

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 1 No 1 Spring 2011



The retail palace of Holloway

The tale of Beale's emporium, from humble beginnings to Victorian splendour

Memories of Dame Alice Owen's School at Angel in the 1950s ● Caroline Chisholm, the emigrants' friend
● Canal transport in Regency times ● Regency lives uncovered via household insurance ● New galleries at the Museum of the Order of St John ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

About the society

What we do

The society arranges lectures, walks, visits and outings in relation to 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 are arranged for groups.

Why archaeology?

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

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

Our website

Go to www.iahs.org.uk to find out more about us and find out about our events.

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

We welcome contributions, including articles on local history, memories and more academic pieces.

Each page takes about 500 words, and most articles take up one or two pages, but don't worry too much about word length.

We like receiving pictures to accompany articles, but please check first that we can reproduce them without infringing anyone's copyright.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history, streets or buildings? Send

them in and our tireless researcher Michael Reading – and maybe other readers – will answer them.

● See Letters, page 6

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Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right)

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Join us and benefit from membership

Members receive this journal and are invited to 10 talks a year with guest speakers, and other events.

We run a wide range of talks, with topics going from Roman gardens to the Routemaster bus, the King's Cross/St Pancras station redevelopment, map-

making, building restoration, architecture, entertainment history, health, crime and politics.

Members also receive the journal four times a year.

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



Membership form

Membership per year is: £10 single; £12 joint at same address; concessions £6; joint concessions £8; corporate £15

Name(s)

Address

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

Please return this form (photocopies acceptable) to: Islington Archaeology & History Society, 8 Wynyatt Street, London EC1V 7HU

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Islington has always been outspoken

I'm sometimes asked whether the society is political. We are not, although many members are politically aware. Many are active, some more seriously than others – I had my fun in 2005 in my leopard print top hat at election time.

Yet radicalism does crop up rather a lot in our lectures. This simply demonstrates just how much radicalism in Islington there is to study.

Dissent takes many forms – political, moral, sexual, theological, theatrical, literary, architectural – and is integral to Islington life. Sometimes I wonder if 10 lectures a year is enough when dissenters alone can cover the schedule.

But dissent does not mean objecting for its own sake. You may know (news, page 4) that a proposed tower block in Canonbury Road was rejected by a public inquiry. All the local amenity and conservation societies, alongside Islington council, were opposed to the scale of it.

We are not singing pompous songs of victory, though. All those who opposed the tower agree the site as it stands is still an eyesore. We would like to see housing on a fitting scale on a sensitive site between two conservation areas.

Our new look

Welcome to our redesigned journal, which reflects that more people wish to cite our articles. Under his editorship, Peter Fuller took this publication from being a very good newsletter to a much admired journal. Our new editor is Christy Lawrance. Please send news, features and research articles and events to her at news@iahs.org.uk.

Andrew Gardner

Chairman

Islington Archaeology & History Society



Contents

News	4
Planning inquiry takes note of Canonbury character	
Face of Islington changes with major housebuilding	
Feminist of Newington Green recognised with green plaque	
Letters and your questions	6
Questions and answers on the origins of street and house names, a workhouse tablet and a blue plaque	
Beale's store of Holloway Road	8
Beale's was a landmark in one of London's most fashionable shopping parades. Its founder's grandson tells of its origins	
On many a well-remembered field	10
A former boy scholar looks back at his time at Dame Alice Owen's School at the Angel in the 1950s; and the school magazine in 1960	
Regency transport	13
This year sees lots of Regency bicentennials – and Islington is an excellent place to celebrate the company that set up Regent's Canal	
Lords and laundresses	14
Research Regency lifestyles through Sun Fire Office insurance policies	
The emigrants' friend	16
The work of philanthropic pioneer Caroline Chisholm, and why her basement was equivalent to the Australian High Commission	
Museum makes a modern move	18
New galleries, more treasures and a research room at the refurbished Museum of the Order of St John	
Coffin plates	19
Recognise an ancestor's name?	
Publications	20
Including guides for spring walks	
Events	22
Directory of societies and museums	25
Islington Archaeology & History Society events	27

In brief

MP becomes IAHS honorary member

Jeremy Corbyn MP has been made an honorary member of the Islington Archaeology & History Society.

Accepting membership, he said: "In a fast-changing borough, I've always admired the way our society increases its membership, maintains its enthusiasm and encourages all communities to be part of the rich and varied pageant which is our borough's past, from pre-Roman times to the 21st century.

"It makes our borough the fantastic place that it is."

Heritage Lottery wants your views on its work

The Heritage Lottery fund is seeking views on what its priorities should be, what it should continue doing and what it should do differently. Consultation runs until 26 April.

• www.hlf.org.uk/consultation2011

CABE and Design Council merge

The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment and the Design Council are to merge from 1 April. The new body will provide a one stop shop for design support.

Rare King James Bible found on church shelf

An original King James Bible has been discovered on a shelf in St Laurence Church in Hilmarion, Wiltshire. Residents researching the church's history read about a "fine chained Bible" at the church, then made the link with a Bible that had been on a shelf at the church for a number of years.

Effect on character leads to public inquiry rejecting tower of homes

Plans to build a seven-storey tower near the Union Chapel in Canonbury have been rejected by the Planning Inspectorate because of its scale and the effect it would have on the area.

The inspector said the scheme would harm the character of the area and diminish the setting of the Union Chapel to an unacceptable extent.

Notting Hill Home Ownership had planned to build two buildings, containing 134 flats and commercial space at 85 Canonbury Road, the former Highbury Ford garage site.

Notting Hill had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate after the council rejected the scheme last year. Islington council had received more than 600 written objections to the scheme and its rejection of the scheme was supported



Union Chapel: the inquiry heard about the high quality of its architecture and how its setting would be diminished

by seven amenity societies.

During the six-day public inquiry, a lot of information emerged on the uniqueness and high quality of the Grade II* listed Union Chapel's architecture.

The Canonbury Society said: "To win this case, it was of paramount importance to demonstrate that the 'setting' of this building,

which is of national and local interest, would be harmed if the development were to proceed."

• The inquiry report, by Frances Mahoney DipTP MRTPI IHBC of the Planning Inspectorate, can be downloaded from the Canonbury Society's website at www.canonburysociety.org.uk

Views wanted on local listing

English Heritage is asking for comments for its draft guidance on local listing.

Local listing acknowledges the value of buildings that, while not of national importance, have significant heritage, aesthetic, architectural or social value.

Inner-city areas such as Islington can be subject to considerable development pressure. Many buildings in the borough are protected through conservation areas; local listing could help protect significant buildings outside these areas from development.

English Heritage's draft guidance looks at identifying significant local

heritage assets and managing them through a local list.

It says that the guide intends to, among other matters, "encourage a transparent and consistent approach to a local list by: strengthening the role of locally listed heritage assets as material considerations in deciding the outcome of planning decisions".

The draft's case studies will be included in the final guidance which will be published later in the year.

Consultation closes on 13 May 2011.

• Download the guide and the consultation response form from <http://tinyurl.com/eh-locallist-consult>

Workhouse gains Grade II listing

An 18th-century workhouse threatened with demolition has been listed Grade II.

The H-shaped building, in Cleveland Street, Fitzrovia, was built as a workhouse in 1775-78. It acquired its pair of projecting end blocks in 1829, when it was called the Strand Union Workhouse.

It is thought to have been the inspiration for the workhouse in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.

The building is believed to be the best preserved Georgian workhouse in central London, its H shape a visible reminder of how the Georgians left it.

• www.clevelandstreetworkhouse.org

Face of Islington changing with rapid rise in new housing

Islington's built environment is changing rapidly – more new homes are being built here than in nearly every other borough in the country, according to government figures.

Between October 2009 and October 2010, the total number of homes in Islington (excluding empty homes) increased by 2,228.

In the same period, the total number of homes in Camden rose by 1,010; Haringey had 757 more homes; and Hackney had 1,115 more homes.

The figures were released as the government announced the first New Homes Bonus payments.

Under this scheme, which is intended to encourage housebuilding, the government will match the council tax raised from new homes for six years; more bonus is paid for affordable homes. Bonuses are also paid when empty homes are brought back into use.

The Department for Communities and Local Government said the bonus worked out at over £9,000 on average per home in council tax band D, and just under £11,000 for an equivalent affordable home.

Islington is due to receive £3,706,471 for the first year of New Homes Bonus payments, equivalent to £22,238,827 over six years.

The only other borough to gain over 2,000 homes was Tower Hamlets, with 2,934.

Those approaching included Bristol (1,946), Leeds (1,933), Milton Keynes (1,884), Southwark (1,838), Sheffield (1,726) and Birmingham (1,716). The national average is just under 600.



Bunhill Row has been afforded the highest level of recognition as a historic landscape, with a Grade I entry on the national Register of Parks and Gardens. In addition, some 75 individual tombs have been individually listed.

Green plaque for feminist pioneer of Newington Green

Mary Wollstonecraft, the 18th-century advocate of women's rights, writer and philosopher, has been honoured with a memorial plaque at Newington Green Primary School.

The plaque, part of Islington council's green plaque scheme, was unveiled by council leader Councillor Catherine West on International Women's Day on 8 March, which celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women.

Mary Wollstonecraft was

born on 27 April 1759 in Spitalfields and is best known for writing *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792), in which she argued that women were not naturally inferior to men and that men and women should be treated equally.

She opened a school for girls in Newington Green, probably on the south-east corner, although nothing of the building remains today.

Wollstonecraft died aged 38. Her daughter Mary Shelley is best known for writing *Frankenstein*.

In brief

Works at Lubetkin's Finsbury Health Centre

The Grade I Finsbury Health Centre, designed by Berthold Lubetkin and built in 1938, is to get a "mini refurbishment", according to campaigners, who described the move as a "major victory".

● <http://savefinsburyhealthcentre.wordpress.com>

Chinese project to remember Limehouse

A Chinese heritage project – the Legacy of Limehouse Chinatown – is being created by the Islington Chinese Association, with the Islington Museum and Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives.

The project, covering the 19th century to the 1960s, will research the history of London's first Chinatown in Limehouse.

If you, your relatives or your friends lived in Limehouse Chinatown, contact Dr Yat Ming Loo, Islington Chinese Association, looyatming@hotmail.com, 21 Hatchard Road, London N19 4NG, www.islingtonchinese.com.

Network to tackle heritage crime

A nationwide network has been set up to tackle heritage crime including theft and criminal damage.

The Alliance to Reduce Crime against Heritage (ARCH), launched by English Heritage, is a nationwide network of bodies including the police, local authorities, non-government organisations, professional groups and amenity societies.

Over the next year, it will focus on four main categories: physical damage caused by fire, graffiti, vandalism and vehicles; unlawful excavation and removal of articles from the historic environment, including illegal metal detecting; architectural theft; and unlawful alteration and demolition of listed buildings.

The profile of heritage crimes will be raised among

police officers.

For the first time, there will be a national lead in the Association of Chief Police Officers on heritage crimes.

Richard Crompton, chief constable of Lincolnshire, who holds this post, said: "A great many people care deeply about this sort of crime and I believe that we can tap into that concern and interest and work with communities to make a real difference."

Letters and your questions

We welcome letters. Our researcher Michael Reading can answer your queries, so get in touch if you have a question – or can answer or add to anything mentioned here

The lodge at Chalfont Road

From the mid 1930s until 1950, my grandparents, Charles and Mary Lindop, lived at 6 Chalfont Road, Holloway N7.

This house, which was architecturally unlike any other house in the street, had the name St James' Lodge over the front door.

