

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 3 No 1 Spring 2013

Modernism for sociable living

How social and
municipal ambitions
were combined in
style at Brecknock
Road Estate



The vestry hall – a tale of corruption, nepotism and Victorian local government ● Amazing medieval fakes in 19th century London ● Steam-powered celebration for London Underground ● Historical research for Victorian crime fiction ● Canal museum comes of age ● Your local history questions answered ● Books and reviews ● News and events

About the society

What we do

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

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks can be arranged for groups.

Why archaeology?

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

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

Our website

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

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

We welcome articles on local history, memories and research.

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

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

Deadline for the 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. Please note that we do not carry out family research.

● See Letters, page 6

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Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

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✂ (photocopies acceptable)

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

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Vol 3 No 1 Spring 2013

A green legacy that still lifts the spirits

It is a highlight of our calendar when our president Chris Smith addresses one of our meetings. It was especially so this year when he spoke of his late friend and our former chairman, Peter Powell (news, page 5).

Five years ago – to the day, as I write – Peter died suddenly and unexpectedly in the night. It was daunting to be asked to follow in his footsteps.

My relationship with Peter resembled that of a nephew and a favourite uncle and, on many occasions, I acted as his understudy. He would be delighted that the IAHS lecture programme and *Journal* are as strong as ever, and that so many of you attend and subscribe.

Green issues were very close to Peter's heart. In Islington, we have less green space than any other London borough and Peter worked tirelessly to keep environmental concerns in the public consciousness. He took great pleasure in telling stories, discussing predicaments and reiterating his hopes for conservation and development.

But first and foremost he loved people – in his talk, Chris described Peter's devotion to Islington's community. Closer to home, rarely did an evening's conversation go by without Peter mentioning "my beautiful wife, Judith", or "my daughters, who make me so proud to be their father".

Recently, I wrote about the copious amount of greenery that can be seen from the top of Canonbury Tower, a manifestation of the environmental campaigns Peter led in the 1980s. We can all enjoy and be grateful for his enduring – and delightful – legacy.

Andrew Gardner
Chairman

Islington Archaeology & History Society



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In brief

Plaque for justice campaigner unveiled

A green plaque to commemorate social justice campaigner Jack Kennedy has been unveiled at his home in Drayton Park. The former Islington council bricklayer, who died 10 years ago, was a key figure in the successful campaigns to free the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, wrongly convicted of pub bombings in the 1970s. In the 1980s, he campaigned for safety on building sites, and was a founding member of the Construction Safety Campaign, which worked to strengthen site safety laws to protect workers. The guest of honour at the unveiling was Billy Power, one of the Birmingham Six.

Centenary of law to protect monuments

It is 100 years since the Ancient Monuments Act came into force. This created powers still used to safeguard historic buildings. The only scheduled ancient monument in Islington is the Benedictine Nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell. St John's Priory gatehouse was de-scheduled because it was listed grade 1.

Save Smithfield market signatures top 1,000

A petition to save Smithfield market has been signed by over 1,000 people. It calls on heritage minister Ed Vaizey to stop the gutting of Smithfield and list it. The market, by Victorian architect and former City surveyor Horace Jones, was built in 1879-99.

● Sign the petition at <http://tinyurl.com/brtg8qz>

Family research reunites old friends

Two old Islington friends have been reunited after 70 years, after a daughter of one of them decided to research her family.

Norman Dover and Ronnie Newton were close friends as children and teenagers, and served together in the Home Guard between 1942 and 1944. They lost contact after a bomb hit their homes.

Norman Dover's daughter Linda Milliken wrote: "Sadly, they never saw each other again after the flying bomb demolished their homes in Queensbury Street in June 1944. In fact, dad was sleeping on his bed, still wearing his uniform following night duty, on that Sunday morning, when he was woken by a black shadow falling across the



Back together: Norman Dover (left) and Ronnie Newton

room, accompanied by the screeching of an engine cutting out.

"After ensuring his parents were safely in hospital, he stood guard over the remains of his house to prevent looting.

"Over the years, dad has often mentioned his old friend Ronnie."

Ms Milliken had been researching her family tree and decided to use the

information from ancestry.com and its Living Relative site to see if she could find out if Ronnie were still alive.

She wrote: "Not only did I find a Ronald Newton who seemed to fit the bill, but he lived with his wife, Gladys, only around half an hour's drive from dad. I wrote to him and, amazingly, it was indeed dad's pal.

"A meeting was arranged and it was wonderfully moving to see them reliving happy memories of their childhood in Islington and catching up with their journey through life since those days.

"Many of your readers will probably recognise Ronnie, as he and his wife ran a newsagents in Islington for many years."

Suspected black death cemetery at Farringdon

Archaeologists have found 21 skeletons in Farringdon, which could be from a hastily built black death cemetery.

They were found under Charterhouse Square during excavation work for Crossrail.

Crossrail lead archaeologist Jay Carver said: "This is a highly significant discovery. We will be undertaking scientific tests to establish their cause of death, whether they were plague victims from the 14th century or later London residents, how old they were and perhaps evidence of who they were.

"The depth of burials, the pottery found and the way the skeletons have been set out all point towards this being part of the 14th century emergency burial ground."

The skeletons will be taken to the Museum of London Archaeology for testing.

Plaque poll closes soon



Artist Louis Wain, of St John Street, is best known for his cats

Voting for the 2013 Islington People's Plaque scheme closes on Monday 8 April.

This year's candidates are:

- Betty Knight, community activist;
- Dr Gordon Signy, Olympic fencer and pathologist;
- Louis Wain, artist;
- Jackie Pallo, wrestler;
- Jean Simmons, actress;

- Len Harvey, boxer;
 - Michael Faraday, chemist and physicist;
 - Nat Gonella, jazz trumpeter and band leader;
 - Ronald "Carl" Giles, cartoonist; and
 - Robert Paul, cinematographer.
- www.islington.gov.uk/plaques

Benjamin Franklin House two for one offer

Members of the society are being offered two for the price of one entry to Benjamin Franklin House.

This is only surviving home in the world of Benjamin Franklin – scientist, diplomat, philosopher, US founding father and more.

The house, built circa 1730, is grade I listed, retaining original Georgian, Victorian and Regency features, including panelling and the central staircase.

The house, on Craven Street near Charing Cross station, is open on Monday and on Wednesday to Sunday. Architectural tours are held on Mondays. On Wednesday-Sunday, a “historical experience” tells Franklin’s story with drama, music and lighting.

The two for one offer runs until the end of June.

● www.benjaminfranklinhouse.org. To book a visit, call 020 7925 1405.

New River Head gardens to open

The rose gardens at New River Head could be opened to the public this year. Cllr Martin Klute told the *Journal* that the council is working to enforce agreements saying that the gardens should be open every other Sunday. It has been able to get the gardens at Myddelton Passage at the rear of the site opened.

Finsbury Health Centre charity made official

Finsbury Health Centre Preservation Trust has gained charity status. The grade I listed health centre was designed by Berthold Lubetkin. The trust aims to raise money for and oversee the building’s restoration.

Chris Smith describes fond memories and green issues at Peter Powell event

Chris Smith, former Islington MP, Environment Agency chairman and IAHS president, gave the inaugural Peter Powell memorial lecture in March.

Peter, a former chairman of the IAHS, was described as “a great friend and a great colleague” and a “devoted Islingtonian” by Lord Smith of Finsbury – they were both Labour councillors in the 1980s. “He probably knew more about the streets and buildings than anyone else,” Lord Smith said.

Peter, a former actor, chaired Brighter Islington, a campaign to make the borough greener. He led walks celebrating Islington’s colourful history, with



Chris Smith: political decisions affect local environments

stories of people such as George Orwell, Charles Dickens, John Betjeman, Joe Orton and Trotsky.

Lord Smith’s talk, “How far

have we travelled on a green road?”, was appropriate to commemorate the man he described as a “dedicated environmentalist”.

Concern over green issues was evident in the campaign to keep forests public, he said. He described how interest in the local environment, such as admiring bird life, was linked to high-level political decisions – a link recognised by Peter.

The town hall committee room was packed for the event, which was attended by Peter’s widow Judith, daughters Cordelia and Imogen, and Imogen’s fiancé David – they are getting married in the Union Chapel in June.

Medieval moat opened in Barnsbury

An excavation at Barnsbury Square has revealed the remains of a medieval moat at least 8 metres wide and more than 2 metres deep from modern ground level.

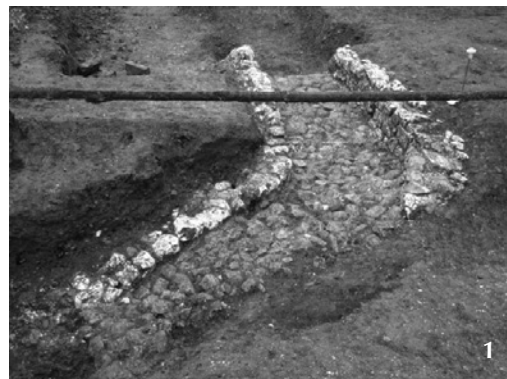
A drainage channel flows from east to west into the western arm of the moat. A 3-4 metre length of a drain made with rough-cut pieces of chalk was found on the inside of the drain channel.

The east end of the drain was removed for the construction of a large postwar chimney base.

Medieval finds are sparse.



- 1: Chalk-built channel that drained into the moat;
- 2: recording 19th century backfills in the moat side;
- 3: chimney base; 4: moat edge and channel before excavation



There are some fragments of green glazed pottery.

Milk bottles from dairies in Roman Road, Caledonian Road, Pulford Road and Hemingford Road, probably interwar, were found in the backfill of the moat.

IAHS committee member, Derek Seeley, who is also senior project manager at the Museum of London Archaeology, has been working at the site.



Letters and your questions

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

Jones Bros shopping tokens

I have an interest in local token coinage, and would be interested to know if anyone has information about a 39mm aluminium token issued for Jones Bros (Holloway) Ltd.

The obverse says: "Jones Bros (Holloway) Ltd. Thursday Shopping Token Value 1d. Change this any Thursday."

The reverse says: "Jones Bros (Holloway) Ltd. One penny will be allowed for each Token and any number may be changed whilst buying on any Thursday morning."

It seems like an early version of today's retailer loyalty card schemes. I'd like to know when were they issued and on what terms were they issued – ie how much did you have to spend to get a 1d token?

Mark Taylor
markandlintaylor@btinternet.com

Michael Reading writes:

I contacted the archivist at the John Lewis Partnership. Jones Bros (Holloway) Ltd was one of several provincial stores bought by Gordon Selfridge after he had established his main store in Oxford Street. It formed part of the Selfridge Provincial Group. This group was sold to the John Lewis Partnership in 1940.

The tokens were given in lieu of small change from a

purchase and the value was greater than the change.

It seems that Thursday was a quiet trading day and the tokens were a way of encouraging customers to shop then. This arrangement was discontinued when Jones Bros (Holloway) Ltd became part of the John Lewis Partnership.

Shops in the 1930s

I am looking for records and photos of shops in Islington since the 1930s.

