

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society
incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 3 No 3 Autumn 2013



Community pride and resistance

A treasure trove of local activism found in a dusty loft shows the story of determined campaigners who worked to protect their homes and celebrate their community

Manor Gardens marks centenary with a healthcare pioneer's plaque ● The Cally carbuncle ● Heritage buses go back on the road ● An authoritarian communist's time in Islington ● Industrial grandeur meets postwar optimism on a housing estate ● An icy history ● Cooking like a Roman ● The Holloway cheesecake ● Books and reviews ● News and events

About the society

What we do

The society arranges events including lectures, walks, book launches and outings about the archaeology and history of Islington.

We liaise with the council and others in matters of planning and development to record and protect Islington's sites that are of archaeological and historical importance.

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks can be arranged for groups.

Why archaeology?

Archaeology is not just about what is buried; it includes structures and fragments that still exist, and people who have lived, worked and died in them.

We are here to investigate, learn about and celebrate what is left to us.

Our website

Go to www.iahs.org.uk to find out more.

Memories, reviews, old photographs, ideas sought... contribute to this journal

We welcome articles on local history, memories and research.

One page takes about 500 words, and maximum article length is 1,000 words. We like receiving pictures, but please check that we can reproduce them without infringing anyone's copyright.

The journal is published in print and online in pdf form.

Deadline for the winter issue is 1 November.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history, streets or buildings? Send them in for our tireless

researcher Michael Reading – and maybe other readers – to answer. Please note that we do not carry out family research.

● See Letters, page 6

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Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

Islington Archaeology & History Society committee

President
Rt Hon Lord Smith
of Finsbury

Vice president
Mary Cosh

Chairman
Andrew Gardner
andy@iahs.org.uk

Secretary
Peter Fuller
fuller73@freeola.com

Membership and events
Catherine Brighty
8 Wynyatt Street
London EC1V 7HU
020 7833 1541

Treasurer
Philip Anderson
phlpandrsn6@btopenworld.com

Committee members
Kathleen Frenchman
Michael Harper
Derek Seeley

Academic adviser
Lester Hillman, former
visiting professor, London
Metropolitan Business
School, London
Metropolitan University

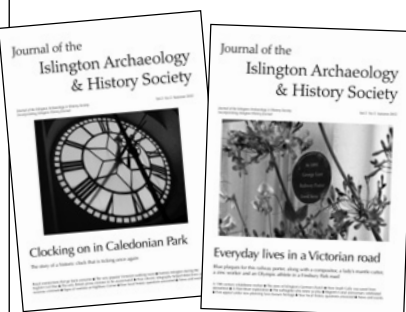
Journal editor
Christy Lawrance
news@iahs.org.uk
c/o 6 Northview
Tufnell Park Road
London N7 0QB

*The Journal of the Islington
Archaeology & History Society*
is published four times a year

ISSN 2046-8245

Printed by PrintSet,
15 Palmer Place, London,
N7 8DH, www.printset.co.uk

Journal back issues and extra copies



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Membership per year is: £10 single; £12 joint at same address; concessions £6; joint concessions £8; corporate £15. (Membership renewals are sent out when due.)

Name(s)

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Tel no/email (if we need to contact you)

I/We would like single/joint/concession/joint concession/corporate membership, and enclose a cheque payable to "Islington Archaeology & History Society" for

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Local attention, not distant decisions

We don't live in museums, and buildings are adapted as lifestyles change. We might live in a Victorian property but we don't have to tolerate Victorian plumbing or light fires on winter mornings. A grand house with room for servants may now have a row of bells next to its front door. Former factories contain upmarket flats.

As the *Journal* went to press, Islington's architecture was hitting the headlines in the national press – for the wrong reasons.

A student housing scheme with a retained Victorian facade has reached the finals of a competition to find Britain's ugliest new building (page 10). There is no sensitive adaptation here.

Rightly, the council had rejected this monstrosity but its decision was overturned by the central government Planning Inspectorate.

It is rumoured that inspectors are under growing pressure to overturn councils' planning decisions, so developers are appealing routinely.

Islington's councillors want the law changed so appeals can only be made when the council has broken rules, such as disregarding evidence or policy.

It is only right that planning appeals are brought into line with the rules on appeals in the rest of the legal system.

Decisions should not be so easily overruled by a distant, national body that can ignore local views. Islington's policy – such as that on keeping pubs – has recently been brushed aside by inspectors. An appeal system is needed but this is not how it should work.

After all, it's the people who live here who have to live alongside the results.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

Cemetery friends take over the lodge

The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery have taken over the lodge by the main gate for their activities, the *East London History Society Newsletter* has reported.

● Volunteers are sought to record memorials and search records at Islington and St Pancras Cemetery. Contact Richard Baldwin at Richard.Baldwin@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 8804 on Wednesday-Friday.

Old War Office put up for sale

The Old War Office building in Whitehall is to be sold on the open market. Built in 1902, it was a centre of military planning during 20th century conflicts, housing secretaries of state including Sir Winston Churchill. A government statement said it was "expected to attract significant interest from developers".

Former banker chairs English Heritage

English Heritage has a new chair, Sir Laurie Magnus. A former investment banker, he is deputy chairman of the National Trust and a trustee of the Landmark Trust. He replaces Baroness Kay Andrews.

Developer pledges cash for blue plaques

English Heritage's blue plaque scheme has been restarted after a property developer David Pearl pledged £80,000 to it. The scheme was suspended after the government cut English Heritage's budget.

Butchery of Smithfield market looms

SAVE Britain's Heritage has called on communities secretary Eric Pickles to call in for a public inquiry an application to redevelop Smithfield market.

The City of London gave consent in July for a £160m office scheme that would include partial demolition of the market and the destruction of its interior.

The City's planning committee voted 19-2 to allow the £160m project by Henderson Global Investors.

SAVE Britain's Heritage said most of the building would be destroyed, and that there was evidence it had been deliberately neglected.

The City received over 250 objections to the plans, including one from Islington Council. Nearly 3,000 people signed a petition against it.

Numerous heritage organisations, including the Victorian Society, have opposed the scheme.

However, English Heritage has backed it, saying it "unites long-term sustainable restoration with the re-use of the Smithfield Western Market Buildings" and that it replaced a proposal for "a



Smithfield: permission has been given for its redevelopment

substantially larger scheme [that] would have resulted in a much more substantial loss of historic buildings".

Yet it admitted the "scale and height of the new office floors will result in moderate harm to the conservation area in certain views".

Islington Council is concerned about the effects on the Charterhouse Square conservation area, and is seeking to have the area put on English Heritage's at risk register.

A public inquiry in 2007-08 said the City should put the redevelopment out to tender so conservation-led schemes could be put forward.

SAVE Britain's Heritage

said the inquiry findings had been applied incorrectly.

However, the City said tendering was not necessary, as Henderson's plans would not cause "substantial harm".

Eric Reynolds, who set up Camden and Spitalfields markets, said he could run a viable market in the building.

Marcus Binney, president of SAVE, said: "It is contested by substantial parties on both sides and there are many important issues that can only be properly examined, tested and weighed in the open forum of a public inquiry."

● Sign the petition to call for a public inquiry at <http://tinyurl.com/kzbsklz>



Bright Hastings day: the Market Cross (above), a tour of the old town and two museums – the Fishermen's Museum and the Shipwreck Museum – were on offer at the society's trip to Hastings. The visit took place in August, to coincide with the Old Town Carnival.

Victorian garden to become public again

A 19th century garden on Seward Street, Finsbury, is to be reopened to the public after being off limits for more than half a century.

The park had been leased to a local private school.

Local activist Leo Chapman obtained a copy of the lease, and saw a break clause allowed the council to end the lease after five years if it gave six months' notice.

"I asked the council to do just that. It did," he said.

Works are needed to the garden before it opens.

Call for more heritage honours

Nominations for recognition for services to heritage in the 2014 Queen's birthday honours list are being sought, particularly women and black and ethnic minorities. The deadline is Friday 20 September 2013.

• <http://tinyurl.com/blgocpe>

100 pubs now 'community assets'

A hundred pubs have been listed as community assets under the Localism Act in just four months, according to government figures. The community right to buy gives local people six months to bid to purchase a pub for themselves if it is placed on the market.

BBC archaeology archive put online

The BBC's first archaeology TV programmes dating back to the 1950s can be watched online in full.

• <http://ow.ly/kDE4u>

Admiralty Arch to become hotel

The grade I listed Admiralty Arch is set to be converted into a five star hotel with 100 bedrooms and suites. Two new basements will hold a ballroom, a spa, gym and a swimming pool. The hotel is due to be completed by 2016.

Railway signal boxes granted listed status

Twenty-six signal boxes have been given grade II listing as a result of a joint English Heritage and Network Rail project. They date from the 1870s to the 1920s and many retain their original operating equipment. One is in London, in Liverpool Street.

Four hundred years of fresh water – and more Islington anniversaries

This autumn marks 400 years since the New River Head brought fresh drinking water to London.

The New River, completed by Sir Hugh Myddelton, started in Amwell in Hertfordshire and terminated at Clerkenwell. It was officially opened on 29 September 1613.

It is also 75 years since the Finsbury Health Centre opened. This year, it can be visited as part of London Open House for the first time in several years.

This summer, Manor Gardens Centre celebrated 100 years (see page 9). The centenary of Arsenal FC's move is marked with an exhibition this autumn at Islington Museum.

Additionally, Archway Toll Gate opened 200 years ago,



Two 18th century buildings at New River Head: left is the base of a windmill; on the right is the engine house

and it's 100 years since the birth of composer Benjamin Britten, whose former home in Halliford Street has an Islington green plaque.

The *Journal* has covered the histories of the New River Head (winter 2012-13), Finsbury Health Centre

(winter 2011-12) and Manor Gardens (spring 2012).

Details of New River events can be seen at

- www.amwell.org.uk/newriver400th.html;
- www.islington.gov.uk/newrivercelebrations; and
- <http://newriver.org.uk>.

New history of Orton's library damage

A book on playwright Joe Orton and his partner Kenneth Halliwell and how and why they defaced Islington's library books, is to be published in late September

Malicious Damage: the Defaced Library Books of Kenneth Halliwell and Joe Orton by Ilsa Colsell tells the story behind the defacing of the books. It includes by reproductions of all surviving defaced Islington library books and other pictures.

Orton and Halliwell, who lived in Noel Road, N1, "doctored" book covers to protest at what they described as "endless shelves of rubbish" in Islington's libraries. After



Doctored book cover

adding pictures and texts to the books, they would return them anonymously then stand back to watch readers' reactions. Orton said this was "very fun, very interesting".

The couple also stole more than 1,600 coloured pictures

from art books, which they used to wallpaper their flat.

They were caught in 1962 and, after pleading guilty to theft and malicious damage, were each sentenced to six months.

Orton went on to become a successful playwright, but his life was cut short when he was murdered in 1967 by Halliwell in a fit of jealousy.

After the court case, the covers were locked away and largely forgotten until Orton's reputation grew.

• The council has also obtained a rare collage by Orton's partner Kenneth Halliwell.

Islington Museum raised Heritage Lottery funding to make its successful bid to buy the collage at auction.

Letters and your questions

We welcome letters. Our researcher Michael Reading can answer your questions, so get in touch if you have a query about Islington, or can answer or add to anything here

Lamb's Passage

I am trying to find out more about the history of Lamb's Passage, off Chiswell Street. I am particularly interested in the life of Thomas Lamb and his role as overseer of the poor.

Do you have any information or advice as to where to search? I am not familiar with the area.

Daniel Jones
daniel.jones@stewardship.org.uk

Michael Reading writes: Very little remains of the original Lamb's Passage since the end of World War II, other than Lamb's Buildings at the corner with Errol Street. These date from 1769-70. Before 1813, this was known as Great Sword Bearer's Alley. The other old building is the Catholic church of St Joseph.

The street is named after Thomas Lamb, the overseer of the poor, who lived there from 1754 to 1813 and was a buckram stiffener.

The Ordnance Survey Map for 1873 shows that Lamb's Passage had two timber yards, a saw mill and a cooperage on its east side. On the west side was a drug mill and houses. Behind the east side is the New Artillery Ground which is still occupied by the Honourable Artillery Company.