I was wondering if it could have been the gatehouse to a large house or institution in the St Mary Magdalene vicinity, between Holloway and Liverpool Roads.

Pat Rawlings

16 Wyles Road, Chatham, Kent NE4 6HA

Michael Reading writes:

The area where your grandparents lived was built between 1820 and 1850. In the early part of the 19th century, many large houses were built for the growing prosperous middle classes, particularly in Highbury, Canonbury and Barnsbury.

Chalfont Road ran parallel to Holloway and Liverpool Roads, with Victoria Road (now Chillingworth Road) at its north end and Sheringham Road at its south end.

From the 1916 Old

Ordnance Survey Map, you can see that there was a St James Church in Victoria Road. Built in 1817-18, it has now gone. St James Road (now Mackenzie Road) intersected Chalfont Road at its north end.

I can only surmise that the original owners of number 6 wanted to name their home and took the name of their local church. The designation of lodge may have been to enhance its status. I do not think there has ever been any institution on this site that warranted a gatehouse.

As your grandparents lived in Chalfont Road during the Second World War, they will have witnessed the V2 rocket that landed at the junction of Mackenzie and Chalfont Roads, at 9pm-11pm on 6 December 1944, devastating the Prince of Wales pub, killing 68 and injuring 99 people, in the worst V2 attack on Islington.

Are Hackney Brook and Holbrooke Court linked?

I would greatly appreciate any information on the origins, route and history of the Hackney Brook.

Mary Cosh, in *A History of Islington*, makes reference to

the Hackney Brook being incorporated into Bazalgette's Northern High Level Area sewer, but gives a rather imprecise description of its route, and does not say where the brook originated.

I am intrigued by the name of Holbrooke Court, the cul-de-sac next to Northview estate where I live: does this originate from the proximity of Hackney Brook, and was it known by a different name locally?

Northview sits just behind the corner of Tufnell Park Road and Holloway Road, opposite the Odeon cinema (originally the Gaumont). Both were built in 1938. Was this just coincidence?

Paul Thurlow

*35 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, London N7 0QB
pauljthurlow@gmail.com*

Michael Reading writes:

Hackney Brook rises in Holloway near Mercers Road, running south to cross Holloway Road near Tufnell Park Road and continuing to Lowman Road where it turns north-east and runs along Gillespie Road to leave the parish at Mountgrove Road.

The area where you live was built up by speculative builders in the mid 19th century to accommodate the increasing middle classes.

Holbrooke Court was named after composer Josef Holbrooke (1878-1958). As a boy, he lived at 30 Hatley Road and was a choirboy at St Anne's Poole's Park. His father was a pianist at Collins Music Hall and the Old Bedford Music Hall in Camden Town. Aged 14,

Josef was a pianist at the Finsbury Park Empire and, aged 15, gave piano lessons from Station Road Highbury. From 1922-26 he lived at Vale House, Tufnell Park Road, between numbers 21 and 23.

The Odeon cinema opened as the Gaumont on 5 September 1938 and reopened with a gala in July 1958. I have found no connection with Northview.

Corbyn: what's in a name?

If any of your members have any inkling as to why Corbyn Street is so called, I'd love to know their thinking.

I have copies of legal land titled documents for that area that my grandfather gave me (a solicitor's clerk in the late 19th century who presumably had to write these up in copper plate). There may be a connection here, but possibly not.

Jeremy Corbyn MP

Michael Reading writes:

In *Streets with a Name: the Book of Islington*, Eric Willats says Corbyn Street (1870-71) is on a large-scale map of 1870, but not in the census for the previous year. It is not in the Islington directories for 1870 or 1874, but appears in the one for 1877.

The Old Ordnance Survey Map of Finsbury Park and Stroud Green for 1870 shows that 75% of the north side of Hanley Road had been built. The south side was open land which included the future site of Corbyn Street. It is possible that leases to build here were granted by The Sons of the Clergy or The Birkbeck Land



Musical name for a cul-de-sac near where the Hackney Brook ran

Society. To the east of Stroud Green was open countryside.

The Old Ordnance Survey map for 1894 shows the whole area built up and Corbyn Street straight, with terraced houses on both sides, intersected by Almington Street. There were no shops, public houses or yards – it was all residential. The map for 1912 shows exactly the same.

Willats's book often gives the origin of street names, but is silent on Corbyn Street. So much building was going on in Islington between 1840 and 1885 that practically all the open spaces were covered with the

Builders often named streets after family members, their county, town or village of origin, or their surnames

exception of Highbury Fields.

Builders often named streets after family members, their county, town or village of origin, or their surnames. This may be the case with Corbyn Street.

During the Second World War, practically every house in the eastern part of Corbyn Street from Almington Street suffered damage from "general blast to damage beyond repair". A section of the north side of the street to the west of Almington Street suffered similarly.

Some of this may have been caused by the bombing in 1940-41, but a V2 rocket fell on 31 December 1944 at 11.28pm at the junction of Hanley Road and Regina Road, killing five people and injuring 131 others.

After the war, Islington council erected three blocks of flats where the houses had been destroyed, all on the north side of Corbyn Street

– Reynolds House (1963), Stubbs House (1964) and Turner House (1967) – and all named after artists.

Four addresses sought

I am searching for some old addresses where my ancestors lived. Most of them are in Islington and I was wondering if old photos of these addresses exist. The Islington addresses are:

- 3 Clifton Gardens;
- 44 Clayton Street;
- 137 Campbell Road;
- 3 Oldfield Villas, Birkbeck Road.

My ancestor's name was Samuel Brown.

Jack Brown
mr.brown@shaw.ca

Michael Reading writes: Clayton Street N1 was built 1848 and renamed Tilloch Street in 1938. Formerly a street of some 46 houses, it is now considerably reduced. It is west of Caledonian Road.

During the Second World War, 20% of the houses were classed as seriously damaged but repairable; 55% suffered general blast damage.

● Campbell Road N4 was built 1864-65 and renamed Whadcoat Street in 1938. It had a notorious reputation in the 1920s as a road of the lowest class of degraded or semi-criminal population. It was a street of lodging houses, and home to thieves, prostitutes and child gangs.

A book about it, *Campbell Bunk: the Worst Street in London Between the Wars*, by Jerry White, was published in 1986.

Campbell Road was the first target of Islington's slum clearance programme after the war. Only a short stretch of Whadcoat Street remains, which exits into Seven Sisters Road near Finsbury Park station.

● I could not find any reference to Clifton Gardens N4 in Islington, having searched the census from

1841 to 1911. However, there is a Clifton Terrace, Islington N4, built 1873-74 which is very close to Campbell Road and, like it, was a very poor area. This street still exists, although much reduced. It is west of Stroud Green Road.

● Oldfield Villas, Birkbeck Road, N19. This was built in 1865-67 and renamed Elthorne Road in 1881. Before 1878, it was a collection of individually named terraces and villas, of which Oldfield Villas was one. The road was numbered in the year it was renamed. Elthorne Road is on the east side of Holloway Road, near Archway.

Entering the main postal codes in Google Earth street view will allow you to see what is there now.

Photographs of some of the streets may be held at the London Metropolitan Archives, as they have an extensive collection for Islington, taken by the council to assist in rebuilding after the war. Contact them at: ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk.

Thank you so much for your assistance. I have sent emails to different institutions in England with usually no response. I can't tell you how much I appreciate you taking the time to help me.

Jack Brown

Seeking an engraved tablet

My very first job was as a young clerical officer in 1960 in the LCC's architect's department area office at 26A Barnsbury Street.

On an outside rear wall was an engraved tablet stating that the building was a former workhouse built in 1777. In 1960, it was just above eye level in the men's urinals!

I left London for Devon

on the demise of the GLC so do not know what became of the tablet. If you have a photograph of it I would be very grateful for a copy by email. An excellent website, by the way.

Peter Fanning
petermfanning@yahoo.co.uk

Michael Reading writes: The workhouse closed in 1877 and the property became a relief office and dispensary. It was also the office for births, marriages, and deaths until 1969. It was probably used for other purposes and may also have been empty for some time.

It has been converted into flats and I would imagine that the tablet may have been removed or even destroyed. If you look at 26a Barnsbury Street on Google Earth street view, you will see how much has changed.

Caslon's blue plaque missing

William Caslon had a typefoundry in various streets near St Luke's church in Old Street. The third location of his foundry was at 24 Chiswell Street on the corner of Bunhill Row.

As I work in Bunhill Row and go past 24 Chiswell Street at least once a day, I looked to see if there was a blue plaque on the wall.

There isn't. I suspect it may have been removed when the building was refurbished and not put back.

Margaret Busgith
m.busgith@yahoo.co.uk

Andrew Gardner, Islington Archaeology & History Society chairman, writes:

Thank you for letting us know about Caslon's missing blue plaque. We will be taking the matter up with English Heritage.

Write to us at news@iahs.org.uk or via our website at iahs.org.uk. If you do not want your address printed, let us know. This font is Caslon (see final letter), cut by the Islington typographer

Beale's store of Holloway Road

Beale's store was a landmark in one of London's most fashionable shopping parades. Its origins are traced from a small bakery in Upper Holloway, in an extract from the store's history by the founder's grandson John Beale

1 861 was the year in which Grandpa William Beale descended without warning upon the defenceless inhabitants of Highgate.

In 1852, at the age of 18, William had left Buntingford to be apprenticed to his uncle Edward, a baker of Popham Street in Islington.

In an interview given to the *Caterer* magazine in 1897 he is quoted as saying, "I learned the trade of baker and confectioner from my uncle, Edward Beale, at his shop in Popham Street, Islington. In 1861 I commenced business in a very small way in Highgate Hill. I was twenty-three at the time and had only a capital of £50 of my own. With this, and £200 which I borrowed, I started. Business prospered, and in 1866 I secured a lease in Holloway Road, at a rent of £110 per year."

It was indeed in "a very small way" that William started up in the poverty-stricken little shop at No 6 Whittington Terrace, Highgate Hill, Upper Holloway, though we still have an early photograph that he was proud enough to have taken of it. It hardly looks worth the £250 that our young hopeful paid for it in terms of 1861 money values.

For the time being it was a hard slog for William and his wife Christina. The heavy

bread dough would be mixed and moulded all by hand – back-breaking work carried out in the heat, dust, steam and coal fumes of the traditional London basement bakehouse of the time.

William was strong and tough. When morning came he would set out with his horse and van, and deliver his own bread, hot from the oven, to the surrounding district. And Christina would mind the shop, as bakers' wives had done for centuries before her. In addition she found time to produce the first two of her seven children. William Edward was the first of the family to be awarded the honour of two Christian names. Baby Thomas Henderson arrived just as they were preparing to move to Lower Holloway in 1866. Meanwhile the business had grown and some substantial outbuildings had been erected at the rear of the premises.

Grandfather had been studying the possibilities of trade in Lower Holloway. Prosperous City merchants were moving out from the inner suburbs to the new dormitory area of Islington, followed by the more humble Pooters they employed. Holloway Road, the "Hollow Way" from Highbury to Highgate, part of the ancient highway from London to the north, lay ripe and ready for development.

Never a man to shilly-shally, William took the plunge and moved his little business and his little family in time to get in just before the rush. Almost outside his shop on Highgate Hill there

lay the famous stone where Richard Whittington rested and heard the bells of London calling him to return and become Lord Mayor of London. Grandfather must surely have been similarly inspired as he set out for fame and fortune in the same direction.