My great aunts, Edith Young and Grace Newman (née Young) rented three shops at different periods:

- A sub post office in Caledonian Road during the late 1930s, close to the railway – it was broken into a couple of times;
- A shop next to Kentish Town tube – we think selling wool – in the 1950s or 1960s; and
- A grocery store, possibly in Amwell Street in the late 1960s/early 1970s, close to Vernon Baptist Church.

They were born and lived in St John Street.

I would like to find a record of their tenancy of these businesses, and any photos of the premises at those times.

Hilary Pillin
hillyp@live.co.uk

Michael Reading writes:

Your two aunts were in business from approximately the 1930s to the early 1970s.

The Post Office street directory CD for 1935 has the following entry: "No 480 Caledonian Road (on the East Side), Miss Edith Young, Drug Stores, Post, Money Orders, Telephone Call Office & Savings Bank; No 480A Caledonian Road, Miss Edith Young, Fancy Drapers."

The London Metropolitan Archives has the Post Office street directories on microfilm from 1800 to around 1995.

If you know the street near Kentish Town underground station and choose an appropriate year, you should find an entry for your aunts' business, similarly for their business in Amwell Street. By searching either side of this date, you should be able to gain the approximate time of their tenancies.

The London Metropolitan Archives holds a large collection of photographs of Islington, which are filed under street names.

You may also find more information and photographs at the Islington Local History Centre.

No 480 Caledonian Road is a new building and is occupied by William Hill bookmakers. The bomb damage map shows that the other shops in the short parade suffered some bomb

Jones Bros' shopping tokens – forerunner of today's loyalty schemes?

damage during the last war, but no 480 is shown as unscathed.

Sudeley Street's old houses

My grandfather was born at 20 Sudeley Street in 1918. Do you know if the houses that are there now are as old as 1918?

Matthew Betts
mjwbetts1980@gmail.com

Michael Reading writes:

Sudeley Street was completed in 1842 and, like nearby Elia Street (formerly Alfred Street) and Vincent Street, was laid out by a James Rhodes, using three builders, William Beckingham, John Wilson and Thomas Allen.

The name Sudeley comes from Sudeley Manor and Sudeley Castle in Gloucestershire.

The ordnance survey maps for 1871, 1894 and 1914 all show an unchanged row of terraced houses on each side, of the length of the street, which is quite remarkable. The bomb damage map shows that Sudeley Street suffered no damage or loss during the blitz or the subsequent V weapons attack.

I have looked at the Post Office street directory for 1912, the nearest I have to the year of your grandfather's birth, and this shows that there were four businesses in the street – a builder at no 16, a grocer at no 24, a chiming clock maker at no 30 and another grocer at no 36. No 36 seems to have retained its shop front, which was



probably put in after the house was built, although today it has reverted to a residence.

Because coal fires were used in the past, the walls of the houses in the street would not have been painted white as they are today and I would venture that there were very few if any trees in the street, whereas today there are approximately 15.

19th century Canonbury Square

My ancestors lived at 35 Canonbury Square up to 1842. The properties are numbered up to 33. Are you able to tell me what happened to number 35?

*Christopher Deane
By email*

Michael Reading writes:
35 Canonbury Square was one of a group of seven houses built on the north-east side the square, from about 1818.

The houses were of variable size and 33-36 still exists today; no 35 is the central one with the small fanlight (see picture). By the end of the Second World War, 37-39 had become derelict and were demolished.

The space created was filled with a terrace of five new houses of complementary design. Having more houses in the original space necessitated a modification of the numbering. The bomb damage map for 1939-45 shows that no bombs fell in the square, nor did it suffer from any nearby blast damage.

Lost cork-cutting industry

I am trying to gather information on a cork-cutting business run by my ancestor, Charles Newton, and his son, Alfred James Newton, around 1881-1925,



Canonbury Square terrace including number 35, built around 1818

and wonder if your society might be able to help me with photos, memories or information on any of the addresses below.

It would also be helpful if anyone could establish when the business stopped operating. All I know is that Charles died in 1915, and that, by around 1925, Alfred was living in Norfolk.

The earliest directory listing I have is dated 1884 (the business directory of London) and records "C. Newton and Son, Cork Manufacturers" at 358 Liverpool Road, London North. The 1891 Islington street directory records them at 48 Holloway Road, and by 1907 Alfred is living on site. The 1911 census and 1914 Post Office Directory give the business address as 107 Holloway Road.

I believe the Holloway Road addresses were in the vicinity of the Highbury Brewery and attached pub, which my ancestors may have supplied with corks and bungs.

*Deryn Flanigan (Mrs)
deryn.flanigan@googlemail.
com*

Michael Reading writes:
You have been able to trace the various locations of your ancestor's business in Islington until 1914. The

Post Office directory for 1912 shows the business at 107 Holloway Road, whereas the directory for 1925 does not.

To establish the possible closure date of the business, a search could be made through the directories from 1915 to 1925 on the assumption that the final entry would be the year of closure. These directories are available at the London Metropolitan Archives.

107 Holloway Road is on the west side and the south end of this very long road. Approximately 50 yards further north on the east side were nos 52-54, the Highbury Brewery. The brewery was built in 1815 by William Willoughby. It closed in 1914, leaving public house The Highbury Brewery Tap at no 54; the rest of site was built on.

No 107 is now occupied by a letting agency and there is still a public house at no 54, called The Lamb.

There may be photographs of this part

of Holloway Road at the London Metropolitan Archives or the Islington Local History Centre.

Deryn Flanigan writes:
I am most grateful to you for the information concerning Highbury Brewery and the attached pub.

It is interesting that the brewery closed in the same year as my last known directory entry. It may be that the demise of the cork-cutting business followed hard on the heels of the brewery's closure.

Cork cutting was something of a dying industry by the beginning of the 20th century, and I have been told that it is quite surprising that my ancestors' business lasted for as long as it did.

Lost homes of Crayford Road

What happened to 1-41 (or so) Crayford Road N7 – was the site damaged before the estate was built and were the homes any different from those that survived?

*Christian Wolmar
christian.wolmar@gmail.com*

Michael Reading writes:
The building of Crayford Road began in 1876 and was completed by 1880. The 1894 Ordnance Survey map shows lines of terraced houses on both sides, with an exit into Parkhurst Road in the south and an exit into Carleton Road in the north.

There is no indication that the houses demolished to provide the ground for the Bakersfield Estate were

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Note: the society does not carry out family research

any different from those that have survived and are there today.

The houses in the south of the street up to Tabley Road were four stories, with bay windows on the semi-basements and first floors, while those beyond were three stories, with the bays on the ground and first floors. It is probable that the street was built by different builders.

Commencing in the south on the east side was Hilton Road, then Cardwell Road, then Tabley Road. Hilton Road has gone and is part of the Bakersfield Estate that was built in 1977-78.

The bomb damage maps show that the houses on the east side of Crayford Road, from Tabley Road to Cardwell Road, all suffered general blast damage, probably caused by the V1 weapon that fell at 3.21pm on 12 July 1944 at the junction of Carleton Road and Anson Road, killing two people and injuring 20 others. The houses on the area now occupied by the Bakersfield Estate were undamaged.

Christian Wolmar writes: Thanks for that. The estate at the end of the road is a City of London estate that is older than the 1970s, comprised of brown brick flats rather like those built by the London County Council. There are still City of London signs on the older one and that is the one that must be where the houses were.

Why demolish perfectly good houses, the rest of which have survived?

Monsters and cesspits

I was wondering why this sea-monster(?) appears repeating on rooftops of a terrace on City Road (pictured).

I'm also looking for anyone who has a 18th or 19th cesspool/cesspit (not coal bunkers/cellars).

Lee Jackson
lee@victorianlondon.org

I been unable to find any information about the stone carvings. What I have found is that it is part of a terrace from the Angel end of City Road to Wakley Street (Sidney Street before 1936).

It was begun in 1803, on a site once used for prize fighting and the occasional execution. By 1860, nos 338-398 had been completed.

The terrace was named Dalby Terrace, after a Mr Dalby who had bought considerable property with the money he had made from the invention of beer machines used in pubs.

Holloway boxer's story now online

You were kind enough to feature my great grandfather, Harry Duncan, the Holloway boxer, in your magazine (winter 2009-10). I thought you might be interested in his website at www.nigelharding.wix.com/harryduncanboxer
Nigel Harding
Via email

Dawson's stores

Your autumn 2011 issue printed a letter about Dawson's Department Store at City Road, EC1.

I was born in the 1950s and lived and grew up in Sutton Dwellings (later renamed Sutton Estate) which was near Old Street tube station and Dawson's.

I can remember as a child often going into the store which in those days had two floors or possibly three. In later years, as business dwindled, it became a street-level shop only.

In the 1950s and 1960s it sold a bit of everything –



City Road carving – anyone know its origin?

china, white goods, beds, haberdashery, cookware etc. (I guess it was a mini Gamage's, for those who remember Gamage's of Holborn.)

I still have a cruet set my uncle and aunt bought my late parents 50 years ago in Dawson's when they came up from Cornwall on their honeymoon.

I think the store was still there into the 1980s – possibly even the 1990s from memory when travelling to City Road/Old Street to visit my parents, as I moved away in early 1980 when I bought my first house.

David Kemp
By email

Interested in a cemetery social history group?

I have worked at St Pancras Cemetery and been associated with Islington Cemetery for over 35 years. It saddens me that despite existing since 1854, there has been little interest in the social history here.

Most of our burial registers are on a database but no one has gone through them to pick out interesting people who are important to local history as well as the more famous.

Many of the memorials are degrading and inscriptions may be lost if they are not recorded. This is a mammoth task as the site is some 190 acres with some

80,000 private graves.

We would like to gauge interest and enthusiasm to form a cemetery historical group focusing on its social history aspects.

People buried in the cemeteries include: Henry Palmer, an Odd Fellow; music hall star Lottie Collins, famous for singing *Ta Ra Ra Boom De Ay*, Henri D'Alcorn, music hall publisher; Henry Croft, the first pearly king; Cora Crippen; Victorian actress Olga Brandon; Ford Madox Brown; and victims of the Fenian Explosion of Clerkenwell in 1867.

We know where these people are buried but there are thousands more to find.
Richard Baldwin
Islington and St Pancras Cemeteries and Crematorium, High Road, East Finchley, N2 9AG,
islingtoncamdencemeteries@islington.gov.uk

Were you a community activist?

I am a PhD student at the University of York involved in a project on community action in urban Britain in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s.

I am interested in the politics of housing and planning at this time and grassroots community groups active in housing, planning, conservation and gentrification.

I was wondering whether the IAHS might be able to advise me on where I might access the records of community groups from this period. I would also like to talk to anyone who was involved in these issues.

I have already made fairly extensive use of the council archives; they have some useful materials, but their coverage is fairly slim from the mid-1960s onwards.

David Ellis
david.ellis@york.ac.uk
davidinwrofy@gmail.com



Amazing fakes

Two forgers brought out thousands of medieval antiquities in 19th century London. Philip Mernick describes their extraordinary industry

Billy and Charleys were numerous, varied series of fake antiquities. Shadwell forgeries, as they were also known, were produced to dupe a public eager to acquire medieval antiquities being discovered in an ever-growing 19th century London

The names come from their makers, William Smith and Charles Eaton. From a workshop in Royal Mint Street, or Rosemary Lane as it was still commonly known, they produced thousands of these forgeries between 1857 and 1870.