The map for 1894 shows that the cooperage has gone and replaced by a drill hall. Samuel Whitbread lived in Lamb's Passage and, in 1750, founded the brewery in nearby Chiswell Street.

The Islington Local Centre may have more information on Thomas Lamb.

Essex Road jewellers address sought

I have been looking into my family history and been handed some information and objects relating to a Slade family who lived in Ringcroft Street; the wife's maiden name was Ringwood.

One of the items is a battered old watch that appears to have an address on it of 166 Essex Road but it could be 156. This would

The street is named after Thomas Lamb, the overseer of the poor, who was a buckram stiffener

possibly tie up with a story that Slade was or worked in a jewellers. I found nothing online. The watch is battered and not worth anything but has sentimental value.

If you can shed any light on it I would be grateful.
Adrian Chapman
Ajmchapman@btinternet.com

Michael Reading writes: May I ask you to look again at the address on the watch you have? Nos 166 and 156 are in a part of Essex Road that normally sells food but there was a jeweller's at 366 Essex Road named Jay's (I believe they also had a branch at 142 Oxford Street) which stands on

the corner of Essex Road and Ockenden Road.

The building was erected in 1860 and Jay's business was formed in 1862. The building was listed on 20 June 1974.

I do not know when the business ceased trading, but I can remember passing the shop on many occasions and noting the very fine window displays.

Today the premises are occupied by Tommy Miah's Raj Hotel. The building has hardly changed and the clock has been retained.

I believe that David Penny of www.antiquewatchstore.co.uk has some artefacts from the business and may know more about its history.

Where are the plans for Diespecker Wharf?

I am researching a canal property on the Regent's Canal in Islington and trying to find original or early floor plans and images of it.

The building is 38 Graham Street at Diespecker Wharf. It dates from the time the canal was built and is listed. It is described as both a lock keeper's cottage and Wharfinger's cottage.

Unfortunately, Islington council has lost its planning file for the site and the local history section of the library had very little information on the building. And do you know if Islington drainage plans are at the London Metropolitan Archives? They are not at Finsbury Library.

Rob Bevan
rbevan@mac.com

Michael Reading writes:

The building of the Regent's Canal started in 1812 and was completed in 1820, opening on 1 August.

Its early life was very profitable, but its construction was at the latter part of the heyday for canals. They were superseded by the railways after 1837 and this decline continued throughout the 19th century.

In 1929, the Regent's and Grand Junction canals were joined and the Grand Union Canal Company formed. This was transferred to the British Transport Commission in 1948. In 1963, the canals passed to the British Waterways Board. The change of ownership and amalgamation probably meant the loss or dispersal of archive documents to several locations. Some of these are now over 200 years old.

The London Metropolitan Archives may have some information on the Regent's Canal and may hold some records. They may also be able to help you with the Islington drain plans, which would have come under the original Metropolitan Board of Works, founded in 1855.

The London Canal Museum may have more information. As no 38 is a listed building, English Heritage may also be able to help you.

Rob Bevan writes:

Yes, it is those original Regent's Canal documents and plans that I'm trying to track down. They appear to

be in different waterways institutions up and down the country, some of which are being moved and others where there is no archivist in post – all a bit of a nightmare!

A landowning ancestor and the Cock at Highbury

I wonder if you or any of your members know how I can find out if the house that is now 29 Park Street has held the number 29 for a very long time?

My great grandfather, George Woolley, lived there with his large family from approximately 1825 until his death in 1842. His widow later moved to Manchester Terrace, Liverpool Street, to live close to one of her elder sons and his family.

Do you think 29 Park Street could be the original no 29 or would the houses have been renumbered, possibly after World War II?

George Woolley's will shows that he owned many properties and businesses including the Cock Inn in Islington. The only pictures that I can find of such a property are of a later Cock Inn next to a railway station, which was bombed during World War II.

Is there any chance that there is a drawing of the original Inn or something that tells us where exactly it was situated?

Lynn Yates
lpy.llwyn@googlemail.com

Michael Reading writes:
Maps of Islington for 1801 and 1853 both show a line of houses are shown where no 29 is today. Park Street became Islington Park Street in 1937, when several streets in Islington were renamed and a few renumbered.

I expect no 29 – like many other houses in Islington in the past – was used both for



Catholic Herald House, part of St Joseph's buildings, Lamb's Passage

conducting a business and as a residence. With the rise of supermarkets, such establishments reverted to residential use.

The Post Office street directory for 1935 shows that 29 Park Street was occupied by William Smith, a greengrocer. The corresponding entry in the 1939 directory (after the change of name) remains the same, so it follows that the street was not renumbered. Back in 1880, Charles Brady, another greengrocer, occupied no 29.

When I lived in Islington in 1958, practically all houses were coloured black due to almost two centuries of smoke from coal fires. With the coming of the Clean Air Acts and after a period of 60 years, much of this grime has been washed away by rain. Additionally, many houses were acquired by developers/builders who rehabilitated them and often had the brickwork cleaned.

When these houses were built, builders often put up only a small number of dwellings and so many houses in the same terrace

could look quite different from each other.

The original Cock Tavern was at 21 Wells Row, which was a line of properties at the end of Upper Street where it joins Holloway Road and is known as Highbury Corner. It was there as early as 1780, with extended rear premises, including a large yard stocked with trees.

From 1846, under an act of parliament, the East and West India Docks and Birmingham Junction Railway Company built a goods line from Camden Road to Blackwall via Islington, Canonbury and Kingsland, this line passing through Wells Row. A wooden station was erected here in 1849 and the first passenger trains, linked to Broad Street station in the City, ran from this station in 1850.

Three years later, the line

was renamed the North London Railway.

The NLR bought up several nearby properties, including Wells Row and, in 1872, a magnificent new station, built in a style similar to St Pancras station, was opened. It included, as a wing to the building, a new Cock Tavern.

The station remained until 27 June 1944 when a V1 flying bomb fell at Highbury Corner, destroying it. The present station serves the London Underground and the London Overground and Victoria line. A public house has been rebuilt on the original site and trades under the name of The Famous Cock.

Lynn Yates writes:

I can now safely say that 29 Islington Park Street is the house where George Woolley and his family lived in the early 1800s. It is nice to see that the house is lived in and in very good order. I could kick myself as when I visited Islington several years ago, I walked past that house without realising that it had been George's.

As far as the Cock Tavern is concerned, I had an inkling that the pub I saw pictured was probably built in the mid/late 1800s as it looked very Victorian with its ornate brickwork. I thought that the old Cock Inn that George once owned would have been an earlier building than that.

If anyone knows of an old drawing or photograph of the pub, please get in touch on *lpy.llwyn@googlemail.com*.

Builders often put up only a small number of dwellings so many houses in the same terrace could look quite different from each other

I admire George as he migrated from Axminster in Devon in 1780 with his siblings and appeared to have become a successful businessman within a short space of time. He married twice and had 14 children.

Shortly before he died in 1842, he set up a trust fund for his descendants which lasted for over 100 years. My grandmother, her sisters and various cousins received regular payments from this trust until the 1940s.

Unfortunately, the bombing of World War II destroyed the last of his properties that were bringing an income to the trust. After the war, the

The outdoor theatre in Highbury Fields owed its origins to the wartime government's Holidays at Home scheme

government paid compensation for businesses destroyed and the trust was then wound up.

I am always trying to find more about his life as he was a man I greatly admire.

Enkel and Hertslet – the people behind street names

I recently visited the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in King Charles Street. It is housed in a magnificent Victorian building with interiors decorated in the gothic style. These have recently been renovated as they had suffered from decades of coal fires. There are imposing statues and wall paintings as well as mosaic floors. The Durbar Court is a survival of the days of the British Raj in India.

The wall held portraits of

previous librarians, one of whom was familiar. Lewis Hertslet (1787-1870) was librarian to the Foreign Office between 1810 and 1857. He published a collection of treaties between Great Britain and foreign powers. This practice was continued by his son Sir Edward Hertslet KCB (1824-1902), who also published a collection of treaties between Turkey and other foreign powers between 1835 and 1855.

Enkel Street was named after local nurseryman Robert Enkel, who was succeeded by Cornelius Crastin and his family. At the time of Lewis Hertslet's death, this area was being built up and it was suggested that the new street be named in his honour. One of those suggesting this was a Mrs Crastin.

*Roy Hidson
St Thomas's Road, Finsbury Park, London N4*

More memories of Highbury Fields

Lynda Tyrie's memories of growing up in by Highbury Fields (summer 2013) struck a chord.

I was 10 years old when in 1936 we moved from Holborn to Battledean Road, N5, and having the fields close by was a huge attraction after the confines of living in central London.

Like Linda, both of my sisters went to Drayton Park school and we all attended Christ Church at Highbury Barn.

Linda refers to Framfield Passage and not being able to find it when she visited the area a few years ago. As the name implies, it is simply a short narrow pedestrian alleyway between houses connecting Whistler Street with the lower end of Framfield



29 Islington Park Street: once owned by greengrocers

Road. In January 2007, I went on a tour of the Emirates Stadium organised by the IAHS and afterwards I walked across Drayton Park and through Whistler Street. Framfield Passage was still there and looked just as I remembered it.

The outdoor theatre in the Fields mentioned by Linda owed its origins to the wartime government's Holidays at Home scheme, in 1942 I think, when a covered stage was constructed at the northwest corner of the fields nearest the netball and football pitches. One had to pay to sit down in the enclosure, which was surrounded by a chestnut paling fence. As Linda did, we stood outside to watch the entertainment which was much as she describes. The shows, which included talent competitions, were relayed to the rest of the fields by public address loudspeakers.

I used to walk through Baalbec Road lived on my way to Highbury County school but no doubt that would have been some years before Linda lived there.

*Douglas Hague
Chandlers Way, Hertford*

Wall Street story and street name mysteries

The *Journal* published a summary of some research I carried out on the history of Wall Street (*The story of a small street*, spring, page 11).

I started this project with the intention of discovering the origin of the name – it appears to be the only Wall Street in the *London A-to-Z*. The history of this little street proved to be much more interesting than I could have imagined, though I never did discover how it got its name.

I have deposited a copy of the results of my investigation with the Islington Local History Centre.

Should any readers be able to add to my findings or comment on them, I would be glad to correspond with them, especially with regard to the origin of the names Motts Lane or Wall Street. Even the local history centre was unable to help.

I am also interested in the factory at the south end of the street which apparently was at one time occupied by brass finishers and beer engine makers, as well as the Jahnke box factory in Dove Road, known locally as Yonkers.

*Charlie Greenfield
chasandmolly@talktalk.net*

Write to news@iahs.org.uk, via www.iahs.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB. Please note letters may be edited. Say if you would like your email/postal address printed, so readers can contact you

Note: the society does not carry out family research

Local history project wants your memories

If you have lived in Islington for a while, please get involved with Peabody's Islington history project.

All you have to do is to spare 15-20 minutes at a time that suits you and talk about what you like about this historic part of London, your experiences of life here and how the people, local businesses and social, leisure and sporting activities have changed over the years.

The project is being run by Peabody, but you do not have to be a Peabody tenant to take part.

*Rob Robertson
Peabody, Hugh Cubitt
Centre, 48 Collier Street,
N1 9QZ, 020 7021 4127,
rob.robertson@peabody.
org.uk*



Highbury Fields: hugely attractive after living in central London

Fallen soldier

I am researching the history of a soldier who died in World War II, whose family were from Islington.

I am doing research for a foundation that researches

and teaches people about the history of World War II around Valkenswaard en Aalst-Waalre in Holland. It is called the Erfgoed 40-45, gemeenten Valkenswaard en Waalre foundation.

My research is focused on the soldiers who are buried in the war cemetery of Valkenswaard. These soldiers fought and died on 17 September 1944 during the opening battles of operation Market Garden.

I am looking for relatives of and information about Ernest Charles Kelly.

He was the son of James Patrick Kelly and Esther May Kelly, of Islington, London.

He was a private in the Devonshire regiment, service no 5342613, and died on 17 September 1944, aged 24.