First Holloway lease

In 1866 Grandfather secured his first beach-head in Lower Holloway with the lease of No 368 Holloway Road – "formerly Vine Cottage but now known as Holloway House... abutting at the rear a field called Sibell". The cobbled sunken highway lay three or four steps down from the wide pavement. It might have been from here, in earlier days, that a man on horseback rode daily to the City, crying "Holloway Cheesecakes" round the streets.

But rural Islington was disappearing fast. Soon horse-drawn buses would start to ply from Camden Town to Finsbury Park, crossing Holloway Road at the Nag's Head. Others would leave Beale's corner for King's Cross down the Caledonian Road. Holloway Road from our corner to the Nag's Head became one of the best shopping parades in London outside the West End.

To the corner opposite us, across Tollington Road, came the brothers William and John Jones one year later, to start up as drapers in the small shop at No 2 Peartree Terrace, with one assistant and an errand boy, and the first day's sales recorded as being £3-7-0. From these beginnings grew the department store known as Jones Brothers,

It might have been from here, in earlier days, that a man on horseback rode daily to the City, crying 'Holloway Cheesecakes'

later acquired by Selfridges, and later still by the John Lewis Partnership. The two families of Beale and Jones built up their respective empires with some rivalry and a little jealousy, as we shall see.

William's new shop was an appreciable jump in size and standing from the down-at-heel mini-bakery on Highgate Hill. He was aiming at the top end of the much varied population of the new urban Islington. He would deliver daily and twice daily if required to the imposing houses springing up in Tufnell Park, Finsbury Park, Camden Road and Highbury – houses for well-to-do families and their servants.

The plain fare of Highgate Hill was toned up considerably. Meals in good-class society were elaborate affairs and the services of a good-quality baker and confectioner were in demand. William extended his range to include a selection of top-quality groceries and provisions. He opened a small cafe at the rear of the shop, where Mrs Beale held court for the fashionable ladies of the district. There they would sip their glass of port and nibble a biscuit after their shopping, while their carriages awaited them outside.

Expansion – and a grand store

For the next 24 years both William's person and William's business continued to extend. He let No 368 at a profit and took over Nos 370 and 372, together with houses and gardens down Tollington Road at the side and rear. It was all part of a site leased in 1793 for 961 years at a fixed rent of £6-0-0 per year – the possibility of inflation not occurring to the landlord at the time. William built a bakery at the rear of No 376, and took on another shop at No 464 temporarily, pending the large-scale rebuilding he was now contemplating.

From Grandma Beale's back parlour cafe, there developed an outdoor catering department that became the largest in north



Beale's of Holloway, completed in 1889, on the corner of Tollington Road. It included banqueting rooms, bakeries, a department food store and its own power station

London. It was hard work for the family. An entry in the banquet diary for 1887, of our catering for 800 persons at the old Holborn Town Hall, reminds me that my father could never pass the place later without groaning at the back-breaking work it had involved, shifting the heavy crates of china and cutlery up and down the stairs.

William was making money. His ambition grew with his success. He borrowed £28,000 from the bank and set about the complete rebuilding of his site. The planning and erection of the new Beale's was Grandfather's most remarkable achievement. The new premises included a department food store, large restaurants, banqueting rooms, bakeries, and an electric power station in the basement. The main building, completed in

1889, could stand muster with many of the fine shops that men like Selfridge, Whiteley, and Gamage were building in the West End and the City. It was to be the pride and joy of the family for many years to come. ■

Many thanks to Andrew Beale – William's great-great grandson – for allowing us to reproduce this extract from *Minding Our Own Business*, his history of Beale's of Holloway

William's new shop was an appreciable jump in size and standing. He was aiming at the top end of the much-varied population of the new urban Islington

'On many a well remembered field...'

...is a line from Dame Alice Owen's School song. Alan Beaumont looks back on his time at Owen's School at the Angel in the 1950s, and describes its inspiration from a stray arrow

According to a 17th century narrative, Dame Alice Owen founded the school in 1613 thus:

"In the reign of Queen Mary, it was an exercise for archers to shoot with their bows and arrows at butts: this part of Islington at that time being all open fields and pasture land.

"Alice Owen, then a maiden gentlewoman, was one day walking abroad in the fields attended by her maid-servant, when she stopped to watch a woman milking a cow.

"Suddenly an arrow from the neighbouring butts was shot through the crown of her hat (then worn very tall). This so startled Alice Owen that she declared, if she lived to be a lady, she would erect something on the spot of ground in commemoration of the great mercy shown by the Almighty in that astonishing deliverance.

"Time passed on until she became a widow, when her servant, who was present on the occasion of the accident, being still with her, reminded her of her former words. Alice Owen answered that she remembered

She secured a patent to build a house for a minister 'who may be able to... teach the sons and daughters of the poore'



Dame Alice Owen's School in Islington: the pair of white gateposts are still on City Road

the affair and intended to fulfil her promise."

Dame Alice bought the Hermitage Estate, an 11-acre plot in a triangle bounded by what is now St John Street, Goswell Road and Rawstorne Street, and built 10 almshouses "for poor old widows" in 1609.

The next year, she secured a second patent to build a chapel and house for a minister "who may be able to read to the aforesaid widows... and teach the sons and daughters of the poore".

This is the first local mention of education. The school was built shortly after, with the first pupils, 30 boy scholars, starting in 1613.

Dame Alice drew up rules and orders for the almshouses and school, entrusting the selection of the masters and scholars, and

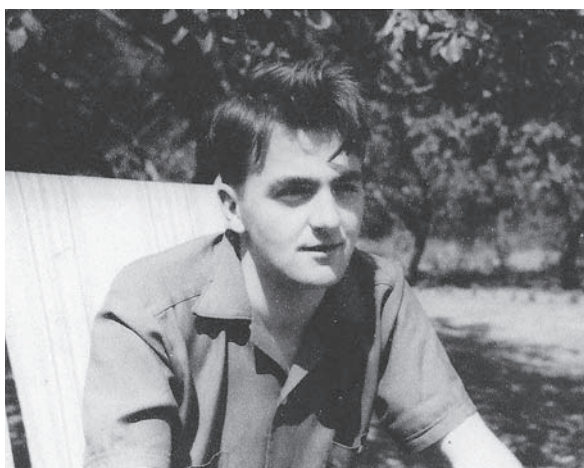
the governing and supervision of the school to "My trusty and well-beloved friends, the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Brewers of London for the time being".

Family life

Dame Alice was born in 1547, and the daughter of Thomas Wilkes, a well-to-do tenant-owner of property.

She had three husbands: Henry Robinson, a brewer with whom she had six sons; William Elkin, a mercer with whom she had a daughter; and, finally, Judge Thomas Owen. The brewing connection was all important in Dame Alice's life.

She died on 26 November 1613 and was buried in St Mary's church, Islington.



English master said I am a bright lad but why do I keep messing about so much?

Almost some 340 years later, I was privileged to be a member of Owen's School as a scholar between 1950 and 1955.

There were many fine masters. One of them was Reginald A Dare BA who taught history between 1924 and 1954 and wrote *A History of Owen's School*, published by Carwal.

"Remember it like this: 'Britain rules the seas: America rules the E's,' was how he introduced my class in April 1954 to the O-level subject of the American War of Independence, as he painstakingly underlined each 'E' while he chalked the word "INDEPENDENCE" on the board.

Mr Dare was wont to use this mnemonic method. How else would I have learned "But George's Rotten Crazy Gang Never Really Secured Power" as the initial letters of the prime ministers in George III's reign, had it not been for this memory aid?

Of course, most pupils dubbed Mr Dare "Dan" behind his back, after the popular comic hero of space exploration, just as we called Mr Hodgson, our lugubrious chemistry master, "Tombstone" because of his doleful and depressing delivery, or the Rev RH Turner "Tub" because of his portliness.

As with most of my peers, my exuberance was often checked. I noted in my diary of January 1954: "English master said I am a bright lad but why do I keep messing about so much?"

Punishment was "official" or otherwise. Official punishment was in the form of a detention and considered the most serious, and given for behaviour such as insubordination; conduct class, meted out for something like failing to do homework, or not wearing a school cap on the right occasion, was considered less grave.

It was noticed that "Boo" Davidson, the art master, used neither detention nor conduct class as a deterrent, but would ask the miscreant: "What house are you in, boy?" After considering the reply, he would retort with biting irony: "I'm sure they're proud of you!"

But this was small beer compared with Mr Balfour (1791-1824) a former head, whose "discipline... became over-strict" when protesting parents of boys complained that their progeny were "locked up in the coal-shed all day, beaten about the head with books, had their ears unceremoniously pulled or were set to clean the knives and black the shoes".

"No doubt much of this was motherly exaggeration..." suggested Mr Dare, the history's author.

Prefects wore half gowns and administered "prefects' detention" (or "defects pretension" as it was contemptuously called).

But any unofficial form of punishment usually resulted in a clip round the ear from some

masters – being a member of the "glow club" was regarded by some boys as prestigious.

So, misbehaviour lost house points and certain sports activities gained them. The four houses at Owen's School were named Cloudesley, Colebrooke, Myddelton and Hermitage after persons or places ultimately connected with the school's history.

School meals never seemed to improve despite the fact that they were sometimes prefaced by grace said in Latin by the master on duty.

My 1954 diary entries often refer to the quality of such meals: On 18 October, I wrote: "To school, rotten dinner as usual..." and three days later, my diary reads: "Old Dare told us not to make fun of school dinners especially in front of the cooks." ("Old" was a habitual term that I used, not necessarily bearing any reference to age but rather to familiarity.)

Despite the fact that the girls' school, built adjacent in Owen's Row, was founded in 1886, it had precious little to do with the boys' school until 1951.

According to Dare's history, that year saw the beginnings of "an increasing co-operation between the boys' and girls' Schools" when the girls' school was invited to take part in the productions of the dramatic society and, later in the year, a joint sixth form dancing class was formed.

My group was discussing the merits and drawbacks of coeducation during Tombstone's chemistry class while we waited for an experiment to materialise. Tombstone had been silent throughout the discussion, but it was he who had the final word: "It seems to me," he observed drolly, "in mixed secondary education, the teacher spends the first three years trying to get them together and the next two years trying to get them apart." We continued with our experiment in thought....



The school history by Reginald Dare, dubbed 'Dan' by pupils

"Visitation" was the oldest official function in the school's history since its foundation in 1613. The month of May was usually fixed when the governors (the court of assistants of the Brewers' Company) "visited" to inspect to make sure that all was well with the trust under their charge.

The boys were sent out into the fields round the school to collect flowers with which they decorated the schoolroom and made themselves buttonhole nosegays.

The best boy in the school was chosen to read the "oration" to welcome the governors. He was rewarded with a silver coin of value one shilling (5p), two shillings and six pence (12.5p) or even five shillings (25p) and "other rewards were in money-form as books were rare and expensive",

according to Dare's account.

My diary entry for 28 July states that "...to school 9.30, but only to get beer money which was 3 shillings six pence (17.5p). Home 11.0".

When I was there, the "money grant" award was carried through with due ritual and ceremony. The whole school was completely in silence, with prefects on duty in the corridors and the recipients filing down form by form in perfect order, while Dame Alice from her Frampton pedestal gazed down benignly. So, "money grants" became "beer money" (the usual term) but Mr Dare maintained in his history that "beer money" was "a legend impossible to substantiate". However, visitation remained unaltered for, on 27 July, I had to "go to school at 10 just to practise visitation which is tonight ...".