Their early works were in lead or pewter and, in the 1860s, they began to use brass. The same designs were used in dated and undated versions in different metals.

Many items purported to be pilgrims' badges and holy water ampullas. They were much larger than the

originals, however – contemporary illustrations of such artefacts rarely gave their dimensions.

Eaton and Smith sold their first group to a small-time antiques dealer William Edwards who resold then to established dealer Thomas Eastwood, who had premises in City Road.

They came to the notice of antiquarians when Eastwood offered them, as "a remarkably curious and unique collection of leaden signs or badges of the time of Richard II", to Thomas Bateman, a wealthy Peak District archaeologist and collector.

As knowledge of these fabulous items spread, their authenticity was queried and adverse comments made in learned journals.

A court case between one of these journals and Thomas Eastwood did not resolve the matter. This left Smith and Eaton to continue for so long that a contemporary

Some Billy and Charleys: top: heart reliquary; left: statue; right: coin; face/armorial design; brass spear; below: ampulla

publication described them as "those notorious scamps".

Eaton died of tuberculosis at his home in Wellclose Square in 1870. His partner – now known for reasons unknown as William Monk – continued making Billy and Charleys until at least 1872. Henry Syer Cuming, after whom Southwark's museum is named, is recorded as buying some – knowing what they were – directly from Monk.

Many museums purchased examples as genuine before the truth was revealed and significant collections are held in Bedford, Bristol, Liverpool and London.

There has been disagreement over the spelling of the artefacts as Billie or Billy and Charlie, Charly or Charley. Nineteenth century documents consistently use Billy and Charley, the earliest use being the *Times* report of 6 August 1858 of the trial at Guildford.

Eaton and Smith were, apparently, illiterate but were ingenious, creating a wide range of objects. They were certainly criminals and often dismissed as mudlarks or riverside labourers,

yet they possessed sufficient skills and imagination to fool many highly educated men.

Ironically, their fabrications nowadays often fetch more than the genuine article. ■

Philip Mernick is chairman of the East London History Society. He recently spoke to the IAHS about Billy and Charley forgeries



Find out more and view the famous forgeries

One of the most accessible collections of Billy and Charleys is held at the Cuming Museum, Old Walworth Town Hall, 151 Walworth Road, SE17 1RY, 020 7525 2332, cuming.museum@southwark.gov.uk. Entrance is free and the nearest tube is Elephant and Castle.

Philip Mernick has created a website to illustrate the breadth

of Eaton and Smith's activities at www.mernick.org.uk/B&C/index.htm. It shows items from public and private collections.

Billy and Charleys have been the subject of many articles. The most comprehensive, by Robert Halliday and published in *The London Archaeologist*, is reproduced with permission at www.mernick.org.uk/B&C/page1.htm.



Steam powered celebration

To mark 150 years since the world's first underground railway opened, heritage trains took passengers again. Christy Lawrance looks back



Steam travel returned to Farringdon station this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Metropolitan Railway in January 1863, the world's first underground train service.

The Metropolitan locomotive no 1 steam train, along with Metropolitan Railway electric locomotive No 12 Sarah Siddons, pulled the Metropolitan Railway Jubilee first-class carriage no 353, a milk van and the Chesham passenger coaches over two weekends in January.

The trains began their first commemorative journey at Kensington Olympia station. Travelling at 25mph – half the speed of tube trains today – they crossed central London via Farringdon in Islington to arrive at Moorgate on time at 10.30am.

Tube services were running as usual, and many people hopped aboard trains behind the commemorative service, hoping to experience the smell and ambience of steam-filled tunnels.

The two locomotives and the carriages all ran on the Metropolitan line during their working lives and have been restored to their former glory.

The steam engine, the Metropolitan locomotive no 1, was built in 1898 by the Metropolitan Railway in Neasden.

It is believed to have been numbered 1 because it was described in the accounts as a

The Jubilee carriage at Farringdon; right: in 2011 before restoration

rebuild of an 1863 locomotive. This meant that its entire cost could be offset against profits for 1898 rather than being depreciated over many years.

Although the 0-4-4 tank engine had been the highlight of the tube centenary celebrations in 1963 and was one of the last of its kind, it was sold for scrap. It was bought by the Quainton Railway Society/Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in 1964, which restored it.

Passenger coaches included the Metropolitan Railway Jubilee carriage 353, the oldest surviving working tube carriage. This first-class carriage was built for the London Metropolitan Railway in 1892.

It was sold to Weston, Clevedon and Portishead Light Railway in 1905. After that line closed in 1940, the coach survived various incarnations including as a club house, a shop and a farm building. In 1974, it became part of the London Transport Museum collection.

Museum curator Tim Shields told the *Journal* that its

being kept in use had meant it survived.

It was restored at the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway workshops North Wales from 2011. Craft workers used on photographs and drawings to recreate its appearance. There is



more than £700 worth of 23.5 carat gold leaf on the carriage, and all writing has been done by hand. The carriage originally had gas lighting but, as safety regulations no longer allow this, LED lamps that look like gas mantles have been fitted. Despite the long-term neglect, 92% of the wooden frame is original.

The other coaches – the Chesham carriages – began service in 1899 when the Chesham branch of the Metropolitan Line opened and now run on Bluebell Railway Society heritage tours. Also known as the Ashbury Stock, they are comprised of a guard's brake coach, a third-class coach and two coaches with both first and third class compartments. They survived because the Bluebell Railway required more carriages in 1961, and the cheapest on the market at £65

The 1920s Sarah Siddons passes a tube carriage at Farringdon, where the first underground trains terminated





Right: Metropolitan locomotive no 1 arrives at Farringdon; left: Metropolitan Railway milk van – it had extra suspension to stop the milk from turning into butter en route



each were these ex-Metropolitan Railway coaches.

Also running was the Metropolitan Railway Milk Van No 3, which operated from 1896 to 1936. Milk vans carried churns of milk directly from dairy farms in Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire into London. The vans were attached to fast passenger trains and were ventilated to keep the milk fresh, with extra suspension to ensure it did not start turning into butter en route.

On the opposite end from the steam train was the no 12 Sarah Siddons, one of the world's oldest working electric locomotives, and still used for heritage events. Named after a renowned 18th/19th century actress, it was built in 1922. It started running in 1923 and took passengers to Watford, Uxbridge and Rickmansworth.

The day before the line opened to the public, the Metropolitan Railway Company directors formally opened the line on 9 January 1863, after a journey along the new line followed by a banquet at 3pm at the Farringdon Street terminus.

Below: 394 Chesham carriage at Moorgate; right: 150th anniversary modern train alongside Metropolitan locomotive no 1 at Moorgate



The platforms were enclosed, and, according to *The Times* of 10 January, "the sides and roof [were] tastefully draped with scarlet and white, ornamented with numerous flags and banners". Over 600 guests attended.

When it opened to the public on 10 January 1863, long queues formed at the stations from Paddington to Farringdon Street.

The first journey, with gas-lit wooden carriage pulled by steam locomotives, took around 33 minutes. It was reported that 40,000 people travelled on the first day. Within six months, 26,000 people were using it daily.

The Observer newspaper reported on Sunday 11 January 1863: "At eight o'clock the desire to travel underground in the direction of the City began to manifest itself... by nine it became equally evident to the authorities that neither the locomotive power nor the rolling stock at their disposal was at all in proportion to the requirements of the opening day..."

"Of the general comfort in travelling on the line there can be no doubt, and the novel introduction of gas into the carriages is calculated to dispel any unpleasant feelings which passengers, especially ladies, might entertain against riding for so long a distance through a tunnel."

It added that the gas lamps in the first-class carriages were bright enough to read – but only

when the trains were stationary. Movement made them the lights flicker, which made reading "exceedingly difficult".

The second-class carriages were described as "very nicely fitted with leathered seats, and are very commodious".

The article concluded: "It is gratifying to remark that, notwithstanding the eagerness of the public to get into the carriages, even when the trains were in motion, no single accident, of any kind, was reported." A reassuring endnote to a pioneering event. ■

● For more on how London got its underground railway and its arrival in Islington, see Wolmar C (2012) *Subterranean London. Journal of the Islington Archaeology and History Society* 2: 1, 10-11



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Canal museum comes of age



London Canal Museum celebrates its 21st birthday this year, and is attracting more visitors than ever. Lester Hillman reports on recent changes including new exhibits

This year it is 21 years since Islington's unique museum of canals and the ice industry history first opened its doors. The London Canal Museum at New Wharf Road in King's Cross, on the edge of Battlebridge Basin, was opened on 9 March 1982 by the Princess Royal.

A year in the life of the museum was reported earlier this year at the annual general meeting of Canal Museum Trust, which runs the museum.

The chairman of the trust, Martin Sach, addressed the Islington Archaeology & History Society on the museum's history in February.

As well as what had happened in 2011-12, the AGM also looked at the museum's plans for the year ahead.

The museum will be applying to hold weddings. With its waterside setting and its own tug *Bantam IV* moored alongside the colourful assortment of boats in the basin, it already attracts bookings for wedding receptions. Sadly, it is just a popular myth that captains of vessels here have the power to conduct weddings.

Last year, visitor numbers reached 13,367, a rise of 12% on the previous year. Private hire of

Above: the museum looking across Battlebridge Basin; trips are run through the Islington Tunnel in summer – and on Halloween



the museum facilities for events and receptions added around 5,000 visitors.

The AGM received an update on the museum's lively education programme. Nearly 1,300 school children from London and beyond visited. The work of the museum and education team was recognised with the Sandford Award from the Heritage Education Trust in November 2011. It was the museum's second such award in the last five years for excellence in heritage education.

Fun events and VIP visitors

There are fun events too. The regular Halloween night attracts around 300 people. Many climb aboard for atmospheric night-time boat trips through the Islington Tunnel, complete with temperature changes, shadows, gloom, sounds and cobwebs. Throughout the summer months, the museum runs frequent boat trips through Islington Tunnel to City Road Basin, which was once known as London's inland port.

In September 2011, Quentin Blake came to the museum, which took a prominent part in the launch of the national Big Draw event. The noted illustrator began a huge drawing to which visitors to the museum added contributions. Mr Blake was conveyed across the basin on board the tug *Bantam IV* and cut a ceremonial ribbon over the water.

VIP events in the last two years have included a visit from the Princess Royal.

In July last year, the Olympic torch changed hands outside the museum, after being carried down the Regent's Canal and being seen by thousands of people who had gathered at St Pancras and King's Cross as it reached Islington.

Two historic vessels paid visits

to Islington and the museum last year. The steam narrowboat *President* was moored alongside in the basin in readiness for the accession diamond jubilee pageant on the River Thames in June 2012. Later, on 23 August, the historic butty *Ilkeston* arrived. One hundred years old and newly restored, the *Ilkeston* was pulled by a horse on the towpath and attracted significant media interest.

A crowd gathered at Hampstead Road Locks (better known as Camden Lock) and, later at the museum, TV journalist Kate Adie was on hand for the final arrival.