Please contact me if you could help us trace relatives or have any more information about him.
*Raimondo Bogaars
info@erfgoed40-45.nl*

Manor Gardens celebrates with a plaque and a party

An Islington People's Plaque commemorating Florence Keen was unveiled at Manor Gardens Centre's centenary street party this summer.

Members of Ms Keen's family were there to unveil the plaque to Manor Gardens' founder.

A heritage centre showing the work of the centre was opened by William Gaminara, an actor and screenwriter who is best known for playing pathologist Professor Leo Dalton in the TV series *Silent Witness*.

Florence Keen founded the Manor Gardens' forerunner

– the North Islington Infant Welfare Centre and School for Mothers – in 1913, when around one in 10 children in Islington died before their fifth birthday.

She worked to educate mothers about improving their families' health. By 1920, the clinic had received over 12,000 visitors and expanded its services.

The centre hopes to develop the heritage centre into something more permanent. If you'd like to be involved, contact heritage manager Ed Bartram on 020 7272 4231 or ed@manorgardenscentre.org.



Florence Keen's family; actor William Gaminara opens the heritage centre; Pearly King of Finsbury John Walters with Pearly King of Crystal Palace Pat Jolly. Left: baby book and light clinic in heritage centre



The Cally carbuncle

‘Does facade retention get any worse than this?’ asked the Victorian Society, as a redevelopment reached the finals in a competition to find Britain’s ugliest new building

The Mallett, Porter & Dowd building dated back to 1874 and was recorded by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner in his *Buildings of England*.

Only the former warehouse’s locally listed facade survives, retained after the rest of the building was demolished for student accommodation. It now sits uncomfortably a few feet in front of the new building.

This scheme near Caledonian Road tube station, designed by Stephen George and Partners, has reached the finals in a competition to find Britain’s ugliest new building.

The Carbuncle Cup, run by architectural magazine *Building Design*, is awarded to “architectural travesties” involving “lazy design” and “cynical development”.

Refusal overturned

The £18 million, 350-room student housing development for University College London was refused permission by Islington Council in 2010. However, the central government Planning

465 Caledonian Road before, during and after works

Inspectorate overturned the council’s decision later that year.

The planning inspector’s report said: “The development would achieve an acceptable balance of variety and cohesion, rather than create undue visual confusion.”

An extra “storey” was added to the facade and the old pediment placed on top of that. The planning inspector said the facade was “sufficiently robust to accept the raised height without harm to its proportions”.

Around half of the rooms facing the street look onto the facade’s back wall; from them,



the street is only visible at an oblique angle.

Controversially, the planning inspector said that because the rooms would be used mainly for sleeping, the full standards for daylight did not need to be met.

He concluded that the proposals were of sufficient quality to meet the design requirements of the council, the London Plan and local and national guidance.

Others disagreed. Kieran Long, *Evening Standard* architecture critic and senior curator of contemporary architecture at the V&A, wrote: “Caledonian Road – you’re doing it wrong.” The Victorian Society asked: “Does facade retention get any worse than this?”



Caledonian ward councillor Paul Convery said: "I was staggered when the planning inspector overturned our refusal decision. His amazing disregard for normal daylight and design standards was quite extraordinary."

"Now the building has emerged from its hoardings, the full absurdity of the design is suddenly apparent."

Facade 'made to look ridiculous'

This summer, the scheme was nominated for the Carbuncle Cup.

The nominator wrote: "It is one of the worst facade retention schemes that I have seen. The lack of any meaningful relationship between the retained facade and the new build behind is embarrassing. The addition of an extra storey to the retained facade ruins its proportions...."

The crassness of the relationship between new and old takes this scheme to beyond bad.

"The inmates living behind the massive masonry ruin will acutely feel the heritage of the retained wall, but it is not clear they will be able to see out. Perhaps the architects were influenced by the historic Pentonville Prison down the road."

Comments made to *Building Design* included: "Like some kind of inglorious poacher wearing the pelt of an endangered lion" and: "The historic facade is made to look ridiculous as no attempt has been made to link it with the new building."

The winner was due to be announced as the *Journal* was going to press. The frontrunner is also student housing – Castle Mill for the University of Oxford. ■



Top: pediment with oak leaf detailing; above: flank wall, with Caledonian clock tower in the distance

Heritage buses go back on the road

Historic buses run again at Holloway bus garage's open day

Holloway bus garage first opened as a tram depot in November 1907.

Covering 3½ acres, it had spaces for 336 trams on tracks that were accessed by a traverser.

From March 1938, tram routes from the depot started to be converted to trolleybus operation. Both forms of transport continued for 14 years until 1952. The depot operated

the Kingsway subway tram routes until then.

From 1960, trolleybuses at Holloway were replaced by Routemasters. The 271 bus has the same two terminus points as the 611 trolleybus – rare for a trolleybus route.

In 1971, the garage received some of the first one-person-operated buses in London.

On the open day in August, the garage ran route 39A to Parliament Hill Fields, route 196 to King's Cross Garage, route 609 to East Finchley Station and route 611 to Highgate Village and Holloway Nag's Head. ■



Visitors viewed and took free rides on historic buses, including the 39A on Junction Road



Majorettes and the Whittington Cat (containing award-winning actor Tom Wilkinson) lead the Whittington Park Community Association festival procession down Tufnell Park Road in 1978

Pride and resistance

An archive of community activism was accidentally discovered by Katia Lom in the loft of Whittington Community Centre. She tells the story of people who stood up for their area

Last autumn, I found a portfolio in the community centre loft. Inside was a gem: nearly 300 photographs, mostly in black and white from the 1970s, of festival scenes in Whittington Park, beautiful hand-drawn posters, newsletters and original



artwork. I staged an exhibition of some of the photographs in the community centre, which is now on permanent display.

I began to piece together the history behind the photos with the assistance of Tim Coles, a postgraduate student at the CASS, and firsthand accounts of the centre's founding members and people who had used its services.

Whittington Park Community Association (WPCA) was established on 19 September 1972. It used the same buildings (dating back to the 1800s) as today to run its many activities. However, the area itself was quite different.

Until the 1970s, the area around Whittington Park was described as being close to a slum. The years after World War II had been particularly difficult as it had been bombed. This was exacerbated when, in 1944, Sir Patrick Abercrombie drew up the *Greater London Plan*. This led to both demolished and occupied homes in what is now

Girl with cat probably at the WPCA Festival pet show 1973; adventure playground, 1979

the park and nearby roads being designated as open space.

Many residents found themselves at risk from relocation and their homes being destroyed. This created an environment of uncertainty and planning blight.

Whittington Park was created in 1954. By the 1970s, the area was still suffering from dereliction and crime, particularly among young people. By 1971, growing discontent led to a movement of resistance from which emerged the WPCA.

"At times it comes about that in certain places a movement begins seemingly out of nothing," says Phil Miles, founding member of WPCA

"WPCA ... began as a protest, an expression of frustration and annoyance at neglect and uncertainty in the district.

"For years, the ageing area, with the threat of compulsory purchase and demolition hanging over it, had become run down. The worst four streets had already been demolished for the start of a 20-acre park, but that area was already derelict, while the rest, quite substantial Victorian housing stock of real potential, faced an uncertain future.... This affected virtually the whole area north of Tytherton Road and Wedmore Street from Campdale Road to Holloway Road."

Local residents recognised that the area had problems. However, they opposed most of the open space designations as this would break up the community and most did not want to leave.





Ann Wilson, a member of the WPCA's over 60s' lunch club, recalls how her house – designated for open space – was scheduled for demolition, and how, following WPCA campaigns, she has remained there since. Rupert Road residents held organised regular "Rupert Road reunions" after their homes were demolished.

Residents began to meet regularly in earnest in 1971, with the goal of resisting the council's planning schemes. They also decided to develop services for the community and improve the area, and started a newsletter.

This group named itself the Whittington Park Action Group. It did not have a building; meetings were held in people's houses, sometimes even in their cars.

The group pressed for All Saints Church Hall (where the nursery, cafe and lounge are today) to become a community centre, and this led to the formation of WPCA. The group remained in existence to campaign on local issues, especially the open space designations.

One member of this group was Emily Hope. She and her husband Tom had recently settled in the area. Emily was an American and a graduate of Vassar College in the US. Her education and cultural experience of 1960s political trends, in the US and London in the women's movement, meant she brought tremendous energy and expertise to the project. She was a main

force in establishing the group.

She put great efforts into securing a licence from Islington Council to use the building that is still used by the association today. As Phil Miles states, Emily "practically crucified herself in efforts to keep things going".

One of WPCA's first projects to come to fruition was an adventure playground in the park. Soon after it opened, local police found crime in the area fell.

Other activities were set up in the centre, including a lunch club for over 60s where people could



have freshly cooked meals, a one o'clock club and the Butterfly Nursery (today the independent Leaping Lizards Day Nursery).

From 1973 to the late 1980s, WPCA ran a popular annual summer festival in Whittington Park, which at its height attracted over 10,000 people.

The catalyst that first brought local residents together – housing demolition – stayed active well into the mid 1970s. As the October 1975 *WPCA Newsletter* attests: "1,057 people signed a petition organised by local

At the festivals: pram race, 1973; Bees Make Honey perform at the adventure playground, 1974; Emily Hope with mayor Harry Reid and the mayoress, 1973

residents in association with the WPCA to oppose the council's proposals for the further extension of Whittington Park which would require demolition of houses in Foxham Road, in Beversbrook Road and in Yerbury Road."

Eventually, WPCA's efforts were successful and Whittington Park covered just 10 acres. Even though much housing had been destroyed, Tytherton Road, Yerbury Road, Wedmore Street, Foxham Road and Beversbrook Road were spared and their open space designation was removed.

Although it had started out by protesting against Islington's plans, WPCA relies on council funding to support its work. Managing this dichotomy is also seen as a great achievement.

Another achievement may be how, by giving a place for people of all ages, WPCA showed how a community can transform itself by its own motivations, benefiting generations to come. ■

Katia Lom is project development and administrative support worker at WPCA. The archive can be seen at the Bishopsgate Institute: www.bishopsgate.org.uk, 020 7392 9270

Sources

Firsthand accounts from Phil Miles, Tom Hope, Ann Wilson and Bert Gafney
WPCA archive and newsletters
Islington Tribune
Islington Council

Rákosi in London

Mátyás Rákosi was an authoritarian ruler who imposed Soviet communism on Hungary. As a young man, he spent an influential year in London, including in Islington

Mátyás Rákosi was the absolute ruler of communist Hungary from 1948 until 1956. Born in 1892 in the south of Hungary, in what is now Serbia, he was one of 13 children. His family were patriotic Hungarian Jews.

He proved himself a bright and idealistic student who was attracted to left-wing politics. He abandoned his religion and travelled across Europe.

He fought for the Austro-Hungarian army in World War I and was captured by the Russian army. Inspired by the Russian revolution of 1917, he returned to Hungary and served, in 1919, as a commissar in Béla Kun's Hungarian Bolshevik Council Republic.

In August that year, he was forced into exile by the Hungarian counter-revolutionary regime, which remained in power until 1945. He was ordered by Moscow to re-found an illegal Communist Party in Hungary, for which was arrested and sentenced to death. He became an international cause celebre. After spending 14 years in prison, he was handed over to the Soviet Union in 1940.

In 1945 he was back in Hungary, re-establishing the Community Party that seized power in 1948 and brutally imposed Soviet communism upon Hungary.

By the summer of 1956, however, Rákosi's grip on the country was broken. He was dispatched to Moscow, subsequently stripped of his party membership and never permitted to return to Hungary.

Rákosi's name is, therefore,

indelibly associated with one of the darkest periods in recent Hungarian history. As "Stalin's best student", he established a ruthless one-party state, abolished all forms of private enterprise, and arrested tens of thousands of his countrymen before being forced once again into exile in 1956 at the outbreak of that year's ill-fated Hungarian revolution.

The next communist leaders of Hungary refused to allow him to return home and he died in the Soviet Union in 1971.

For one short but influential year in his life, Rákosi became a Londoner. He learned to speak English fluently, found gainful employment, romanced a local girl, joined the struggle for women's suffrage, and ended up living in Islington, in Finsbury Street.