Dame Alice Owen School's crest matches that of the Brewers' Company (shown here at Brewers Buildings, near Angel) but with a pair of crossed arrows above it



After 363 years at the Angel, some 500 boys and 330 girls joined together, as Owen's School moved to Potters bar in 1977. ■

Alan Beaumont was a scholar at Owen's School is Islington between 1950 and 1955

Many thanks to Bill Hamilton-Hinds, administration officer at Dame Alice Owen's School, for sending the picture of the school at Islington

From school magazine *The Arrow*, several years on...

Bill Hamilton-Hinds was a pupil at the school from 1955 to 1963 and joined the staff in 1966. A former maths teacher, he is now the administration manager.

As well as the picture of the school, he kindly sent us a copy of *The Arrow*, the school's magazine, dated Michaelmas 1960. We have reproduced some of it – do you remember anyone?

Scientific Society notes

The first meeting consisted of a film, on "X-ray Crystallography", with a lecture by Mr NBH Blake. If any members left a little baffled, it was no fault of Mr Blake; incidentally, he also started a new fashion in lecturing, by projecting his lecture notes on to a screen, using the epidioscope.

PD Caton of the UVI gave a well-illustrated talk on "Principles of Transistors", followed by a short film. He even brought a home-built transistor radio, which provided entertainment for those clearing up afterwards.

The third meeting was devoted

to "Heating by Radio". Mr LS Merrony gave demonstrations of induction and dielectric heating, and left us greatly enlightened.
CA Long

Visitation day, 1960

Tribute must be paid to Mr Darby, who, by employing advanced mathematical methods, managed to fit 1,000 people into St Pancras Town Hall with a seating capacity of 700, and arrived at a rational solution!

Mention must also be made of the prefects for the usual smooth arrangement for, and distribution of, white carnations.

DJ Parsons, LVI Sci I

Amateur weathermen

Observant members will have noticed, at about 8.45am each morning, the appearance of three well-clad figures on the roof of the Girls' School, and may have been led to jump to conclusions. However, this venture is purely in the interests of meteorology.

Readings of temperature, pressure, humidity, rainfall,

wind-force and cloud cover are taken, so that the general trend of the weather can be seen, and a tentative forecast made.

Without offence: a short guide to the Prefects' Room

RL B-R N-S

Pernicious printer, diabolic duplicator, fiddling physicist – known in the Labs as "Heath Robinson". Is reputed to be making a take-over bid for the VI Form dance. Greatest achievement: has taken 'O' Level French seven times without passing.

DM H-NT

Only prefect who can travel at half-fare on buses without a pass. Greatest achievement: got drunk on half a glass of orange juice at the Old Boys' Dinner.

DP D-LLM-N

Awful athlete, 'orrible 'ead boy – known in the Prefects' Room as "Adolf". Greatest achievement: persuaded M G--ld to honour an IOU.





Regency transport

City Road Lock: Islington's City Basin, beyond the lock, was a thriving inland port

This year will see celebrations to mark Regency bicentennials – including of those of the Regent's canal, says Lester Hillman

This year sees a 200th anniversary for the Regent's Canal – and a year-long party for Islington alongside.

We can look forward to a decade of bicentennials taking us to the anniversary of the canal's completion and the opening celebrations held in Islington.

The proposals for a canal went back well before 1811 but the first meeting of what would become the Regent's Canal Company was on Friday 31 May 1811 at the Percy Coffee House in Fitzrovia.

It is not far from Regency London, the area stretching from the north part of Regent Street and the Regent's Canal. John Nash had very close links with the Regent and was fully engaged in the enterprise.

The Regency formally came into being on Tuesday 5 February 1811 with an act making George,

Prince of Wales, Regent. It took the whole of the Regency period to build the Regent's Canal. It was only completed in 1820, the year he became King George IV.

The displays in the London Canal Museum in King's Cross illustrate the links to the Prince Regent; the symbol of the Prince of Wales feathers can be seen along the canal.

All in a name

The London Canal Museum embraces all London's canals. Its name is a subtle reminder of the history of the canal enterprise.

The proposed canal was to be known as the London Canal or the North Metropolitan Canal. But the canny promoters of the canal had an eye to a new name.

On Wednesday 7 August 1811, the Prince Regent agreed to it being called the Regent's Canal, just in time for the first annual general meeting of the company on Saturday 10 August 1811 – yet another bicentennial this year.

The imperative for transport infrastructure was clear. *The Times* newspaper for 10 August 1811 reported that the Parish of Islington had a population of 30,537, comparable to

Canterbury and St Pancras next door had over 46,000, much larger than Sheffield.

It did no harm that the canal would be part of a grand Regency urban landscape, putting "Regent" firmly across the map of London.

A place to work

Later imperatives, including the relief of unemployment after the Napoleonic wars, were to become critical to the history of the canal.

It would seem no accident that all the activity in early August 200 years ago happened to be timed around the birthday of the Prince Regent on 12 August 1811.

Work began on the canal in the following year and there was an urgency to ensure that the works around Regent's Park were completed first.

The western part of the canal, as far as today's Camden Lock market, was formally opened in a glittering ceremony on the birthday of the Prince Regent in 1816, with festivities centred in the new Park Basin.

Eventually, with the completion of the canal to Limehouse, Islington's City Basin was to become a thriving inland port.

The Regency is a major theme this year in exhibitions and galleries. Brighton Pavilion has a year-long fashion exhibition, the National Portrait Gallery has concluded a Sir Thomas Lawrence exhibition and Keats House in Hampstead is exploring a multitude of Regency themes.

Regency transport seems to be missing but nowhere may be better placed to celebrate it than Islington. At its annual general meeting on 15 June, the Islington Archaeology & History Society will make a big splash with Regency transport and Regency Islington. ■

● See IAHS events, page 27

Lester Hillman is academic adviser of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

The Regency is a major theme this year in exhibitions and galleries. Nowhere may be better to celebrate Regency transport than Islington

Lords and laundresses

A great insight is offered into how Regency Londoners lived from insurance policies. Start with an online search, says Isobel Watson

The Sun Fire Office insured chattels as well as buildings, so there is probably no better way of getting an insight into the lifestyles of Regency Londoners of all walks of life – from lords to laundresses – than from its policies.

More than 140 Sun Fire Office policy registers are indexed and can be searched online. These represent nearly a quarter of a million insurance policies issued, mostly to Londoners, between 1793 and 1839.

These policies are a good source for research into

developing suburbs such as Pentonville (there are at least 2,000 direct references to it) and Islington (nearly double that number). Many more policies concern these areas but refer to a street address only, not the area as a whole.

The Place in the Sun project put information from Sun Fire Office insurance policies into a digital format so they could be searched online.

The index to the volumes (numbers 419-560) is available via the National Archives website. Work is continuing on other volumes.

How to explore the index

If you want to explore the results of this project, first decide on a search term: personal name? street? occupation?

Next, go to www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a, which is the Access to Archives section of the National Archives website.

There you will find the search screen, which will take you to any reference to your chosen term within the national digitised archive.

There are two ways to search the A Place in the Sun index. You can simply enter your search term plus the word “insured”.

A better method, however, is to choose Advanced Search, then enter your search term. Then, from the drop-down Repository menu, select Guildhall Library.

The Place in the Sun volunteer indexers record the names of people and places as they appear in the company’s policy registers, however archaic the



Changing face of the Red Lion pub

Red Lion site: formerly home to a spa, a theatre and a music hall, now occupied by a restaurant

Sun register Ms 11936/390 contains an insurance policy for “the Red Lion, Rosamond Street”.

Rosoman Street, which had several names including Rosamond Street, used to run southwards as far as Corporation Row, and included the north-south stretch of what is now Northampton Road.

From the 1720s, the Red Lion inn was on the site. It had a bowling green, and cock fights were held at 4pm in summer.

In 1735, the bowling green

was sold to New Wells, one of several spas on this London fringe. New Wells opened a theatre in 1735, as a direct challenge to Thomas Sadler’s famous premises.

New Wells was taken over in the 1740s by Thomas Rosoman, and closed when he moved to Sadler’s Wells. On part of the site he built a row of houses – Rosoman’s Row. You can find his insurances in the Sun registers in the 1790s, when Rosoman lived in Hampton in Middlesex.

In 1836 the landowner, the Marquess of Northampton, cut what became the west-east arm of Northampton Road. The Red Lion was rebuilt a little to the north of its original site.

In the 1860s the pub was, briefly, a music hall. In the 1870s it was called the Clock House. More recently, the Red Lion

became the Thomas Wethered, then a succession of restaurants. Shifting identity is nothing new.

In 1936, when Spa Fields was enlarged, today’s premises were built to the south of the 1836 site, nearer to its original location. Whitbread’s architect Henry Kent designed the building.

It was a little spooky to turn the page of a policy register and find this insurance of premises in Northampton Road, long gone, almost exactly below the spot where I was sitting in the Metropolitan Archives.

It was good to know, though, that in 1793 publican John Burns was rather doing well, his household goods, stock, clothing and plate valued at more than double the building value of £200. ■

● *Survey of London*, Vol 47 (2008) was used in this research.



There are at least nine ways to spell Rosoman Street in the registers – a bit of ingenuity will help you find records on streets with variable names

spelling, so a bit of ingenuity helps in searching.

One useful trick is to use asterisks in place of vowels. There are lots of references to Rosoman Street, for example, in the registers, but there are many variants of its spelling, and R*s*m*n will capture most of them.

Occupations, however, are recorded in their modern form, so search for tailor, not taylor.

Address and occupation

If the online database leads you to a policy, it will give basic information about it – the date, the person insured, with their address and occupation (or status), plus similar details about other individuals and locations (if any) mentioned in the policy.

For the actual details of what was insured and for how much, you will need to look at the register itself, so note the register and policy numbers as well as the records series, which is called Ms 11936.

Although the National Archives site says the Sun archive is still at Guildhall Library, it has moved to London Metropolitan Archives, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB. Here, you can search registers yourself. You can also order copies without visiting. ■



Isobel Watson is project co-ordinator, A Place in the Sun

Left: Sun fire mark

News in brief

Hornsey hits 40

The Hornsey Historical Society will be celebrating its 40th anniversary on 21 May with a garden room party and the launch of *A Vision of Middlesex*, "a book of lovely old photographs of our area taken... in the first half of the 20th century".

News from Camden



The latest *Camden History Review* covers: Edith Gissing, the second wife of author George Gissing, and her time in asylums; homes for "fallen" women and those "rescued from surroundings of great temptation"; and a history of 19th-century horse tramcars in Camden and Islington.

● www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Camden Railway Heritage Trust has a new website that looks at rail heritage above and below ground, including train sheds, vaults and tunnels, and sets out the trust's work.

● www.chrt1837.org

Smoke and mirrors

Glassmaking and defensive municipal architecture were covered in the Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society newsletter.

It described how glassmaking was boosted by royalty granting monopolies and damage from the Great Fire of London in 1666.

An article on Edwardian architecture showed trouble was expected at Lambeth town hall: "One change... was to put mirrors at the back of the public gallery at a time of public disquiet so that anyone throwing a missile could be seen."

People's plaque winners

The five most popular people and events, as voted for by over 3,000 people, are to receive a green Islington people's plaque.

They are: John Wright (founder of the Angel Theatre); author Douglas Adams; suffragette Edith Garrud; the Peasants' Revolt at Highbury; and boat club pioneer Crystal Hale.

Stage history

Charterhouse Square and the English theatre during and after Oliver Cromwell's interregnum were the subjects of a recent talk by Colin D Brooking DipArch RIBA to the Islington Archaeology & History Society.

In his talk *Charterhouse Square and the English stage re-birthing*, he showed images from the Chatsworth House collection to illustrate the evolution of theatre and stage design, such as the use of accelerated perspective and moveable wings.

