

## DATES&amp;DATA

Stop press! The Borough of Twickenham Local History Society has rescheduled the February 2 talk which was postponed because of the weather. Venue is St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street. Secretary Ron Knight 020 8878 7041. Visit [www.botlhs.co.uk](http://www.botlhs.co.uk) Brett Dolman of Historic Royal Palaces will now be welcomed on Monday February 23 with an introduction to The Young Henry VIII.

Life at the National Archives: Mark Pearsall explains to members of the Richmond Society why local and national archives are key to preserving our nation's heritage at 7.45pm on Thursday February 19. Coffee is served from 7.30pm at the Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond (next to multi-storey car park) Free for Richmond Society members, non-members welcome for £1 donation. Information 020 8948 0643 [www.richmond-society.co.uk](http://www.richmond-society.co.uk)

First Richmond Scout Group have planned a host of events to celebrate their centenary in 2009. They would like to invite past members to their reunion in June 2009. Please contact Natalie Nesbitt on 07946 351 189 or email to [firstrichmondscouts@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:firstrichmondscouts@yahoo.co.uk).

The Barnes and Mortlake History Society lectures begin at 8pm at the Sheen Lane Centre, 74 Sheen Lane, East Sheen. Secretary Helen Deaton 020 8878 4071. Visitors welcome £2. Society publications and cards will be on sale. February 19: The princess and the brewer - their duel for Richmond Park by Max Lankester.

The West Middlesex Family History Society meets in the Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, 7.15pm open, talk at 8pm on the third Thursday of each month. Society membership and information Yvonne Masson, 65 St Margarets Grove, Twickenham. TW1 1JF, visit [www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk](http://www.west-middlesex-fhs.org.uk) February 19: A History of Fishing in Chiswick by James Wisdom.

The 29th West London Local History Conference looks at People in West London History. Venue is the Montague Hall, Montague Road, Hounslow, 10am on Saturday March 21. Tickets £7.50, available only in advance by post from J McNamara, 31B Brook Road South, Brentford TW8 0NN or from the sponsoring societies. Please send SAE and cheque payable to West London Local History Conference.

# Caring for the bereaved since 1959

This year, Cruse Bereavement Care will celebrate its 50th anniversary and would like to hear from anyone who received help back in the early days of 1959 and 1960.

The pioneering organisation, founded by a Richmond social worker to support widows and their children and run from her home, now has 134 branches and more than 5,500 volunteers.

Broadened over the years to embrace any person who has lost a loved one, Cruse is contacted each year by more than 80,000 men, women and children.

The services are freely available and rely on donations. The charity also offers information, advice, education and training services and has helped secure benefits for widows.

Events marking the golden jubilee include the launch of a new Golden Jubilee Appeal Grief Relief, entitled Restoring Hope.

Nick Clarke, PR and events officer said: "As we have remained in Richmond since 1959 it would be an opportunity for those who we first helped to show how Restoring Hope helped them. They would be an inspiration to those who have just become bereaved".

One person will be invited to a reception in London on April 22 along with a companion.

So if you sought the help of Cruse in those early days and would like to share your experiences, contact Nick Clarke at [nick.clarke11@cruse.org.uk](mailto:nick.clarke11@cruse.org.uk), telephone 020 8939 9547, address PO Box 800, Richmond, TW9 1RG.

Richmond Shakespeare Society, is supporting Cruse on the first night of its performance of Macbeth at the Mary Wallace Theatre on Twickenham Embankment on Saturday February 28.



A 47 year old married woman with two children, started Clubs for Widows in 1959 from her home at Charter House, Lion Gate, Richmond, pictured below that year.

She was Margaret Torrie and in October of that year Cruse Clubs Counselling Service for Widows and their Families was registered as a charity. The name Cruse is a Biblical reference meaning a widow's cruse, or jar of oil, which never ran out.

Margaret received encouragement in her mission "to build beyond words and even beyond grief" from her husband Alfred, a Quaker and psychotherapist and over the years her work and her writing helped to shape positive attitudes to women.

Cruse has moved premises twice, first in 1974 to its long term home at 126 Sheen Road, Richmond and then finally to Victoria Villas in 2007.

Alfred served as chairman until his death in 1972.

Margaret was awarded the MBE in 1976, the year she retired. She died at the age of 87 in 1999 leaving her daughter (her son died in 1988) and two grandchildren and a thanksgiving service for her life and work was held in St Paul's Cathedral.

