

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 2 No 1 Spring 2012

Radical and glorious

The Union Chapel achieves
listing at Grade I, as the
tower is restored to its
former magnificence



The London Underground arrives in Islington ● Scotland Yard's first detectives ● A mysterious murder ● A wartime tale of extraordinary courage ● Archaeological study of St Pancras ● The eventful story of a short road ● The only British prime minister to be assassinated ● Stroll along a hidden river ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

About the society

What we do

The society arranges lectures, walks, visits and outings about the archaeology and history of Islington.

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks 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 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 maximum article length is 1,000 words. Email the editor for a copy of our writing guidelines.

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

Deadline for the summer issue is 1 May.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history,

streets or buildings? Send them in for our tireless researcher Michael Reading – and maybe other readers – to answer.

• 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 including architecture, gardens, transport, industry, politics, social change, London's waterways, map-making,

building restoration, entertainment, health and health services, and crime.

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.

✂ (photocopies acceptable)

Join the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

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

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 2 No 1 Spring 2012

Plaques to mark the shapers of Islington

It is heartening to see that, in this era of belt tightening, there is still room to commemorate our past through the 2012 round of Islington People's Plaques (page 9). Three of this year's shortlist will be celebrated with a permanent memorial. All are worthy of a vote.

In a sporting year, consideration should be given to the White Conduit Cricket Club, whose members founded what became the MCC at Lord's.

Islington's history of radicalism and dissent is marked by the nomination of Catherine Griffiths, a determined campaigner for women's suffrage. This year sees the centenary of the campaign's civil disobedience reaching its height.

Caroline Chisholm, "the emigrant's friend", was honoured with a plaque last year; her image appeared for over 25 years on Australian banknotes. Time perhaps to consider Michael Faraday, who appeared on a previous issue of the British tenner?

It is surprising that there is no plaque at the Angel Inn at 1 Islington High Street – the Peacock a few doors up has had one for years.

Last year, Islington honoured the Keskidee Centre. This could be followed by consideration for Florence Keen, founder of the North Islington Welfare Centre (page 18).

My vote will be for a plaque at the site of the Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School, where over 100 lives were lost to enemy action. As with other civilian losses at that time, these souls are remembered by a diminishing number of friends and relatives.

Andrew Gardner
Chairman

Islington Archaeology & History Society



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In brief

Crossrail works unearth 18th century bricks

Eighteenth-century bricks have been unearthed during Crossrail works at Farringdon. The bricks have been donated to the Charterhouse, which will use them and some granite cobbles from Crossrail's utility works on its restoration project at a former Carthusian monastery.

Foreign archaeologists working in Iraq again

Iraqi and foreign archaeologists have uncovered a temple at the Sumerian city of Ur, dating back to about 2,500 BC. The foreign archaeologists are the first to be working in the country for more than two decades. The Sumerians invented writing and set up a civil government more than 5,000 years ago. Source: Azzaman.com

Help for community archaeology projects

AOC Archaeology encourages local people to explore, enjoy and understand their cultural heritage. It helps deliver community heritage projects including archaeological excavations, historic building recording, education and museum displays and offers support with fundraising.

● Contact Chris Clarke at chris.clarke@aocarchaeology.com

Stinging idea to keep heritage vandals away

The managers of the old mill buildings at Greenfield Valley Heritage Park, near Holywell in Flintshire, are considering using bees to deter vandals. Source: BBC

Medieval barn saved by purchase

A Grade I listed medieval barn in west London has been bought by English Heritage for £20,000.

Built 1426 by Winchester College as part of its manor farm, the Great Barn in Harmondsworth is remarkably intact. Its timber and stones bear original carpenters' and masons' marks.

English Heritage ranks it alongside the Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace for its exceptional architectural and historic interest. It was described by



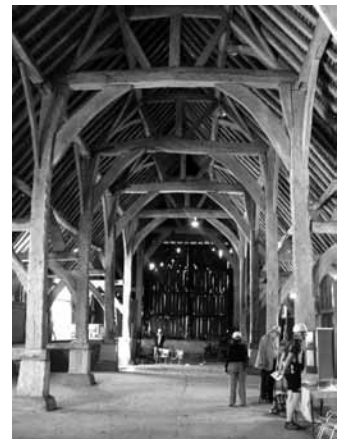
poet and heritage campaigner Sir John Betjeman as the "Cathedral of Middlesex".

Inside, both its size and its aisles evoke the space and shape of a cathedral – it is nearly 60m long, 12m wide and 11m tall. Its 13 massive oak trusses, resting on stone blocks, hold the roof up.

In 2006, the barn was bought by an offshore company which did not maintain or use it. In 2009, alarmed by its deteriorating condition, English Heritage issued an urgent works notice.

While settling the costs of these repairs with the owners, English Heritage bought the barn.

Simon Thurley, chief executive of English Heritage, said: "Harmondsworth Barn is



The interior of the barn has been likened to a cathedral

one of the greatest medieval buildings in Britain, built by the same skilled carpenters who worked on our magnificent medieval cathedrals."

The barn will open to the public in April.

Orton found guilty again – but not sent to prison this time round

A retrial of playwright Joe Orton, imprisoned for defacing Islington library books in 1962, saw the judge sentence him to 150 hours' community service, a curfew enforced by an electronic tag and a five-month jail sentence suspended for two years.

At the original trial, he and his partner Kenneth Halliwell were sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

The retrial, at the Islington

Museum in February, was the idea of Councillor Greg Foxsmith, a criminal defence lawyer. He wanted to know how the playwright would have fared today.

Mark Aston, local history manager at the Islington Local History Centre, was called as a witness to give examples of defaced books.

The trial was updated live on Twitter. The final post said: "Would the defence appeal? Apparently so – all the way to the European Court of Human Rights."

● For the full story of Joe Orton, the defaced library books and his success as a playwright, see *Borrowed Books to Guerilla Artwork*, autumn issue, page 20.



Left: viewing the defaced book covers at a recent exhibition at the Islington Museum

Islington near top for new homes bonus

Islington is being paid more new homes bonus than most other councils. The payment is linked to the number of new homes built. In 2012-13, the council will receive £5,680,167. Only Birmingham and Tower Hamlets gained more.

Historical station images available online

Network Rail has opened a online archive showing records of significant structures and stations.

Many early drawings show operational information such as foundations and construction details, which are still used today.

It includes records by engineers including Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Robert Stephenson, Joseph Locke and William Henry Barlow.

● www.networkrail.co.uk/archive.aspx

Manor Gardens plans multimedia archive

Manor Gardens Centre is bidding for Heritage Lottery Funding for an archive about the centre, including sound, visual and printed material. The Islington Archaeology & History Society has supported the centre's bid. The project is also backed by Islington Museum, Islington Libraries, the London Metropolitan Archives, the King's Fund and more organisations.

• See page 18

'Oldest animals' found in dig in Namibia

The world first animals may have arisen 750 million years ago, earlier than previously thought. Sponge fossils unearthed in a Namibian dig have been dated 100-150 million years earlier than other multicellular organisms found before. The research is published as an open-access article in the *South African Journal of Science*.

Greek economy to use antiquities for income

Greece is to allow commercial companies to photograph its antiquities such as the Acropolis and the Parthenon to help its economy. *The Guardian* reported it would charge from €1,600 (£1,339) per day.

Highbury clock tower to get jubilee revamp

The Highbury Jubilee Clock Tower is to be repaired and repainted in celebration of the queen's diamond jubilee this year.

The clock, at the entrance to Highbury Fields, was built in 1897 to mark of Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. It has the queen's head and a clock face on all four sides. The clock tower was refurbished in its centenary year.

Speaking to *Highbury Community News*, Councillor Julie Horten said: "It is a great way for Highbury to mark Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee and a



Each side has a clock face and a picture of Queen Victoria

very appropriate historical reminder of why the clock tower was built in the first place."

Lost river of London rediscovered

A former watercourse, believed to be the Faggeswell Brook, has been uncovered by the Museum of London Archaeology.

Faggeswell Brook was a tributary of the Fleet River. The remains of the watercourse were found beneath 8-10 Hayne Street during an archaeological evaluation at Crossrail's eastern ticket hall work site at Lindsey Street, which is parallel to Hayne Street.

The Faggeswell Brook has

long been assumed to have run through this area but its precise location has, until now, been unknown.

There are signs a fence ran along its banks, perhaps to dam the watercourse or to prevent people from falling in.

A large quantity of medieval material, including leather, textiles and shoes were also discovered. These are thought to be connected to manufacture at Smithfield market.

Final attempt made to preserve modern Ashmount school

Campaigners, parents and residents were to write to education secretary Michael Gove to halt the demolition of Ashmount School in Archway as the journal went to press.

The school, built in 1954-56, was designed by Jim Cadbury-Brown, who also designed the Royal College of Art in Kensington.

The council has agreed to the demolition of the school building. It wants it replaced with housing, half of which would be affordable.

Opponents have said the building is of architectural merit – a view supported by the Twentieth Century Society – and want to see it used by the community. The Ashmount Site Action Group has said the building is already being used by community groups.

The council said that the building could not be refurbished, although a study it commissioned in 2007 by architects Purcell Miller Tritton said this was possible.

The Ashmount Site Action Group said there had been two serious enquiries from educational bodies interested in the school. The council, however, said these were not credible.

The school's design and the Purcell Miller Tritton report were raised at a joint meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society and the Islington Society addressed by James Dunnett RIBA. Mr Dunnett is an expert in modern architecture, who co-chairs DOCOMO-UK, the modern architecture organisation recognised by Unesco.

The council's public consultation on the site closed earlier this year.

SAVE praises 'determined' Friends of Union Chapel

The Union Chapel has not only been listed as Grade I by English – it has been hailed a success story by SAVE Britain's Heritage,

Its report, *London's Churches are Fighting Back*, features 30 case studies of buildings at risk and rescued. This follows its 1985 report, *London's Churches are Falling Down*,

which drew attention to churches at risk.

Marcus Binney, SAVE's president, said that campaigning by clergy, congregations and heritage organisations had saved churches from being closed or demolished.

He said: "One of the most heartening examples is the Union Chapel in Islington,

built to seat 1,650 and threatened with demolition. Thanks to imaginative and determined effort by enthusiastic locals who formed the Friends of Union Chapel in 1982, the chapel has remained open as a working church, an award-winning events venue and a centre for those who are homeless or in crisis."

Letters and your questions

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

Farrier near the city farm

My wife's grandfather ran a farrier's business at Montrose Yard, 2 St James Road, from the 1890s to the 1910s.

This was close to HMP Pentonville, I believe. Does the society have any information or photos of that area? His name was John Smith.

Peter Jackson
pjackson41@hotmail.co.uk

Michael Reading writes:

The business at 2 St James Road is shown on the Ordnance Survey map for 1914. It is marked SMY, denoting a smithy.

It was on the south side of the street, at its west end. It had a narrow entrance passage opening into a wider square yard, and would have been overlooked by Pentonville Prison's taller buildings.

At 30 St James Road, on the corner with Roman Way, stood the Montrose Tavern.

All have now gone and been replaced by housing. Lockhart Close is approximately where the smithy would have stood.

St James Road was built in 1841 and its name was changed to Mackenzie Road in 1937.

This was in memory of the Rev William Bell Mackenzie MA, vicar of St James Church in 1838-1870. The church was not in St James Road, but in the next street, Victoria Road, now Chillingworth Road. The church suffered damage during the war, and was closed in 1946. The building is still there

and is prominent for its red colour, but is boarded up.

Before the Second World War, the south side of Mackenzie Road, from Lough Road (formerly Wellington Road), eastwards to the end, contained two other streets, Hollingsworth Street and Chalfont Road, both disappearing in 1973 with redevelopment and the creation of Freightliners City Farm.

In this part of the road, at no 144, stood the Prince of Wales public house. On the night of 26 December 1944, a V2 rocket landed, killing 68 people and injuring 99 others, and devastating the surrounding area. This was one of the worst incidents in Islington during the war.

For photographs of Mackenzie Road, I suggest you approach the London Metropolitan Archives, which hold an extensive collection on Islington; they may have some historic photographs.

You may also wish to contact the Islington Local History Centre, which may maintain a file on Mackenzie Road, with photographs, newspaper cuttings and other documents.

