

## **Talks**

We are able to offer a number of talks. These are given free of charge however we do welcome donations. The range of talks includes:

### **The Wandle Portrayed in Art and Literature**

This illustrated talk looks at how artists and writers have been inspired to paint and write about the River Wandle. Looking back over the centuries it brings us up to date on how people today are still captured by the beauty of the Wandle Valley. The talk includes items from our archive and collections.

### **People and Families of the Wandle Valley**

The River Wandle has long been an attraction to individuals and their families. Some have come to work and have their business on the banks of the river others have decided to live by the river. This talk tells the story of some famous names and those lesser known people who have lived and worked in the Wandle Valley.

### **Mills of the River Wandle**

This is an illustrated talk about the mills and industries that used the River Wandle. With around 50 mills and a number of different industries the talk covers over 400 years of history.

### **Lavender Industries of Mitcham**

This is an illustrated talk looking at the lavender industry that was a massive part of Mitcham a hundred years ago. Lavender covered a large part of Mitcham extending into Carshalton.

### **Brewing along the Wandle Valley**

This talk looks at the brewing industry of the Wandle Valley. While Young's is the best known name associated with the Wandle there were many other brewers some which still exist today.

### **Surrey Iron Railway**

This is an opportunity to learn about the country's first public railway. Discover the history of this horse drawn railway and how today you can still trace its route.

### **Merton Priory**

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

### **Ghost Trains of Merton**

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

### **William Morris**

During his lifetime, William Morris was a renowned artist, textile designer, poet, novelist, translator and Socialist pioneer. You can discover more about his life and work from this illustrated talk.

### **Merton Abbey Mills**

With a history that goes back to the early 1700s you will learn about its textile printing past, how it became a hub of fashion for Liberty's of London and how it is used today.

### **The Calico People**

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