During the interregnum in the 17th century, plays were banned. However, discreet performances were staged at Holland, Arundel, York and Durham houses along the Thames. Tennis courts, such as those at Lincoln's Inn, were often used as theatres.

Playwright William Davenant turned a room in his home, Rutland House in Charterhouse Square, into a theatre in a form that we would recognise today. Here, he staged the first English opera, *The Siege of Rhodes*, in 1656; this is believed to be the first performance in which women took part.

Architect's blue plaque

Sir Basil Spence (1907-76) has been commemorated with a blue plaque at his former home and office at 1 Canonbury Place in Islington, N1. He is best known for his ground-breaking design of Coventry Cathedral.

The emigrants' friend

Caroline Chisholm was so renowned in Australia for her philanthropic work that her face appeared on a bank note. However, she is little known in England. Carole Walker gives an overview of her extraordinary work for emigrants

Caroline Walker spoke to the Islington Archaeology & History Society about Caroline Chisholm's life and work. Here is a short excerpt of her talk

Caroline Chisholm was very well known in the mid-19th century. She was called the emigrants' friend for her work in Sydney. Here, she set up homes for single women arriving in the colony, then families and single men, and helped them find work.

She was known in England for setting up the Family Colonisation Loan Society and her talks about emigration across the country and in Europe. Talks could attract over 2,000 people, and reports of them often contained the words "hear, hear" and "laughter".

In Australia, buildings, political wards, schools and societies are named after her. She appeared on the A\$5 banknote for nearly 25 years. In England, it wasn't until 2004 that a school was named after Caroline, in Northampton.

Caroline raised funds for her homes and to run the Family Colonisation Loan Society by public subscription. She did not ask any organisation or person for funding as she wanted to them to be independent.

Caroline Jones was born in Northampton on 30 May 1808 to a close-knit family. She was her father's 16th and her mother's seventh child.

After her future husband, Archibald Chisholm, proposed marriage, Caroline gave him a month to consider whether he would want a wife who wanted to follow a life of philanthropic

pursuits. This was a most unusual request at that time. Archibald accepted Caroline and they married on 27 December 1830.

While in India, where her husband had returned to his regiment, Caroline founded a girls' school. She and her family – they had two children by then – set sail for Australia in 1838.

Once in Sydney, they saw that the emigrants there were in a very difficult situation. Many of young women did not have any money, family or friends or jobs, and ended up working on the streets.

After meeting a young woman called Flora, who was contemplating suicide, Caroline was determined to help all young women.

Originally, Caroline took women into the family home – up to nine at a time. More space was needed, so she set about organising a home for emigrant women – a long, hard task.

The first home

In first night in the barracks that was to become the home, she heard a scratching noise – rats. She knew she could not be seen to give up easily. So, she gave the rats her meal that night and sat up watching them. The following night she fed the rats again – but laced the food with arsenic.

The home was enlarged to take in families, with young men staying in tents outside. Caroline set up a network of homes. She found the women and families work and started an employment agency, and enquired about work outside Sydney. Caroline often placed single women in jobs as servants in areas where she knew there were bachelors.



Lithograph of Caroline Chisholm by Thomas Fairland of a painting by Angelo Colleen Hayter; the painting was exhibited in the Royal Academy summer exhibition in 1852. Queen Victoria's portrait artist, Sir George Hayter (no relation) also executed a painting of Caroline

Many of the emigrants had told Caroline and Archibald that they had been forced leave their children in England, because they were too young to travel or ill, or because the fare was too high.

Back in England, Archibald and Caroline tracked down the children – a logistical nightmare – and organised a ship to take them to Australia, free of charge.

After the government reneged on its agreement to send out the wives and children of emancipists free of charge because of cost, Caroline badgered it until it honoured the agreement.

The family settled in Charlton Crescent, now Charlton Place, in Islington. Here, Caroline founded the Family Colonisation Loan Society in 1849. The basement was fitted out as steerage accommodation.

The society lent half the cost of the fare, with the emigrant finding the other half. The



Caroline's house in Charlton Place, formerly Charlton Crescent, in Islington, where the Family Colonisation Loan Society was founded



Meeting at Charlton Crescent, Islington, from the *Ladies Magazine*. The picture has been transposed – Tasmania is on the left. Social reformer Lord Shaftesbury, who headed Caroline's committee, often attended meetings, as did Sir Sidney Herbert MP (shown here addressing the meeting)

journey would cost £15-£20; the average wage in the 1830s-40s was about 21s per week. Emigrants had to repay the loan after two years in Australia.

Caroline held meetings at Charlton Crescent to enable emigrants to get to know one another before and work together to find the cost of the fare before they left.

It was said that the Chisholm home in Charlton Crescent was the equivalent of the Australian High Commission. A letter addressed to "Caroline Chisholm, London" reached her.

Ship building

The Family Colonisation Loan Society first found accommodation on ships, then chartered its own ships. A ship, built for the society to Caroline's specifications, was named after her (see cartoon, right).

Many of the emigrant ships were in a very poor condition, and many did not make their destination. Steerage bunks could be just 18" wide, with parents on top and children underneath – there were four bunks in each 6' square berth. Some bunks had planks of wood or sackcloth between them for privacy.

Steerage accommodation would also be used to bring, for

example, wood from Canada or wool from Australia on the return journey. It would not have been fumigated between voyages. In the heat of the doldrums, or in rough seas with the hatches battened down and passengers being sick, the stench must have been unbelievable.

Family Colonisation Loan Society ships had better ventilation; the sexes were always separated; and smaller cabins improved privacy. They also had laundries with irons – even with the risk of fire on a wooden ship. Ironing, Caroline believed, helped get rid of bugs.

Caroline campaigned successfully for better conditions on board emigrant ships, including better rations and ventilation. She was not popular with ship owners – these improvements cost money.

Caroline hoped to sail home on the society's ship named after her, but it was commissioned to take soldiers to the Crimea.

On return to Australia in 1854, Caroline saw the difficulties diggers faced in travelling to the gold fields. Accommodation en route to the gold-digging areas was very expensive, so the men travelled on their own, leaving wives and children behind.

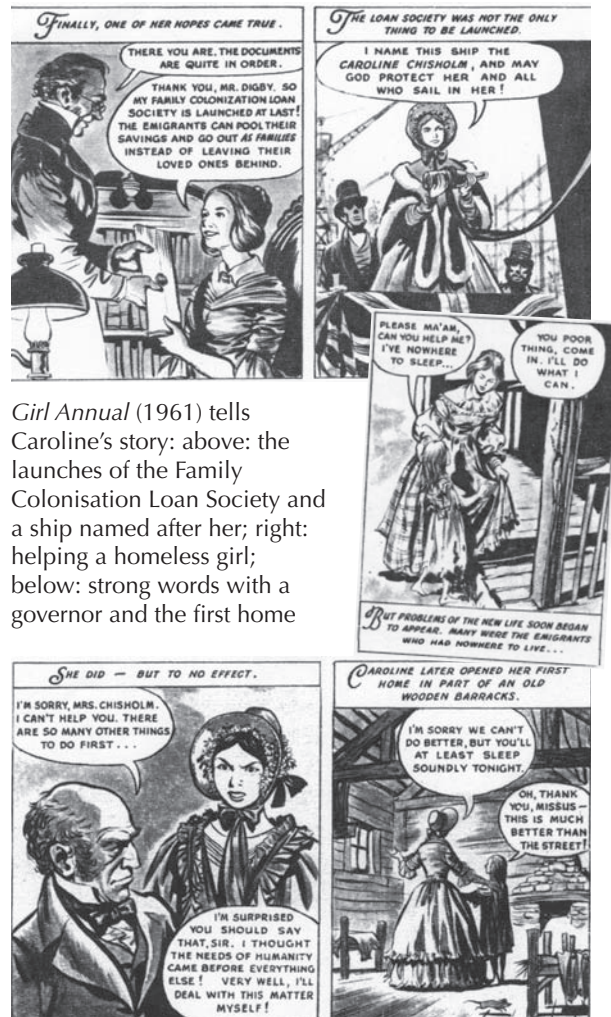
Caroline set up shelter sheds,

which later became known as Chisholm shakedowns. This cheap accommodation enabled families to travel together, and housed single men and women in separate quarters. They were an easy day's walk apart.

The Chisholm family finally settled in London, where Caroline died in March 1877, in relative poverty. Archibald died the following August and was buried with his wife. They were survived by five of their eight children.

Caroline was a very remarkable woman who led an extraordinary life. She so deserves to be better known. ■

A Saviour of Living Cargoes. The Life and Work of Caroline Chisholm by Carole Walker costs £15.99 from Amazon, Waterstone's or Wolds Publishing, 203 Six Hills Road, Walton on the Wolds, Leicestershire, LE12 8JE, books@woldspublishing.co.uk, or Carole Walker for £13.00 + £2.40 p&p per book, email caroleawalker@googlemail.com



The Museum of the Order of St John has reopened, with new galleries and more treasures on show, and a dedicated research room. Tom Foakes shows us around

Museum makes a modern move

The Museum of the Order of St John has reopened, following a year's closure and a complete refurbishment. Begun in the 19th century, the museum was fitted out in 1978 and needed attention.

The museum has over 40,000 objects, many of considerable historic importance, including rare armour, illuminated manuscripts, jewellery, paintings, silver and ceramics.

The refurbishment of the Grade I listed buildings has, as intended, revealed more of their Tudor origins. They were once the Office of the Master of the Revels and later home to Hogarth and Dr Johnson, as well as a pub in which Dickens was a drinker. Original oak is complemented by limed oak and York stone throughout the new galleries.

Room to explore

The redesign has created a much more coherent space in which to explore the history of the Order of St John, from its foundations in the Holy Land in the 11th century, through to its current role with St John Ambulance and the St John Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

Through subtle design and innovative and engaging displays, the museum has condensed its long and complex narrative into a clear story.

Beginning with the Crusades, and continuing through revolts and revolutions, war and peace, this story crosses the centuries and shows how, from its origins in founding a hospital for sick pilgrims, St John has maintained its caring role to the present day, working throughout the world on numerous humanitarian projects.

A key feature of the new



Above: the double-height link gallery

museum is a double-height glass roofed gallery, which links public spaces. An audiovisual time line along one wall plots national and international events.

The four galleries tell the story and weave themes together. Each has a concise narrative, supported by objects from the museum's diverse collections. Mixed-media displays present conservation issues but, with secure, airtight cases, environmental controls and monitoring equipment, curatorial staff have been able to create visually exciting displays in which objects are protected from adverse conditions.

Audiovisuals in each gallery allow people to see items from the collections of prints, drawings, manuscripts and photographs that are not on public display.

A storage room has been transformed into a collections research centre, primarily for the museum's prints, drawings and manuscripts. The room has tailor-made storage furniture, with display drawers and glazed

tabletops in which smaller specialist exhibitions may be mounted. This offers academics a dedicated room for research.

The museum now meets the needs of both the general public and specialists.

As well as the Tudor gatehouse, built as the entrance to the Priory of St John in Clerkenwell, the museum includes St John's Church with its atmospheric 12th century crypt.

A new learning centre offers a wealth of opportunities for formal and informal learning. Activities are led by a learning and access officer, a post supported by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Public and private areas have been improved. Better security ensures collections are safe; the historic rooms, which may be viewed on guided tours, are more sympathetically lit; and storage areas are networked for computer use. Many architecturally unsympathetic features, such as sockets and surface mounted wiring, have been removed.