Jazzy names: Gillespie and Ellington Roads

I would love to know the history of the names of Gillespie Road, N5, and Ellington Street, N7. I moved from one to the other. I'd like to think that a jazz fan had hand in naming same but Ellington Street was built in the 1860s, I believe, so that's

the end of that theory.

Meg Howarth
Ellington Street, N7

Michael Reading writes:

I have been unable to find out why the names of Gillespie and Ellington were chosen for these streets.

Many streets in the borough were named after the place of origin of the landowners, or the builders of the houses. There is an Ellington in Cambridgeshire and also Northumbria. Below is some information on both streets.

Gillespie Road

The Ordnance Survey map for 1869 shows that where Gillespie Road now stands was open land. The name Gillespie Road was applied for by a Mr William Lee, on behalf of the British Land Co Ltd in 1871, to the London Board of Works. This company was already developing several streets in the immediate area.

The road was "made up" in 1879 and, in 1881-82, incorporated Gilliespie, Railway, Rose, Park, Raleigh, Melrose, Alfred, Charles and Shearman terraces, nine in number, the whole being renumbered and renamed Gillespie Road.

The Gillespie Road Wesleyan Methodist Mission

The factory was designed like a Venetian palazzo and had an illuminated chimney

Hall was in use from 1878-1932. Gillespie Road primary school started in this hall in 1878, and was officially opened as a school by the Rev J Rodgers on 2 August 1879. In 1957, it was reorganised into junior mixed and infants.

On 6 December 1906, the Gillespie Road underground railway station on the Piccadilly line was opened.

Gillespie Road's claim to fame is that its railway station's name was changed to "Arsenal" after 6 November 1932 as it was close to the football club's ground. This was due to the success of a campaign begun by the then manager of the club, Herbert Chapman, during a famous period in the club's history.

London Transport agreed, despite the considerable cost of changing tickets, signs, and maps. Arsenal is the only football club to have a station named after it.

I believe, now that the club has moved further away to the Emirates Stadium, there has been a campaign to change the name back to its original.

In 1892, Michael Stephens opened a remarkably designed factory for the firm Henry Stephens & Co Ink Manufacturers. It was designed like a Venetian palazzo and had an illuminated chimney. By 1972, only one wall of this factory was left standing and was soon demolished. I believe this factory was situated on the corner of St Thomas's Road and Gillespie Road, near the council development of

Kenton, Otley and Leiston Houses and Tannington Terrace. All of these names are taken from places in Suffolk, although I do not know why.

The houses to the west of Arsenal station suffered general blast damage (not structural) from Second World War bombing.

Ellington Street

Ellington Street is on part of the 14 acres of land owned in the early 19th century by the Pocock family and was known as Pocock's Field.

The Pococks were a Berkshire family who moved to Shoreditch, adjoining the City of London, in the 17th century. One member of the family traded in coal in the City at St Bride's Wharf, while another acquired land north of the then village of Islington.

By 1841, Bride Street, named after the wharf, and Ellington Street, then named Great Bride Street, were in existence. Before 1860, part of this was known as Arundel Terrace and, in 1849, Ellington Terrace. In 1860-61, the whole street was renumbered and renamed Ellington Street.

Ellington Street was the setting for the book *A London Childhood* by Angela Rodaway, published in 1960.

Thomas Calvert Girtin, the son of celebrated artist Thomas Girtin (1775-1802) lived in 1863-71 at 62 Ellington Street (formerly 26 Arundel Terrace).

The properties on the north side of Ellington Street at its east end, where Amber Court and Forest Court now stand, suffered general blast damage during the war.

Alexandra Trust

Could you tell me about the Alexandra Trust and its dining rooms? A building on



The Alexandra Trust restaurant served 12,000 cheap meals a day

City Road, north of Old Street roundabout, has a sign saying "The Alexandra Trust" and another saying "Dining Rooms" above its two arched doorways.

Mark Smulian

By email

Michael Reading writes:

The Alexandra Trust began in 1898 and its patron was Princess Alexandra (later Queen Alexandra, consort to King Edward VII). The king, then Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Norfolk were witnesses to the trust deed.

The trust began with a donation of £100,000 given by Sir Thomas Lipton (1845-1931), a self-made man, as a grocer, tea merchant and philanthropist. He was also a sportsman, involved in yachting, and a friend of King Edward VII and King George V.

The Alexandra Trust restaurant occupied 140-144 City Road and offered cheap meals to the working classes.

Six boilers could heat 500 gallons of hot soup and a three-course meal cost fourpence-halfpenny (about 2p). Some 100 waitresses could serve up to 12,000 meals a day.

The trust still exists but on a much smaller scale and makes donations to charities, particularly those

involved with providing food for deserving persons. It is now at 87 Saunders Ness Road, E14, and is still open to receiving donations.

The records of the trust are in the Leverhulme Archives in Liverpool, the Lipton businesses now being part of Unilever.

From an enquiry to the trust, I found that the building in City Road is empty and may be redeveloped. Someone may be living there, mainly to deter squatters.

The name of the trust and the heading "Dining Rooms" are part of the fabric of the building. The trust was unable to say when it vacated the building.

Lindsey Cottages and Ashburton Grove names

I live in New Zealand, but my family are originally from the Holloway and Essex road area.

I am looking for 3 Lindsey Cottages on Morton Road. I can find Morton Road, but not Lindsey Cottages on Google Street View.

Can you assist and advise if these cottages are still

there and, if so, whereabouts on Morton road?

I also have family from 15 Ashburton Grove, where the Emirates stadium is now. Do you have an pictures on record of this street?

Stuart Surf

By email

Michael Reading writes:

Lindsey cottages were behind the row of houses in the upper part of Rotherfield Street. They appear on the 1871 Ordnance Survey map. One must assume from their location that access to them was from Morton Road.

They, along with Concord Buildings and Norfolk Square, were all demolished to make way for the building of the Ecclesbourne Road, Board School, which opened on 3 May 1886. Norfolk Street and Suffolk Street, were renamed Ecclesbourne Road in 1878.

The "Lindsey" name has been retained in the immediate area with Lindsey Mews, which is situated out of Essex Road between Halliford Street and Elmore Street and was built in 1976.

Ashburton Grove takes its name from Ashburton, near Totnes in South Devon, and was built in 1861. It is sandwiched between the railway lines of the Great Northern Railway, later the London & North Eastern Railway's Coal and Goods Yard. It was a cul-de-sac, with rows of terraced house on both sides of the street.

On 17 April 1937, the Rt Hon Arthur Greenwood PC MP performed the opening ceremony of the

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

council's rebuilt disposal and cleansing plant on the yard site. It was regarded as one of the most advanced facilities of its kind.

The site was acquired in 2004 by the Arsenal Football Club for their new stadium, named the Emirates after their main sponsor. This was officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh on 26 October 2006, who stood in for the Queen, who had been injured in a fall and could not attend.

Who occupied Archway Tower and when?

I am assisting artist Ruth Ewan on the Alight commission, in partnership with Islington council. We are trying to put together a timeline of the Archway Tower (above Archway tube station) and we're having problems tracking down information about who occupied the building and when.

So far, we know about the DHSS and British Leyland. We have tried the local history centre, to no avail.

I would be very grateful if you could point me in the right direction for this information or suggest someone who might be able to help us.

Tilly Fowler
f.tilly@gmail.com

Michael Reading writes:
Archway Tower at 2 Junction Road was built in 1963. May I suggest you refer to the Post Office street directories. Copies for each year from 1800 are held on microfilm at the London Metropolitan Archives.

Multiple occupiers of large buildings are listed, but from around 1990 onwards the number of entries has declined, as this type of directory has been partially superseded by more modern systems.

Church visit leads to factory search

Following up my query in the last journal, I made contact with the vicar of St James in Prebend Street, if there were any records of my confirmation.

To my joy, he told me there were and if I were to visit he would not only show me around the church – I have not been there since my marriage banns were read in 1965 – but also show me the record.

I saw my name written down and that of my sister, who was confirmed two years later. I was confirmed by the Bishop of Stepney, Joost de Blank, who later became the Archbishop of Johannesburg.

While I was in the area, I called into my old school and obtained some records. Along side the entry for my sister's name, it was stated that my mother was working in a factory.

I do remember this and I am hoping that a member of the society may recall the name of a company called Premedico's.

The factory was somewhere near Hornsey Road and Lennox Road in Finsbury Park.

If anyone has any information about this and any connections with the local school, it would be very helpful.

Many thanks
George Goodwin
queenborough@gmail.com

Michael Reading writes:
As you do not have the address of this company, may I suggest you visit the London Metropolitan Archives and look up the Post Office street directory for the years your mother was working at Premedico's. The directory has an alphabetical index which should give you the address.



Canonbury Tower in 1880: became home to theatre

Alternatively, businesses are grouped by their classification – you would need to know what type of business Premedico's was.

If you find the street, it is possible you may be able to find a photograph of it in the LMA's large collection.

I assume the business no longer exists or may have been amalgamated with another. I am sorry I cannot offer any more than this suggestion.

Vaclav Havel play first staged in Islington

Given the recent death of Vaclav Havel, readers might like to know of the role that Islington played in his career.

Wilmot Bennett, who for many years sat on the IAHS committee, was very active at the Tower Theatre in Canonbury at a time that many considered its company to be the best amateur group in London.

I think it was in the year of revolutions in Eastern Europe in 1989 that Wilmot told me with some pride that the Tower was the first theatre in Britain to stage one of Havel's plays.

The production was in 1970 of the play *The Memorandum*. It sounds a stimulating play, concerned with the use of bland language in a repressive regime, and perhaps

influenced by Havel's fellow Czech Franz Kafka.

As Havel did not come to international prominence until his association with the Charter 77 movement in 1977, it now seems inspired and prescient of the Tower to stage one of his plays years before.

Keith Sugden
By email

Smithfield Trust: working in an area of great change

The Smithfield Trust charity considers the effects of planning and proposed developments on the Smithfield area.

At the moment, it is particularly concerned with major proposals such as the PFI scheme to set up cardiac and cancer centres of excellence at Bart's Hospital, and the expansion of Farringdon Station by the Thameslink and Crossrail projects. Our chairman, Ian Lerner, attends the Farringdon liaison committee in relation to the station developments.

Regeneration in Smithfield is dramatic and historic, and changing the area to an extent not seen since the Metropolitan Railway arrived in 1863.

An increase in people living in the area (probably fourfold in recent years), plus new clubs and restaurants, have changed the face of Smithfield.

The Smithfield Trust was set up in 1980, initially as the Little Britain Trust. Membership is £12 a year and includes a newsletter. If you would like to join, please contact me at 70 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ, or on smthfld@gn.apc.org. Please make cheques payable to "The Smithfield Trust".

Vince Marshall
Secretary
The Smithfield Trust

Stroll along a hidden river

Walk the route and hear the stories of London's mysterious Fleet river this summer

The Fleet river runs below London's streets – and you'll be able to see, hear and smell it, as well as discover its story, on a walk this summer.

The Fleet River Walk, run by the Islington Archaeology & History Society, will take place on Sunday 1 July, starting at 2.30pm. It will be led by Lester Hillman, the society's academic adviser, and take in the River of Wells including Clerkenwell.

The Fleet's course was described in the last issue of this journal (An armchair cruise down the Fleet river, winter 2011-12, page 19).

Interest in the Fleet is strong. Society chairman Andrew Gardner and Lester Hillman recently addressed a packed room at their talk on the river at St Mary's Church community centre for Islington's Stuart Low Trust.

Lost river found

A unique highlight will be exploring Clerkenwell's rediscovered lost Fleet tributary, believed to be the Faggesswell Brook, which drained Islington's

southern boundary (see Lost river of London rediscovered, page 2).

The walk will start in front of King's Cross Station at 2.30pm. It will and finish approximately two hours later at the mouth of the Fleet where it joins the Thames at Blackfriars.

Booking

Please fill in the form or contact events secretary Catherine Brighty at IAHS, 8 Wynatt Street, EC1V 7HU, tel: 020 7833 1541.