The museum contributed to the restoration of the *Ilkeston*,

The *Ilkeston* butty boat was pulled by a horse on the towpath and attracted crowds of people and significant media interest

which was a star attraction at the Angel Festival at City Road Basin in early September.

The museum has also hosted music and drama. The *Journal* reported on Rob Inglis' *Regent's Canal: a Folk Opera* in its autumn 2012 issue. Performances took place in the museum in July and September, as well as at other venues in and around King's Cross.

Pioneer engine

New exhibits include a 9hp semi-diesel Bolinder engine. The Bolinder engine was the most common internal combustion engine used on canal boats in the 1920s and 1930s. It brought about a major change to canal life as it replaced horses. The engine was installed by a specialist company in June 2011.

The museum entrance charge has been increased but is still a modest £4 and concessions are available. This has assisted the



Above: the historic *President* steam narrowboat, which was moored at the museum last summer; right: doorway between the ice wells below the museums; below: plaque commemorating the museum's regal opening

finances and ambitious works are now in progress with the help of a substantial Heritage Lottery Fund grant.

Essential works to the floor above the vast historic underground ice wells are being undertaken and improvements to the main staircase have been completed.

The museum is responding to demands and changes. Visitors like refreshments but a staffed café would not be practical. A vending machine means visitors can now buy hot drinks and sit near the rear windows, where they can look across the canal basin.

Directly across the basin is King's Place, which opened in 2008, with concert halls, restaurants, art galleries, bar and waterside restaurant, conference space and *Guardian* newspaper offices. The museum recently put up a sign so people visiting and working at King's Place would spot it and be encouraged to visit.

More anniversaries

The bicentenary of the canal's construction starting was celebrated last year – construction



started in 1812 and was completed in 1820.

This year is the 400th anniversary of the completion of the New River, which arrived at New River Head on 29 September 1613, bringing fresh water to Londoners. The watercourse lies buried above the eastern end of the Islington Tunnel.

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the Amsterdam canal ring and many celebrations are planned. It is possible to travel to Bruges in Belgium and Amsterdam in the Netherlands to see canals from King's Cross. ■

● The London Canal Trust's annual report can be downloaded from www.canalmuseum.org.uk/annualreport1112.pdf

Lester Hillman is academic adviser to the Islington Archaeology & History Society and volunteer at the London Canal Museum



Building the vestry hall

A decision by the biggest vestry in north London to build a new hall was engulfed by claims of nepotism and corruption, as well as building delays. Alan Pattison tells a tale of Victorian local government



Above: St Mary's Islington Vestry Hall, designed by Thomas Allom, 1856-8; from *Building News*, 1857

Until the early 1850s, the parish of St Mary's was a typical English parish looking after the spiritual needs of its residents and other ecclesiastical affairs.

After the passing of the Better Regulation of the Vestries Act in 1831, certain larger vestries were encouraged to change how they operated. Changes could include: having decisions made by a limited number of vestrymen, instead of by all parishioners; having the vestrymen elected, with electors "rated to the relief of the poor" and votes available to anyone owning property worth more than £40 a year, including women; moving vestry meetings from the churches into more suitable buildings; and employing staff to manage vestry business.

Because it was the largest vestry in north London, St Mary's Islington qualified as a "select vestry" so the act could apply to it. Because the law was a "permissive act", it was up to the vestry as to whether they would use it.

On 11 December 1851, the vestry decided to appoint a committee to determine whether the act would be right for Islington. On 9 December the following year, a full report was presented to the vestry and formally published so that all parishioners could examine their findings and help come to a decision.

The vestry unanimously agreed the report and its recommendations. These included electing a representative vestry of 120, employing staff such as clerks, slaughterhouse inspectors and workhouse officers, and borrowing money to buy or build a vestry hall on the "security of the Poor Rate".

In 1855, the Metropolis Management Act was passed. This created civil vestries throughout London, which were distinct from the ecclesiastical vestries. Civil vestries would carry out the business of local government, which would include the provision and upkeep of local facilities such as roads and pavements, parks, playgrounds, street lights, and village or town halls.

Management of the new vestries in London was a much bigger task than had been anticipated by the 1831 act, especially the big vestries, such as St Mary's Islington.

On 13 May 1857, St Mary's decided that they needed a site on which a vestry hall could be built. A committee was set up to

find a suitable site. This would preferably be within a quarter of a mile of Highbury station, or between the station and Islington Green or at least no more than 200 yards either side of that line, which was seen as the area "most frequented by taxpayers".

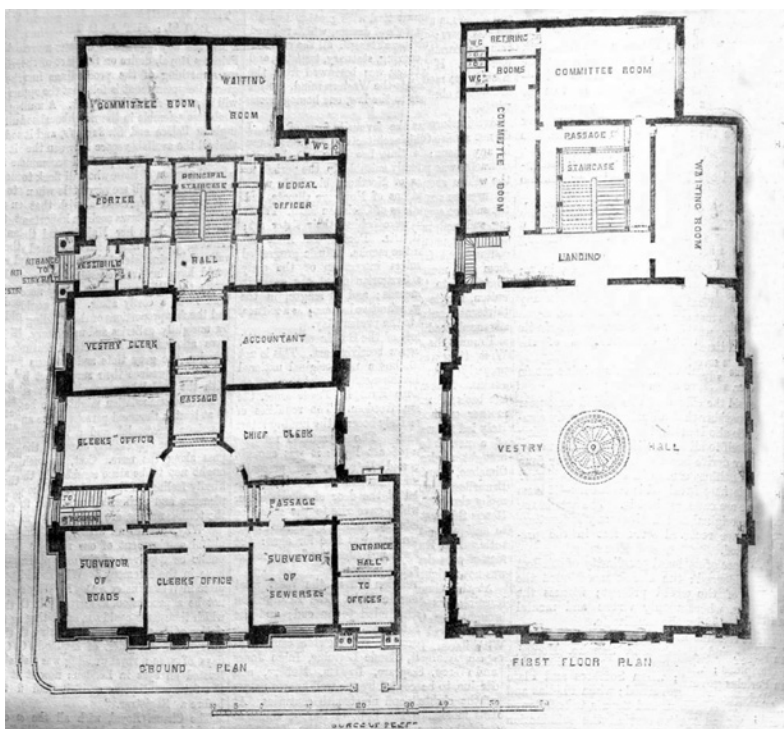
By 7 August 1857, the committee agreed that land should be bought on which to construct a vestry hall, with a total budget of £6,000. Later that month, they found a suitable location and agreed to buy an area equivalent to seven houses on Upper Street from Heads Nursery for £500.

Fairness questioned

They drew up a shortlist of architectural designs for the new building. There seems little doubt that matters did not proceed as fairly as they should have done.

Among others, *The Builder* magazine – the foremost architectural journal of the time – picked up on inconsistency in the selection process. It noted that the "personal interests of several of the vestrymen serve to explain why some of the 12 designs are in the list and other better designs remain unselected". In another edition, it said: "We would wager a new hat that we could name three out of four of the designs that the committee will probably name to the vestry as being the best and should not wonder if

"The personal interests of several of the vestrymen serve to explain why some of the 12 designs are in the list and other, better designs remain unselected"



Vestry hall internal plans: the layouts of the rejected and chosen designs were similar

decisions taken by St Mary's vestry. It also published an impression of the building designed by Henry Cooper (below left). The internal plans of both designs are fairly similar, which it makes it surprising that Cooper's design was rejected.

Building starts

The contract for building was awarded on 27 April to Dove Brothers, the notable Islington building firm, which had been awarded contracts by the vestry before. This appears to have been a fair decision as the firm offered the lowest price of £4,987.

Unfortunately, the firm was rather slow and, by 1 April 1859, the vestry hall was still not finished. The vestry noted that it would aim to recover some costs from Dove Brothers for the late construction but there is no clear record as to whether they succeeded. Dove Brothers continued work and became one of the most famous church builders in 19th century England.

The building was finally finished in late June 1859 and the first vestry meeting in the impressive new hall was held on 23 September 1859.

The inhabitants of Islington now had a centre for their new local government of which they could feel proud.

However, the processes to select the architect and builders had been far from perfect. Some might say that they are a good example of "old corruption", the nepotistic style of government that was supposedly eradicated by the reforms of the 1840s. Even if not corrupt, the building of St Mary's Islington Vestry Hall remains a good example of how the Victorian era was adjusting to the changes needed in governing the most important city in the world. ■

Alan Pattison has lived in Islington for more than 25 years. He is the chair of the trustees of KEEN London, a local charity that provides activities for children with disabilities

they prove to be the work of parties intimately connected to the vestrymen."

A letter was published along the same lines in *The Builder* a the complaining correspondent called "A Competitor". The same person wrote the same letter to *Building News* on 23 October 1857 and followed this on 6 November with slightly more pointed accusations, before his final letter, on 20 November 1857 which noted that vestryman Dennis may well have been swayed by having just picked up a building contract for Watford cemetery from an architect called Cooper who was on the shortlist.

This did not discourage the Islington vestry and, by the end of October 1857, the vestrymen had agreed plans, with the architect being Henry E Cooper.

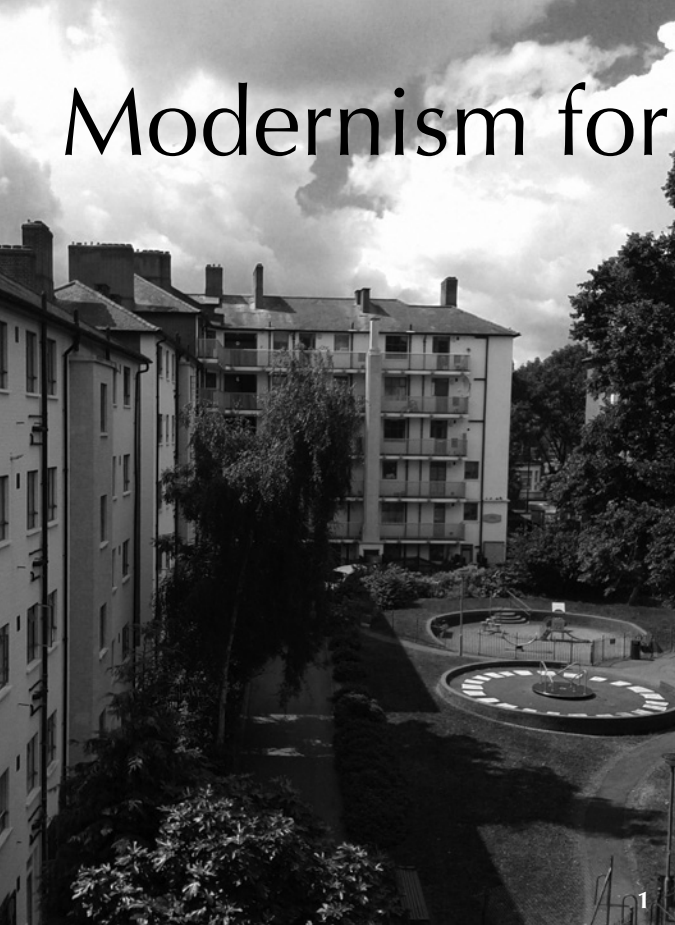
In January 1858, the committee concluded that the internal design was not ideal, so they selected another architect – Thomas Allom. This might have been a good decision as Thomas Allom was already a respected architect, having worked on the Houses of Parliament; he later achieved fame by designing the Kensington workhouse.

