

Yr 3 History: History of the Local Area

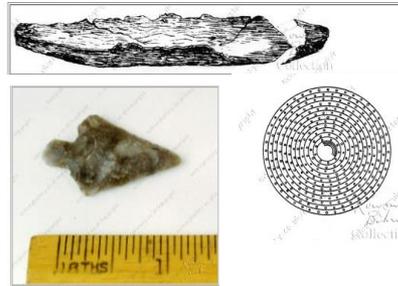


Molesey – in the beginning

Why did people first settle in Molesey?

- High land
- Rivers
- Fertile Soil

The River Thames and the River Mole were important for communication and travel. Relics which pre-Iron Age Man left in the area have been dredged from the beds of rivers in Molesey.



Molesey in Victorian Times

The most crucial date in the whole of Molesey's history was the 2nd February 1849, for on that date Hampton Court station was opened. It brought more daily visitors to Molesey and put Molesey on the map as a commuter town.

Hurst Park Racecourse was a racecourse at Molesey Hurst which was constructed in 1890.



Molesey in Medieval Times

After William the Conqueror won the Battle of Hastings in **1066**, he marched his followers towards London but, not wishing to go straight to London for a battle he pushed his warriors on through Surrey. They went through the Molesey countryside and The Saxon owners had their lands taken from them. The land was given to the Normans as a reward for helping William win the battle. Molesey was given to two knights, Richard Fitzgilbert and Odard Balastarius, in return for serving the King.



Molesey in the 20th Century

In 1968, Molesey and surrounding districts, experienced devastating floods. Thousands of people were affected, and in Molesey alone approximately 6,000 properties were flooded.



Molesey in Tudor Times

In **1514** Thomas Wolsey decided to build Hampton Court Palace right on Molesey's doorstep. The Cardinal decided to gift the Palace to King Henry VIII. It became Henry's favourite home.

Henry secured Acts from Parliament which allowed him to acquire all the surrounding lands for a hunting ground including the Molesey manors. The Hampton Court Chase, as the park was called, stretched as far as Weybridge and Byfleet.