The Fleet river in 1844, from the rear of the Red Lion Tavern in Clerkenwell

News in brief

Vote for green plaques

Voting has opened for Islington's People's Plaques, which commemorate significant people, places and events. The list for 2012 includes: Isabella Beeton, cook and author; The Angel Inn; Catherine Griffiths, suffragette and campaigner; Alexander McQueen, fashion designer; Jack Kennedy, campaigner; Michael Faraday, chemist and physicist; the bombing of Dame Alice Owen's Girls' School during the Blitz; Alexander Aubert, amateur astronomer and businessman; the White Conduit Cricket Club; Cyril Mann, painter and sculptor; Florence Keen, founder of the North Islington Welfare Centre; and Wessex Sound Studios. Voting closes on 7 April. Go to www.islington.gov.uk to see more about these and to vote. The top three will be commemorate with a plaque.

Trees spared the chop

Four 100-year-old plane trees in Richmond Crescent, Barnsbury, have been spared the chainsaw after a government planning inspector rejected an application to fell them. An insurance company had claimed the 50ft trees were causing subsidence but the inspector found no evidence of this. The application to fell them was objected to by residents and the council.

Darwin's treasure found

Fossils collected by Charles Darwin from around the world have been found in a British Geological Survey vault. *Geology Today* reported that the collection includes items collected on his *HMS Beagle* voyage. Dr Howard Falcon-Lang, a Royal Holloway University palaeontologist, who found the collection, described it as a "treasure trove" of "very, very significant fossils".



Fleet River Walk booking form (photocopies acceptable)

I would like to order tickets at £5 each for the Fleet River

Walk on Sunday 1 July and enclose a cheque for payable to
the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Name

Address

Please return this form to IAHS, 8 Wynatt St, London EC1V 7HU

Londoners take the Underground for granted. They might moan about it when it goes wrong but, for the most part, it's just there like lamp-posts or garden fences. Yet it is a fantastic part of the capital's history and deserves recognition as a great British innovation that has been imitated in more than 200 cities across the world.

Indeed, the very word "metro" comes from London's first line, the Metropolitan Railway, which opened in 1863 between Paddington and Farringdon.

Just, for a moment, think about that in the context of the age. Trains – another British invention – had only been running for just over 30 years and tunnelling was still in its infancy, with Britain again to the fore in the shape of Marc Brunel's tunnel under the Thames completed in 1843, the first in the world to be built under a river.

The promoters of the Metropolitan Railway, therefore, not only had to struggle to raise capital of £1m – probably equivalent to around £250m today, though such comparisons are inevitably imprecise – but also had to persuade passengers that it was safe to travel in trains under the city streets.

Moreover, the Metropolitan and other early lines were operated by steam engines, which meant that tunnels were inevitably smoky and smelly places. Chemists on the line soon cottoned on to the idea that money could be made from the Underground – not a term that was used until the 20th century – by selling "Metropolitan Mixture" to passengers emerging gasping from the railway tunnels.

Nevertheless, Londoners flocked to the use early lines, enabling the pioneers to build more lines rapidly.

Soon, the Metropolitan and its rival the Metropolitan District were spreading their tentacles around London. Hammersmith,



an area previously known for its fields of strawberries and spinach, by 1877 was blessed with two stations, 100 yards apart – and which incidentally have still not been connected. By 1880, Richmond, Ealing and Harrow had been reached and a decade later Wimbledon, Chesham and Hounslow.

Most of this was overground and it is possible to think of the Underground as a central core of tunnels linking large parts of the capital.

Building the Underground was not a passive process. The lines were built into rural areas specifically to stimulate development, allowing the capital to spread and people to find better housing than they could in the cramped centre which was still a hive of industry including much manufacturing.

Within a few years of the Underground arriving, a rural haven would be turned into a

Above: lettering at Holloway Station shows its Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton line origins

bustling suburb with stations at their centre.

If all this innovation was not enough, London pioneered a second type of underground line. The first – the Metropolitan, Circle and District lines which today are known as the subsurface lines – were constructed using the cut-and-cover method. This involved digging a hole, putting in the railway and covering it up again.

Digging deeper

Towards the end of the century, it was almost as cluttered beneath the city streets as above them. Gas, electricity, phones, sewers, water mains – all had to be accommodated and, consequently, digging up just below the surface became impossible.

So, the world's first bored tunnel Underground line was built – the City & South London, linking Stockwell. The method of construction was to push along a massive shield on which men dug out the area in front of them. London's hard clay was perfectly suited for this process.

Unfortunately, the clay was not everywhere: south-east London with its alluvial gravel from the Thames made tunnelling far



Lines were built into rural areas to stimulate housebuilding, to the benefit of an appropriately named builder

more difficult, which is one reason why it is blessed with fewer tube lines.

The City & South London was a great success. It was known as the “tuppenny tube” as that was the price of any journey on the line and required people to go deeper underground than ever before. It had small carriages that were known as “sardine boxes” because they had only tiny windows and pulled by electric engines that sometimes struggled to get up the incline to the terminus at King William Street.

The City & South London, now part for the Northern line, showed that the technology of creating deep tubes was feasible and the financial success soon ensured there were imitators.

The Waterloo & City line, sadly never more than a shuttle, soon followed. More significantly, the Central Railway from Bank to Shepherd’s Bush, another tuppenny railway, was completed in 1900 and was the most successful financially.



Underground below Islington

It was in the first decade of the 1900s that Islington comes into the picture and suddenly it seemed to have Underground lines everywhere.

First, in 1904, there was the Great Northern from Moorgate out to Drayton Park and Finsbury Park which, uniquely, ran in tunnels big enough to take mainline rolling stock. Consequently, it is now no longer part of the Underground.

Then there was the completion

Construction of the Metropolitan Railway, close to King’s Cross station; below: old signs in the London Transport Museum’s depot



in 1906 of the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton (which explains the lettering which can still be seen above Holloway Station) from Hammersmith to Finsbury Park, now the Piccadilly line. At the time, it had an extra station, York Road, whose boarded-up ruby-red Leslie Green can design still be seen from York Way. It may be reopened given the extent of the King’s Cross Lands development.

It did not stop there. The City & South London was extended from Bank and Moorgate, through the Angel up to Euston, while the new Charing Cross, Euston & Hampstead Railway, – now the Charing Cross Branch of the Northern Line – reached Tufnell Park and Highgate (now Archway station), both in 1907. It must have been an amazing transformation for the people who lived in what is now Islington and, as ever, stimulated rapid development.

By 1907, therefore, London had all the current Underground except the Jubilee and the Victoria lines, and Islington had

all its present stations except for Highbury & Islington, though that was already a stop on the North London Railway – the remnants of the station is opposite the current one.

At this stage London really was overprovided for with underground lines and there were even newspaper articles suggesting that some, such as the Bakerloo (a name invented by a newspaper from Baker Street and Waterloo), were white elephants. That soon proved to be wrong, as ridership boomed and the Underground became the way to get around the capital.

Numerous extensions were built, bringing the Tube lines deep into the suburbs in the interwar period, but no new lines were built until the first section of the Victoria Line opened 1968.

This was a great missed opportunity. London now is probably two or three lines short of what it needs, but at least it has partly made up for that with the London Overground extensions, and soon Crossrail. Unfortunately, after that, there are no firm plans to extend the system. Let’s hope we do not have to wait another 60 years. ■

Christian Wolmar’s book. He is author of *The Subterranean Railway* book and DVD, and of other books on transport. See publications, page 24

Trains had been running for just over 30 years and tunnelling was in its infancy. The promoters had to persuade passengers that it was safe to travel in trains under the streets

Scotland Yard's first detectives

London's first police force faced many difficulties, including limited forensics and public resistance to its very existence. Joan Lock looks at how the first detectives came to be

In *The Go-Between*, LP Hartley wrote: "The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there." This is true of crime and policing in the early Victorian times.

When the Metropolitan Police – or the New Police as they were dubbed – were set up in 1829 there were no plans for plain-clothes detectives. This was partly because they had no experience but mainly because it had been hard to get the public to accept a police force at all.

Indeed, Londoners murdered several of their new police officers. A mob in Deptford stoned one to death and another mob killed a constable with his own truncheon. PC Cully was stabbed to death during the riots in Coldbath Fields in Clerkenwell in 1833 and, in 1842, PC Daly was shot dead while trying to arrest a highway robber in Highbury Park South. Constables drowned in canals, rivers or docks while on night duty. Did they fall or were they pushed?

It seemed unlikely that Londoners would accept plain-clothes police "spies" as the French had. Eugene François Vidocq – a French criminal who had become chief of the Sûreté by using his knowledge of his fellow criminals – had published his memoirs. In 1829, as the New Police hit the streets, a play, *Vidocq the French Police Spy*, was staged at London's Surrey Theatre.

The new force was heavily criticised about its handling of serious crimes. So, one of the commissioners, Sir Richard

Mayne, began picking out officers who appeared to have a talent for detection.

Scandalous crimes

Matters came to a head in the early 1840s with two high-profile crimes. The first was the murder of Sir William Russell, the uncle of Sir John Russell who, as home secretary, had done a great deal to support the New Police.

The elderly Sir William had been found dead in bed with his throat cut (cut-throat razors were common murder weapons). There was evidence of a burglary so suspects were investigated but no charges brought. Press criticisms poured in and there were calls for the return of the Bow Street Runners who had been disbanded the year before.

From the outset, the chief suspect was the valet. The day before, Courvoisier had failed to tell the coachman to collect Sir William from his club then lied about it, so was in danger of

losing his job. He said he had escorted his master to bed and left him reading in bed by candlelight; but Sir William never read in bed nor allowed a candle to be left by his bed because of the risk of fire.

However, there were no bloodstains on Courvoisier's clothes and valuable items were still missing. Police noticed that he became agitated when they got near his pantry so did a thorough search and, behind the skirting board, found a gold net purse containing gold rings, coins and other valuables belonging to Sir William.

Courvoisier was charged, found guilty and hanged.

The mystery of the lack of bloodstains was solved when he admitted to a gaoler that he had gone naked to the scene.

Why did he lie about the candle? He probably lighted his way to Sir William's room with a candle from the dining room where he had faked the burglary. If he took this candle to his room, it would look suspicious. Not only was it wax – servants were only allowed tallow candles – but it had a silver holder. So he left it by Sir William's bed along with a book.

Candles could be important in crime scenes. People needed hand-held lights at night so where a candle was found could be pertinent. Burglars often brought a candle in a glass jar and dumped it by the door as they left. (Dishonest servants would leave a candle near a door so their thefts would look like outside jobs.) Hats, too, featured in crime scenes – they were sometimes left behind or inadvertently swapped.

The second case began one April evening when a Wandsworth shopkeeper told PC William Gardner he had been robbed. A coachman called Daniel Good had bought a pair of breeches; a boy assistant said Good had stolen another pair.

PC Gardner found Good at his master's stables in Putney which he began to search while Good vigorously denied the charge. At the last stable block, Good became anxious and said: "Let's go to

Jonathan Whicher, one of London's first detectives



Wandsworth and make it all right.”

The constable persisted with his search. Taking a closer look at what he thought was a plucked goose in the straw, he realised it was part of a human body. Good ran off, locking the stable door behind him. It took 15 minutes for the constable to escape and for the hue and cry to begin.

The difficulty with setting off a hue and cry was that there was no means of rapid communication. The police had only the post and the police route paper system, whereby a message was passed along divisions by officers on horseback or on foot, moving ever outwards, like waves from a pebble thrown in a pond.

This route paper was sent out at 11.15pm and, by 4am, all stations in the 50-mile Metropolitan Police area had been informed. Some notified beat men immediately but Inspector Tedman at Marylebone Lane, who received the notice at 3am, decided to leave it until the 6am shift – Putney was quite a long way away.

The victim, Jane Good, had lived on his patch just off Manchester Square and Daniel Good had hurried to her lodgings. He left them, quite conspicuously, at 5.15am, by a cab onto which he had piled a bed, a box and a large bundle. An alert beat constable had noted the number of the cab. So the police were able to trace Good’s route to Spitalfields and the home of his first wife, Old Molly Good. Then a clumsy enquiry alerted Good and he fled.

