Mrs N de Laurens Castelet, Ms S Exellby, Mrs V Fison, Ms E Garton, Mr R Gore & Mrs S Cook, Mrs Y Howie, Mr P Hurley, Mrs S Kogan, Fr S Langdridge, Mr & Mrs M Leach, Mr & Mrs K Lucas, Ms L Mahoney, Mr C McAfee, Mr & Mrs R McKibbin, Mr J Pemberton, Mr D Poole, Mr J Ricketts, Mr A Siddall, Dr M Thomas, Mrs M Vinograd, Mrs B Claus Widick, and Mrs J Wildgoose

You can keep up to date with the Society's activities by visiting our website and following our updates on Facebook and Twitter.

Website www.richmondhistory.org.uk

Soundcloud richmond-history-society

Facebook RichmondLocalHistorySociety

Twitter @RLHS1985

Email rich.hist@yahoo.co.uk

EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event
1–29 Sep 2017	Know Your Place: a celebration of the heritage of Richmond upon Thames
Sat 16 Sep	Open House at the National Archives, Kew
23 Sep–21 Apr 2018	Poverty exhibition at the Museum of Richmond
Mon 9 Oct 2017	Talk by Simon Fowler on Victorian poverty
Mon 13 Nov 2017	Talk by Simon Inglis: 'Played in Richmond' on sport and recreation since 1666
Mon 11 Dec 2017	Talk by Jane Baxter: 'My Thirty Years in Local Studies'. Followed by seasonal party
Mon 15 Jan 2018	Talk by Valerie Boyes: 'Monuments and Memorials at St Mary Magdalene's'
Mon 12 Feb 2018	Talk by Val Bott: 'The Greenings of Brentford End: Royal Gardeners'. Joint event with the Kew Society
Mon 12 Mar 2018	Talk by Michael Gaunt: 'Edmund Kean (1787–1833), Shakespearean actor and Richmond theatre manager'
Sat 24 Mar 2018	West London Local History Conference at the University of West London, Brentford: 'The Impact of WWI on West London'
Mon 16 Apr 2018	Talk by Bob Shoemaker: 'Tracing Convict Lives Using the Digital Panopticon, 1780–1925'
Mon 21 May 2018	AGM + short talks on current research, followed by drinks and nibbles
Mon 8 Oct 2018	Talk: to be announced
Mon 12 Nov 2018	Talk by John Drewry: 'Time to Thank Them – the story of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD)'
Mon 10 Dec 2018	Talk: To be announced. Followed by seasonal party

Unless stated otherwise all talks and events take place at the Duke Street Church, Duke Street, Richmond and begin at 8pm.

For the latest updates on the Society's talks and events programme please visit our website at www.richmondhistory.org.uk