In 1984 The Queen became patron of Cruse, making for a double celebration in the charity's silver jubilee year.



## 'It can be tough living in Whitton - but someone has got to do it!'



The tongue in cheek quote of our headline was from a rousing defence of his town by Whitton local historian Ed Harris on our letters pages last week. Among the myriad attractions that he listed, Ed could have included the first Whitton calendar which he helped to compile, along with Vic Rosewarne, Martin Fenton and Twickenham Museum. The scenes of Whitton down the years includes these two which accompany the months of January and February. The images are both included in Twickenham, Teddington & Hampton by Mike Cherry, Ken Howe and John Shaef. Above, the Old Smithy is picture in around 1912. This had been a blacksmith's since at least the 18th century. It was run by the Stops family from 1910 to 1922 and then was converted into a garage which it remains. Below, the Old Whitton Post Office, Kneller Road, opposite the White Hart in 1905. Run by the Allenson family from 1846 to 1895, it was later owned by the Vanner family. The house was knocked down in the 1920s and the site became a scrapyards.



## From our picture files 1984



Rocky, Dumbo, Time Bandits, Pink Panther and 101 Dalmatians got their cum-uppance from Richmond general purposes committee chairman John Waller 25 years ago. Even Airplane found itself permanently grounded under the vibrating roller at Craneford Way depot in Twickenham. But nobody was injured. Star Wars and the rest were some of the pirate video found by the council's trading standards section at a number of stores in the borough. More than 40 shops were visited by trading standards officers. In many cases the counterfeit tapes found were a small percentage of the shopkeepers' stock and the council took no action. The level of piracy had fallen nationally in the previous few months and the borough was keen to demonstrate that it was playing its part in helping to stamp out the illegal trade. Cllr Waller said he had a smashing time running the roller over more than 270 of the tapes.

## 10 YEARS AGO

A Barnes newsgiant held at knife point in an armed raid fought off his attacker with chocolate creme centred eggs. Mr Patel, 58, who is on kidney dialysis, pelted the six foot robber with the sweets after refusing to empty the till.

A massive hole caused chaos on the busy Kingston Road, Teddington when two sewers collapsed at the same time.

National school exam results show that Richmond pupils are top of the class. Primary schools across the borough ranked among the best in the country in reading, writing and mathematics. Almost 90 per cent of seven-year-olds passed Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) last summer and 80 per cent of 11-year-olds made the grade.

## 25 YEARS AGO

The head of Richmond Community Centre accused the local authority of a "Big Brother" takeover of her organisation. "They want to destroy us. It's very sad", said Mrs Freda McNae. More than 40 organisations use the premises, but the building, adjacent to the clock tower on the Sheen Road, is due to be demolished to make way for the Princes Street redevelopment of a supermarket, overhead parking and offices.

The 20 years Crown lease of Sudbrook Cottage, the home of the late Beverley Nichols has been sold for "well in excess" of £100,000. The low built period house by Ham Common was the author and journalist's home for the last 25 years of his life. He created the beautiful half acre garden which remains as an eloquent memorial to him.

## 50 YEARS AGO

An eight-year-old boy escaped from West Middlesex Hospital in his pyjamas and walked back to his home late last Sunday night. Michael Ives, from Grosvenor Road, Twickenham was taken to hospital by ambulance during the afternoon for an operation on his ears. The boy was in tears as he was driven away from his home, and his parents did not expect to see him again until they visited the hospital on Monday. Shortly after 11pm Mrs Ives went to answer a knock at her door and Michael greeted her: "Its me mum". Michael was promptly returned to hospital. A spokesman at the hospital claimed to know nothing about Michael's walk-out.

## 100 YEARS AGO

The question of the residence in Richmond of council employees came up on the point of an appointment of foreman for the clearance works at Artichoke Alley. Coun Pierrepoint did not approve of the appointment of a Mr Bennett because he lived at Teddington and had not been an "unemployed" previous to his appointment.

The subject of filtering Peter-sham Well water was adjourned for another month.

Do you have local memories and old pictures to share with our readers? Do you have a reunion coming up? Is your organisation celebrating an anniversary? Are you trying to trace someone? Contact Gail Hébert on 020 8744 4275 or write to her at the Richmond and Twickenham Times, Second floor, Allied House, 29-39 London Road, Twickenham. TW1 3SZ, email: [ghebert@london.newsquest.co.uk](mailto:ghebert@london.newsquest.co.uk) including a telephone number if possible.