This embarrassing chapter provoked an inquiry into the route paper system. The Wandsworth superintendent should have got the paper out before 11.15pm; it should have been more detailed and, once received at a police station, acted on with more urgency. Some officers, including



The Shropshire constabulary In 1866: Inspector Tanner was called in to help them solve a murder – his efforts were obstructed by the coroner

Inspector Tedman, were suspended from duty without pay.

Watch was kept on the ports and docks in case Good tried to flee abroad. He was finally spotted working on a railway line near Tonbridge in Kent by a former Wandsworth policeman.

Despite the criticisms, it was only seven weeks after the discovery of the body that Daniel Good was executed.

The new detectives

These two cases, plus attempts on the life of the queen, helped make possible the setting up of the detective branch at Scotland Yard in August 1842.

It had only six sergeants and two inspectors. The inspectors were: Nicholas Pearce, a former Bow Street patrol man who was Mayne’s top man for difficult crimes; and John Haynes, a former chemist and horse-stealing expert.

The sergeants were: Stephen Thornton, feared by pickpockets and the swell mob; Frederick Shaw, a former butcher; William Gerrett, who had been involved in the Good inquiry; Sergeant Braddick, about whom little is known; PC Charles Burgess Goff, who had shown promise at a murder scene; and PC Jonathan Whicher, who had experience of the stews of Seven Dials.

The new branch had offices at Scotland Yard, close to Trafalgar Square, at the centre of London.

Scotland Yard officers did not deal only with major crimes. They mingled with crowds at the races, royal occasions, concerts and meetings. Being near Whitehall, they were drawn into some

curious jobs for the government.

They were called to assist other forces but were often called too late, and were resented and even obstructed. At the Duddlewick Mill murder in Shropshire, the coroner obstructed Inspector Richard Tanner. The suspect was released even though Shropshire’s chief constable thought him guilty.

New extradition treaties, particularly between Britain and France and the US, meant trips abroad to escort suspects. Artist Richard Dadd was brought back from France where he had fled after murdering his father.

In one case, an Islington man, George Dyer, went into Hunter Street police station and confessed to murder – 13 years before at Mia Mia Creek, a gold-digging area near Melbourne. A Melbourne police officer eventually took him back to Australia where he got eight years for manslaughter.

Limited forensics

Detectives had many disadvantages compared to today’s police. They had no transport and claiming back cab or omnibus fares was difficult.

Households often teemed with large families, servants and lodgers, all with their own loyalties, which could complicate cases a great deal.

Forensics were limited and photography was not advanced enough to assist. Yet identification was easier in some ways. People often dressed according to their occupation so descriptions might say “looks like a sailor” or “has the appearance of a servant”.

Lack of health and safety regulations and good corrective surgery also meant a suspect was more likely to have a scar, a missing thumb or a birth defect such as a club foot or a hare lip.

The disadvantages the police experienced gradually lessened. But one thing is certain, the past is a foreign country, and they did do things differently there. ■

See overleaf for an account by Joan Lock of one of the new detectives’ early cases

There was no means of rapid communication. Messages were passed from division to division by officers on horseback or on foot

Cries of murder

There seemed to be no clues as to who killed a flamboyantly dressed man in Hampstead. Joan Lock describes how Scotland Yard's early detectives solved a mysterious murder and the details that shocked the media

One of Scotland Yard's first cases began at around 7pm on a particularly frosty February Friday in 1845. Mr Hilton, a baker, was calling on a customer in Hampstead when he heard cries of "Murder!" coming from a nearby field. The cries sounded female.

"I thought that some man was beating his wife," he was to say later. "I entered the field to the extent of 20 rods [about 5½ yards], but I heard no more cries."

Shortly after, he met a PC Baldock and told him about the cries. Baldock walked across the field but saw nothing either. Then he met up with his sergeant and they both searched the field. Behind some railings on the frozen ground in the far west corner, they found the body of a plump man of about 40 years of age with his head lying in a pool of blood.

The victim had been a bit of a swell. His brown wrapper was of fine cloth with velvet facings. His dark blue Valencia waistcoat was decorated with "small red flowers and sprigs", *The Observer* informed its readers the

following day. "His boots were Wellingtons and his linen, which was of the very finest texture, was marked with a capital D in indelible ink." A black handkerchief, white stockings, black kid gloves and a black hat completed the picture.

PC Baldock stayed with the body while his sergeant went to find a stretcher.

This put the constable on the spot. It was the first anyone had heard about the man who had kept him company that night

He was not alone for long. Whistling along the path came a slight, dandified young man with a nonchalant air.

"Hello policeman!" he exclaimed, "what have you here?"

On being told it was someone whose throat had been cut, the young man asked, "Do you think he is dead?" and promptly got on his knees to take the victim's pulse. He decided the man was in fact dead, that it was "a nasty job" and "a serious case for the constable".

Then he offered him some brandy, pressed him to take a shilling and elected to wait with him until the stretcher arrived.

The victim was James De la Rue, an unmarried 33-year-old piano teacher, who lived just off Euston Square.

There seemed to be no clue as to his killer. However, PC Baldock said at the inquest there was blood on the top rail of

the fence "where his hands had been".

"What makes you say 'his' hands?" asked coroner Thomas Wakley.

It was a bloody print of someone's fingers, the PC replied, and he had not seen blood on the victim's hands.

Today, a bloody handprint could mean a case could be quickly solved via DNA, blood type and fingerprints. It was to be more than 50 years before fingerprinting came into use and almost another 100 before DNA could be analysed. Back then, it was not even possible to distinguish between human and animal blood or hair.

Missing from the corpse was an expensive watch. In those days, many a murder was done to gain possession of a watch.

Suspicious raised

The following evening a man named William Watson told a sergeant that on the previous Saturday he had met his parents' lodgers, Mr and Mrs Hocker, who appeared to have come into some money from their son, Thomas. Mr Hocker seemed concerned that the cuff of Thomas's shirt had been torn off – although Thomas claimed he had done it romping with some girls. Mr Watson learned later that Thomas Hocker had been a friend of de la Rue.

Under pressure from the detectives, Thomas Hocker produced the missing watch claiming that De la Rue had given it to him to pawn on Friday morning.

The detectives got to work. At Hocker's lodgings, they found a bloodstained cuff and, at his

Shepherd's Well, Hampstead, in the 19th century



parents' home, the shirt with the cuff missing. They also found muddied and bloodstained stockings and an ebony cane with a split end. They asked his father if Thomas had his cane with him when he went out on Friday evening. Yes, was the reluctant reply.

During investigations, it was revealed that Hocker had visited the murder scene and given PC Baldock some brandy and a shilling.

This put the constable on the spot. It was the first anyone had heard about the man who had kept him company that night. PC Baldock said he hadn't mentioned it because he hadn't realised the man was the accused because he had been muffled up against the cold at the time and it hadn't seemed important. The magistrate accused him of withholding facts because of the shilling and remarked that it was not up to

Coroner Thomas Wakley quizzed detectives over the provenance of bloodstains



him to judge what was important.

What the *Morning Chronicle* thought was important and had been dropping heavy hints about was that the principal occupation in Hocker's dissolute life was deluding women into thinking he would marry them and he was meeting the deceased in the field for, it was believed, "the worst of purposes".

It reported that Hocker had received a total of £150 from De la Rue but had realised that his victim was not going to pay him any more. In other words, what had been going on was homosexual prostitution and blackmail.

Hocker's trial took only one day. No women were allowed in the courtroom due – the *Morning Chronicle* said – "to the peculiar circumstances of the case". A crowd of influential men listened as Thomas Henry Hocker was found guilty of murder and sentenced to death. ■

Joan Lock is a former police officer and author of *Scotland Yard's First Cases*. She has addressed the society on the history of crime and the police. Find out about her fiction and non-fiction books, documentaries and radio plays at www.joanlock.co.uk. See also Publications, page 24.

Prime minister assassinated

Spencer Perceval was the only British prime minister to be assassinated. Lester Hillman will be exploring this event and its links with Islington at a talk in April



In 1812, Spencer Perceval became the only British prime minister to be assassinated.

Lester Hillman's talk will explore this sensational event and its connections to an Islington that was in the grip of major change.

Perceval, who was the MP for Northampton, had many links to the borough. The assassin, John Bellingham, had family connections to Islington; the area nearby played a key part in the lead up to the assassination.

Roads bearing the names Percival, Spencer, Northampton and Compton (his mother's maiden name) approach

Islington's museum. Not far away are more names showing further association.

The 2nd Lord Liverpool, Robert Banks Jenkinson, who became prime minister a month after the assassination, was educated down the road at Charterhouse – Liverpool Road offers yet another link. Spa Fields, around the corner from the museum, saw dramatic events a few years into his premiership.

One of Perceval's sons, Dudley, stood unsuccessfully in 1837 for the Finsbury parliamentary seat.

Just four days before the assassination, the legislation for the Regent's canal was laid before parliament. Works to

build the canal began in October that year, but it took the whole of the Regency to complete it.

All this and more will be explored. A completely different Islington appears towards the end of this remarkable story. ■

● *Regency outrage! The Assassination of Prime Minister Spencer Perceval in 1812* will take place at 6pm for 6.30pm, Thursday 19 April at the Islington Museum. See page 31.

Lester Hillman is academic adviser to the Islington Archaeology & History Society. His work has examined street naming and place commemoration. He has recently been exploring Regency Islington with the society

Above: the assassination of Spencer Perceval



Union Chapel architect James Cubitt said an auditorium design, unlike a traditional nave and aisle arrangement, would allow everyone to see the pulpit

Radical and glorious

The Union Chapel, recently awarded Grade I listing, is known for its adventurous, original design as well as its place in nonconformist history, says Richard Wallington

The Union Chapel is renowned for both its architectural significance and its history.

It is a monument to and reminder of the flourishing nonconformist communities of 19th-century Islington.

The building, in Compton Terrace, Upper Street, is one of the most important surviving 19th century nonconformist chapels in the country, with an adventurous and unusual design. Its interior retains its original appearance and most of its original fittings.

In recognition of this, at the end of 2011, English Heritage upgraded the listing of the chapel from Grade II* to Grade I.

Early days

The congregation dates from 1799, when a group of Anglicans and a group of nonconformists

started worshipping together – hence the name Union Chapel – at 18 Highbury Grove.

In 1806, they moved to a new chapel they had had built in Compton Terrace. Anglican membership then declined. In 1847, the chapel joined the Congregational Union of self-governing nonconformist churches.

A leading nonconformist

The greatest figure in the chapel's 19th-century history is Dr Henry Allon. He came to Union Chapel in 1843 to assist

A massive irregular octagon was placed within a rectangle and crowned with a great domed wooden ceiling

minister Thomas Lewis. He became minister himself on Lewis's death in 1852, remaining until he died in 1892.

He was one of the leading nonconformist ministers of the period, and edited an intellectual journal for nonconformists called the *British Quarterly Review*. He visited congregationalists in America, some of whom sent him a piece of the rock upon which the Pilgrim Fathers had landed, which the chapel still has.

He was a keen promoter of church music and hymn-singing by the congregation. Allon was a popular preacher and wise leader, the music was good and the chapel's congregation grew.

By the early 1870s, the chapel was not big enough and it was decided to build a larger replacement on the same site.

Radical design

An architectural competition was held. Alfred Waterhouse, who designed the Natural History Museum, was assessor.

The clear winner was the design submitted by James Cubitt. Cubitt (1836–1912) was not of the Cubitt family of Belgravia and King's Cross fame, but the son of a Baptist minister, whose architectural practice was almost exclusively concerned with building or repairing nonconformist churches.

In his book *Church Design for Congregations*, published in 1870, Cubitt attacked conventional nave and aisle design as unsuitable for modern congregations, and advocated an auditorium design to ensure that everyone could see and hear the service.

Allon wanted much the same effect. Cubitt's design closely follows Allon's requirements and the ideas in his book: a massive irregular octagon placed within a rectangle and crowned with a great domed wooden ceiling.

The pulpit is the focus of the design and can be seen from nearly all the pews. The chapel was designed to seat 1,650 – more with budging up – with a large Sunday school hall at the

rear to accommodate up to 1,000 children, and a lecture hall for adult education.

The architectural detail is early French and English Gothic. The chapel and ancillary buildings cost about £30,000 excluding the tower. Building the tower was deferred; it was completed in 1889.