The museum received £1.6m from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards the £3.6m project, as well support from the Wellcome Trust, the Weston Foundation, the Blackwell Foundation and numerous other donors.

Project managers Cultural Innovations, building contractors Mivan, project designers Metaphor, conservation architects Donald Insall Associates and contractors who provided expertise on lighting, displays and audiovisuals worked with staff to ensure the museum meets its users' needs. ■

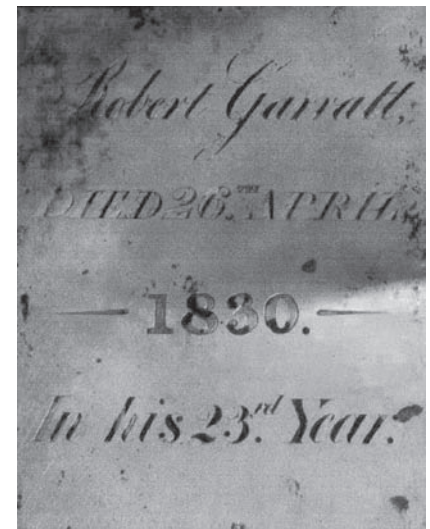
The museum is free and open 10am-5pm, Monday-Saturday; guided tours take place on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 11am and 2.30pm. www.museumstjohn.org.uk

Tom Foakes is deputy curator, Museum and Library of the Order of St John, St John's Gate, St John's Lane, Clerkenwell, EC1M 4DA

Islington burials

Hundreds of coffin plates have been recovered from the Islington Green burial ground. Do you recognise any of the names here?

Derek Seeley, senior contract manager at the Museum of London and Islington Archaeology & History Society committee member, has supplied a list of names and addresses taken from these coffin plates. We are extremely privileged to be able to publish them. If you recognise any names here, please contact Derek at dseeley@museumoflondon.org.uk



Nordon	Susannah	female	1830	iron		
Norman	Mary	female	1846	iron	30-Aug	Edward Street, Barnsbury Road, Islington
Norman	Ann	female	1841	iron	28-Mar	2 Shepherds Place, City Road
Norman?	Mary?	female	1840	iron	3-Jan	Pierpoint Rents, Islington
Norris?	George	male	1819	iron		
Nowell	Elizabeth	female	1823	iron		
Noyes	Mary?	female	1834	iron	7-Sep	11 Vittoria Place, White Conduit Fields
Nurss	John	male	1844	iron	9-May	7 Gloster Street, Clerkenwell
Oakey	Charles	male	182.??	iron		
O'hara	Bridget	female	1853	iron	16-Oct	6 Charlotte Court, Suffolk Street, Pentonville
Olerenshaw	James	male	1832	iron	11-Jan	Balls Pond Road, Islington
Oliv(er)	Ann	female	184(1)	iron	28-Mar	11 Church Row, Islington
Oliver	Samuel Thomas	male	1838	lead	10-Mar	Stoke Newington Common
Osborn	Sarah	female	1850	iron	24-Nov	13 Wickham Street, Islington
Otley	Elisha William (Elijah Wm.)	male	1853	iron	20-Nov	Orchard Road, Ballspond
Otway	Thomas	male	1852	iron	22-Nov	10 Richmond Grove, Islington
Oulet? (Oulett)	Mary Ann	female	184(7)	iron	19-Dec	2 Cumberland Row, Islington
Over	John	male	1844	iron	2-Nov	11 Upper Charles Street, Northampton Square
Owen	Mary?	female	1830	iron		
Oxenham	Sarah	female	1844	iron	29-Dec	8 Elizabeth Terrace, Islington
P(o)tt(ar)	Samuel	male	18(3)1	iron	22-May	No.7 Clarence Gardens, Regents Park
Pa(nnell)	Hannah?	female	1851	iron	29-May	Windsor Street, Islington
Pa.....?	Ann	female	1825	iron		
Paddon	James Rand(ell)	male	1852	iron	9-Feb	22 Cow Cross Street, St Sepulchre
Page	Sarah	female	1833	iron	2-Mar	Wards Place, Islington
Page	Mary Ann	female	1848	iron	10-Sep	Owens Court, Goswell Road
Pagett	William	male	1825	iron		
Pallet	Phoebe	female	1842	iron	29-May	City Garden Row
Pallett	George	male	1853	iron	11-Dec	18 Graham Street, Islington
Palmer	Abraham	male	1830	iron		
Parker	Thomas (Edward)	male	1844	iron	26-Aug	Ballspond
Parker	George	male	1851	iron	6-Jul	Skinner Street, Clerkenwell
Parker	William	male	1838	lead	17-Feb	Maiden Lane, Battle Bridge
Parker	William	male	1838	lead	17-Feb	Maiden Lane, Battle Bridge
Parker	Fanny Helen	female	1841	iron		
Parker	Mary	female	1825	lead		
Parkes	Frederick	male	1825	iron		
Parkes (Parks)	Elizabeth	female	1849	iron	8-Nov	24 Brewer St, Clerkenwell
Parlour	Richard	male	1828	iron		
Partridge	David (David Kerby)	male	1840	iron	4-Oct	North Place, Ballspond
Partridge	Frederick	male	1840	iron	27-Sep	Ballspond

Publications and bookshop

Many of these publications can be ordered from the Islington Archaeology & History Society. Call us on 020 7833 1541

Cinemas of Haringey

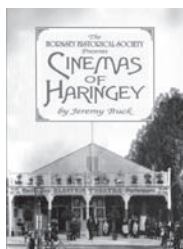
Jeremy Buck

This tells the history of more than 40 cinemas – some gone and some still flourishing – and what became of the buildings.

It takes us from the early days of shop conversions to 1900s picture palaces, 1930s deco luxury and today's multiplexes, drawing on the stories of visitors and staff.

Many of the illustrations are from private collections and never seen before. A treat for cinema lovers.

Published by the Hornsey Historical Society
£9.99 + £1.15 p&p

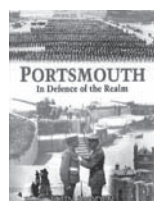


Portsmouth: in Defence of the Realm

John Sadden

This book, illustrated with engravings and rare photographs, tells Portsmouth's story from Roman times to it becoming the British Empire's premier naval base.

£15.99. Phillimore & Co, Healey



House, Dene Road, Andover, Hampshire, SP10 2AA, 01264 409203, www.phillimore.co.uk

Historical maps and postcards

From Alan Godfrey
Want to know what your area looked like many years ago? We stock a number of fascinating historical maps

The Street

Kay Brellend

A new Islington novel. Gritty, gripping and authentic, *The Street* is based on the author's family who lived in Campbell Road.

In 1937, life is hard for families living in "Campbell Bunk".

Alice Keiver is a sensitive girl, the daughter of an alcoholic mother and niece of an abusive uncle, who dreams that one day she and her sister will escape.

This tale of cheating husbands, drunken wives, sudden illnesses, runaway children and revenge has enough drama to balance the laughter with the tears.

The Street was launched at Islington Museum earlier



this year. Is the first in a series that will follow the Keiver family's fortunes.

Kay Brellend has written 16 historical novels under a pseudonym. This is her first novel set in the 20th century. Published by HarperCollins £7.99

of Islington and further afield. We've also got a range of postcards. Call us for details.

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

The London Dog from the Romans to Today

James Dowsing

Sunrise Press

From Buckingham Palace's royal corgis to the mutts of Battersea, a statue that caused riots and a heroic wartime poodle, this looks at a London dog's life over the centuries.

Foreword by a rather dismissive cat.

Published by Sunrise Press
£3.50 + 60p p&p



Publications order form

Name

Address

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

Title(s) of publication	Cost
.....
.....
.....
Total cost	

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

All books shown with p&p can be ordered from the society by mail. Fill in the form – if you want more than one item, call us on 020 7833 1541 for a discount on p&p

Take a spring stroll with our historical walk guides

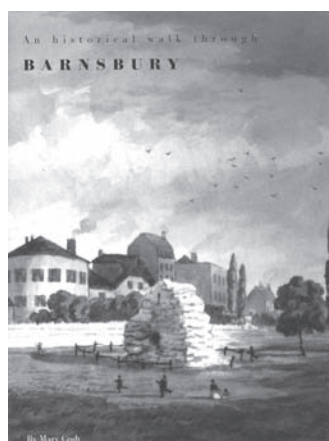
With the days getting longer, it's time to dust off the cobwebs and get out into the spring sunshine – with some help from our historical walk guides. They are A5 size, so are carried easily.

An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury

Mary Cosh

Lots of twists and turns in this walk that starts at Angel. It includes Chapel Market, a street of professionals that became the most crowded market in London, boasting 30 drapery stalls in 1893.

Then it's the start of Barnsbury proper, at the site of former pleasure gardens, and trades unions and market history. See the classic houses and squares



for which Barnsbury is best known – and unusual features such as sphinxes guarding a doorway.

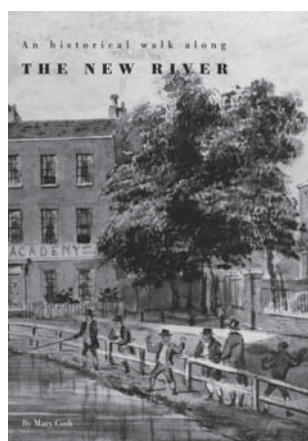
Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society
£4.50 + 60p p&p

An Historical Walk Along the New River

Mary Cosh

Historical walk along the route of the New River, from the New River Head at Sadler's Wells, taking a few diversions and going through Clissold Park and past the wonderful Victorian pumping station better known as Stoke Newington Castle.

The walk is upstream but, regardless of which way you follow the route, rest assured you'll be able to find pubs near both ends.



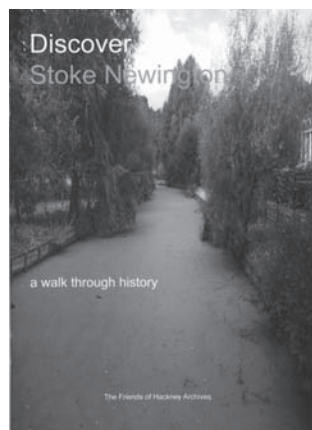
Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society
£5 + £60 p&p

Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History

A tour divided into nine walks of 20-60 minutes in a guide illustrated with lots of current and historical pictures and maps.

It looks at local trades, Victorian industry, housing for well-to-do families and the "industrious classes", Abney Park cemetery, the landmark St Mary's church and Clissold Park. You'll also discover where to find London's first open-air vending machine for works of art and plenty of pubs.

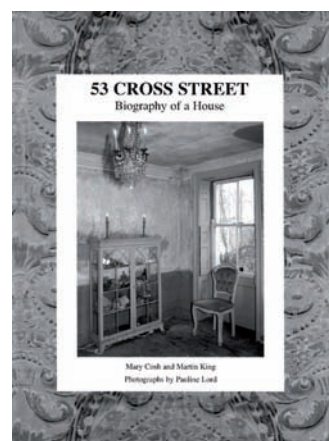
Published by the Friends of Hackney Archives.
£4.95 + 60p p&p



53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, with photographs by Pauline Lord. Hardback. Traces the history of 53 Cross Street from 1785 when it was built, to gaining a floor and losing half its back garden for St Mary's church hall, through various types of occupation and ownership.

Martin King, who moved here in 1990, became fascinated by the house's history, and uncovered many original features, including paintwork of 1785.



By the time he left Cross Street, he had a remarkably complete record of the decor of the house from its building date onwards.

A must for anyone interested in historic decor.
Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society
£20 + £1.75 p&p

Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters

A tale of boyhood in the 1930s and the Second World War, in the notorious council tenements know as The Cottages in Popham Road.