Eager to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the capitalist system, in 1913 Rákosi had travelled to Hamburg. However, the great German port proved to be too small

Below: gates to Artillery Fields at the end of Finsbury Street, where Rákosi lived: none of the terraced houses in the street survive



Rákosi c1914: he saw extremes of wealth and poverty in London

and unadventurous for his tastes, so that summer he sailed to London, equipped with only a small sum of money and the address of the Communist Club at 107 Charlotte Street (now Fitzroy Street).

It was a fortuitous contact. The club, which had three floors of premises, provided a warm welcome to the young Hungarian and served as a second home in London. It had 12 international sections, including a Hungarian section with some 80 members. The club subscribed to many newspapers, had a kitchen, buffet, fitness room, dance hall, auditorium and skittle alley.

The Hungarian members of the club found Rákosi his first place to live in Gower Street, Bloomsbury, work in Oxford Street at an import-export trading company (where he enjoyed chatting with his well-travelled boss, a Mr Cornish) and English language instruction provided by the City of London (Baráth et al, 2002).

Although shocked by the poor quality of this accommodation, with its coin-operated lamp that limited his avid reading, Rákosi was immediately fascinated by London.

He kept every weekend for lengthy walks and visits to the great attractions. In his memoirs, written almost 50 years later in



exile in the Soviet Union, Rákosi still remembered the evident power of London, its wealth, and its multiculturalism, recalling that if you took a bus from Whitechapel to Park Lane “it was as if in half an hour one had stepped into a different world” (Baráth et al, 2002).

He also adored spending time in the British Library, wondering if he was sitting on Karl Marx’s chair, and the British Museum, whose magnificent collections, he caustically noted, demonstrated that “there was barely a country that the English hadn’t stolen from” (Baráth et al, 2002).

Even though Rákosi had immediately joined the Communist Club, he was not at this point a fanatical communist. It was in London that he first became properly acquainted with the pantheon of communist writers, the new currents in revolutionary thinking, and the vigorous debates between communists, socialists and anarchists.

Radical transformation

His radicalisation was accelerated by the extremes of wealth and social deprivation that confronted him in London. He spent time with homeless people and visited a Salvation Army shelter, while also marvelling at the luxury goods ostentatiously displayed in the shop windows of the West End.

He recognised that British capitalism provided the population with cheap food, an abundance of choice and inexpensive housing.

It was Rákosi’s experiences in London that arguably transformed him from a socialist into a committed communist or, as he himself put it: “I began to be aware of the practical questions of the international proletarian movement there, in London” (Baráth et al, 2002).

Seeking better accommodation, Rákosi rented a room from a widow called Eliza McSweeney, who lived at 1-2 Rathbone Mews in Fitzrovia, just behind the



Rákosi in Hungary in 1919, during the short-lived period of the Hungarian Bolshevik Council Republic, of which he was a commissar

Communist Club. As well as tutoring Mrs McSweeney’s son, he courted her daughter Florence, a 28-year-old shop assistant with striking red hair, who Rákosi promptly “fell madly in love with”.

As well as inviting her to dances at the Communist Club, Rákosi won her affection by arranging for a box of apricots to be sent to her from his native Hungary (Pünkösti, 2004).

Finsbury: toleration and dissent

By early 1914, he had earned enough money to rent his own flat and moved to Finsbury Street. His new home was close to his place of work, the Communist Club and his girlfriend.

Moreover, Finsbury was affordable, vibrant and enjoyed a reputation for toleration and dissent that made it a natural choice for Rákosi and other foreigners.

Having never acquired a taste for British food, but adoring French cuisine, Rákosi was also attracted to Finsbury Street by the fact that, among the profusion of downstairs workshops and upstairs offices, was a French restaurant and bakery (Parish of St Luke, 1913).

While living in Islington, Rákosi immersed himself deeper into British politics and played

an active role in the suffragette movement. On 8 May 1914, he joined a rally of the Men’s League for Women’s Suffrage, and during a violent clash with the police in Trafalgar Square, he sustained an injury to the head (*The Times*, 1914).

Settled in Islington, fluent in English, financially stable, promoted to the head of the Hungarian section at the Communist Club and an eager participant in British political debate, he appeared to have successfully made a new home for himself in London.

It was the shock news of the assassination of Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo and a sense that war was now unavoidable, which reawakened Rákosi’s patriotism and compelled him to leave London in July 1914. He never returned. ■

Tom Lorman is a researcher at University College London

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A modern classic



Three- and four-storey blocks are arranged around large areas of green

The Holloway Estate is one of Islington's most unusual housing estates. It has been described as a "City of London estate that is older than the 1970s, comprised of brown brick flats rather like those built by the London County Council" in the *Journal* (spring 2013). It is a lot more distinguished than that description would lead anyone to think.

The estate was designed by McMorran and Whitby, who reinterpreted architectural tradition, using a modern understanding of classical ideas.

Arcaded area under McMorran House



Given the postwar period's embrace of modernism, this was a rather embattled position but, with the passing of time, it has become possible to see the qualities of their buildings. These include the Old Bailey Extension; McMorran also designed Hammersmith police station and worked jointly with Horace Farquharson on the Phoenix School in Bow Road – an "open air" school for the LCC.

They were also responsible for some very thoughtful social housing, such as Wood Field and Barn Field, built in 1946-49 for Hampstead Borough Council. These were arranged on a modern principle of planning, the "Zeilenbau" or "line building": two parallel blocks run north to south, so each flat gets east light in the morning and west light in the evening. Lubetkin's Spa Green was designed on the same basis. Lammas Green in Sydenham, for the City of London Corporation, is a

Georgian industrial grandeur and postwar optimism are combined in one of Islington's most unusual and distinguished estates, says Ian Hunt

superbly judged development of small-scale cottages and flats around a green, showing McMorran's characteristically learned Renaissance geometry in its facades. Although the Holloway Estate shares the qualities of these schemes, it is not nationally listed as they are.

Estate characteristics

Phase 1 of the Holloway Estate, built in 1959-65, north of Camden Road, shows McMorran's characteristic preoccupations and influences clearly. The model is that of the quadrangles of Oxford and Cambridge universities, or London's Inns of Court. The three- and four-storey blocks are arranged around large areas of green.

These spaces are clearly demarcated from the outside by doubled screen walls, through which there are two sets of arches. Yet, inside this well-protected zone, the buildings do not form wholly enclosed courtyards; they

Why could the City build on Islington land?

The Corporation of London acquired the site in 1832 as a potential cemetery for cholera victims. It was used instead as

the site of Bunning's City Prison, which became Holloway Prison (replaced in the 1970s) and terraces of houses.

feel open and light.

The effect of the architecture as a whole is unusual, as it is influenced by McMorran's close study of Georgian industrial buildings. Large sash windows are contrasted with small, deeper set windows. According to Edward Denison, "McMorran himself believed that mills descended from the 'sensible Georgian ways of building' and were 'the last works of traditional architecture in this country'" (Denison, 2009).

The central McMorran House, named after the architect, who died as the work was near completion, is varied with an arcaded area of round arches in hard black bricks.

Although the estate at first sight shares characteristics with sober interwar LCC housing, some of which used arcaded areas, its spatial organisation and detailing are derived from very different sources. There cannot be many estates where council tenants live in homes modelled on buildings enjoyed by Oxbridge scholars and City lawyers.

Phase 2 of the estate, completed in the mid-1970s on a difficult adjacent site between Parkhurst Road and Camden Road, looks somewhat different as it was designed by Whitby alone. He ensured the houses looked onto an enclosed green. It was pioneering in its integration of homes for disabled people, which was undertaken in partnership with the John Grooms Association. Whitby died while the work was in



Light and open: sandpit and play area in the late 1960s, when the estate was new

There cannot be many estates where council tenants live in homes modelled on buildings enjoyed by Oxbridge scholars and City lawyers

progress and it was named Whitby Court after him.

Christian Wolmar's question in the spring issue of the *Journal* "Why demolish perfectly good houses, the rest of which have survived?" is a good one. An answer might be: when they can be replaced with something better and more useful.

The Holloway Estate involved the loss of some pleasant but ordinary Victorian builders' houses (the Corporation of London already owned most of the site) and the gain of a

successful and, for its date, highly surprising contribution to postwar social housing.

It still has lessons for new developments, especially in its building craft and its generous control of light and space. ■

● Nine original drawings for the Holloway Estate are held in RIBA's collection at the V&A. Many photos of the estate can be seen on English Heritage's ViewFinder site: <http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk>

Ian Hunt is an art critic and teaches in the department of art at Goldsmiths, University of London. He writes in response to Christian Wolmar's letter in the spring 2013 issue about the estate

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Large sash windows contrast with small, deeper set windows

Cold stories

Lester Hillman gets his skates on to describe an icy heritage of frost fairs and frost saints, as well as some chilly goings-on at the London Canal Museum

Ice has been a hot topic this year. The London Metropolitan Archive in Islington hosted an exhibition on Frozen London. In May, local papers reported a football-sized ball of ice crashing into a garden in Golders Green. A programme of events and Heritage Lottery funded work at the London Canal Museum in Islington – which covers much of the history of ice – has stimulated further interest.

St Pancras – ice saint

Across Europe in mythology and sayings, St Pancras is familiar as an “ice saint”. In Poland, he is called the “cold gardener”. For centuries, St Pancras day on 12 May has been a bellwether for agriculture, for assessing whether the ice has cleared enough for the growing season and offering a pointer to harvest yields.

The thawing of Fleet river ice used to have serious implications for Islington. A sudden thaw on 27 January 1809 caused flooding for several days between Somers Town and Pentonville. With water three feet deep in the middle of the road, householders took in provisions through their windows.

More recently, in January 1987, some opportunist mountaineers came across a three-storey icicle hanging off the west face of St Pancras Hotel in Midland Road, just off the Euston Road. They climbed it, belaying off a handy parking meter, before British Transport Police intervened.

For human endurance, a summer attempt by Tony Phoenix-Morrison to walk from John O’Groats to Lands End

carrying a 42kg fridge on his back (over 1,000 miles in 40 days) takes some beating.

Ice ages past

London’s “little ice age” was marked at the Frozen London 1683-1895 exhibition at London Metropolitan Archives earlier this year. Over this period, the Thames is thought to have frozen over some 16 times.

Going further back, writer William Fitzstephen from the late 12th century offers tantalising snippets of winter and ice in Islington several centuries ago. He was a contemporary and an aide to archbishop Thomas Becket.

His writings on London devote considerable attention to games on the ice. He may have had firsthand experience of these growing up in the city.

“When the great marsh that laps up against the northern



Mrs Agnes B Marshall, who is believed to have invented the ice cream cone; below: her fast-acting patent freezer



walls of the city is frozen, large numbers of the younger crowd go there to play about on the ice," he wrote.

Ice sledges were dragged across the areas of today's Moorgate and Moorfields. People strapped on animal shin bones as skates and, with handheld metal-tipped wooden poles, propelled themselves across the ice at speed.

A well of frozen assets

The London Canal Museum, alongside the Regent's Canal in New Wharf Road, sits above deep 19th century ice wells. The metal reinforcement supporting the ground floor had deteriorated, which had damaged the concrete. Specialist engineering works in the early part of 2013 saw the underside of the ground floor repaired and three structural piers supporting the western ice well nearest the canal basin replaced.

At the outset, a highly rewarding and unusual task was to gather up all the accumulated coins cast into the ice well – frozen assets indeed. April saw the structural works largely completed, ready for the start of a programme of events celebrating and exploring Islington's ice heritage.

The museum states: “For us, the project represents an opportunity to bring the unique industrial heritage of the ice wells to a new audience and make it better known.”

Celebrations and interpretation have ranged from workshops, guided trips down into the ice wells, a temporary exhibition about Carlo Gatti and his ice business and archive research to the commissioning of a working replica of a Victorian ice cream making machine. Better lighting, floodlighting and remote viewing into the ice wells are to be introduced.

Art in the ice well

A major initiative with the Institute of Physics has seen artist Lyndall Phelps team up

with Queen Mary College London particle physicist Ben Sill to create a work in the eastern ice well.

Superposition is a concept in physics that can be described as “being in two or more places at the same time”. The institute’s physics in society team aims to engage adult audiences with contemporary physics, and artist and scientist have worked together to produce a work inspired by particle detection, detectors, data capture and visualisation.