New chapel, new organ

The chapel opened for worship on 5 December 1877, just over 18 months after the foundation stone was laid, with celebrations that lasted a fortnight. Former prime minister William Gladstone came to the opening ceremony.

There was a succession of well-known preachers including Charles Spurgeon, who preached to 3,365 people who had crammed into the new building to hear him speak.

A new organ was required, and a three-manual organ (one with three keyboards) was ordered from Henry "Father" Willis, one of the outstanding organ builders of the 19th century.

The organ was inaugurated in March 1878, and Spurgeon was again invited to preach. This was a less successful occasion.

Spurgeon stood in front of the new organ and denounced the practice of spending large sums "upon worthless noiseboxes" as a "sinful waste" for, "they drowned the only sound of praise God cared to hear, the human voice".

This did not go down well with Dr Allon or the congregation.

Like the chapel, the organ has been little altered since its installation, and it is a much-admired instrument.

The chapel has recently undergone a repair and restoration programme. Just as English Heritage announced the listing, the scaffolding came down from the tower after repairs to the gables and upper stone work were completed. Extensive repairs were carried out to decayed Bath stone and lost detail replaced. The repair of the tower from the ground to clock level is a longer-term project.

The whole project has re-enlivened the chapel complex. One of the founding purposes of the Union Chapel Project (see



Denounced as a "sinful waste" by a visiting preacher when new, the organ is Grade I listed; below: the chapel's original sign is in the secret passage

box) was to raise funds to restore the building, and this demonstrates its success.

Without the rising income from chapel concerts and lettings adding to the substantial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, Islington council and private donors, the tower repair could not have happened.

The organ now needs an expensive rebuild. The Heritage Lottery Fund has offered £470,000 to rebuild the organ and an education project connected with it. Matching funding will have to be raised, however.

The organ is Grade I listed on the National Pipe Organ Register. It is the only organ of its type in England with its Victorian hydraulic machinery intact.

• For information about all the activities at the Union Chapel see www.unionchapel.org.uk

Richard Wallington is chairman of the Friends of Union Chapel

Read more on chapel design

To order books relevant to the chapel's architecture, see publications, page 24

See the chapels's secrets

Visitors to the Union Chapel rarely get to appreciate fully the beauty, complex architecture and extent of the buildings. Go behind the scenes on a guided tour to see its lesser known treasures, from a secret passage to a hidden garden.

Tours are held on the first Sunday of the month at 12.15pm. Numbers are limited, so please book in advance. A donation of £5 per head is invited towards the chapel's upkeep. Longer tours and discussions can be arranged.

• Email Andrew Gardner ajegardner@gmail.co.uk



A community asset today

The chapel is still a place of worship. There is a service every Sunday at 11am, and on Wednesdays there are early morning prayers at 7.15am and Bible study at 12.45pm.

The congregation is a member of the Congregational Federation, and the minister is Karen Stallard.

Chapel charities

The Union Chapel Project charity was formed by the congregation under the leadership of former minister Janet Wootton to develop the chapel as a community resource. It is run by a small,

dedicated staff headed by Pete Stapleton.

The Friends of Union Chapel is an association for those who do not wish to join the congregation but who would like to support the conservation of the buildings and the archives.

I am chairman, and Anthony Richardson the secretary. Do join us – visit www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html, or ask Catherine Brighty (020 7833 1541) for a membership leaflet.

Also based at the chapel is the Margins project, which provides vital services to people facing homelessness, crisis and isolation in our community and beyond.

A short, remarkable road

Manor Gardens in Holloway has a history that involves both social progress and royalty. Andrew Turton gives a brief history of the road and its various occupiers

Manor Gardens takes its name from the moated manor that once stood behind where the Odeon cinema is now. The former Manor Road has a remarkable history for so short a street.

In the 1840s, a number of elegant but modest semi-detached villas occupied both sides of the road. The only surviving examples are nos 6-7 and 8-9, which are part of the estate of the Manor Gardens Centre, which is owned by the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust.

The Manor Gardens Centre is a multifunctional community health and welfare centre.

Founded in 1913, it soon occupied the two villas and was extended by a link built between the villas in 1928. This was opened by the Duchess of York, who was royal patron of the trust for 79 years, later as Queen Elizabeth and then the Queen Mother. Since 1996, it has also occupied part of the Beaux Arts

building under a section 106 arrangement.

In 1884, the Great Northern Hospital opened on the corner of Manor Gardens and Holloway Road. It expanded to include all the area to the north and west of the Manor Gardens Centre. Its accident and emergency service was Islington's First World War memorial. It was later renamed the Royal Northern Hospital.

The hospital closed in the 1990s and the area filled with housing. However, the memorial wall to the fallen remains under a preserved archway, and is the focus of an annual ceremony of remembrance.

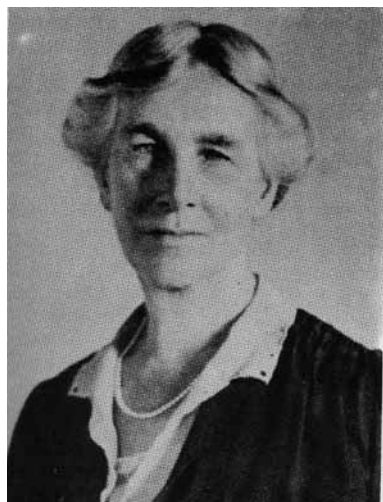
Much of the former hospital site is now the Royal Northern Gardens, a very welcome open space.

On the southern corner with Holloway Road stood the Holloway Empire Theatre and Music Hall. Many stars performed here, including Marie Lloyd and George Robey. It became a cinema, then a warehouse. A student hostel has recently been built on the site.



North Library: when it opened, the queues were so long that police were called to maintain order

Along from this in Manor Gardens is North Library, Islington's first library, built in 1906 with money from the Carnegie Foundation and designed by architect Henry T Hare. This most beautiful building on the road is on two floors with wonderful rounded rear rooms. Upstairs is a large meeting room and the children's library. Externally, it has a slightly Inigo



Left: Florence Keen, founder of the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust; right above: swag below library window; right: the Beaux Arts Building – stonework from the hospital is preserved in the Royal Northern Gardens



Jones feeling to it, with swags and a lantern on the roof. It was used as a hospital for officers during the First World War.

In 1911, what is now known as the Beaux Arts Building, containing more than 400 homes, was built as the GPO's money order department, which employed 1,200 people, mostly women. The GPO discontinued its use in the 1980s.

Architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner referred to this 10-storey building as "vast", "overpowering" and "an angular version of Edwardian Baroque, on a harsh and scarcely comprehensible scale".

The Manor Gardens Centre has had many good relations with the hospital, the library and with GPO staff. In 2013, we celebrate our centenary and hope to bring the road to life with a street fair and party. ■

● Andrew Turton, who is a member of the Islington Archaeology & History Society, is writing a book on the history of the Manor Gardens Centre to be published in 2013. He would very much like to hear from anyone with an interest, or sources and materials to suggest.



Above: the future Queen Mother opens the Manor Gardens extension; right: in the sun to prevent rickets



Contact him at 26 Tavistock Terrace, N19 4DB, or on andrewturton@blueyonder.co.uk

Dr Andrew Turton is chair of the board of trustees of the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust

Islington burials: do you recognise any names?

Hundreds of coffin plates have been recovered from the Islington Green burial ground. The names and addresses have been provided by Derek Seeley of the Museum of London Archaeology, an IAHS committee member. If you recognise any of the names, contact him at dseeley@mola.org.uk



Price	Samuel	male	1849	iron	27 Jul	63 York Street, City Road
Price	Eleanor	female	1835	iron	18 Aug	Thomas Street, Hackney Road
Price?	James	male	1841	iron	10 Jan	5 Elder Walk, Islington
Prichard?	Deb.....?	male	18.8?	iron		
Pride	John	male	1849	iron	18 Mar	4 Upper Queen St, Islington
Pritchard	(Wm) Thomas B(oyle)	male	1852?	iron	26 Dec	New Charles Street, City Road
Provis	John	male	1847	iron	3 Oct	1 Wiltshire Place, Rosemary Branch, Hoxton
Pugh	Thomas?	male	1830	iron		
Pugh	William	male	1832	iron	23 Sep	11 Upper Southampton Street, Islington
Purser	Elizabeth	female	1820	iron		
Purshouse	Charlotte	female	1845	tin	5 Sep	Wilderness Row, Goswell Street
Purslow	John	male	1844	iron	26 Sep	Spencer Place, Goswell Road
Pyefinch	Walter Henry	male	1842	iron	29 Jan	Mayfield Street, Dalston
Pyott	Win(ifred)	female	1848	iron	13 Oct	29 Brunswick Parade, Islington
R(oo)ney	Ann	female	1834	iron	08 Aug	74 Goswell Road
Rance	John	male	1841	iron	27 Jun	Suffolk Street Pentonville

A tale of extraordinary courage

William Warby was a young soldier from Islington who answered his country's call in its hour of need. His great-nephew Doug Kirby tells his story

William Henry Warby was born at 7 East Street – later a continuation of Gifford Street – in Islington, on 6 October 1895. He was known as Will by his parents, three brothers and three sisters.

The family lived in several houses in Islington before settling into 69 Blackstock Road in Finsbury Park, from 1913 to 1939. After attending the nearby Ambler Road School, by the 1911 census he was an electroplating apprentice.

At the outbreak of war in August 1914, William's elder brother James enlisted into the London Scottish regiment, paying around 25 shillings (£1.25 today) for the privilege.

Richmond Park billet

William did not enlist until the spring of 1915 when he joined the 3/12th (Reserve) Battalion, City of London Battalion – the Rangers. They were actively recruiting, with the aid of a military band, close to their regimental depot in Chenies Street just off Tottenham Court Road.

By August 1915, the 3/12th Reserve Battalion of the Rangers were 800 strong and at camp "in a pretty green field" in Richmond Park. After severe storms and heavy rain during the autumn, the Rangers moved to new – and dry – billets in East Sheen on 17 November and stayed there until mid January 1916.

It was during his stay in East Sheen that he had a photograph

Two portraits of William Warby: right: taken while billeted in East Sheen; far right: as a corporal; the photograph may have been taken at Seven Sisters Road in Finsbury Park



taken at 347 Upper Richmond Road in East Sheen by Newton Parks Photographers. My family still has an original photograph (above).

The Rangers moved to Fovant near Salisbury in mid January 1916 before William (service number 471679) became part of

The focus of the attack was the German stronghold of Gommecourt at the most northerly point of the Somme Battle on 1 July 1916. That day was the most catastrophic in British military history

a draft of 26 "other ranks" to arrive in France on 10 June 1916 via Southampton and Le Havre.

According to the war diary of the Rangers, they received this draft a week later at 9pm on 17 June 1916 when William and the others joined their new battalion in the reserve area just behind Hebuterne in the Somme region of the Western Front.

The Rangers were preparing for the "big push" – otherwise known as the Battle of the Somme.

Digging trenches

The Rangers were involved with the digging of temporary trenches at night to shorten the distance of no man's land from 800 yards to approximately 400 yards. They also had to improve existing trenches to ensure the efficient flow of troops forward into no man's land and the rapid removal of casualties from the battlefield by stretcher-bearers.

This was a diversionary attack combining the 56th London Division with the 46th North Midland Division. The focus of the attack was the German stronghold and fortified village of Gommecourt which was at the most northerly point of the Somme Battle on 1 July 1916. That day would become the most catastrophic in British military history.

The Somme Battle began at 7.30am on 1 July 1916 and, although the 46th North Midland Division had a terrible time, not least in battling the very poor ground conditions, the 56th London Division did achieve everything required of it.

However, a high price was paid. On this first day, 18 of 23 officers of the Rangers became casualties – killed, wounded, missing or captured – while 560 out of 850 in other ranks were casualties, with approximately 150 deaths. Somehow, William survived and lived to fight another day. In casualty terms, the 56th Division as a whole lost 183 officers and 4,131 soldiers from other ranks.

During the following 20 months, William and the Rangers would experience more action in the Somme before moving to Flanders only to return to the Somme by February 1918.