A memorable picture of lives transformed by the war, and the demolition of the flats in 1978 – influenced to some degree by the filming there of Cathy Come Home.
Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society
£7.99 + £1.15 p&p

Little Italy. The Story of London's Italian Quarter

Tudor Allen

In the 19th century so many Italians lived in the area between Farringdon Road, Holborn and Gray's Inn Road, that it became known as Little Italy.

This publication tells tales of "ice cream, organ grinders



and monkeys, hokey-pokey men [ice cream sellers], murder, gangsters and spectacular processions".

Published by Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre
Call for price

Criminal Islington. The Story of Crime and Punishment in a Victorian Suburb

Edited by Keith Sugden
Rookeries were criminal ghettos of pickpocketing schools and receiving houses, with dense

networks of secret escape routes where no sane policeman would follow. They were the backdrop to the murder, theft and radical activism described here.

This history looks at crime and punishment in Islington, social breakdown and political history, and how the new police force and redevelopment combined to defeat the rookeries.
Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society
£5 + £1.15 p&p

What's on

Events, exhibitions, study days, walks and more. Information and contact details of organisers can be found on our directory on page 25. Details of Islington Archaeology & History Society events are listed on the inside back page

Events can be subject to change and not all details had been finalised as we went to press, so please confirm details with event organisers

If you would like your event listed here, email: news@iahs.org.uk

Thursday 31 March King Alfred and the Olympics

Jeremy Batch
Organised by the East London History Society.
7.30pm, Latimer Congregational Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1

Wednesday 6 April A Right Royal River? A History of the Crown Estate and the River

Neil Jacobson, of the Crown Estate
Organised by the Docklands

History Group. 5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London in Docklands, Hertsmere Road, West India Quay, EC14.
www.docklands.historygroup.org.uk

Thursday 7 April Birmingham Canals, Past and Present

Eric Lewis
Canal history and the move from trade to leisure use.
7.30pm, London Canal Museum, £3/£2 concessions/members

Sunday 10 April
A Fortis Green walk
Organised by Hornsey Historical Society.
hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Tuesday 12 April
Bomb Damage in London and Middlesex
Dr Robin Woolven

Organised by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 8pm, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3
www.hadas.org.uk

Tuesday 12 April Climate Change and Mammalian Extinction in the Quaternary

Professor Adrian Lister, Natural History Museum
Organised by the Amateur Geological Society.
7.30pm, The Parlour, St Margaret's United Reform Church, Victoria Avenue, N3

Tuesday 12 April 2011 Excavations at Holywell Priory

Hana Lewis
Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society event.
7pm for 7.30pm, New Cut Housing Co-Operative Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1

Wednesday 13 April History of Tottenham

Chris Protz
Organised by the Hornsey Historical Society.
8pm, Union Church Community Centre, Ferme Park Road/Weston Park, N8

Thursday 14 April The Eyre Estate in St John's Wood and Camden

Organised by the Camden History Society.
7.30pm, 020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Friday 15 April Clocks and Watches in the British Museum

David Thompson, curator of horological collections at the British Museum. Organised by the City of London Archaeology Society.
6.30pm for 7pm start, St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3
www.colas.org.uk

Saturday 16 April 2011 London Maze

Free local history fair, with stalls from libraries, archives, museums and local history societies, and talks, walks and films. 10am-4pm, Guildhall Art Gallery, Guildhall Yard, EC2P 2EJ.
Come and say hello to us at the Islington Archaeology & History Society stall

Saturday 16 April 2011 Seriac 2011: South-East Regional Industrial Archaeology Conference. An IA Miscellany

Hosted by the Sussex Industrial Archaeology Society, 01273 413790. University of Sussex, Brighton

Afghanistan: Crossroads of the Ancient World

British Museum,
until 3 July 2011

Afghanistan: Crossroads of the Ancient World shows over 200 stunning objects that demonstrate how Afghanistan benefited from its relations with its neighbours Central Asia, Iran, India and China, as well as the Mediterranean.

Artefacts include classical sculptures, polychrome ivory inlays, enamelled Roman glass, polished stone tableware from Egypt



Gold crown from Tillya Tepe

and delicate inlaid gold personal ornaments.

The exhibition includes the earliest gold objects discovered in Afghanistan, which date to 2000 BC.

The items were feared to have been lost after the Soviet invasion in 1979 and the civil war, when the National Museum was rocketed and displays were destroyed by the Taliban, but survived because Afghan officials concealed them.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1
10am-5.30pm Saturday-Thursday, 10am-8.30pm Friday. £10 + concessions.
Book at www.britishmuseum.org or 020 7323 8181

Saturday 16 April

**Occupied France
1940-1944**

Professor H Roderick
Kedward

Organised by the Historical
Association, Central London
Branch. 2pm, Institute of
Historical Research, Senate
House, WC1, contact:
Jill Kilsby, 07957 627 783,
malcolmkilsby@blueyonder.
co.uk

Thursday 28 April

**Geoffrey Fletcher's
Islington**

Nina Hymans
Illustrated talk on the
Fletcher Archive, focusing
on the artist's impressions of
Islington. Accompanied by
exhibition (see box).
6pm, Local History Centre,
020 7527 7988, local.
history@islington.gov.uk

Geoffrey Fletcher's Islington: Impressions in Time

Islington Local History
Centre,
21 April-28 June

Geoffrey Fletcher (1923-
2004), was a notable artist
and author, who was
interested in the
overlooked and unsung
aspects of London life and
architecture.

He came to love
Islington, making it his



An illustrated talk on the work of Geoffrey Fletcher takes place on
Thursday 28 April at the Islington Local History Centre

home. He said: "Islington,
like St Paul's, is something
that has to be seen for
oneself: it is a total
experience, requiring all the
senses and all the faculties."

**Islington Local History
Centre, 245 John Street,
London EC1V 4NB**
020 7527 2837
islington.museum@
islington.gov.uk

Wednesday 20 April

**Insanity in Islington:
Treatment and Records**

Dr Kathy Chater
Organised by the Islington
Archaeology & History
Society.
8pm, Islington Town Hall,
Upper Street, N1

Wednesday 20 April

**William Henry Barlow, an
Eminent Victorian Engineer**

Chris Lewis
Organised by the Greater
London Industrial
Archaeology Society.
6.30pm, Willoughby Theatre,
Charterhouse Square, EC1,
020 8692 8512, glias.org.uk

Thursday 28 April

**Eighteenth Century
Whitechapel**

Derek Morris
Organised by the East
London History Society.
7.30pm, Latimer
Congregational Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1

*Saturday 30 April-Monday
2 May*

Canalway Cavalcade

Community waterways

festival, with over 100 boats.
10am, Little Venice, free.
waterways.org.uk

Wednesday 4 May

Gravesend Sea School

John D Meadowcroft,
president the National Sea/
College Training School
Gravesend Association
Organised by the Docklands
History Group.
5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of
London in Docklands, West
India Quay, EC14

Thursday 5 May 2011

**The Key Players Who Built
the Regent's Canal**

Robert Philpot, author and
historian
7.30pm, London Canal
Museum, £3/£2,
020 7713 0836,
www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 8 May

Summer Tunnel Boat Trips

Boat trips from London
Canal Museum through
Islington Tunnel and back,
with a guide to explain the
tunnel's history.
Trips at 11am, 12pm, 2pm,

3pm and 4pm, lasting 50
minutes. Book in advance
through the museum.
020 7713 0836,
www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Tuesday 10 May

**Cave Development, at
Home and Abroad**

Dr Tony Waltham
Organised by the Amateur
Geological Society
7.30pm, The Parlour, St
Margaret's United Reform
Church, Victoria Avenue, N3.

Tuesday 10 May 2011

**Recent Archaeological
Works in Advance of the
British Museum World
Heritage & Exhibition Centre**

Becky Haslam
Organised by the Southwark
& Lambeth Archaeological
Society.
7pm for 7.30pm, 106 The
Cut, SE1.

Tuesday 11 May

**The Markfield Beam Engine
- the Influence of Effluence**

Ken Brereton
Hendon and District
Archaeological Society event.

8pm, Avenue House, 17 East
End Road, N3 3QE
www.hadas.org.uk

Wednesday 11 May

History of the Pianola

Michael Broadway
Organised by the Hornsey
Historical Society.
8pm, Union Church
Community Centre, Ferme
Park Road/Weston Park, N8.

Thursday 12 May

Open Evening

Films about East London.
Organised by the East
London History Society.
7.30pm, Latimer
Congregational Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1.

Museums at Night

Thursday 12 May

**A Walk and a Talk on
Smithfield Market**

Both organised by Islington
Museum, 020 7527 2837,
islington.museum@
islington.gov.uk
Exploring Smithfield on Foot
Smithfield through the ages,
5.30pm-6.30pm
A History of Smithfield

Livestock and Meat Market

Des Whyman GMInstM
(Member of the Worshipful
Company of Butchers),
author, former butcher and
historian, 7pm-8pm

Friday 13-Sunday 15 May

Museums at Night 2011

Hundreds of museums,
galleries, libraries, archives
and heritage sites will be
open for evening events.
[www.culture24.org.uk/
places+to+go/
museums+at+night](http://www.culture24.org.uk/places+to+go/museums+at+night)

Saturday 14 May and Sunday
15 May

Summer Tunnel Boat Trips

Details same as for 8 May.

Saturday 14 May

Dr Eric Boston

Gladstone and Disraeli Revisited

Historical Association,
Central London Branch event.
2pm, Senate House, WC1,
contact: Jill Kilsby, 07957
627 783, [malcolmkilsby@
blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:malcolmkilsby@blueyonder.co.uk)

Wednesday 18 May

Inaugural Address from the President of the Society

Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury
Organised by the Islington
Archaeology & History
Society.
8pm, Islington Town Hall,
Upper Street, N1

Thursday 19 May

Abram Games, designer, and the Festival of Britain

Organised by the Camden
History Society.
7.30pm, 020 7586 4436
[www.camdenhistorysociety.
org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

Friday 20 May

Exploring a Legionary Fortress: New Excavations at Caerleon (Wales) and the Late Roman Military in Roman Britain

Dr Andrew Gardner,
Institute of Archaeology
Organised by City of London
Archaeological Society.
6.30pm for 7pm, St Olave's
Hall, Mark Lane EC3
www.colas.org.uk

George Orwell's Islington

George Orwell was living at 27b Canonbury Square in Islington when *Animal Farm* was published. While there, he worked on drafts of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, and published numerous essays and articles.

The tour takes in locations from which Orwell drew inspiration. Some of these changed beyond recognition during his time here, others in following decades.

The walk includes links to Arthur Koestler, John Betjeman, Malcolm Muggeridge, the Bloomsbury Set... and some of Orwell's favourite pubs.

Duration: circa 90 minutes followed by an hour for questions and discussion. £8/£7 concessions

Walks by arrangement with the Islington Archaeology & History Society chairman Andrew Gardner

07952 586450, walks@iahs.org.uk

Saturday 21 May

Hornsey Historical Society: the First 40 Years

Garden room party, North
Bank, Muswell Hill.
www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Wednesday 1 June

Wapping in the 18th Century

Walk led by Derek Morris
Organised by the Docklands
History Group.
[www.docklands
historygroup.org.uk](http://www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk)

2 June 2011

Boating in the 1950s and 1960s

Talk by Colin Scrivener
7.30pm, London Canal
Museum.
020 7713 0836,
www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Saturday 4 June

London Seminar: the Oxford Expedition to Egypt

Organised by the Egypt
Exploration Society.
www.ees.ac.uk

Wednesday 8 June

Vaudeville and the Music Hall on Film

Roger Fillary and Keith
Fawkes
Organised by the Hornsey
Historical Society.
8pm, Union Church
Community Centre, Ferme

Park Road/Weston Park.

www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Thursday 9 June

Spanning the Ages: a London Bridge Pub Walk

Karen Chester
Organised by the Historical
Association, Central
London Branch. 6.30pm,
booking required, contact:
Jill Kilsby, 07957 627 783,
[malcolmkilsby@
blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:malcolmkilsby@blueyonder.co.uk)

Sunday 12 June

Summer Tunnel Boat Trips

Details same as for 8 May.