The work is made up of almost a mile of brass rods, hundreds of acrylic discs, over 28,000 glass beads and 36,000 diamantes (see picture, page 25). The ice wells themselves echo the form of detectors and the fusion of art and science offers the chance of unexpected consequences.

Superposition is open on limited days and runs until 20 October. Bookings should be made via the museum (020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk).

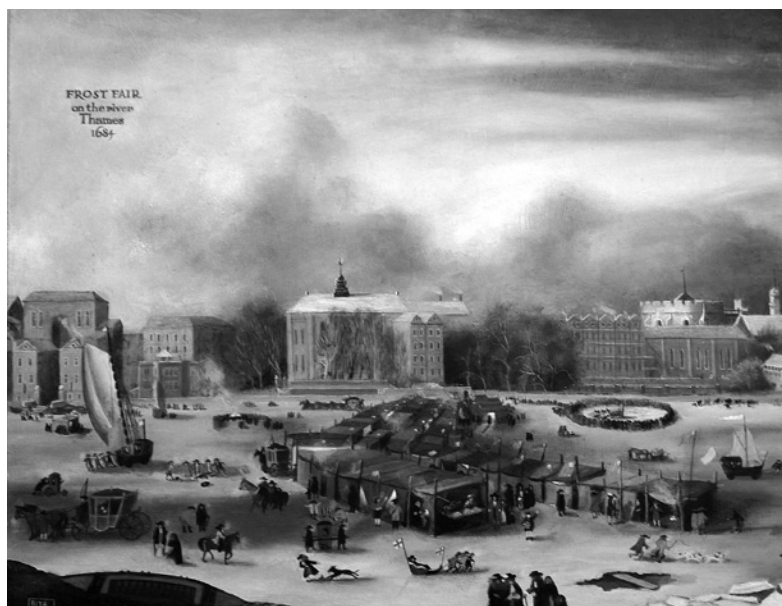
Ice cream’s early days

The museum has long staged events to celebrate ice cream.

In July, the London Canal Museum offered a suitably frosty welcome to Mrs Agnes B Marshall, the Mrs Beeton of Victorian ice cream making, who was granted a patent for a machine that could freeze a pint of ice cream in five minutes. Dr Annie Gray, food historian and ice cream expert, dropped in and ran a workshop on her story. It was a cool event attracting a capacity audience.

You can read more about Agnes Marshall, who is believed to have invented the ice cream cone, at www.canalmuseum.org.uk/ice/marshall.htm. Her books are understood to have boosted London’s ice trade.

Carlo Gatti’s business and the ice trade were the focus of a follow-up workshop on 12 August and the Regent’s Canal venue was perfect, it being the 251st birthday of the Prince Regent.



Above: Thames frost fair, 1864: watermen put wheels on boats; below: skates made of animal bones; bottom: a football-sized ball of ice hit the headlines



Last year, an ice cream festival took place in and around the King’s Cross development lands.

North Pole to north London

It was not long ago that international travellers at St Pancras were trapped in 20-hour queues by the wrong kind of snow. Just before Christmas 2009, fine snow seriously disrupted services.

Since moving to St Pancras, the Eurostar no longer goes through the North Pole area. This refers to the railway depot, junction and area near Wormwood Scrubs. Eurostar’s North Pole depot was a familiar feature for several kilometres alongside the approach into Paddington.

Why was this district called North Pole in the first place? Could the answer lie in the North Pole Ice Company, one of the few competitors to

Islington’s Carlo Gatti? Maybe the area took its name from the ice company.

For the future, St Pancras awaits the ICE train, the intercity express trains from Germany set to serve Frankfurt, Cologne and beyond. The first test train arrived in October 2010.

Spreading ice

Islington’s Stuart Low Trust gave over their Friday evening slot to an ice event this summer. The trust’s programme features regular events with the London Canal Museum and, not surprisingly, the evening generated close questioning and discussion.

The Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association will review Islington’s year of ice at their December meeting. ■

Lester Hillman is the IAHS’s academic adviser. He addressed the society on Islington’s ice history and the Heritage Lottery funded projects at the London Canal Museum at its AGM in June. The Heritage Lottery works at the Museum featured in the *Journal*’s spring 2013 issue



Cooking like a Roman

The Romans used sophisticated vessels such as the double clibanus oven, which combined cooking techniques, in their preparations for fine dining, says Sally Grainger

Having spent many years studying and experimenting to understand what Romans ate and how they prepared and made it, my particular interest is not so much with the outward service of food but the actual cooking process.

It is clear from ancient texts that the preparation of dishes for fine dining was very sophisticated, with intricate vessels combining steam and oven heat and also gentle delicate poaching and simmering – techniques one does not normally associate with ancient cultures.

Food features heavily in the Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition at the British Museum, which has a unique and inspired focus, as curator Dr Paul Roberts has recreated the shell of a Roman home, with each room containing the artefacts associated with the function of that room.

When I visited, I entered the kitchen room with huge anticipation. I was not disappointed: a good selection of bronze cooking pans and food residues of all kinds, including one of those wonderful carbonised loaves of bread and dried fruits, seeds and nuts which are so perfectly recognisable.

The cooking equipment is very fine; a compact little portable brazier that appears to be the kind shared around by tenement dwellers and, most importantly for me, a double clibanus or portable oven/casserole.



The clibanus was a sophisticated piece of cooking technology most likely to have been used by wealthy Romans. These ovens were made with very coarse gritted clay and ranged in size from 15cm to 50cm in diameter, with walls up to 10cm high. A central hole seems to have been for regulating the temperature and could allow cooks to keep an eye on the food baking inside. A flange allowed the fire to be placed on the top of the oven.

A mystery oven

Many years ago, Dr Roberts was responsible, along with two other archaeologists, in reporting on these ovens and had alluded to the idea of a double one, but no drawings existed and I had long been impatient to see one (Cubberley et al, 1988).

He tells me that when he found this oven in the store at Naples he just had to have it for the exhibition and I am so grateful that he did as it is a beautiful piece of cooking technology that I am eager to experiment with.

Many years ago now I had one of the more common single-bodied clibanus ovens made by

potter Andrew Macdonald. Since then, these ovens have spread among the Roman historical re-enactment fraternity and I see them wherever Roman cooking is demonstrated. Over the years, I have had numerous versions made (as they inevitably fall apart under thermal shock) and have also developed the skills needed to bake and roast in them and written about these experiences in my own publications on Roman food (Grocock and Grainger, 2006; Grainger, 1999).

On Sunday 19 May I received a replica of a double clibanus made just three weeks after the Pompeii and Herculaneum exhibition opened, by potter Chris Lydamore whose creations are highly valued as museum replicas as well as by historical reconstructionists. ■

Above: replica of a double clibanus oven; below: carbonised loaf of bread found at Pompeii

Sally Grainger is a chef, food historian and writer. With Andrew Dalby, she is author of *The Classical Cookbook*, £10.99 from the British Museum. This article was first published by the British Museum: <http://blog.britishmuseum.org>

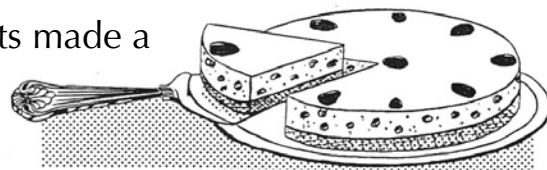
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Grainger S (1999) Cato's Roman cheesecakes: the baking techniques. In: *Milk: Beyond the Dairy. Proceedings of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery*. Prospect books, Totnes: 168-178



The Holloway cheesecake

While researching Islington's geology, Diana Clements made a culinary discovery – which turned out to be a great way of getting people to talk about local history



I came across a recipe for Holloway cheesecake quite by chance while researching material for a temporary exhibition at the Islington Museum.

The exhibition was called *Beneath Our Feet: the Geology of Islington*. My aim was to show how geology had influenced development. I spent many happy hours in archive libraries in and around the borough. Mostly, I was looking for images of brickmaking, gravel extraction and anything to do with water.

My research included the many inns that took water mainly from shallow wells in the gravel above the London Clay in the south of the borough. Further north and higher up, there were no gravel

beds, and pubs here required deep wells that went right through the London Clay to extract water from the sand and chalk layers below.

One of these pubs was the Mother Redcap on the Holloway Road near St John's Church in Upper Holloway. This was famous for its Holloway cheesecake. By chance, my research turned up a recipe.

Streets to wealthy homes

The Holloway cheesecake was well known in Islington during the 19th century. It was made using high-quality milk from local farms and sold to residents moving into newly built middle-class terraced housing, as well as in the City of London. Such rich

desserts were regularly hawked through the streets and served at informal parties in wealthy homes.

I live in a delightful street, Tavistock Terrace in Upper Holloway. Occasionally, we close the street and have a street party for the residents. For one of these, I put together some images of the street and the neighbourhood to show its development from green fields with cows to the densely populated area we know today, adjacent to the busy A1 and close to Upper Holloway Overground station. The Nag's Head shopping area is nearby, in the middle of the former Hollow Way. I also made a Holloway cheesecake for some additional flavour.

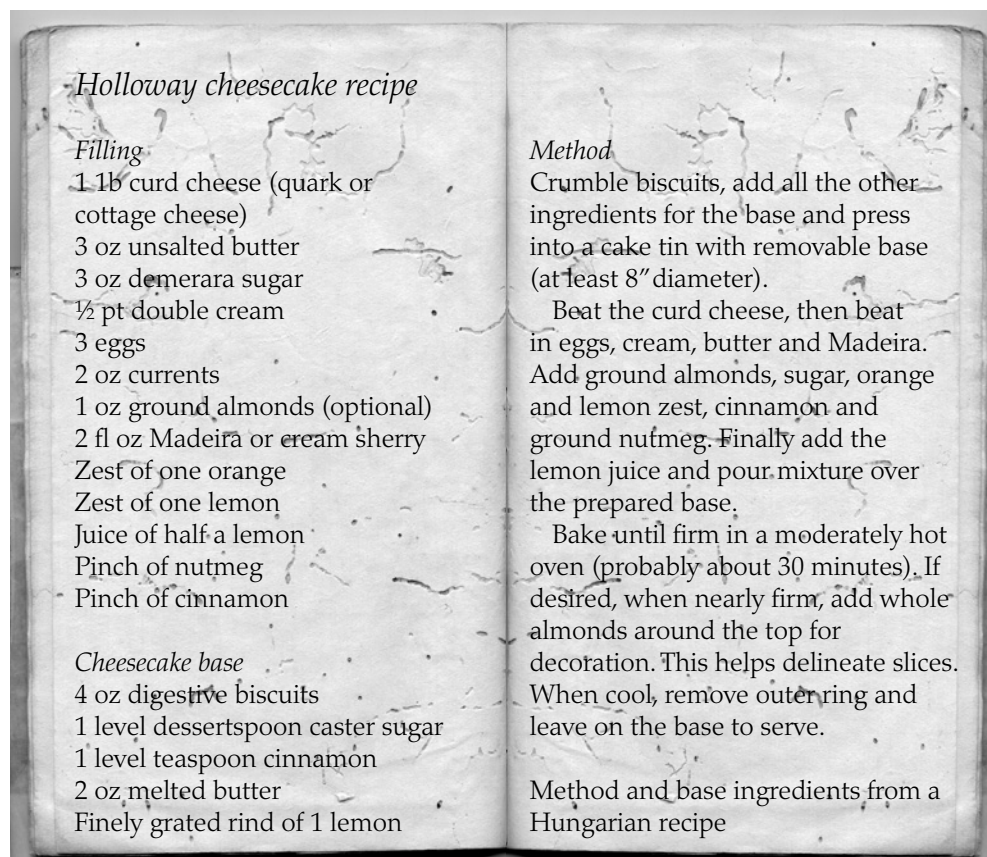
One of my neighbours is Andrew Turton, the chairman of the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust. He remembered the Holloway cheesecake and invited me to have a stall at the centenary celebration of the Manor Gardens Centre in July.

I am not a chef so declined, offering instead to take along some old maps and my laminated images of the development of the area – and make just a couple of cheesecakes as tasters.