During this time, William was promoted to the rank of corporal which was evidenced by another photograph (right), possibly taken at 254-256 Seven Sisters Road in Finsbury Park, while on leave. This building, now occupied by Barclays Bank, could have been the workplace of his elder sister and her husband who worked in the photographic mount trade.

Defending Amiens

In the spring of 1918, the Germans launched the Michael Offensive on 21 March. This

attempted to drive a wedge between the British and French armies, with the focus quickly becoming the important city of Amiens. William and the Rangers were involved with its defence some 10-12 miles short of the city boundaries.

By July 1918, the various German offensives up and down the Western Front ran out of steam with lines of communication and supplies being overstretched. On 8 August, the allies launched an extremely successful counter offensive that would prove to be a turning point in the war.

August 1918 was William's 26th month in the war. However, in the early hours of 24 August as the Rangers went into attack, his luck ran out when he suffered a gunshot wound to the abdomen which quickly proved fatal. From the battlefield just north of Bray Sur Somme, he was taken to Casualty Clearing Station No 53 at Vecquemont where he died of his wounds.

He was buried the next day at Daours where the British had a military cemetery. Before he died, he had been given a temporary rank of sergeant, although his



permanent rank had been that of lance sergeant.

As a family, we have visited the Somme and William's grave numerous times and are extremely proud of him.

Like many thousands of ordinary young men of the time, this young soldier from Islington showed extraordinary courage in answering his country's call in its hour of need and paid the ultimate sacrifice. ■

• Anyone wanting to retrace the footsteps of a relative who fought in the Great War should visit:

- National Archives at Kew: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
- The Commonwealth War Graves Commission website: www.cwgc.org
- Ancestry website: ancestry.co.uk

Good luck with your search.

Doug Kirby is a former history teacher. He recently addressed the society on the life of his great-uncle William Warby and his family research



Captured German trench running through Gommecourt



St Pancras past

As a major archaeological study on St Pancras churchyard is published, Lester Hillman describes how local discoveries illuminate its past

Eighteenth century harpsichord music and an art exhibition inspired by findings in St Pancras churchyard were among the attractions at the launch of the latest archaeological study along the Eurostar route.

High Speed 1 (HS1), based in Collier Street in Islington, which operates the 109km high-speed rail from St Pancras to the Channel Tunnel, sponsored *St Pancras Burial Ground: Excavations for St Pancras International, the London terminus of High Speed 1, 2002–3*, written by Phillip A Emery and Kevin Wooldridge.

The book is a scholarly 231-page monograph with lavish illustrations supplemented with a CD. The level of detail set within medical, crime, animal, textile, socioeconomic and other frameworks makes the book an invaluable resource.

Its recent launch, where the Islington Archaeology & History Society was represented, featured an art exhibition inspired by coffin plates found in the excavations.

Music during the evening included harpsichord works and

music by 18th-century composers buried in St Pancras Churchyard. The most famous of the composers was Johann Christian Bach, the son of Johann Sebastian Bach, who died on new year's day in 1782. He was buried at St Pancras Churchyard along with his friend and colleague Carl Friedrich Abel who died on 20 June 1787.

Recent history also featured in the launch, with oral histories gathered by Alan Wein. Living history contributions included recordings of Islington residents from the "east side of the Cross".

The Camden History Society reviewed the book in its newsletter in November. It concluded: "The authors, Philip Emery and Kevin Wooldridge, are to be congratulated, as indeed are the sponsors, HS1, for seeing the whole, expensive job through and making sure that the results are out there for reference."

Islington comparisons

The study allows comparisons with other locations such as St Luke's Old Street – showing the proportion of under-fives as a percentage of pre-adults is one example.

Coffin plates survived

unusually well. Often cheaply made and vulnerable to decay, they emerged as a rich resource at the St Pancras site, comparing well with material from New Bunhill Fields and Islington Green (Miles and Griggs (1997) archaeological watching brief, unpublished Museum of London Archaeology report). Thanks to Derek Seeley of the Museum of London Archaeology, the Islington Green material has been reproduced in recent issues of the this journal.

Among the labourers, tradesmen, nobility and others described in the book, the Reverend William Tooke is of interest. He was born in Islington in January 1744 and travelled abroad widely as a cleric before returning to England. In 1814, he was chaplain to Sir William Domville, the Lord Mayor of London.

Tooke was probably involved in the spectacular banquet held in the Guildhall on 18 June 1814 marking the end of hostilities with Napoleon, one year to the day before Waterloo as it turned out. He died in Holborn on 17 November 1820 and was buried in St Pancras Old Church.

French émigrés to a Turkish ambassador

Between March 2002 and October 2003, the remains of several thousand people from the Pancras Road Churchyard were reinterred at St Pancras and Islington Cemetery in East Finchley.

Among over 1,100 coffin fittings recovered were 24 nameplates of French émigrés. One was Jean Charles Jullien Compte d'Andigne from Anjou.

Right: William Tooke, born in Islington and chaplain to the Lord Mayor of London; above: St Pancras Old Church



He lived in Maiden Lane (now York Way) and died on 29 March 1824 aged 74.

A particularly significant reinterment at East Finchley was that of Arthur Richard Dillon, the last Archbishop of Narbonne on 24 October 2003. However, along with fellow cleric Monsignor Godart de Belbeuf of Avranches, he did not stay long. In a ceremony on 13-16 March 2007, Dillon's remains were reinterred in Languedoc in the South of France. On 13 September 2009, Avranches received the remains of its last bishop.

A surprising geographical, cultural and religious reach has been uncovered in St Pancras. Space was found in 1811 for the Turkish ambassador Sidhy Effendi, laid in rich robes in a Muslim funeral.

Training and jobs

Crossrail is generating opportunities in archaeology along with a wide range of jobs in other disciplines. Last October, Islington mayor Phil

Kelly launched an Islington Crossrail jobs and careers fair. A packed town hall in Upper Street heard him recall his direct involvement in the early days of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

The Museum of London Archaeology showcased opportunities for young people to gain skills and is running courses at its Mortimer Wheeler House building by the Regent's Canal. Training modules of 2-3 weeks are running through to September 2012. Details can be obtained from Amy Chambers, tel: 020 7410 2200, email: achambers@mola.org.uk.

Islington is the home of the King's Cross Construction Skills Centre where the focus is on developing the abilities needed for work on the surrounding sites, many of which have heritage dimensions.

Further reading

In this journal, I reviewed *Tracks and Traces*, the story of the archaeology of the

Channel Tunnel Rail Link now operating as HS1 (Beneath the rails, summer 2011, page 14). This article also examines the Museum of London Archaeology Somers Town Goods Yard excavations next to St Pancras Station and includes photographs of the excavations in progress.

The archaeology of the Goods Yard was also the subject of an eight-page report, *Shadow of St Pancras: excavating the age of steam*, in issue 256, July 2011, of *Current Archaeology*. ■

● *St Pancras Burial Ground – Excavations for St Pancras International, the London Terminus of High Speed 1, 2002-3*, by Phillip A Emery and Kevin Wooldridge published by Gifford, is available from Oxbow Books, 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EW, tel: 01865 41249. Price including CD and p&p: £27.95. ISBN 978-0-9569406-0-5



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

Soane Sunday celebrates life and work of Regency architect

Around 100 people gathered in St Pancras Gardens and the Old Church on Sunday 22 January to mark 175 years since Sir John Soane's death on 20 January 1837.

The Regency architect, who designed the Bank of England and Dulwich Picture Gallery, donated his home in Lincoln's Inn Fields as a museum which can be visited free of charge.

A historic photograph on the cover of *St Pancras Burial Ground* just shows the memorial to Sir John Soane. Soane spent years designing the stone monument which is listed Grade I. The drawings, showing changes over two decades, can be seen on the Sir John Soane Museum website at www.soane.org.

Nearly a century after construction, it was to inspire Sir Giles Gilbert Scott's telephone box

design. The bright red kiosks are a familiar sight around the country and enjoy global recognition.

Soane Sunday featured the phone boxes in artwork alongside the extensive archaeological material about the churchyard described above.

Below: Soane museum director Tim Knox spoke and led tours; right: the Soane monument, the inspiration for GG Scott's red telephone box



Tim Knox/Soane Sunday tour: Lester Hillman; monument and Old Church: Christy Lawrence

Publications and bookshop

This issue looks at a major archaeological study, nonconformist architecture, lots of old pictures, railways, crime and more

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 known as Stoke Newington Castle.

The walk is upstream but, regardless of which way you follow the route, you'll find pubs the end.

£5 + 60p p&p, published by IAHS

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

Edited by Keith Sugden

Rookeries were criminal ghettos, the backdrop to the murder, theft and radical activism described here.

This book looks at crime and how it was tackled, social breakdown and political history, and how the rookeries were defeated.

£5 + £1.15 p&p, published by the IAHS

Britain in Old Photographs: Islington

Gavin Smith

Two books show how Islington has changed through old photographs and postcards. Text gives detail to each picture.

The first collection begins in the 1860s and 1870s.

Roads are busy with horse-buses, motor-buses, trains and the occasional motor-car. Children play in the streets and architecture is on a human scale.

The second collection shows changes over the past century in transport, architecture and industry, with the introduction of street lamps, fashionable shops on Holloway Road



and electric trams.

£12.99 + 1.25 p&p, published by History Press, available from the IAHS

Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

Wonder what Upper Street looked like in 1871 or Holloway in 1914? We stock historical maps of Islington and further afield and a range of postcards. Call us for details.

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios

Chris Draper

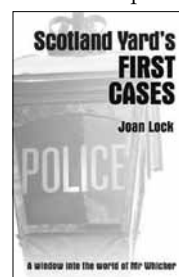
This story of Islington's film industry pictures every cinema, with opening dates, what was being shown and ticket prices at the time. It includes cinemas in small shops to grand picture palaces and the first cinema in a train. £5 + £1.20 p&p, published by London Borough of Islington, available from the IAHS



Scotland Yard's First Cases

Joan Lock

When Scotland Yard's first detective branch was set up in 1842, crime was very different. Detectives had to rely on clues such as hats or candles left at murder scenes, and large households came with complex loyalties that could complicate a case.



Robert Hale, RRP £17.99

• Joan Lock spoke to the IAHS on Scotland Yard's first detectives, see page 12.

Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

Name

Address

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

Title(s) of publication

Cost

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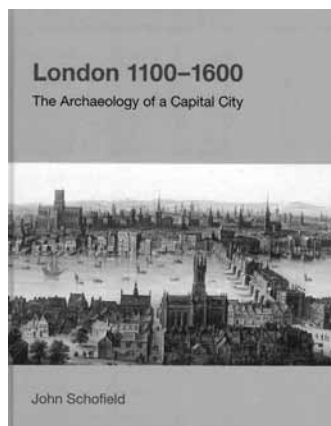
Total cost

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

For trade or large orders, call 020 7833 1541

London 1100-1600. The Archaeology of a Capital City

John Schofield



This study by John Schofield, who worked at the Museum of London from 1974 to 2008, describes the development of the City of London, drawing on archaeological findings.

It takes in a formidable amount of recording and study of the sites of former monasteries, palaces, hospitals, theatres, houses large and small, the waterfront, bridges, wharves, kilns and thoroughfares.

Numerous images include maps, house and street plans, drawings, photographs and charts showing, for example, dates of buildings' features and of

The Union Chapel and nonconformist architecture

To mark the Union Chapel's Grade I listing, the society has the following books and mugs available, with all proceeds going to the chapel. For more on the chapel, see Radical and glorious, page 16.

To order, call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 or use the order form opposite.

The Contexting of a Chapel Architect: James Cubitt 1836-1912

Clyde Binfield

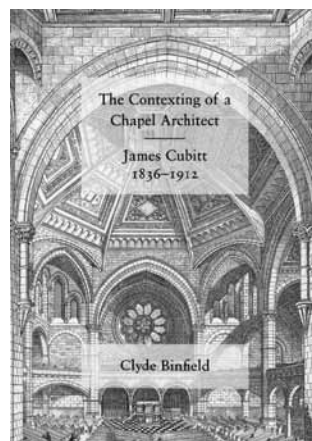
An illustrated classic, with biographical information.