The Builder was less convinced and continued to point out the possibility of nepotism in the



The Builder magazine published this impression of Henry E Cooper's design, which was chosen amid accusations of favouritism then rejected

Modernism for sociable living



Islington's most ambitious interwar housing project combined municipal and social ambitions in style. Ian Hunt explores Brecknock Road Estate's architectural qualities

1938-39. By this time Monson had visited Europe to look at recent architecture at first hand.

The achievements of the Weimar Republic social housing programmes and the architecture of Red Vienna were widely discussed by British architects, but rarely influenced what got built. Brecknock Road Estate, however, is surprisingly reminiscent in mood and effect of some of the Berlin estates of Bruno Taut, which have been given World Heritage status by Unesco.

How does the estate look and work? It is a red-brick estate built around two courtyards, with a public path between them called Middle Way. The 16 blocks, all five storeys, are not huge or monolithic: each is an easily knowable community. There are gaps between the buildings, allowing views through to the trees and green of the courtyards.

An immediately appealing aspect of the architecture is the way the design exploits the contours of the site, which falls away from Brecknock Road. Each building sits on a different level so, as you walk down Anson Road or Middle Way, the regular and repeated features of the façades – rectangular balconies, deep bay windows, modernist 90° corner windows – make a constantly changing visual

impression and, on Anson Road, a highly complex rhythm (see cover picture).

This exploitation of sloping topography for visual effect (which can also be seen at the firm's Aubert Court in Avenell Road, Highbury) is a compellingly skilful demonstration of a principle found in Islington's *Urban Design Guide*: "Street frontages that run down a hill should normally



have a stepped roofline frontage and threshold that echoes their topography."

The varied line of the shallow-pitched roofs, set off against tall chimneys, is another unusual feature. Flat roofs are a symbol of modern architecture, and Monson had tried them out in other housing schemes.

However, Brecknock Road Estate's grey slate roof with red ridge tiles, angled at exactly the pitch of many nearby Victorian houses, uses the colour of natural materials and striking forms to modify the modernity of the façades. It is a task of architecture to fit in while also being strongly

Housing estates are the result of social agreements and architectural thinking.

Brecknock Road Estate, with its thoughtful layout and striking design, shows how municipal planning met ideas from the modern movement.

Public service architects in the interwar period had to address a long-running crisis: how to provide working-class homes to replace overcrowded, dark and run-down housing. In inner London and the nearer suburbs, the answer was flats.

By the 1930s, these architects were also responding to or, in a few cases, actively promoting a move away from neo-Georgian – a well-organised but often rather inert manner that emphasised symmetry and orderliness – towards modern movement proportions and a horizontal emphasis in façades and windows.

It was a rather uncertain move for many municipal architects. The firm headed by ECP Monson (1872-1941; he worked with his brother Harry and son John) was one of these capable, prolific but perhaps rather stolid practices.

Brecknock Estate was built in

1: north courtyard; 2: triangular windows at Blake House; 3: corner windows at Quelch House; 4: Middle Way; 5: Quelch House; 6: roofline at Hyndman and Kingsley Houses, Anson Road; 7: lift tower; 8: sloping slate roof

Islington buildings by ECP Monson

Manchester Mansions, 1920; Halton Mansions, 1920-21; Taverner Estate, 1922; Islington Town Hall, 1922-26; Tyndale Mansions, 1924-26; Grimaldi House, 1926-27; Margery Street Estate, 1930-33; Cyrus House, 1933-34; Wakelin House, 1933-35; Hornsey Lane Estate, 1938-39; Aubert Court, 1947-53; Cluse Court, 1950s; Sussex Close, 1950



itself. The roofline interest represents a confident and deliberate compromise with the context of a Victorian suburb, not a weak pastiche, and helps to make it a memorable local landmark.

The plan of the estate is lucid and easy to understand, and establishes a strong perimeter around the social areas of the courtyards. These are overlooked by open galleries for access on the corner blocks; the other, smaller, blocks have internal stairways. The site is not completely square, so the buildings, although approximately symmetrical in their organisation, occupy space in a relaxed way, rather as the Victorian houses do on the adjoining streets.

The planning does not depend on the grand and large-scale effects of symmetry found in most neo-Georgian, deco and moderne buildings and, in a subtle way, this meant that individuals could – and still can – feel more entitled to be here.

The architecture creates an equalising backdrop to communal life and, at the same time, visual interest out of its varied forms and plain materials, which include high-quality brickwork and slender Crittall steel. It does not insist that tenants should feel grateful to be here, though they may do, especially as the flats are filled with light.

In the care with which it was planned and executed, the estate links back to the early achievements of London County Council housing. It balances the values of sociability with a sense of refuge and quiet.

At the level of form, there is a

subtle balancing act. The horizontal emphasis implicit in the modern window proportions and façades is expertly balanced by vertical accents, such as the triangular bay windows and the deep, three-faceted bay windows. Similarly, on the backs of the buildings, the rubbish chute “chimneys” make a strong vertical against the access galleries.

The stair towers on the internal access blocks add another vertical element. The two external lift towers – added by Rock Townsend in the 1980s as part of Islington’s pioneering Estate Action Plan – enhance this, and are striking visual features in their own right.

The planning and style of the estate represent a successful municipal compromise between tradition and modernity, and are an evocative expression of a broadly social-democratic impulse in architecture – to build honestly as well as proudly.

Many estates in Islington are the work of the firm of ECP Monson, which continued after



the war and ECP’s death.

The addition of Brecknock Road Estate to the local list of heritage assets is well-deserved recognition for a prolific partnership that, by the end of the 1930s, had caught up with the spirit of the time in an original and imaginative way. Perhaps this modest form of protection for the estate also allows for recognition of the values its architecture embodies. ■

Ian Hunt is an art critic, teaching in the department of art at Goldsmiths, University of London; he lives on Brecknock Road Estate

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Turning history into mystery

Joan Lock describes how she carried out research for her Victorian crime novel based around the Princess Alice disaster and baby farming in Islington

My first Victorian crime novel, *Dead Image*, was set against a real life disaster, the Regent's Park explosion of 1874. I wanted my second – *Dead Born* – to feature the *Princess Alice* disaster of 1878, in which the pleasure steamer was rammed by a Tyne colliery ship, resulting in the loss of around 650 lives.

As many of the victims of the disaster were from Islington, I also wanted to include the baby farming that went on in that area.

Early in 1870, many small parcels were found scattered around Islington. When a cheesemonger's assistant arrived to take an order from a house in Lorraine Place, he came across a parcel in the front garden. Other parcels

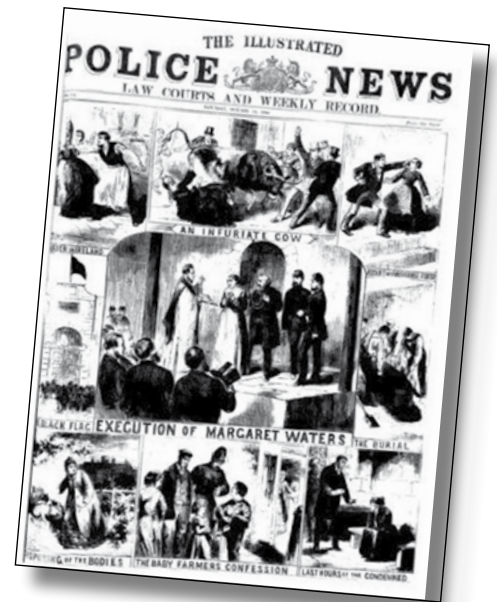
were found in a field off Caledonian Road, in Highbury New Park, in Thornhill Square, by a dung heap in Sable Street, Canonbury, and in the back of a hansom cab.

What the parcels all contained were the bodies of babies – and the subsequent inquests were duly reported in the *Islington Gazette*.

There was nothing unusual about this state of affairs. It was a national problem. Birth control was scarce and lone women were economically and sexually vulnerable.

Attention was drawn to the subject when no fewer than 16 bodies were found scattered around Camberwell within the space of a few weeks.

Sergeant Relf and Constable Tyers traced some of the baby wrappings back to baby farmer



Margaret Waters. She was arrested, tried for murder and hanged.

Most of the blame for “child dropping” was then laid at the door of baby farmers and lying-in establishments.

Baby farmers were a type of childminder. They took in babies for a fee on a weekly basis or offered to “permanently adopt” them or facilitate this.

Child mortality was high even in normal circumstances but the suspicion was that, once fees had been handed over, some of the babies were deliberately neglected or even murdered.

‘This frightful race’

Islington was no worse than some other boroughs but it did have a succession of active coroners who insisted on encouraging inquest verdicts of wilful murder or manslaughter. These cases were given much exposure in *The Times*, the *Marylebone Mercury*, the *British Medical Journal* and the *Islington Gazette*.

The *Gazette* called for baby farmers – “this frightful race of witches and hags” – to be exterminated. “If ever the tar barrel and the rope were needful, it is in this case,” it said.

Clearly what Islington needed was a dose of Relf and Tyers and, in December 1870, they became lodgers near a suspect lying-in establishment in College Street (now College Cross, N1). They



Above and top of page: the execution of baby farmer Margaret Waters was extensively reported, including in early tabloid *The Illustrated Police News*

were unsuccessful, they reported, because the suspects had become cautious – probably as a result of the recent hanging of Mrs Waters.

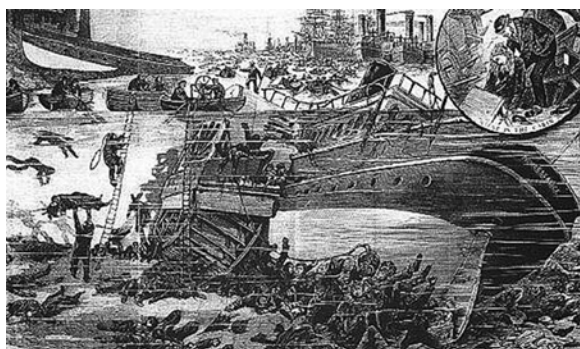
My difficulty was that Princess Alice disaster occurred eight years later, in 1878. However, despite the passing of the Infant Life Protection Act in 1872 and further legislation, the problem had not gone away by then.

In August 1878, a drover taking his cattle along Brewery Road found a flannel-wrapped parcel nestling below the Metropolitan Cattle Market railings. In the early morning two days later, a man came upon another in Highbury Crescent – and more continued to be found.

I knew that the Scotland Yard's detective branch had had some involvement in baby farming enquiries, so I decided it was high time for charismatic Detective Sergeant Ernest Best to go undercover next door to a suspect lying-in establishment in John Street (now Lofting Road, N1).

The *Islington Gazette* provided advertisements from women offering to take in babies for a fee and for lodgings of the type which Sergeant Best would need, as well as bus routes and schedules for his journey to Swan Lane Pier by London Bridge, where he would board the *Princess Alice*.