The recipe I found is more of a list of ingredients than a recipe, the key distinguishing tastes being Madeira, cinnamon, nutmeg and currents. For the base, I was guided by a recipe given to me by my Hungarian mother-in-law.

As it is a very rich mixture with curd cheese, eggs, cream and butter, I could give small slices at the festival without appearing mean. It was a great crowd puller, drawing people into talking about local history. I was delighted with the interest it attracted.

Happy baking! ■



Publications and bookshop

Review

The Hope Playhouse, Animal Baiting and Later Industrial Activity at Bear Gardens on Bankside: Excavations at Riverside House and New Globe Walk, Southwark, 1999-2000

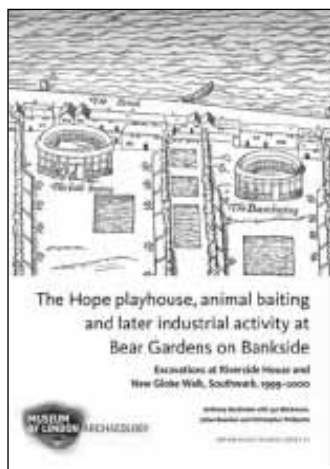
Anthony Mackinder with Lyn Blackmore, Julian Bowsher and Christopher Phillpotts

Archaeology Studies Series 25, Museum of London

Archaeology, 92pp, £12

For the general reader *Bankside – London's Original District of Sin* by David Brandon and Alan Brooke (2011) provided an intriguing, if brief, glimpse into the goings-on in the Bear Gardens in the 16th and 17th century, drawing on the writings of John Stow and John Evelyn and, indeed, several earlier MoLA publications.

This latest volume in the MoLA series, although aimed primarily at the



professional archaeologist and social historian, is an absorbing, well-written and comprehensive account that is readily accessible to the lay enthusiast. The study area (formerly the Bishop of Winchester's manor) yielded evidence from the late medieval up to the 18th and 19th centuries.

The finds are integrated into their historical, artefactual and

environmental contexts. The text is enhanced by almost 70 photographs, tables, plans, maps and drawings.

The range of archaeological finds is breathtaking – from pottery to animal bones, from tobacco pipes to building materials – and the picture of the area and activities there based on this material is fascinating.

There is something to satisfy almost every interest. For example, the historical account of the building of the Hope playhouse and Philip Henslowe's part – the premiere of Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair* in 1614 was the first recorded performance there – is compelling material for a student of theatre history. So too is the other aspect of the dual-purpose building: the animal baiting (bear baiting in particular) that took place there from 1614 to 1656.

The latter part of the study

looks at the area's industrial use, from the glass making and working of the mid 17th to 18th centuries to the warehouses, iron works and tin-glazed pottery manufacture in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

This is an impressively detailed and scholarly and, at the same time, eminently readable publication. It is a fine addition to the wide-ranging MoLA Archaeology Studies Series, which dealt with Islington-related topics in volumes 20 and 21.

Richard Pugh

New on the list

Three books have been added to our for sale list: see the opposite for prices.

New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London

Alec Forshaw, photographs by Alan Ainsworth

This new book by the former Islington chief conservation officer looks at the extensive development in the City in the past 25 years, from high-profile offices to shops, parks and cultural buildings.

20th Century Buildings in Islington

Alec Forshaw

This covers both famous buildings and hidden gems, showing the quantity and range of Islington's 20th century buildings.

An Architect in Islington

Harley Sherlock

Harley Sherlock showed that tower blocks weren't needed to achieve high densities. This covers his long career, from a "working commune" to an award-winning practice.



Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

Name

Address

Tel no/email (in case we need to contact you about your order)

Title(s) of publication	Cost
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Total cost
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Please make cheques payable to "Islington Archaeology & History Society"; send this form (photocopies acceptable) to IAHS, 8 Wynyatt Street, London EC1V 7HU

Buy from the society bookshop

The society stocks books, postcards, maps and more – some are listed below. Our historical and old Ordnance Survey maps cover Islington and other areas of London – call 020 7833 1541 to see if have your area.

Where no price is given or if you wish to order several items or order in bulk, please call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.



New books

London's New River in Maps. Vol 1 (Part 2) c1600 to 1850. Robert Mylne's Survey

Michael F Kensey
£25, 330pp, available at
Islington Museum and Islington
Local History Centre
This second volume coincides with the 400th anniversary of the New River's arrival. In full colour, it covers the history of its original course in Islington in detail, including New River Head.

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin 54

£6.50 + p&p, Hornsey
Historical Society
This issue marks two anniversaries – 400 years of the New River's construction and 100 years since the Hornsey Enclosure Act. The New River's history in Hornsey is tracked in the first article, with a large map showing original and existing courses, and a variety of images.

Healthcare is prominent, with the story of Hornsey Cottage Hospital, built for "the Glory of God and the Healing of the Poor" before the NHS. A former member of staff recalls rising to being "in charge" at Hornsey Central Hospital between 1950 to 1984.

Other chapters cover the 1902 Education Act, including disagreements between churches and politicians.

The bulletin concludes with the 1960s battle over Alexandra Palace and Park, and its consequences.

The articles are referenced and the pictures do not disappoint. The article on the New River alone includes images of pastoral scenes, a tea garden, a 6ft wide steel lining pipe, 19th century skating and an enormous Victorian trout.

Book title	Author	Price (£)	p&p (£)	Total (£)
An Architect in Islington	Harley Sherlock	14.99	2.60	17.59
Angus McBean in Islington	Mary Cosh, ed	4.50	0.69	5.19
Church Design for Congregations	James Cubitt	11.00	1.40	12.40
Cinemas of Haringey	Jeremy Buck	9.99	1.40	5.19
The Contexting of a Chapel Architect: James Cubitt 1836-1912	Clyde Binfield	18.00	1.90	19.9
Criminal Islington	Keith Sugden, ed	5.00	1.40	6.40
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House	Mary Cosh and Martin King	20.00	1.90	21.90
Dead Born	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Dead Image	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Discover De Beauvoir Town and Environs	Mike Gray and Isobel Watson	1.50	0.69	5.19
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	David Mander and Isobel Watson			
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	Friends of Hackney Archive	4.95	0.69	6.65
Dissent & the Gothic Revival	Bridget Cherry, ed			
An Historical Walk Along the New River	Mary Cosh	5.00	0.69	6.69
An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury	Mary Cosh	4.50	0.69	5.19
The History of Highbury	Keith Sugden	3.00	1.40	5.40
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	6.40
Islington: Britain in Old Photographs	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington: the Second Selection	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	5.40
Little Italy. The Story of London's Italian Quarter	Tudor Allen			
London Cat 1	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
London Cat 2	James Dowsing	4.50	0.69	5.19
London Dog	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
Only Bricks and Mortar	Harry Walters	7.99	1.40	8.49
New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London	Alec Forshaw	19.95	2.60	22.55
20th Century Buildings in Islington	Alec Forshaw	14.99	2.60	17.59
The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish	Mary Cosh	7.50	1.40	7.90
Other items				
Old Ordnance Survey maps		2.50	0.50	3.00
Union Chapel mug		6.00	2.20	6.90

What's on

Events, exhibitions, courses, walks and more. Contact details of organisers are in the directory on page 28 – events may change or need advance booking. Islington Archaeology & History Society events are listed on the inside back page

Sunday 8 September, 10am-5pm
Classic and vintage vehicle show

£5.50/concessions, Capel Manor Gardens, Enfield, 08456 122 122, www.capelmanorgardens.co.uk

Thursday 12 September, 7pm
John Soane and St Pancras
Talk by Gillian Darley.
St Pancras Church, Pancras Road, NW1, www.posp.co.uk

Thursday 12 September, 1.15pm
'Glorious discoveries': Sir William Hamilton, Pompeii and Herculaneum
Free talk, British Museum

Thursday 12 September, 1.15pm
Pompeii and Herculaneum: curator's introduction
Free lecture, booking required, British Museum

Friday 13 September, 6.30pm
Le Corbusier: Secret Photographer
Talk by Tim Benton.
£9/£6 concessions, V&A

Saturday 14 September, 10am-5pm
Archive open day – Mail Rail
Explore the history of the former Post Office underground railway. British Postal Museum and Archive

Saturday 14 September
London Ride + Stride
Sponsored visits on foot or by bike to places of worship of all faiths and eras. Information at the Heritage of London Trust's website: www.heritageoflondon.com

Sunday 15 September, 2.30pm
Guided towpath walk
Various charges, London Canal Museum

19 September, 5.30pm
Superposition: conversation
The artist and the physicist discuss the artwork. Free, booking required, London Canal Museum

Thursday 19 September, 7pm
Mr Poppleton's horse: a gallop through the history of horse-drawn mails
Talk by Julian Stray
£3/concs, book ahead. British Postal Museum and Archive

Thursday 19 September, 7.30pm
Violent crime in 19th century Camden
Talk by Katherine Watson. Camden History Society

Saturday 21 September
Society of Genealogists open day
Tours of library at 11am,

12pm and 2pm, plus advice on family history research. Free, book on events@sog.org.uk or 020 7553 3290

Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 September
London Open House
See hundreds of London's buildings for free. Those in Islington include Finsbury Health Centre (pictured). www.londonopenhouse.org

Sunday 22 September, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm
Guided tunnel boat trips
Fifty-minute trip through London's longest canal tunnel. £8.30/concs, book ahead, London Canal Museum

Tuesday 24 September, 1pm
Spotting mermaids
£4, Hunterian Museum

Wednesday 25 September, 1.15pm
Guided towpath walk
Free, London Canal Museum

Wednesday 25 September, 7.45pm
Stained glass
Talk by Helene Davidian. £2, St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane. Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Friday 27 and Saturday 28 September
Behind the scenes at the museum depot
Tours of London Transport Museum's depot in Acton. £12/concs, book in advance, 020 7565 7298 or at www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Sunday 29 September, 11am, 12pm, and 4pm
Guided tunnel boat trips
Details as for 22 September, London Canal Museum

Thursday 3 October, 7.30pm
Archive photos of the early 1960s
Talk by Roger Butler. £4/concs, London Canal Museum

Saturday 5 October, 2pm
War by timetable? Railways, war plans and the origins of the First World War
Talk by Prof David Stevenson £3, Historical Association, book on 020 7323 1192, chrisie@ganjou.com

Monday 7 October
Franklin and the dissenters
Talk by Lady Reid £5/concs, Benjamin Franklin House, www.BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Tuesday 8 October
Brunel's tunnel under the

Tours and tea at the Union Chapel

Go behind the scenes at the Union Chapel to see the extent and details of the grade I listed building, including a secret passage and a hidden garden, as well as the architectural splendour.

Guided tours of around an hour are held on the first Sunday of the month at 12.15pm.

A donation of £5 per head or other amount is invited towards upkeep. Book in advance on 020 7359 4019

New: tea and conversation

Appreciate this building while talking over a cup of tea. Wednesday, 10am-12 noon, free



Thames

Talk by Robert Hulse, Brunel Museum director.

8pm, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Wednesday 9 October, 5.45pm

The centenary of stainless steel from Faraday to Brearley and after

Talk by David Dulieu.
Newcomen Society, director's suite, Science Museum

Thursday 10 October, 7pm

St Pancras Station

Talk by Simon Bradley.
St Pancras Church, Pancras Road, NW1, www.posp.co.uk

Sunday 13 October, 10.30am

Crossness Pumping Station steaming day

Steaming and history day, £5

Sunday 13 October, 11am,

12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm

Guided tunnel boat trips

Fifty-minute guided tour through London's longest canal tunnel.
£8.30/concessions, booking required, London Canal Museum

Thursday 17 October, 5.30pm

Superposition: conversation

The artist and the physicist discuss the artwork.