£18 + £1.50 p&p

Church Design for Congregations

James Cubitt

In this book, first published in 1870, Cubitt set out his church design philosophy, which was to produce



grand and beautiful churches in which everyone could see and hear the service.

£11 + £1.23 p&p

Dissent & the Gothic Revival

Edited by Bridget Cherry

This collection of essays by experts takes the Union Chapel as its starting point to examine

the building and different aspects of its architectural and social context to provide a comprehensive understanding of the significant role played by nonconformity in Victorian architecture and society.

£15 + 1.50 p&p

Mugs

While you're reading about nonconformist architecture, what would be better to drink your tea or coffee from than a Union Chapel mug? Mugs are made of bone china and show pictures of the chapel and its main ceiling.

£6 + £1.50 p&p



Islington's neighbours in pictures

A Vision of Middlesex

Janet Owen and
John Hinshelwood

See fine houses, cottages, churches and long-gone farms in this collection of 19th and early 20th century photographs of Crouch End, Finsbury Park, Hampstead, Highgate, Hornsey, Stroud Green, Tottenham, Wood Green and beyond.

£15 plus £2.50 p&p, from the Hornsey Historical Society, tel 020 8348 8429, www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Tottenham and Wood Green Then & Now

Christine Protz and Deborah
Hedgecock

Archive images next to photographs of Tottenham today capture its changing face since its rural days in the 19th century.

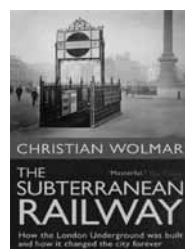
£12.99,
History Press.
Stocked by
*the Big Green
Bookshop,*
Wood Green,
N22 6BG



types of pottery material.

Chapters look at different aspects, including buildings from houses to castles, daily life, health, religion, making and selling. A fascinating, detailed study.

The Subterranean Railway



Christian
Wolmar
*The
Subterranean
Railway*
celebrates
the
achievement

of the Underground's pioneers who created a unique transport system that helped create the London we know today.

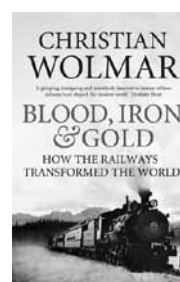
It describes the Underground's effects on architecture, business, housing conditions and demographics.

The very idea of building a railway underneath a built-up area was so brave that it was nearly 40 years before any other country imitated it.

DVD based on the book also available.

£9.99 RRP, *Atlantic Books*

Blood, Iron and Gold. How the Railways Transformed the World



Christian
Wolmar
The
railways
triggered
economic
growth
and social
change on

an unprecedented scale.

They stimulated daring feats of engineering, architectural innovation and the rapid movement of people and goods.

This book tells the dramatic story of the people and events that shaped the world's railways and how railways changed the world.

£9.99 RRP, *PublicAffairs*

● Christian Wolmar recently spoke to the society on the history of the London Underground (see page 10).

What's on

Events, exhibitions, courses, walks and more. Contact details of organisers are in the directory on page 29 – events may need advance booking. Islington Archaeology & History Society events are listed on the inside back page

Wednesday 21 March

**To Wear or Not to Wear:
Changing Social Norms
with Regard to Eyewear**

Talk by Neil Handley.
6pm, Gresham College,
Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn

Thursday 22 March

**London Under Your Feet:
Bunkers, Sewers, Trains And
Other Surprises**

Lecture by Bryan Jones.
St Bride Institute, Bride
Lane, EC4Y 8EQ.
£9 per lecture/£33 for four
lectures, 6.30pm to 8pm,
0118 959 0273, pretlove@
waitrose.com

Saturday 24 March

**Function and Fantasy:
Decorative Iron and
Victorian Architecture.**

Victorian Society study day
10am-5.30pm, Art Workers'
Guild, 6 Queen Square,
WC1, 020 8747 5895, www.
victoriansociety.org.uk

Sunday 25 March

Stirling Air Engine Rally

£10/£5/£4, Kew Bridge
Steam Museum, 020 8568
4757, www.kbsm.org

26 March Monday

**North West Frontier
Railways – Celebrating 150
Years of Railways in Pakistan**

Talk by Nick Lera.
6.30pm, Rugby Tavern,
Rugby Street, WC1. Railway
and Canal Historical Society,
www.rchs.org.uk

Monday 26 March

**The Lost Hospitals of
London: St Luke's**

Professor Nick Black.
1pm, Museum of London.

Gresham College event

Monday 27 March

**The Rise and Fall of
European Empires:
Decolonialization – the End
of Empire?**

Talk by Prof Richard J Evans,
6pm, Museum of London,
Gresham College event

Wednesday 28 March

Gypsies in Barnet

Talk by Hugh Petrie.
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church
Hall, Friern Barnet Lane.
Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society,
020 8368 8314,
friernbarnethistory.org.uk

Monday 2 April

The First London Olympics

Talk by Kevin Kelly.
8pm, Streatham Society. 020
8764 8314, b.bloice@
btinternet.com, www.
streathamsociety.org.uk

Thursday 5 April

The Avon Navigation

Talk by Roger Clay
7.30pm, £4/concs, London
Canal Museum, 020 7713
0836, www.canalmuseum.
org.uk

Tuesday 10 April

**Excavations of Roman
Workshops at 8-10 Moorgate**

Talk by Alison Telfer, MOLA
7.30pm, £1, Housing Co-op
Hall, 106 The Cut, Southwark
and Lambeth Archaeological
Society. Contact Richard
Buchanan, 79 Ashridge
Crescent, SE18 3EA

Tuesday 10 April

**London Underground in
the Late 1970s and 1980s**

Talk by Fred Ivey

7.15pm, Upper Room, All
Souls Clubhouse, 141
Cleveland St, W1T, London
Underground Railway
Society, www.lurs.org.uk

Wednesday 11 April

Rolls Royce Cars

Lecture by Philip Hall
5.45pm, free, Fellows Room,
Science Museum, SW7 2DD,
Newcomen Society for the
History of Engineering and
Technology, www.
newcomen.com

Wednesday 11 April

**The History of Highgate
Gatehouse and its Theatre**

Talk by John Plews
8pm, £1, Union Church Hall,
Ferme Park Road/Weston
Park, N8, Hornsey Historical
Society, www.hornsey
historical.org.uk

Tuesday 17 April

**The Thames Tunnel: Eighth
Wonder of the World?**

Robert Hulse, Brunel
Museum
6.30pm, free, Museum of
London. London and
Middlesex Archaeological
Society event, lamas.org.uk,
contact Jackie Keily on 020

7814 5734 or jkeily@

museumoflondon.org.uk

Wednesday 19 April

**The Pre-Fire Survey of the
Palace of Westminster, 1834**

Talk by Prof Michael Port.
7.30pm, £1/free, Camden
History Society, 020 7586
4436, www.camdenhistory
society.org

Wednesday 18 April

**Massey-Shaw – Fireboat, Its
History & Restoration**

Talk by David Rogers.
6.30pm, Willoughby Lecture
Theatre, Charterhouse Sq,
Barts & the London School
of Medicine, EC1M 6BQ.
Greater London Industrial
Archaeology Society, 020
8692 8512, www.glias.org.uk

Saturday 21 April

**Mail Rail: British Postal
Museum and Archive open
day**

10am-4pm, Museum Store,
Lenthall Rd, Debden
Industrial Estate, IG10 3UF,
www.postalheritage.org.uk/
events

Saturday 21 April

From Pillar to Post: GPO
Walk from Farringdon

Want to try a dig? Start this summer

30 July-3 August 2012

Novice excavators are welcome to join the Bexley
Archaeological Group's annual training excavation week.

You will experience the main tasks associated with a
dig. Activities include field walking, geophysics, surveying,
excavating, finds processing, drawing and talks.

It costs £150, including annual membership of the
Bexley Archaeological Group. Contact Pip Pulfer, 07961
963893, email: pipspad@hotmail.co.uk, www.bag.org.uk

Station to near Bank Station.
11am, £6/£5/£4, British
Postal Museum & Archive.
[http://postalheritage.org.uk/
page/walking-tours](http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/walking-tours)

Saturday 21 April

**Subterranea Britannica
spring conference and AGM**
9.30am, £18/£20, Imperial
College London, SW7,
www.subbrit.org.uk

Tuesday 24 April

M25 Orbital Coach Tour
Coach trip with talk on story
of unpopular road. £15, 01273
886200, www.buses.co.uk

Wednesday 25 April

**Treasures and the Tower of
London**

Talk by Garry Wykes.
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church
Hall, Friern Barnet La, Friern
Barnet & District Local
History Society, 020 8368
8314, [friernbarnet.history.
org.uk](http://friernbarnet.history.org.uk)

Thursday 26 April

**Excavations of King John's
Tower and Court –
Worcester House a Late
Medieval(?) and Tudor
Mansion at Stepney Green**
Talk by Dave Sankey Watson.
7.30pm, Latimer Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1, East
London History Society, 020
8980 5672, [www.
eastlondonhistory.org.uk](http://www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

Monday 30 April

Railways of East London
Talk by Jim Connor.
6.30pm, Rugby Tavern,
Rugby Street, WC1, Railway
and Canal Historical Society,
www.rchs.org.uk

Thursday 3 May

The Itchen Navigation
Talk by Peter Oates.
7.30pm, £4/concs, London
Canal Museum, 020 7713
0836, [www.canalmuseum.
org.uk](http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk)

Friday 4 May

**Great Northern Railway,
Not Just Stirling Singles**

A Twist in the Tale: Charles Dickens and Islington Until 31 May, free

Charles Dickens, England's most popular Victorian novelist,
recorded life in Islington and nearby. This exhibition explores
his connections with the borough. He regularly visited
Clerkenwell, and was inspired by its people and buildings,
and the scenes he witnessed.

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

A walk and a talk ...

- A walk, *In the Footsteps of Dickens*, will take in Fagin's Den and Bill Sikes' pub from *Oliver Twist*. £6/£5, 2pm, Sunday 14 April, book through Islington Museum (contact as above)
- Talk by Professor Robert Patten, scholar in residence at the Dickens Museum, *Dickens in the 21st Century*. Islington Museum



Talk by Allan Sibley.
2.30pm–4.30pm, Keen
House, 4 Calshot Street, N1
9DA, North London Railway
Historical Society, 020 7837
2542, www.nlrhs.org.uk

5–7 May

Canalway Cavalcade
Waterways community
festival at Little Venice.
Free, Inland Waterways
Association volunteers,
07979 676461, [canalway
cavalcade@gmail.com](mailto:canalwaycavalcade@gmail.com), [www.
waterways.org.uk](http://www.waterways.org.uk)

Tuesday 8 May

**Bumps, Bombs and Birds:
the History and Archaeology
of RSPB Reserves**
Robin Standring.
8pm, Avenue House, 17 East
End Road, N3 8QE, Hendon
and District Archaeological
Society, 020 8449 7076,
hadas.org.uk

Wednesday 9 May

Bodysnatchers
Talk by Dr Simon Chaplin.
8pm, £1, Union Church Hall,
Ferme Park Road/Weston
Park, N8, Hornsey Historical
Society, [www.hornsey
historical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

Wednesday 9 May

**History of the Development
of Automotive Power, and
the Challenge Ahead:**

Lecture by Prof Julia King
5.45pm, free, Fellows Room,
Science Museum, SW7 2DD.
The Newcomen Society,
www.newcomen.com

Sunday 13 May

**Guided Tunnel Boat Trips
Through Islington Tunnel**
11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and
4pm, £8.30/£6, book in
advance, London Canal
Museum, 12/13 New Wharf
Road, N1 9RT, 020 7713 0836,
www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Tuesday 15 May

Bazalgette
Talk by Diana Rimel.
7.30pm, Old Bakehouse,
rear of Age Exchange
Centre, 11 Blackheath
Village, SE3, Greenwich
Industrial History Society

Tuesday 15 May

**The Walbrook: its
Archaeology and History, a
Water Engineer's View**
Talk by Stephen Myers.
6.30pm, Museum of
London, London and
Middlesex Archaeological
Society, lamas.org.uk

Wednesday 16 May

**The Great Eastern Railway
London & Essex**
Talk by Peter Kay.
To coincide with the launch
of his book on the subject.

6.30pm, Willoughby Lecture
Theatre, Charterhouse Sq,
Barts & the London School
of Medicine, EC1M. Greater
London Industrial
Archaeology Society, 020
8692 8512, www.glias.org.uk

Thursday 17 May

East End Film Night
7.30pm, Latimer Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1, East
London History Society, 020
8980 5672, [www.
eastlondonhistory.org.uk](http://www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

19 May

**Walthamstow Historical
Society 'At Home' in Vestry
House**
10.20am, Vestry House
Museum, Vestry Road, E17,
[walthamstowwalks@mz48.
myzen.co.uk](mailto:walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk), [www.waltham
stowhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org.uk)

Saturday 19 May

Museums at Night
Until 11pm, London Canal
Museum lit by candle, art
exhibition, 020 7713 0836,
www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 20 May

Historic Fire Engine Rally
£10/concs, Kew Bridge
Steam Museum, 020 8568
4757. Web: www.kbsm.org

Wednesday 23 May

The John Donovan

Memorial Lecture: the Wars of the Roses

Talk by Alan Smith
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church
Hall, Friern Barnet Lane.
Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society, 020
8368 8314,
friernbarnethistory.org.uk

Saturday 26 May

Guided Towpath Walk to Camden Town

2.30pm, £8/£5/concs
London Canal Museum, 020
7713 0836, www.
canalmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 27 May

Guided tunnel boat trips through Islington Tunnel

Details as per 13 May.

