

44th West London Local History Conference

THREADS THROUGH TIME
Textiles and clothing in the history
of South & West London

Saturday 5 April 2025



Jennifer Wearden on Mortlake Tapestries

Vicky McGrath on inventing viscose in Kew

Annie Greene on dressmakers of Ealing

Mary Schoeser on Joyce Clissold & the Footprints Studio

James Marshall on the Rag Trade in Hounslow

Siobhan Clarke on Tudor dress

A one-day conference at
Duke Street Church, Duke Street, Richmond

Tickets £15.00 on sale at

www.ticketsource.co.uk/west-london-local-history-conference

Conference sponsored by the local history societies for Acton, Barnes & Mortlake,
Brentford & Chiswick, Fulham & Hammersmith, Hounslow, Richmond,
Twickenham, Wandsworth *and* the West Middlesex Family History Society

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PROGRAMME for 5 April 2025

- 9.30 **Doors open** to admit participants – societies' stalls will be open for browsing
- 9.45 **Welcome & house-keeping**
Annie Greene, Conference Chair
- 9.55 **Mortlake Tapestries**
Jennifer Wearden, former Senior Curator of Textiles at the V&A, on the technique of tapestry-weaving and history of the Mortlake Tapestry Works 1620-1703
- 10.30 **COFFEE & BOOKSTALLS**
- 11.00 **Artificial Silk – from Kew to the World**
Vicky McGrath, Learning & Audience Development Officer, Museum of Richmond, on a late 19th century invention which became 20th century big business
- 11.35 **Joyce Clissold & the Footprints Studio in Hammersmith & Brentford**
Mary Schoeser, textile historian and curator, presenting the work of an inventive producer of textiles and clothing 1925-c1980
- 12.15 **LUNCH**
- 1.30 **Welcome to the afternoon session**
- 1.35 **Readings on the conference theme**
Accounts of aspects of our conference theme, some from contemporary sources, read by members of the conference steering group
- 2.10 **Behind the Sequins: the dressmakers of Ealing**
Annie Greene, West Middlesex Family History Society, taking a brief look at the sometimes grim reality of the fashion trade
- 2.40 **TEA & BOOKSTALLS**
- 3.10 **The Rag Trade in a Middlesex Town, 1890-1910**
James Marshall, Hounslow & District History Society, describing some Victorian and Edwardian businesses in Hounslow High Street
- 3.40 **Dress, Dazzle & Display: Tudor dress as a political, social & economic tool**
Siobhan Clarke, guide lecturer with Historic Royal Palaces, presenting the rich clothing worn by royals and courtiers in the reign of the Tudors
- 4.30 **Thanks and summary** of the day's proceedings as the **Conference ends**

Duke Street is 5 minutes' walk from Richmond Station which is served by the District Line, London Overground and South West Trains from Waterloo as well as the Windsor, Wimbledon and Reading lines.

Buses 33, 65, 110, 190, 337, 371, 419, 490, 493, H37 and R70 serve The Quadrant and George Street. Nearest car park: The Old Deer Park, NCP car park Richmond Station and limited parking around The Green.

Richmond has many cafés and sandwich outlets for lunch, all within a five-minute walk.