Free, booking required, London Canal Museum

Thursday 17 October, 7.30pm

A Hampstead coterie: the Carrs and the Lushingtons

Talk by David Taylor.
Camden History Society

Friday 18 October, 8pm

The Roman bones of old Enfield

Talk by Neil Pinchbeck.
8pm, £1, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield Archaeological Society

Sunday 20 October, 3pm

The trees of Southwark

Talk by Christopher Cook.
Goose Green Centre, St John's Church, SE22, Peckham Society

Tuesday 22 October, 1pm

Surgeons at sea: the naval surgeon and health of the seaman in the age of Nelson

Talk by Dr Kevin Brown
£4, Hunterian Museum

Wednesday 23 October

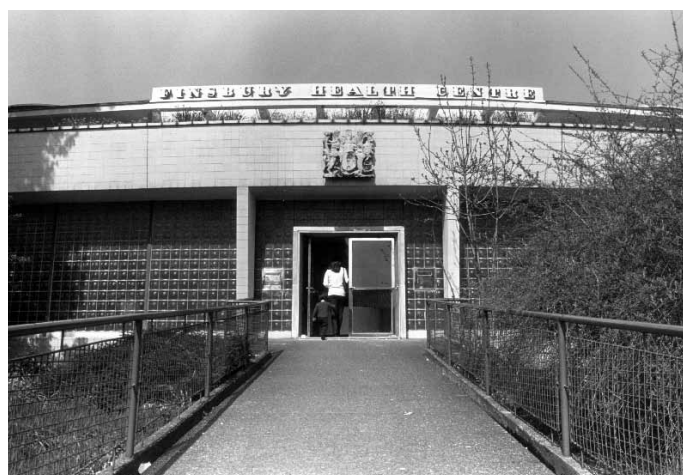
Friern Hospital

Talk by David Berguer.
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane. Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Thursday 24 October, 7pm

The Royal Mail – past and present

Talk by Duncan Campbell-Smith.
£3/concessions, book ahead, Guildhall Library, event



Finsbury Health Centre: open for London House and the subject of the *Sunshine indoors!* exhibition at the Islington Museum

organised by British Postal Museum and Archive

Thursday 7 November, 7.30pm

The canal pioneers: Brindley's school of engineers

Talk by Chris Lewis.
£4/concs, London Canal Museum

Tuesday 12 November

Lions on Kunulus – excavations of early bronze and iron age periods at Tell Taymar, Hatay, Turkey

Talk by Dr Fiona Haughey.
8pm, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Wednesday 13 November, 5.45pm

The introduction of pre-stressed concrete into Britain

Talk by Chris Burgoyne.
Newcomen Society, director's Suite, Science Museum

Thursday 14 November, 7pm

If you're reading this: last letters from the front line

Talk by Sian Price Stray.
£3/concessions, book ahead, Phoenix Centre, British Postal Museum and Archive

Friday 15 November, 8pm

Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre – the whole story

Talk by Julian Bowsher,
Museum of London Archaeology.

8pm, £1, Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane. Enfield Archaeological Society

Thursday 21 November, 7.30pm

The Marquis of Leuville

Talk by Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms.
Camden History Society

Wednesday 27 November

Coffee houses, coffee shops, coffee stalls and coffee bars

Marlene McAndrew
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane. Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

29-30 November, 11am and 2pm

Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot

Details as for Friday 27-28 September

5 December, 7.30pm

Ice for the metropolis

Talk by Malcolm Tucker
£4/concs, London Canal Museum

Wednesday 11 December, 5.45pm

The 1862 exhibition: machinery on show and its message

Talk by John Agnew
Newcomen Society, director's Suite, Science Museum



Physics meets art in the ice well: exhibition plus conversations on 19 September and 17 October. See *Cold stories*, page 18

The river and port of London

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society
48th local history conference

A changing port in a changing world. London's harbours from the first to the 18th century

Gustav Milne, director, Thames Discovery
Programme

Re-invention and change: the Port of London 1790-1938

Chris Ellmers, founding director, Museum
in Docklands

Local history and the environmental history of the Thames 1960-2010

Vanessa Taylor, research fellow, Greenwich
Maritime Institute

Displays by local history societies throughout the day

10am-4pm Saturday 16 November 2013

Weston Theatre, Museum of London

Tickets £15/£12 in advance until 1 November, includes tea and biscuits. Pay via PayPal at www.lamas.org.uk or c/o Eleanor Stanier, 48 Coval Road, East Sheen, SW14 7RL

● www.lamas.org.uk/localhistory2013.html

Primus omnium: the world's first modern police force

Robert Jeffries, curator, Thames Police
Museum

The Thames as a provider of drinking water

Mark Jenner, University of York

The Thames beautiful: the artist's perspective

Mireille Galinou, arts and museums
consultant, former curator of paintings,
prints and drawings at the Museum of
London

Exhibitions

Until Sunday 15 September

Pride and prejudice: the battle for Betjeman's Britain

This exhibition shows how
John Betjeman and others
campaigning to protect 18th
and 19th century
architecture, and how the
listing system emerged.
Quadrige Gallery,
Wellington Arch, Hyde Park
Corner, www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-centenary/

Until Saturday 28 September

Northern vision: master drawings from the Tchoban Foundation

Exhibition of images from
the newest architectural
museum in Europe -
Berlin's Tchoban
Foundation, Museum für
Architekturzeichnung.
The exhibition will focus on
works by architects rarely
seen in British collections,
mainly by German and
Russian draughtsmen. The
drawings range from the
late 16th century to
modernist work.
Free, Soane Museum

Until Sunday 29 September

Mass Observation: this is your photo

Mainly photographic
exhibition of recordings of
the lives, opinions and daily
thoughts and habits of the
British people.
Free, The Photographers'
Gallery, 16-18 Ramillies
Street, W1, 020 7087 9300,
info@tpg.org.uk

Until Sunday 27 October

Poster Art 150 – London Underground's greatest designs

Display of 150 posters,
including those made in the
19th century.
£15 (includes museum entry
for one year)/concessions,
London Transport Museum

Ongoing

Walks led by the Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association

Walks on different themes.
£6/£5, www.clerkenwellwalks.org.uk

Free Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association weekday walks

Various times and topics
during September.
See <http://footprintsoflondon.com/ciga/special-walks/free-walks/>
or tickets@ciga.org.uk

Tour the Museum of London's archaeological archive

11am, 2pm, first and third Friday
and Saturday of the month
Tour the world's largest



The first version of *The Cardsharps*, by Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio has been loaned to the Museum of the Order of St John in Clerkenwell. Caravaggio is a notorious figure; accused of murder in 1606, he sought refuge on Malta where his artistic reputation secured him admission as a Knight of the Order.

archaeological archive and
handle some of the finds
from more than 8,500

excavations. £5, book ahead,
www.museumoflondon.org.uk/tours

100 years of Arsenal FC in Islington



A major exhibition marking Arsenal FC's 100 years in Islington opens shortly. Above is shown the Highbury ground's north bank in 1913 being built up in time for the club's opening in September – the slope of Highbury Hill meant that a lot of time was spent levelling the pitch. The houses on Avenell Road are still there.

It's Arsenal around here: 100 years in Islington runs from Friday 6 September until Friday 24 January 2014 at Islington Museum. Admission free.

Wednesday 25 September–
Sunday 24 November

Brutal and beautiful: saving the twentieth century

This exhibition looks at the love/hate relationship with recent architecture and asks “what is worth saving?”

Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-centenary/

Thursday 26 September–
Tuesday 1 October

Cyril Mann: the Bevin Court years (1956-63)

Display of paintings by Finsbury artist Cyril Mann. Free, Islington Local History Centre

Saturday 21 September–Sunday
19 January 2014

Pearls

Exhibition of over 200 pieces of jewellery and works of art showing the variety of colour and shape of natural and cultured pearls. These include a pearl-drop earring worn by Charles I at his execution in 1649, pearl tiaras worn by European

nobility and a necklace of cultured pearls given to Marilyn Monroe by Joe DiMaggio in 1954. £10/concs, Victoria & Albert Museum, book on www.vam.ac.uk/pearls

Until Sunday 29 September–Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum

The cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy were buried in 24 hours when volcano Vesuvius erupted in AD 79. The excavation of these cities has given us unparalleled insight into daily Roman life. The exhibition, which takes the form of a Roman house, includes furniture, domestic equipment including lamps and kitchen items, pictures, sculptures and casts of some of the victims. £15/concessions, British Museum

Thursday 3 October–Sunday
5 January

Shunga: sex and pleasure in Japanese art

This exhibition sheds light

on these detailed erotic paintings produced from 1600 to 1900 and their place in Japanese social and cultural history.

£7/concs, British Museum

Monday 14 October–Saturday
21 December 2013

Sunshine Indoors! Finsbury Health Centre

Display to commemorate 75 years since the opening of the Finsbury Health Centre. Free, Islington Local History Centre

Thursday 19 October–Sunday
23 March

Beyond El Dorado: power and gold in ancient Colombia

The truth behind the myth of El Dorado is revealed in this exhibition. On display are more than 300 objects made of gold and other precious metals from pre-Hispanic Colombia. £10/concessions, British Museum

Until 20 October

Superposition

This installation in an ice

Until 20 October

Memory Palace

A graphic novel by Hari Kunzru and an exhibition come together to give a rebel's view of how the 20th century might be remembered.

A magnetic storm has wiped the world's computers and the ruling elite have outlawed memory, art, writing and recording.

The jailed protagonist writes everything he can remember on the walls of his cell – the “memory palace” of the exhibition.

Twenty graphic artists have

well is inspired by particle physics research. Picture and details of conversations with the creators on previous page; more detail in *Cold stories*, page 18.

Book tours on Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. London Canal Museum, £4/concs

Until Saturday 9 November–Opened up: 200 years of the Hunterian Museum

Exhibition of collections of human anatomy and pathology and natural history, as well as works of art. This exhibition looks at who took care of these items, how were they were displayed and the museum's role in surgical education. Free, Hunterian Museum

Until 1 December

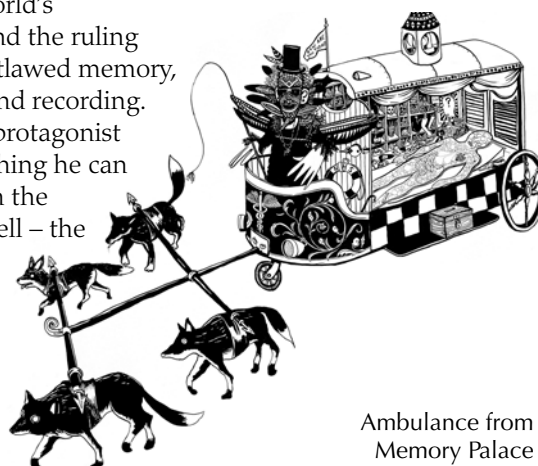
When ice came to London

When Victoria came to the throne in 1837, ice was a scarce luxury. When she died, it was widely available. This exhibition tells the story of London's ice history. London Canal Museum, £4/concs

brought the novel to life. Their creations include the Shard overgrown with vegetations.

At the end, visitors can add their own memories.

