

# Resources for Research

## Local Newspapers

In the late 19th and for most the 20th century, two weekly local newspapers provided what today we would find on the internet: reports of events in the area, war casualties and obituaries, court reports, the programmes of local theatres and cinemas, as well as advertisements for goods and services provided by local businesses. The issue of the *Herald* for 29 June 1894 featured the birth of a son to the Duchess of York – the future Edward VIII – at White Lodge in Richmond Park, reporting in great detail the congratulatory messages from local bodies such as the Barnes Local Board and Mortlake Working Men’s Club. Then in May 1926 we learn about the effect of the General Strike in the area including the report of the trial of a striking bus driver accused of using insulting words (see page 10).

## Richmond and Twickenham Times

The Local Studies Library in Richmond holds copies of the *Richmond Herald* from 1885 to 1993 and the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* from 1873 to 2010 as well as other newspapers of more recent vintage or shorter duration. Copies of these papers were put onto microfiche several decades ago which means they lack the flexibility and convenience of more modern digital archives. There is a spool of film for each year that can be viewed on a microfiche reader; one has to scroll through to find a particular issue. There is no index; so they are mainly useful for looking up an event with a known date. However, a read through any edition provides insights into an earlier time. Advertisements invariably give a feel for how different things were in the past, and the wealth of information is fascinating: the train fare from Mortlake to Richmond in 1894 was 4d in 1st class, 3d in 2nd, and ½d in 3rd.

Anyone interested in a particular event or subject, for which the precise date is not known, should search the card index catalogue for any relevant hard-copy cuttings. Alternatively, the collected cuttings from 1964 to 1983 compiled by Brian Edwards and Mike Smith, available in Local Studies, include many gems from a time when local papers regularly featured items of local history.

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