Almost prophetically, after several minor drowning tragedies, letters to the editors of *The Times*, the *Illustrated London News* and the *Islington Gazette* began pointing out the vulnerability of those who could not swim. Following the disaster, an *Islington Gazette*



Above: the *Princess Alice* disaster; left: beached remains

leader comment berated the vestry for failing to provide public swimming baths when the opportunity had arisen.

Various useful books on Islington's past plus a couple of Godfrey edition Old Ordnance Survey Maps and Jim Connell's *Illustrated History of Upper Street, Islington* allowed me to keep Best on track as he hurried along in pursuit of a suspected "child dropper" and to locate the venue for him to go "rinkin'" – roller skating at rinks was all the rage – as a cover for his surreptitious meeting with his sidekick Constable Smith.

Down the river

Once our hero had boarded the doomed *Princess Alice*, my research focus shifted to Woolwich, including North Woolwich where many North London Railway passengers boarded, Gravesend, Sheerness and all points in between, particularly the famous Rosherville Pleasure Gardens at Northfleet where Best's quarry alighted.

This led me on several

downriver trips in search of background – both on foot and at various local archives. Following the disaster, the newspaper coverage was understandably massive, this being the country's worst civilian disaster ever and newspapers being the only method of mass communication.

Among the hundreds of bodies recovered, a number remained unclaimed and two or three naked ones raised doubts as to whether their deaths were due to the accident. It was whispered that if you had a body you need to get rid of, this was a good time and place to do so. Individual post mortems were out of the question.

As it happened, Sergeant Best came across the body of someone he knew had not been on board the doomed boat and whose death he determined to investigate and avenge. ■

● The summer issue will contain more on Joan Lock's research for the *Princess Alice* disaster and its consequence for Islington. This will coincide with the publication of her non-fiction book on the *Princess Alice* disaster.

Joan Lock is a former police officer, author of fiction and non-fiction books. Find out about on her books, documentaries and radio plays at www.joanlock.co.uk

Dead Born and *Dead Image* are available from the IAHS. See publications, page 20

References and sources

- Arnot ML (1994) Infant death, child care and the state: the baby-farming scandal and the first infant life protection legislation of 1872. *Continuity and Change* 9(2): 271-311; Cambridge University Press
- Findlay R (2006) More deadly than the male...? Mothers and infanticide in nineteenth century Britain. *Cycnos* 23: 2
- Lock J (1993) *Scotland Yard Casebook: The Making of the CID 1865-1935*. Robert Hale Publishing
- Metropolitan Police files on baby farming: *Mepo* 3/92 and *Mepo* 3/96. The National Archives
- Rose L (1986) *The Massacre of the Innocents: Infanticide in Great Britain 1800-1939*. Routledge, Keegan Paul

Among the hundreds of bodies recovered, a number remained unclaimed. It was whispered that if you had a body you need to get rid of, this was a good time and place to do so

Publications and bookshop

A New River Head guide from 1927, a London Underground history by museum experts and the tale of a notorious fraudster are reviewed here

53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, photographs by Pauline Lord
£20 + £1.90 p&p, hardback, Islington Archaeology & History Society

This book is a must for anyone interested in historic decor.

It traces the history of 53 Cross Street from 1785 when it was built, to gaining a floor and losing half its back garden for St Mary's church hall, through various types of occupation and ownership.

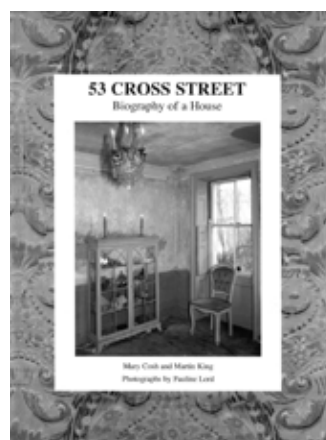
Martin King, who moved here in 1990, became fascinated by the house's history, and uncovered many original features, including paintwork of 1785.

By the time he left Cross Street, he had a remarkably complete record of the decor of the house.

An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury

Mary Cosh
£4.50 + 69p p&p, Islington Archaeology & History Society

Lots of twists and turns in this walk that starts at Angel. It starts with through Chapel Market, a street of professionals that became the most crowded market in London, boasting 30 drapery stalls in 1893, to the start of Barnsbury proper, at the site of former pleasure gardens, with trade union and market history. See the classic houses and squares for which Barnsbury is best



known – and unusual features such as sphinxes guarding a door.

An Historical Walk Along the New River

Mary Cosh
£5 + 69p p&p, IAHS
This historical walk along the route of the New River, from the New River Head at Sadler's Wells, takes a few diversions, 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.

Little Italy. The Story of London's Italian Quarter

Tudor Allen
Call for price; Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre
In the 19th century, so many Italians lived in the area between Farringdon Road, Holborn and Gray's Inn Road that it became known as Little Italy.

This publication tells tales of "ice cream, organ grinders and monkeys, hokey-pokey men [ice cream sellers], murder, gangsters and spectacular processions".

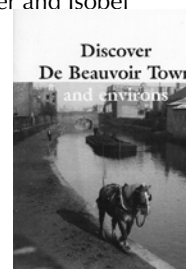
Discover Be Beauvoir Town and Environs

David Mander and Isobel Watson

£1.50 + 69p p&p, Friends of Hackney Archives

This A5 booklet describes a walk that takes in two delightful town squares, a canal towpath, plenty of interesting architecture and a cosmopolitan street scene.

It is a walk of contrasts, from the bustle of Kingsland Road to the leafy tranquillity of Albion Square, and from towering edifices to bijou villas. The booklet contains modern and historical pictures.



Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

Name

Address

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

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

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

All books on this page can be ordered using the form – for more than one item or for trade orders, call 020 7833 1541

Underground. How the Tube Shaped London

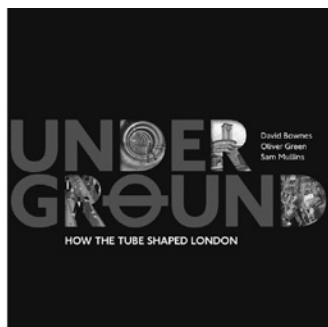
David Bownes, Oliver Green and Sam Mullins

£25, hardback, 288pp, Penguin

The book tells the story of the Underground and how it made London the city it is today. It runs from its Victorian beginnings, through the days of suburban ambition and Metro-land and the Second World War to the London Overground and Crossrail works.

The tube's history is told through the stories of entrepreneurs, architects, politicians, passengers, engineers, financiers, designers and social reformers, against a changing political and social backdrop.

A wealth of detail is given, some drawn on rare and



hitherto unseen sources, as you would expect from the authors – former London Transport Museum head curator David Bownes, director Sam Mullins and Oliver Green, the museum's first curator, then head curator and now research fellow.

It is a fine pictorial history, with photographs, maps, illustrations and, of course, Harry Beck's classic tube map and posters spanning

the decades.

The artistic history is traced, with Leslie Green's oxblood red stations, Charles Holden's art deco designs and Frank Pick's signs and maps; a poster from 1933 urges: "The latest in railway station architecture. Come and see it."

More recently, a photograph shows just how narrow the platform between the lines of Angel station was. The new station has the longest escalators on the system; the spiral escalator, built at Holloway Road but never adopted, is also described.

The authors have delivered both a fascinating, thorough history, and something that can be dipped in and out of at leisure.

Christy Lawrance

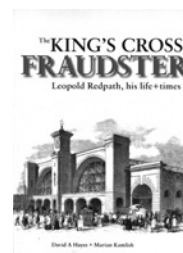
The King's Cross Fraudster. Leopold Redpath, his Life and Times

David A Hayes and Marian Kamlish

£9.99 + £2.50 p&p via www.camdenhistorysociety.org,

Camden History Society This book is a "real corker", as Camden History Society publications editor Dr Peter Woodford says.

The story is of Leopold Redpath, one of the greatest embezzlers of the 19th century, and this publication tells of his rise from a poverty-stricken childhood through to his eventual arrest, conviction and transportation to Australia and his life there.



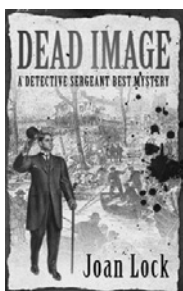
He hobnobbed with the great and the good, posing as a wealthy, affable philanthropist, when all the time he was relieving his employers, the Great Northern Railway, of many thousands of pounds, worth £20 million in today.

Redpath had many positions in the ever-expanding Victorian business world. The one that took him on a path of embezzlement started in 1847, when he worked in the share registration department of the GNR as chief clerk.

By 1850 Redpath – still a clerk on £160 a year – had purloined more than £16,000 from his employers, enabling him to rise slowly in society and to entertain in his luxurious houses.

I had to read it twice to take in his complicated and near-profitable life. Even when he ended up in Australia he... but no, I will let the reader find out – and enjoy it all as much as I did.

Peter Fuller



Dead Image

Joan Lock
£7.99,
Mystery
Press.

Available
from the
IAHS

Inspector

Best travels the streets of Victorian London solving crimes just as the modern city takes shape.

He can ride on the new Metropolitan Railway and send telegrams but, in other respects, works in a still unmechanised London of horse cabs and gaslights.

No review of a detective book should give away the plot. Suffice to say, the story concerns an "extra" dead body found when a canal cargo boat's load of gunpowder explodes on the Regent's Canal, demolishing a chunk of St John's Wood in the process.

We are then drawn into a world of late-Victorian class tensions as the suburb's

upper-crust residents show their resentment at being quizzed by a mere rozzer, while the servant classes treat Best with equal suspicion.

The cargo had been loaded at City Road Wharf, and the ice house now in the King's Cross canal museum also features, so for Islington readers there is some familiar territory.

There are a couple of stylistic surprises – Best breaks into Italian several dozen pages before we learn that his mother was from Italy – and there is an implausible coincidence around the discovery of a body.

A good read none the less and an atmospheric invocation of a past age.

Mark Smulian

● *Dead Born* and *Dead Image* by Joan Lock are both stocked by the IAHS.

● See page 18 to read how Joan Lock carries out research for her historical crime novels.

Heritage Works

English Heritage, with the British Property Federation, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Deloitte

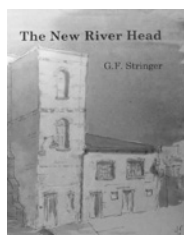
Free, www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/heritage-works/ *Heritage Works* is a step-by-step guide on the regeneration of the historic environment and heritage buildings for developers, owners, practitioners and community groups.



It has been updated to cover new national planning policy guidance.

This publication looks at planning heritage-led regeneration, issues to consider when assessing heritage properties, planning and integrating the historic environment into new developments.

Case studies show how heritage-based regeneration can work in practice.



The New River Head
GF Stringer
£10 + £1.40
p&p,
Amwell
Society,
sponsored

by Thames Water, info@
amwell.org.uk

This is a facsimile of the 1927 *Some Descriptive Notes on the New River Head*, reprinted to mark both the 400th anniversary of the New River and the Amwell Society's 40th anniversary.