Wednesday 15 June

History and Restoration of Kentish Town Baths

Camden History Society.
6.30pm, 020 7586
4436, [www.camdenhistory
society.org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

15 June 2011

Islington's Regency Renaissance

Lester Hillman, visiting
professor, London
Metropolitan University
Organised by the Islington
Archaeology & History
Society. Follows annual
general meeting. More
information on page 27.
8pm, Islington Town Hall,
Upper Street, N1

Marriage à la mode



Charles and Diana cartoon © Peter Schrank, 1995

Cartoon Museum, until 22 May 2011

Exhibition including works by Hogarth, Gillray, Steve
Bell, Mel Calman, Donald McGill, Reg Smythe, Posy
Simmonds, Grizelda and many more

Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1

10.30-5.30 Tuesday-Saturday, 12pm-5.30pm Sunday
020 7580 8155, www.cartoonmuseum.org

Societies and museums

Here we list local history, civic, amenity and archaeology societies and a few museums. Most societies publish newsletters and organise talks and other events

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like to see your organisation listed here or update any information, email news@iah.org.uk. Because there's so much in this issue, only names, addresses and contacts details are listed

Abney Park Trust Memorial Park and Nature Reserve
020 7275 7557,
www.abney-park.org.uk

Amateur Geological Society
Secretary: 25 Village Road,
Finchley, N3 1TL

The Amwell Society
Elizabeth Thornton,
020 7837 0988, info@amwellsociety.org

Association of London Pumping Heritage Attractions
<http://freespace.virgin.net/lec.orm/alpha/alpha.htm>

Bexley Archaeological Group
Membership secretary: John Acworth, 40 The Priory, Priory Park, SE3 9UZ, jrm.acworth@sky.com, www.bag.org.uk

British Postal Museum and Archive
Freeling House, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DL,
020 7239 2570,
www.postalheritage.org.uk

Bruce Castle Museum
Grade I listed 16th century manor house, housing local history collections. Free.
020 8808 8772, museum.services@haringey.gov.uk

Camden Civic Society
c/o 32 Hillway, London, N6 6HJ, 020 8340 5972,
morton@btopenworld.com

The Camden History Society
020 7586 4436, jsramsay@tiscali.co.uk, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Camden New Town History Group
Chairman: John Cowley,
cowleyjohn@blueyonder.co.uk,
www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
New website:
www.crht1837.org

Camley Street Natural Park
Open 10am-5pm, seven days a week. 12 Camley Street, NW1 0PW, 020 7833 2311, camleyst@wildlondon.org.uk

The Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk

The Cartoon Museum
35 Little Russell Street, WC1, 020 7580 8155
Tuesday-Saturday: 10.30am-5.30pm, Sunday: 12-5.30pm

City of London Archaeological Society
www.colas.org.uk,
email@colas.org.uk

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association
Secretary: Alice Merino,
07971 296731, info@ciga.org.uk, www.ciga.org.uk

The Clockmakers' Museum
www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

The Docklands History Group
020 7286 0196, info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

East London History Society
mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk

EC1 History
www.ec1history.co.uk

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

Freud Museum
020 7435 2002,
www.freud.org.uk

The Friends of Friendless Churches
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Geffrye Museum
020 7739 9893, www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

The Georgian Group
6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5DX, 0871 750 2936,
info@georgiangroup.org.uk

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)
020 8692 8512, secretary@glias.org.uk

Guildhall Library
Aldermanbury, EC2V 7HH,
9.30am-5pm Monday-Saturday, closed bank holiday weekends, 020 7332 1868/1870, textphone 020 7332 3803, guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Friends of Hackney Archives
Hackney Archives Department, 43 De Beauvoir Road, N1 5SQ

Hackney Museum
1 Reading Lane, Hackney, London E8 1GQ

Open: 9.30am-5.30pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday;
9.30am-8pm Thursday;
10am-5pm Saturday.

The Hackney Society
The Round Chapel,
1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY,
07771 225183,
info@hackneysociety.org
www.hackneysociety.org/

Hendon and District Archaeology Society
secretary@hadas.org.uk

Highbury Quadrant Living History Project
Highbury Quadrant TRA,
Birchmore Hall, N5.
highburyquadrantlivinghistory@gmail.com, www.highburyquadrant.co.uk

Historical Association, Central London Branch
Secretary: Ms Chrissie Ganjou 020 7323 1192,
stay@cenlonap.co.uk

The Horniman Museum
100 London Road, SE23.
Free. Open: 10.30am-5.30pm daily, 020 8699 1872,
enquiry@horniman.ac.uk

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

Hunterian Museum
Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2
www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums

Inland Waterways Association
North-east London branch chairman Roger Wilkinson,
roger9796@yahoo.co.uk

Islington Local History Centre

Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB. Open 9.30am-8pm Monday and Thursday (closes 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tuesday, Friday and Saturday; closed Wednesday and Sunday; closed 1pm-2pm; 020 7527 7988; local.history@islington.gov.uk

Islington Museum

245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB, 10am-5pm daily, closed Wednesday and Sunday, 020 7527 2837

Islington Society

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

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4, Monday to Saturday, 11am-5.30pm May-Sept, 11am-5pm October-April, 020 7353 3745

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, Brentford, TW8, 11am-4pm, Tuesday-Sunday, 020 8568 4757, www.kbsm.org

The Charles Lamb Society

28 Grove Lane, SE6 8ST

London Canal Museum

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

The London Film Archive

22 Islington Green, N1,
www.londonfilmarchive.org

London Metropolitan Archives

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

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

020 7814 5734, email secretary Jackie Keily: jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk, www.lamas.org.uk

London Museums of Health & Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

The London Society

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1 7ED, www.londonociety.org.uk

The London Transport Museum

Covent Garden Piazza, WC2E 7BB, 020 7379 6344, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Markfield Beam Engine

Markfield Road, N15 4RB 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org

Mausolea and Monuments Trust

70 Cowcross Street, EC1M Secretary: John St Brioc Hooper, 020 7608 1441, mausolea@btconnect.com

Karl Marx Memorial Library

37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1, 020 7253 1485, info@marx-memorial-library.org

William Morris Gallery

Lloyd Park, Forest Road, E17 4PP, 10am-5pm Wednesday-Sunday, 020 8496 4390, wmg.enquiries@walthamforest.gov.uk. Closing soon temporarily for refurbishment

The Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising

2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale Road, Notting Hill, W11 2AR, 020 7908 0880, info@museumofbrands.com

V&A Museum of Childhood

Open 10am-5.45pm, closed Fridays, admission free, Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA, 020 8983 5200

Museum of London Docklands

West India Quay, E14 4AL, open 10am-6pm, Monday-Sunday, 020 7001 9844, www.museumindocklands.org.uk, info.docklands@museumoflondon.org.uk

Museum of the Order of St John

St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA, 10am-5pm Monday-Saturday, 020 7253 6644, www.museumstjohn.org.uk

The Musical Museum

11am-5.30pm Tuesday-Sunday, www.musicalmuseum.co.uk

The National Archives

Kew, 020 8876 3444, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Newington Green Action Group

42 Ferntower Road, N5 2JH, 020 7359 6027, www.newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group

24 Lavender Road, EN2 0ST, contact: Frances Mussett 020 8363 7187

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

University College London, Malet Place, WC1, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie

The Peckham Society

67 Gordon Road, SE15 2AF, www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Ragged School Museum

46-50 Copperfield Road, E3 4RR, 020 8980 6405, www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk

The Smithfield Trust

Secretary: Vince Marshall, 70 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ, 020 7566 0041, smthfld@gn.apc.org

Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, first Tuesday of each month 6-9pm, www.soane.org

Spencer House

27 St James's Place SW1, 020 7499 8620

The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

37 Spital Square, E1 6DY,

020 7377 1644, www.spab.org.uk

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS)

Contact: Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooters Hill, SE18 3EA

Sutton House

2 & 4 Homerton High Street, E9, 020 8986 2264, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-suttonhouse

The Streatham Society

www.streathamsociety.org.uk

Thames Discovery Programme

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, 020 7566 9310, enquiries@thamesdiscovery.org

Union Chapel: Friends of the Union Chapel

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

The Victorian Society

1 Priory Gardens, W4, 020 8994 1019, admin@victoriansociety.org.uk, www.victoriansociety.org.uk

The Wallace Collection

Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1M 6BN, open weekdays 10am-5pm, Sundays 2-5pm, admission free, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Walthamstow Historical Society

37 Chewton Road, E17 7DW, contact@walthamstowhistorical.society.org, www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism

49 City Road, EC1, Admission free, 10am-4pm Monday-Saturday, 12.30-1.45pm Sundays, www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm

Events

20 April

Insanity in Islington: Treatment and Records

Speaker: Dr Kathy Chater

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

Often surrounded with shame, guilt and secrecy, mental health is generally a taboo subject. How have attitudes changed over time? How were the insane treated in the past, and where are the records?

Kathy Chater was a researcher at the BBC for 15 years before becoming self-employed as a trainer, adult education teacher, consultant and writer on history and genealogy. She has a diploma in genealogy and the history of the family from Birkbeck College. In 2007, she completed a PhD on black people in England c1660-1807, which was published by Manchester University Press in 2009. She continues to write and publish widely and retains links with the broadcast media. She has been tracing her ancestry for some 30 years.

18 May 2011

Inaugural Address from the President of the Society

Speaker: Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury

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

15 June

Islington's Regency Renaissance

Speaker: Lester Hillman

6pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1

Lester Hillman will talk on the Regent's Canal and pivotal events for Islington 200 years ago and explore evidence of any Regency Renaissance in the borough today. In the early 1970s, Lester worked on running power cables under the Regent's Canal towpath and the associated award-winning heritage and amenity works; he has worked elsewhere on canal and rail infrastructure. He volunteers at the London Canal Museum, guiding towpath walks and boat tours. He has lectured on canal history, and written and reviewed publications. He is academic adviser to the Islington Archaeology & History Society.

Members of the Islington History & Archaeology are cordially invited to the launch of a book

The Ghost of Lily Painter

By Caitlin Davies

9 June 2011, 6pm, Islington Museum, 245 St John Street, London EC1

If you would like to attend this free event, please email local.history@islington.gov.uk

The first time Annie Sweet sees 43 Stanley Road, the Holloway house is so perfect she almost feels as though it has chosen her. Soon, she becomes consumed by the house and everyone who has lived there before her, especially rising music hall star Lily Painter.

As Annie delves into Lily's past, she unravels a dark episode from Edwardian London, and the tale of two notorious Islington baby farmers, who lured young unmarried mothers with the promise of a better life for their babies. Until Annie solves the mystery at the heart of the scandal, the ghost of Lily Painter will never be able to rest.



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

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Back page picture



Sarah and Andy move their boat through City Road Lock. Read our article on Regency transport and come to our meeting in June to find out more about Islington's canals and their Regency history