Wednesday 13 June

Capability Brown, Father of English Landscape Gardening

Talk by Russell Bowes

Regular events

Ongoing

Behind the scenes at the Archaeological Archive

Tours and object handling at
the London Archaeological
Archive and Research Centre
at Mortimer Wheeler House.
11am and 2pm, £5, Fridays
and first and third Saturday
of the month. Book ahead
on 020 7001 9844, www.mus
eumoflondon.org.uk/events

Sundays and bank holidays

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum

See beam engine at work on
steam days in its Grade II
listed engine gouse. Free,
check for opening hours and
steam times, 01707 873628,
www.mbeam.org

*Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Saturdays (check for dates)*

Historic Almshouse open

Tours of restored 18th century
almshouse, £2.50/free, 11am,
12pm, 2pm and 3pm. Geffrye
Museum, 020 7739 9893,
www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Exhibitions

Until 8 April

Her Maj: 60 Years of Unofficial Portraits of the Queen

A gallery of royal portraits –
teasing, affectionate and
downright unflattering – by
over 30 cartoonists to mark
the diamond jubilee.
Cartoon Museum, 020 7580
8155, www.info@
cartoonmuseum.org

Until 13 April 2012

Hajj: Journey to the heart of Islam

Admission charge, Reading
Room

This is the first ever major
exhibition dedicated to the
Hajj; the pilgrimage to
Mecca which is central to
the Muslim faith and how
this spiritual journey has
evolved throughout history.
£12/concs, British Museum,
Great Russell Street, WC1,
www.britishmuseum.org/

Until 29 April 2012

Albertopolis: the Development of South Kensington and the Exhibition Road Cultural Quarter

Display charting the
development of this area
from 1851 to today.
Free, Victoria & Albert

Museum, 10am-5.45pm
daily, until 10pm Fridays,
020 7942 2000, vanda@vam.
ac.uk

22-31 May

The Steam Narrowboat President on Display

In steam on 26 and 27 May.
London Canal Museum,
9RT, 020 7713 0836, www.
canalmuseum.org.uk

Until Saturday 10 June

Dickens and London

Exhibition of artefacts,
manuscripts and displays to
mark the 200th anniversary
of Charles Dickens' birth
and show places and
subjects that inspired him.
Various charges, Museum of
London, 020 7001 9844,
www.museumoflondon.org.
uk/dickens

Until 21 June 2012.

Treasures of the Royal Society Library

This exhibition of old, rare
and valuable scientific
books, some of which shine
light on health, life and
death in London.

Free, Tuesday 2pm-4pm,
Thursdays 10am-12pm, the
Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton
House Terrace, SW1Y 5AG,
020 7451 2500, http://
royalsociety.org/exhibitions/
treasures/

Until 12 August

Portrait of London

Exhibition of images from
the Museum of London and
the Wandsworth Museum,
dating back to the 19th
century. It includes the
earliest known photograph
of London from 1839, a
photo of a suffragette stand
and a view of Trafalgar
Wquare from 1857.
£4/£3, Wandsworth
Museum, 38 West Hill,
SW18 1RX. 10am-5pm
Tues-Sat, 020 8870 6060,
contact@wandsworth
museum.co.uk

Until 25 August

All Work and Low Pay: The Story of Women and Work

Exhibition showing the
huge range of work done by
women over 150 years.
Free, Mon-Fri 9.30am-
5.30pm, Thurs until 8pm, Sat
10am-4.00pm, Women's
Library, London
Metropolitan University, Old
Castle Street, E1 7NT, www.
londonmet.ac.uk/
thewomenslibrary

Until Saturday 8 September

Cycling to Suffrage: The Bicycle and Women's Rights, 1890-1914

Free, opening hours and
other details as for All Work
and Low Pay.

Home season RIBA , Until 28 April

Talks, films and talks about
the home. Details of full
programme and booking:
Royal Institute of British
Architects, 66 Portland
Place, 020 7580 5533, info@
riba.org

Until 28 April 2012

A Place to call Home: Where we live and why

Exhibition, curated by
Sarah Beeny, charting the
story of the design and

appeal of everyday homes
in the UK from the late
18th century, to today.
Free, Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm,
Tues until 10pm

High Society

Until 28 April 2012

Using photographs from
the RIBA Collection, this
exhibition explores the
intense period of postwar
experimentation through
five high-rise housing
schemes.

Free, Weds and Frid:
10am-5pm; Tues: 10am-
8pm; Sat: 10am-1.30pm

Tuesday 20 March, 6.30pm

Dilapidated Dwelling

Film with footage from
architects Constant,
Buckminster Fuller and the
Archigram that explores, via
figures, humour and
accident, how experiment
has not affected how homes
are designed and delivered.
£5, 6.30pm, 78 minutes, RIBA

Tuesday 10 April

A House to Call Home

Talk on how architects have
explored house and home.
Free, 1-2pm, Victoria &
Albert Museum

Directory

Here we list local history, civic, amenity and archaeology societies and museums

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like anything listed or updated here, email news@iahs.org.uk

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

Alexandra Palace Television Group
020 8524 082, apts.org.uk

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

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

Architectural Heritage Fund
Alhambra House, 27-31
Charing Cross Road, WC2,
020 7925 0199, ahf@ahfund.org.uk

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

Association of Preservation Trusts
9th floor, Alhambra House,
27-31 Charing Cross Road,
WC2, www.ukapt.org.uk,
020 7930 1629, director.apt@ahfund.org.uk

Bexley Archaeological Group
jrm.acworth@sky.com,
www.bag.org.uk

British Postal Museum and Archive
Freeling House, Phoenix
Place, WC1, 020 7239 2570,
www.postalheritage.org.uk

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

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

Camden Civic Society
020 8340 5972, morton@btopenworld.com

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

Camden New Town History Group
cowleyjohn@blueyonder.co.uk,
www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
www.crht1837.org

Camley Street Natural Park
NW1 0PW, 020 7833 2311

The Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk

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

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

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

The Clockmakers' Museum
Guildhall Library, EC2,
www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

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

East London History Society
www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk

EC1 History
www.ec1history.co.uk

Forest Hill Society
www.foresthillsociety.com

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

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society
www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk, www.friern-barnet.com

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

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

Friends of Friendless Churches
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society
70 Cowcross Street, EC1M
6EJ, 020 7608 2409, enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

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

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

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)
14 Mount Road, EN4 9RL,
020 8692 8512, secretary@glias.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Heritage of London Trust
020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historical Association, Central London Branch
020 7323 1192, www.history.org.uk, chris@ganjou.com

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

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

Hunterian Museum
Royal College of Surgeons
of England, 35-43 Lincoln's
Inn Fields, WC2A 3PE,
www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums

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

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

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

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

Islington Society
35 Britannia Row, N1 8QH,
www.islingtonssociety.org.uk

Dr Johnson's House
17 Gough Square, EC4A
3DE, 020 7353 3745, www.drjohnsonshouse.org

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

Kew Bridge Steam Museum
Green Dragon Lane, TW8, 020
8568 4757, www.kbsm.org

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

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, jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk,
www.lamas.org.uk

The London Museums of Health & Medicine
www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group
<http://london-socialist-historians.blogspot.com>

The London Society
Mortimer Wheeler House,
46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1
7ED, www.london-society.org.uk

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

London Transport Museum Friends
www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

Markfield Beam Engine
Markfield Road, N15, 01707
873628, info@mbeam.org

Mausolea & Monuments Trust
70 Cowcross Street, EC1M
6EJ, 020 7608 1441,
mausolea@btconnect.com

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

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

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

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

Museum of London Docklands
West India Quay, E14 4AL,
020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands

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

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

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

The National Piers Society
www.piers.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Peckham Society
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

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

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

Rescue
Archaeological trust, www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

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

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

Spencer House
27 St James's Place, SW1,
www.spencerhouse.co.uk

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)
79 Ashridge Crescent, SE18

Sutton House
2/4 Homerton High St, E9, 020
8986 2264, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-suttonhouse

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

Royal Archaeological Institute
Burlington House, Piccadilly,
W1, admin@royalarchinst.org

The Streatham Society
www.streathamsociety.org.uk

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

Tottenham Civic Society
www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

The Transport Trust
Lambeth Road, SE1 7JW,
020 7928 6464, www.transporttrust.com

Two Temple Place
2 Temple Place, WC2R 3BD,
7836 3715, info@twotempleplace.org

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

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

The Victorian Society
1 Priory Gardens, W4,
020 8994 1019, admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

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

Wallpaper History Society
wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society
37 Chewton Road, E17
7DW, contact@walthamstow-historical-society.org

Wandsworth Museum
38 West Hill, SW18 1RZ
wandsworthmuseum.co.uk

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE,
020 7611 2222

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

Events

Wednesday 21 March 2012

Jewish communities in Islington before the age of mass immigration

Speaker: Petra Laidlaw

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

Islington had a significant Jewish population going well back into the 18th century. Petra Laidlaw will be talking about the wide range of characters, where they came from, where they lived, where they worshipped and what happened to them. A rich cast of politicians, founders of business empires, inventors, mathematicians, artists, architects, writers, eccentrics and villains is promised – not forgetting the many people with more ordinary lives who made up the community.

Petra Laidlaw has been researching the 19th century Anglo-Jewish community for some years. She wrote about Benjamin Disraeli's family connections with Islington in the autumn 2011 issue of this journal.

Thursday 19 April 2012

Regency outrage! The assassination of prime minister Spencer Perceval in 1812

Speaker: Lester Hillman

6pm for 6.30pm, Islington Museum, 245 St John Street, EC1

Please note the change to our usual day and venue

Spencer Perceval was the only British prime minister to be assassinated. He, his family and his assassin had many connections with Islington at a time of major change. See Prime minister assassinated, page 15

Wednesday 16 May 2012

How archaeology transformed the study of Saxon London

Speaker: Bob Cowie

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



Anglo-Saxon silver ring found in the River Thames at Chelsea

Archaeology has greatly increased our knowledge of London during the period from the end of Roman provincial rule to the Norman conquest. A recent intense period of research led to the discovery of numerous rural settlements, the Middle Saxon trading port of Lundenwic, and the waterfronts, streets and houses of late Saxon London. This lecture will review the highlights of this research and consider how ideas and theories about Saxon London evolved in light of the evidence.

Bob Cowie is a project officer with Museum of London Archaeology and a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. His digging career began in 1974 and he has worked on hundreds of sites from the neolithic to the post-medieval periods. He has written monographs and book contributions, as well as articles and reports in national and international journals.

Forthcoming events include English Civil War fortifications in Islington and the day parliament burned down. Keep an eye on our website at www.iahs.org.uk for details

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



Next time you're at North Library, admire the beautiful carving above the doors and by the windows. It was the first library where the public could browse for books, rather than having to ask staff for specific titles. See the history of an small, remarkable road on page 18