It describes itself as a "handy guide" for people visiting the new headquarters of the Metropolitan Water Board.

This reprint gives a political, technical, architectural and human history of the New River Head. This reprint's age is apparent in its somewhat

formal tone, and in that some of the photographs of buildings have been retouched.

It begins with a description of the site and buildings, before moving through the tortuous journey of the plans for the New River. Sir Hugh Myddelton encountered resistance to his proposed scheme, and it needed backing from the king to succeed.

As a company history, the book covers the finances, shares, governance and technical details – including the replacement of stone and wooden water pipes with cast iron ones.

The book is illustrated with paintings, photographs, drawings and maps.

Corporate pride is evident not only in the story of bringing water to London,

but also in the Metropolitan Water Board's preservation of the Oak Room: "The Oak Room excites the admiration of all who see it. It is handsomely decorated with oak wainscoting, the whole of the sides from floor to ceiling being of thick black oak.... Much of the carving in this Oak Room – one of the delights of connoisseurs, and certainly unique of its kind – is reputed to be the work of Grinling Gibbons." This chapter is illustrated with close-up photographs of the carvings, showing in intricate detail every leaf and feather.

The Oak Room was moved to the water board's new offices "without damage" and the ceiling "not cut in any way, and moved in one piece by a crane" which must have been an extraordinary feat.

Manor Gardens Centre 1913-2013. A Century of Service in Community Health and Social Care

Andrew Turton
£12.50 + £2
p&p, Manor
Gardens Centre,
6-9 Manor
Gardens, N7
6LA, 020 7272
423, www.



manorgardenscentre.org
This book marks the centenary of Manor Gardens Centre. The centre was founded by Florence Keen to improve family health at a time when many babies died before reaching their first birthday.

Volunteers provided a "school for mothers", which offered advice and support to less privileged mothers in preventing death and disease in children.

From the outset, the emphasis was on education and self-help. Services expanded to include dentistry, an eye clinic and keep-fit classes.

Sunlight treatment for rickets was seen as an invaluable service, as most local people lived in overcrowded homes.

Additional services, including family planning, marriage guidance counselling and health visiting, were added over the years.

Last year, Islington residents voted for Florence Keen to be commemorated with a green plaque, which will be unveiled this year.

The book, by Manor Gardens' chairman, is illustrated with colour and black and white photographs and line drawings, and all proceeds go to the centre.

● *A Short, Remarkable Road*, a brief history of Manor Gardens by Andrew Turton, appeared in the spring 2012 issue of the *Journal*.

Britain in Old Photographs: Islington Islington: the Second Selection

Gavin Smith
£12.99 + £1.40 p&p, History
Press, available from the
Islington Archaeology &
History Society

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

Britain in Old Photographs: Islington starts in the 1860s. Roads are busy with horse-buses, motor-buses, trains and the

occasional car. Children play in the streets, and architecture is on a human scale.

The second collection shows changes in transport, architecture and industry, from the introduction of street lamps to the appearance of fashionable shops on Holloway Road and the replacement of horse trams with electric trams.

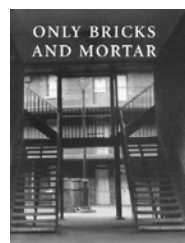
Only Bricks and Mortar
Harry Walters
Islington Archaeology & History Society, £7.99 + £1.40 p&p
A tale of boyhood in the



Book reviewers wanted

Are you interested in reviewing books for the *Journal*?

If so, please contact editor Christy Lawrance on news@iahs.org.uk. Let us know if you have any particular area of interest or expertise.



1930s and the Second World War in the notorious council tenements know as the Cottages in Popham Road.

It paints a memorable picture of working class life, lives transformed by the war and the demolition of the flats in 1978, which was influenced to some degree by the filming there of *Cathy Come Home*.

Journal back issues

We have some previous issues of this journal available.

Some have sold out, so please contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 to find out if we have the issue you would like in stock

Publications from the Islington Archaeology & History Society

The society stocks books, postcards, maps and more – including Union Chapel mugs (right). We sell them at our meetings, as well as at public events and local festivals.

Listed below are some of the items we stock. Where no price is given, please call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.



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

Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

Wonder what your manor looked like 100 years ago or in the middle of the 19th century?

The society stocks historical and old Ordnance Survey maps of Islington and other areas of London.

Maps can sell out quickly, so call 020 7833 1541 first to reserve yours.

We have the following maps in stock:

Clerkenwell, King's Cross and The Angel: 1871, 1894, 1914
 Dalston: 1913
 Highbury & Islington: 1874, 1894, 1914,
 Upper Holloway: 1869, 1894, 1914
 Pentonville and The Angel: 1871 (pictured)
 Finsbury Square and Circus: 1873
 Finsbury Park and Stroud Green: 1894, 1912
 Bethnal Green and Bow: 1870, 1894, 1914
 Euston and Regent's Park: 1894, 1913
 Gospel Oak: 1894, 1912
 Hackney: 1870, 1893, 1913
 Highgate: 1869, 1894, 1913
 Holborn and The City: 1895
 Holborn, The Strand & The City: 1873, 1914
 Hornsey: 1894, 1912
 King's Cross and St Pancras: 1871, 1893
 Kentish Town and Camden: 1870, 1913
 Lower Clapton: 1913, 1894, 1868
 Muswell Hill: 1894
 Stoke Newington: 1868, 1894, 1914
 Shoreditch: 1872, 1914
 Stamford Hill 1868, 1894
 Stepney and Limehouse: 1914
 The West End: 1870, 1894, 1914
 Whitechapel, Spitalfields and the Bank: 1873, 1913, 1894

What's on

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

29 March, 6.30-10pm

Friday Late: Eat, Ride, Sleep, Repeat

Celebration of design inspired by the bicycle. Free, Victoria & Albert Museum

Wednesday 3 April, 11am-12pm

Use LMA – Get Started

How to get the best out of the research facilities. Free, London Metropolitan Archives, book on 020 7332 3851

Wednesday 3 April, 2-3pm

The History and Treasures of Guildhall Library

See unique and rare material. Free, Guildhall Library, book on 020 7332 1868

Wednesday 3 April, 6-7.30pm

LGBT History Club

Regular drop-in meeting to explore gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender histories. Free, London Metropolitan Archives

Wednesday 3 April, 12pm

How to Create the Perfect Wife

Talk by Wendy Moore on Thomas Day, who tried to educate two orphan girls to become marriage material in the 18th century. £5/£3.50, Benjamin Franklin House, book on 020 7925 1405, info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Thursday 4 April, 7.30pm

Boating in the 1950s and 1960s

Talk by Colin. £4/concessions, London Canal Museum

Monday 8 April, 2-3pm

Exploring Spitalfields

Talk by Tim Kidd. Free, London Metropolitan Archives

Tuesday 9 April, 2-3pm

The Huguenot Silk Weavers: from Riches to Rags

Free, Guildhall Library

Tuesday 9 April

Nautical Archaeology – Past, Present and Future

Talk by Mark Beattie-Edwards, Nautical Archaeology Society. 8pm, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3. Hendon and District Archaeological Society

Wednesday 10 April, 2-3pm

Tracing Your Huguenot Ancestors

Free, London Metropolitan Archives, book on 020 7332 3851

Wednesday 10 April, 8pm

The Alchemy of Dust –

Waste and Recycling in 19th-Century London

Talk by D Peter Hounsell. £1.50, Union Church Hall, corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park, N8 9PX. Hornsey Historical Society

Wednesday 10 April, 6-8pm

Inconvenient People: Lunacy, Liberty and the Mad-Doctors in Victorian England

£5 including wine reception, Guildhall Library, book on 020 7332 1870

Wednesday 10 April, 5.45pm

PLUTO – Lifeblood for D Day and Beyond

Lecture by Alan Green. Newcomen Society, Fellows' Room, Science Museum

Thursday 11 April, 2-3pm

Behind the Scenes Tour at LMA

Free, London Metropolitan Archives, book on 020 7332 3851

Saturday 13 April, 2pm

Engineering on the Thames

Cruise looking at engineering landmarks including the Dome, the Tate and Lyle sugar refinery and Crossness sewage works. £35.50. No children under 7. <http://open-city.org.uk/activities/yearround/boat.html>

Saturday 13 April, 2pm

The Day Parliament Burned Down

Talk by Dr Caroline Shenton. £3/free, Senate House, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU. Historical Association, 020 7323 1192, email chris@ganjou.com

Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April, 11am-5pm

We Love Steam!

Spring open weekend at London Transport Museum's depot, with the Metropolitan steam locomotive no 1 in steam and Metropolitan carriage 353. Steam rides on the miniature railway, films, workshops, talks and book signings, plus the Ffestiniog Railway's narrow gauge train *Prince*. £10/£8, book on 020 7565 7298 or www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Wednesday 17 April, 2pm

The Everyday Heroes of Postman's Park

Talk by John Price, with a guided visit to the memorial afterwards. Free, Guildhall Library

Thursday 18 April, 2pm

'53, '63, '73 Living It Large

Talk on late 20th century living in London through

Union Chapel tours

Visitors to the Union Chapel rarely have the chance to appreciate fully the beauty, complex architecture, and extent of the grade I listed buildings. From a secret passage to a hidden garden, there is much the public doesn't usually see.

Guided tours of around an hour are held on the first Sunday of the month at 12.15pm. We can also arrange more detailed, longer tours and group tours, as well as tours and discussions tailored to your interest.

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



décor, furnishings and architecture.
Free, London Metropolitan Archives, book on 020 7332 3851

Thursday 18 April, 6-8pm
**Meeting Their Makers:
Encounters With South
London's Early Ceramicists
and Stoneware
Manufacturers**

Lecture by Colin Fenn.
Free, Cuming Museum, Old
Walworth Town Hall, SE1,
020 7525 2332, cuming.
museum@southwark.gov.uk

Thursday 18 April 6.30pm
**Darby Sabini, the
'Godfather' of Clerkenwell**

Talk by crime journalist
Peter Stubbley on Darby
Sabini, an Anglo-Italian
criminal and notorious
Clerkenwell gang leader of
the 1920s and 1930s, who
was immortalised as the
gangster Colleoni in Graham
Greene's novel *Brighton Rock*.
Free, Islington Museum

Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm
**St Clement's Hospital, past,
present and future**

Talk by Calum Green.
Latimer Congregational
Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1.
East London History Society

Thursday 18 April, 7.30pm
**Alec Craig, Poet and
Radical**

Talk by Richard Espley.
£1, Burgh House, NW3 1LT.
Camden History Society

Friday 19 April, 8pm
**Excavations and Fieldwork of
Enfield Archaeology Society
2012; plus AGM**

Talk by Dr Martin Dearne
and Mike Dewbrey.
£1/free, Jubilee Hall,
2 Parsonage Lane, EN2.
Enfield Archaeology Society

Sunday 21 April, 3.30pm
**Peckham and Nunhead
Residents and Visitors: the
Inside Story**



Simone Novotny reveals the lives and stories of the inhabitants of 30 of the 700 new homes at the former Arsenal stadium. Stands Alone, Geffrye Museum, see page 27