● £8/concessions, Victoria and Albert museum



Ambulance from
Memory Palace

Directory

History, civic, amenity and archaeology societies, museums and online resources

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like your organisation listed here or to update details, contact the editor on news@iahs.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB

Abney Park Cemetery
020 7275 7557,
www.abney-park.org.uk

Alexandra Palace TV Group
Runs museum. Tony Wilding,
71 Dale View Avenue, E4
6PJ, 020 8524 0827

Alexandra Palace TV Society
Archives: 35 Breedon Hill Rd,
Derby, DE23 6TH, 01332 729
358, apts@apts.org.uk, www.youtube.com/aptsarchive

**All Hallows by the Tower
Crypt Museum**
020 7481 2928, www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

Amwell Society
8 Cumberland Gardens,
WC1X 9AG, 020 7837 0988,
info@amwellsociety.org

Anaesthesia Heritage Centre
21 Portland Place, W1B 1PY,
020 7631 1650, www.aagbi.org/education/heritage-centre

The Angel Association
www.angelassociation.org.uk

Arsenal FC Museum
020 7619 5000, www.arsenal.com

**Association for the Study
and Preservation of Roman
Mosaics**
www.asprom.org

Bank of England Museum
Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH,
020 7601 5545, www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum

**Barnet Museum and Local
History Society**
www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

BBC archive
www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Benjamin Franklin House
Craven Street, WC2N 5NF,
020 7925 1405, info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

**Bethlem Royal Hospital
Archives and Museum**
Monks Orchard Road,
Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX,
020 3228 4227, www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

Bexley Archaeological Group
www.bag.org.uk, Martin
Baker: 020 8300 1752

Bomb Sight
Online map of WW2 bombs
in London 1940-41,
www.bombsight.org

British Airways Heritage
www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb

**British Dental Association
Museum**
64 Wimpole St, W1G 8YS,
020 7563 4549, museum@bda.org, www.bda.org/
www.bda.org/museum

British Heritage TV Group
www.405-line.tv/

British Museum
Great Russell Street, WC1,
020 7323 8299, information@britishmuseum.org

**British Postal Museum and
Archive**
Freeling House, Phoenix
Place, WC1X 0DL, and store
at Debden, Essex, 020 7239
2570, info@postalheritage.org.uk

**British Vintage Wireless
Society**
secretary@www.bvws.org.uk

Brixton Windmill
020 7926 6056, www.brixtonwindmill.org/

Bruce Castle Museum
Lordship Lane, N17 8NU,
020 8808 8772, museum.services@haringey.gov.uk

**Burgh House and
Hampstead Museum**
New End Sq, NW3, 020 7431
0144, www.burghhouse.org.uk

Camden History Society
020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

**Camden New Town History
Group**
www.camdennewtown.info

**Camden Railway Heritage
Trust**
21 Oppidans Road, NW3,
secretary@crht1837.org

Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk, 1 Alwyne Place, N1

Cartoon Museum
35 Little Russell Street,
WC1, 020 7580 8155, www.cartoonmuseum.org

**City of London
Archaeological Society**
email@colas.org.uk

**Clerkenwell and Islington
Guides Association**
07971 296731, info@ciga.org.uk

Clockmakers' Museum
Guildhall Library, www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

Cockney Heritage Trust
www.cockneyheritagetrust.com

Cross Bones Graveyard
www.crossbones.org.uk

Crossness Pumping Station
The Old Works, Belvedere
Road, SE2 9AQ, 020 8311
3711, www.crossness.org.uk

Docklands History Group
020 7537 0368, info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

**Dictionary of Victorian
London/Cat's Meat Shop**
Encyclopaedia and blog,
www.victorianlondon.org

East London History Society
42 Campbell Rd, E3 4DT, mail
@eastlondonhistory.org.uk

**Enfield Archaeological
Society**
www.enfarchsoc.org

Alexander Fleming Museum
St Mary's Hospital, Praed
Street, W2 1NY, 020 3312
6528, www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/museums-andarchives/

**Friends of Hackney
Archives**
Hackney Archives, Dalston
Sq, E8 3BQ, 020 8356 8925,
archives@hackney.gov.uk

**Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society**
www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk. Photo archive: www.friern-barnet.com

**Friends of the New River
Head**
c/o Amwell Society

Foundling Museum
40 Brunswick Square, WC1,
020 7841 3600, www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk

Freud Museum
20 Maresfield Gardens,
NW3, 020 7435 2002,
info@www.freud.org.uk

Friends of Friendless Churches

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society

70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7608 2409, gardenhistorysociety.org

Geffrye Museum

136 Kingsland Road, E2 8EA, 020 7739 9893, www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Georgian Group

6 Fitzroy Square, W1T 5DX, info@georgiangroup.org.uk

Grant Museum of Zoology

020 3108 2052, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology, zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk

Gresham College

Free lectures on different topics, www.gresham.ac.uk

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)

14 Mount Rd, EN4 9RL, 020 8692 8512, www.glias.org.uk

Guildhall Library

Aldermanbury, EC2V 7HH, 020 7332 1868, textphone 020 7332 3803, guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Hackney Museum

1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ, www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum.htm

The Hackney Society

Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 07771 225183, info@hackneysociety.org

History of Haringay

www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay

Heritage of London Trust

34 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1W 0DH, 020 7730 9472, info@heritageoflondon.com

Hendon and District Archaeology Society

020 8449 7076, secretary@hadas.org.uk



Bruce Castle Museum: this free museum in a grade I listed 16th century manor house sits in 20 acres of parkland and is home to Haringey council's local history collections and archives

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group

www.hevac-heritage.org/

Heritage of London Trust

020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historical Association, Central London Branch

020 7323 1192, www.history.org.uk, chrissie@ganjou.com

Historic Towns Forum

www.historictownsforum.org

Honourable Artillery Company Museum

City Road, EC1, 020 7382 1541, www.hac.org.uk

Horniman Museum

100 London Rd, SE23, 020 8699 1872, enquiry@horniman.ac.uk

Hornsey Historical Society

The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL, hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Hunterian Museum

RCS, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums

Island History Trust

Isle of Dogs, 020 7987 6041, eve@islandhistory.org.uk

Islington and Camden Cemetery

High Road, East Finchley, N2 9AG, 020 7527 8804,

www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/cemeteries

Islington Local History Centre

Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB. 9.30am-8pm Mon and Thurs (shuts 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tues, Fri and Sat; closed Weds and Sun; closed 1pm-2pm; 020 7527 7988; local.history@islington.gov.uk, www.islington.gov.uk/heritage

Islington Museum

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB, 10am-5pm, closed Weds and Sun, 020 7527 2837, islington.museum@islington.gov.uk, www.islington.gov.uk/museum

Islington Pensioners' Forum

1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN

Islington Society

35 Britannia Row, N1 8QH, www.isingtonsociety.org.uk

Joe Meek Society

www.joemeeksociety.org

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4, www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Keats House

Keats Grove, NW3 2RR, 020 7332 3868, keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, TW8,

020 8568 4757, www.kbsm.org

Locating London's Past

www.locatinglondon.org

London Canal Museum

12-13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

London Fire Brigade Museum

020 8555 1200 x 39894, museum@london-fire.gov.uk, www.london-fire.gov.uk/OurMuseum.asp

London Lives 1690-1800

www.londonlives.org

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton Rd, EC1 0HB, 020 7332 3820, ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

020 7814 5734, jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk, www.lamas.org.uk

London Museums of Health and Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group

http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com

London Society

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, www.londonsociety.org.uk

London Transport Museum

Covent Garden Piazza, WC2, 020 7379 6344, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

LT Museum Friends

020 7565 7296, www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

London Underground Railway Society

enquiries@lurs.org.uk

London Westminster & Middx Family History Society
www.lwmfhs.org.uk

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum
Markfield Park, N15, 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org

Mausolea & Monuments Trust
70 Cowcross St, EC1M, www.mmtrust.org.uk/

Marx Memorial Library
37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1 0DU, 020 7253 1485, info@marx-memorial-library.org

Medieval Pottery Research Group
www.medievalpottery.org.uk

Museum of Brands
2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale Road, W11, 020 7908 0880, info@museumofbrands.com

Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)
020 8411 4394, www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/home

Museum of London
150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN, 020 7814 5511, info@museumoflondon.org.uk

Museum of London Archaeology
Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, 020 7410 2200, www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk

Museum of London Docklands
020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands

Museum of the Order of St John
St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA, 020 7253 6644, www.museumstjohn.org.uk

Musical Museum
399 High Street, TW8 0DU, www.musicalmuseum.co.uk

National Archives
020 8876 3444, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Piers Society
www.piers.org.uk

Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology
020 7371 4445, office@newcomen.com

Newington Green Action Group
020 7359 6027, www.newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group
mail@newriver.org.uk, 020 8292 5987

North London Railway Historical Society
Keen House, 4 Calshot St, 020 7837 2542, www.nlrhs.org.uk

North London Transport Society
www.northlondontransport.society.co.uk, nlts@live.co.uk

Northview – a Rare Survivor
www.northview.org.uk

Pauper Lives in Georgian London
http://research.ncl.ac.uk/pauperlives

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
UCL, Malet Pl, WC1, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie

Peckham Society
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Proceedings of the Old Bailey
www.oldbaileyonline.org

Ragged School Museum
020 8980 6405, www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society
www.rcts.org.uk

Rescue
British Archaeological Trust, 01992 553377, www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society
info@rbhistory.org.uk

Royal Air Force Museum
020 8205 2266, www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD, www.architecture.com

Science Museum
Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD, www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Sir John Soane's Museum
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP, www.soane.org

Smithfield Trust
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7566 0041, smthfld@gn.apc.org

Society of Genealogists
020 7251 8799, www.societyofgenealogists.com

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings
37 Spital Sq, E1 6DY, 020 7377 1644, www.spab.org.uk

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society
79 Ashridge Crescent, SE18

St Marylebone Society
www.stmarylebonesociety.org

Strawberry Hill
268 Waldegrave Road, TW1 4ST, 020 8744 1241, www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk

Royal Archaeological Institute
admin@royalarchinst.org

Thames Discovery Programme
Mortimer Wheeler Hse, 46 Eagle Wharf Rd, N1, 020 7410 2207, enquiries@thamesdiscovery.org

Tottenham Civic Society
www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Transport Trust
Lambeth Rd, SE1, 020 7928 6464, www.transporttrust.com

Twentieth Century Society
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7250 3857, www.c20society.org.uk

Union Chapel and Friends of the Union Chapel
Compton Avenue, N1 2XD, www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html

Victoria & Albert Museum
Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020 7907 7073, www.vam.ac.uk

V&A Museum of Childhood
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA, 020 8983 5200

Victorian Society
020 8994 1019, www.victoriansociety.org.uk

Wallace Collection
Hertford House, Manchester Sq, W1M, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Wallpaper History Society
wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society
www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org.uk/

Wellcome Collection
www.wellcomecollection.org

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism
49 City Rd, EC1, www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm

William Morris Gallery
Forest Road, E17, 020 8496 4390, www.wmgallery.org.uk

Wilmington Square Society
www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org

Women's Library Collection
thewomenslibrary@lse.ac.uk

Islington Archaeology & History Society

Events

Wednesday 18 September

The New River and the New River Company

Speakers: Darian Mitchell, the Friends of the New River Head, and Andrew Smith, Islington Buildings Preservation Trust



It is 400 years since the New River Company opened a waterway that brought fresh drinking water to London at its historic site in Clerkenwell. Joint event with the Islington Society.

Wednesday 16 October

Islington's Kennedy moment

Speaker: Lester Hillman

8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1

Join Lester Hillman in remembering where and when you heard the that US president John F Kennedy had been assassinated in November 1963. We will also look at England's "Kennedy moment", when prime minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated in 1812.

Wednesday 20 November

Bombing and building: the postwar rebuilding of parliament

Speaker: Dr Caroline Shenton

8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1

Caroline Shenton is an archivist, historian and author, and director of the parliamentary archives. She is a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society and author of the award-winning *The Day Parliament Burned Down*.

Wednesday 11 December

People and planning in Islington from the 1960s to the 1980s

Speaker: David Ellis

8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1

David Ellis is researching contemporary British history, especially community action in urban areas in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. He has interests in housing, planning, conservation and gentrification.

Walk: Jewish Islington 1730-1880

Sunday 29 September, 11am-3pm. Booking essential. Voluntary donation of £5.

This takes us through some of the main Islington areas in which Jews were living and worshipping during 1730-1880. After lunch, there is a visit to the Reform Jewish cemetery off Balls Pond Road.

More information from Petra Laidlaw on ajdb@btinternet.com.

Call 020 7833 1541 or fill in form below to book.



Photocopies acceptable

Walk: Jewish Islington

☐ Please reserve me a place

☐ I would like to donate (£5/other amount), payable to the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Name

Address

.....

..... Tel

Return to IAHS, 8 Wynyatt St, London EC1V 7HU

See us at local events...

Snap up books, maps and postcards at our stall at the following events:

Gillespie festival

1pm-5pm, Sunday 8 September, Gillespie Park, N4

Get involved: things to do in Islington 2013

10.30am-12.30pm, 17 September, Islington Assembly Hall. Over 55s' event

Open House London

Union Chapel, 21-22 September

New River festival: celebrating 400 years

11-4, Sunday 29 September, New River Walk, entrance St Paul's Road

Non-members are always welcome at talks – we invite a £1 donation from non-members towards the speaker's expenses.

The Islington Archaeology & History Society meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. Check our website at www.iahs.org.uk for updates

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Back page picture

New River Walk: the round 17th century hut was used by watchmen who prevented swimming, fishing and rubbish tipping in the water supply as well as the theft of water fittings