Talk by John Beasley.
Goose Green Centre,
St John's Church, Goose
Green, East Dulwich Road,
SE22. Peckham Society

Wednesday 24 April, 12pm
**The Thatched House
Petition**

Talk by Catherine Leitch on
the petition to King
George III over the Boston
Tea Party.
£5/£3.50, Benjamin Franklin
House, book on 020 7925
1405, info@Benjamin
FranklinHouse.org

Wednesday 24 April
Octavia Hill
Talk by Pamela Wright.
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church
Hall, Friern Barnet Lane.
Friern Barnet & District
Local History Society

Wednesday 24 April, 2-3pm
**Focus on Family History
at LMA**
Family history beginners'
research workshop.
Free, London Metropolitan
Archives, book on 020 7332
3851

Friday 26 and Saturday 27 April
**Behind the Scenes at the
Museum Depot**
Tours of London Transport
Museum's depot in Acton.
£12/concessions, book in
advance 020 7565 7298 or at
www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Thursday 2 May, 7.30pm
**The Work of the Waterway
Recovery Group**

Talk by Martin Ludgate and
Tim Lewis.
£4/concessions, London
Canal Museum

Sunday 5 May
**London to Brighton Run of
the Historic Commercial
Vehicle Society**
Starts at Crystal Palace Park,
7am-9am. www.hcvs.co.uk

Wednesday 8 May, 8pm
**Arthur Morrison and 'Child
of the Jago'**
Talk by Stan Newens.
£1.50, Union Church Hall,
Crouch End, N8 9PX.
Hornsey Historical Society

Wednesday 8 May, 5.45pm
**Engines for the Titanic and
After – Insights From a
Ship's Engineer**
Lecture by John Porter.
Newcomen Society, Fellows'
Room, Science Museum

Thursday 9 May, 7.30pm
**Film: Wapping Parents'
Action Group**
Film introduced by Ray
Newton and John Tarby.
Latimer Congregational
Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1
East London History Society

*Sunday 12 May, 11am, 12pm,
2pm, 3pm and 4pm,*
Guided Tunnel Boat Trips

Fifty-minute tour through
London's longest canal tunnel.
£8.30/concessions, book
ahead, London Canal
Museum

Tuesday 14 May
**10,000 Years of History
Beneath Your Feet: the
Thames Foreshore**

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

Wednesday 15 May, 6.30pm
**Henry VIII: Renaissance
Monarch**

Talk by Dr Glenn Richardson.
£3/free, Senate House, Malet
Street, WC1E 7HU.
Historical Association,
020 7323 1192, chrissie@
ganjou.com

Thursday 16 May, 7.30pm
**Between Worlds: London
and Africa 1500-1833**
Talk by Miranda Kaufmann
and Kate Donington.
£1, Holborn Library, 32-38
Theobalds Road WC1X 8PA.
Camden History Society

Friday 17 May, 6pm
**Elvis has Left the Building;
Behind the Scenes at the
Rainbow Theatre**
Talk by Rick Burton, former
Rainbow Theatre stage
manager. A must for rock,
reggae and punk music fans.
Free, Islington Museum

Friday 17 May, 8pm
**Skeletal Material in the
Museum**
Talk by Jelena Bekvalac,
curator, human osteology at
the Museum of London.
£1/free, Jubilee Hall,
2 Parsonage Lane, EN2.
Enfield Archaeology Society

Saturday 18 May, noon
**Joe Meek Society AGM and
Acoustic Session**
Metro Bar, 295 Holloway
Road, N7.
www.rhis.co.uk/jmas/



Spitalfields Huguenot houses

part in the story of the Spitalfields silk weavers.

● www.huguenotsofspitalfields.org

8-21 April

Festival: the Huguenots of Spitalfields

Walks, talks and other events celebrating the silk weaving industry created by the Huguenots, the French Protestant refugees who fled Catholic France from the 16th century. It is also the 250th anniversary of the death of Anna Maria Garthwaite, an outstanding English textile designer who played an important

Exhibitions

28 March-29 September

Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum

The cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in southern Italy were buried in 24 hours when volcano Vesuvius erupted in AD 79. The excavation of these cities has given us unparalleled insight into daily Roman life. The exhibition includes domestic furniture, such as a linen chest, an inlaid stool, a garden bench and a baby's crib that still rocks on its curved runners. Casts of some of the victims are on show, including a family of two adults and two children under the stairs of their villa. £15/concessions, British Museum

Until 13 April

A Woman's Place

Exhibition on role of women in the British Armed Forces, from the Second World War to Afghanistan today, with items from Firepower's archives and pictures by British photojournalist Alison Baskerville, who accompanied a troop to Afghanistan in 2012. Firepower: the Royal Artillery Museum, Woolwich, SE18 6ST, 020 8855 7755, www.firepower.org.uk, £5.30/concessions

Until 14 April

Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men

Early 19th century history of human dissection and the trade in bodies through evidence unearthed during Museum of London Archaeology excavations at the Royal London Hospital. Includes detailed anatomical models and drawings, and surgical instruments. Not suitable for children under 12 or the squeamish. Various charges, Museum of London

Tuesday 16 April-Monday 26 August

Stands Alone

Exhibition about the residents of Highbury Stadium Square, the housing complex at the former Arsenal stadium. Simone Novotny's photographs, with audio and video testimony, illustrate the difficulties in creating and maintaining a sense of community. See picture on previous page. £5/£3 concs, Geffrye Museum. Photographs online at www.eyesofchange.com/standsalone/

Until 17 April 2013

Cartographies of Life and Death – John Snow and Disease Mapping

Exhibition inspired by the work of John Snow, who traced the source of a deadly cholera outbreak in 1850s London to a water pump in Soho. Historical treasures and new artworks are presented in the style of a disease-mapping trail. Free, Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, WC1E 7HT, www.johnsnow.org.uk

Until 25 April

Frozen London

Some of London's most severe winters were recorded between 1683 and 1895. This exhibition looks at the Frost Fairs on the River Thames, as well as the problems the severe weather caused. London Metropolitan Archives, free

Until 5 May

Bubbles and Bankruptcy: Financial Crises in Britain since 1700

Display looking at speculative frenzy, fraud and failure from the South Sea bubble to today. It includes share certificates,

Saturday 18 May

Canal Museum: Museums at Night

Event with late bar; details to be confirmed. Part of the festival of after-hours events in museums, galleries and heritage sites. www.culture24.org.uk/museumsatnight

Saturday 18 May, from 4.30pm

The Hunterian Museum's Story So Far

Event to mark 200 years since the Hunterian opened with lectures, a drinks reception and the launch of *Medical Museums* book. Lectures and reception free, Hunterian Museum, book on 020 7869 6568

Sunday 19 May

Art Deco Special

1938 tube trains and the 1920s Sarah Siddons locomotive will travel to the Rickmansworth festival. Tickets up to £20, London Transport Museum

Monday 20 May

Ice Well Study Day

Details to be announced, London Canal Museum

Wednesday 22 May

The 1960s: the John Donovan Memorial Lecture

and AGM

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

Friday 24 and Saturday 25 May

Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot, plus Art and Poster Tours

Tours at London Transport Museum's depot in Acton. £12/concessions, book in advance on 020 7565 7298 or at www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Saturday 25-Monday 27 May

Steam Back on the Met

Metropolitan steam locomotive no 1 to run on the Metropolitan line. Tickets up to £40, London Transport Museum

Sunday 26 May, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm

Guided Tunnel Boat Trips

Fifty-minute tour through London's longest canal tunnel. £8.30/concs, book ahead, London Canal Museum

Thursday 6 June, 7pm

The Quick and the Dead

Talk by Jane Sidell. St Pancras Church, Pancras Road, NW1. www.posp.co.uk

prospectuses, bank notes and other objects to explain how, why and when financial crises have happened and how society has responded with prints, cartoons, badges and art.

2 May-24 August

From Colman to Costello: a History of the Astoria Cinema and Rainbow Theatre, Finsbury Park

From Colman to Costello takes a trip down movie and music memory lane to the halcyon days of this world-famous cinema and concert venue. In 1930, the Astoria cinema brought luxury and entertainment to north London. Later, it became a music venue, and the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, Frank Sinatra, Jimi Hendrix, the Who, Frank Zappa and Miles Davis played here, as well as notable acts from 1970s reggae, punk and new wave scenes. Free, Islington Museum

10 May-23 August

From Hollywood to Highbury: Islington Goes to the Movies

Explore the history of Islington's cinematic past, from the Cinematograph Theatre in Finsbury Park to the People's Picture Palace in Clerkenwell. There have been more than 40 picture houses in Islington since 1896, and this exhibition looks at their history, along with that of the film studios, technology and the stars. Free, Islington Museum

Tuesday 14 May-Saturday 9 November

Opened Up: 200 years of the Hunterian Museum

Exhibition of collections of human anatomy and pathology and natural history, as well as works of art. This exhibition covers who took care of these items,

where and how were they were displayed, who visited them and the museum's role in surgical education. Free, Hunterian Museum

Until 19 May

Barbara Nessim: an Artful Life

The first solo show in the UK of work by internationally renowned artist and illustrator Barbara Nessim. This display presents around 80 works from the 1960s to the 2000s. Ms Nessim's work has graced the cover of nearly every major American magazine, and ranges from provocative drawings and paintings that represent her feminist views to advertising campaigns. Free, Victoria and Albert Museum

Until 26 May

Ice Age Art: Arrival of the Modern Mind

The world's oldest known sculptures, drawings and portraits – made 10,000-40,000 years ago – are presented alongside modern works. They show scale, perspective, volume, light and movement, as well as abstraction and illusion. British Museum, £10/concessions

Until 30 June

Codebreaker – Alan Turing's Life and Legacy

Exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of pioneering computer scientist and wartime codebreaker Alan Turing. On show is largest collection of Turing artefacts in one place, including a device used to break



Palaeolithic era fragment of reindeer bone engraved with reindeer image, from Ice Age Art, open until 26 May



Star Girl by Barbara Nessim, at the Victoria & Albert Museum

Enigma never before displayed outside GCHQ. Free, Science Museum

Until 14 July 2013

Treasures of the Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts and the Russian Tsars

Exhibition examining the development of cultural diplomacy and trade between Britain and Russia from its origins in 1555. This exhibition reveals the majesty of the royal courts of Henry VIII to Charles II and Ivan IV (Ivan the Terrible) to the early Romanovs. Comprising more than 150 objects, the exhibition includes heraldry, processional armour, paintings, jewellery furnishings and clothing. £8/concessions, Victoria and Albert Museum

Until 8 September

Extinction: Not the End of the World?

Exploration of the role of extinction in evolution, with original

specimens including giant deer and birds. Various charges, Natural History Museum

Until 27 October

Poster Art 150 – London Underground's Greatest Designs

Exhibition of 150 posters, with a rare opportunity to view letter-press posters from the late 19th century. £15.00 (includes museum entry for one year)/concessions, London Transport Museum

Until 5 January 2014

Music Hall: Sickert and the Three Graces

Installation by theatre makers, video artists and designers on the rise and fall of music hall entertainment. Oil paintings and sketches of the Bedford Music Hall in Camden Town by Walter Sickert, whose studios were close to the theatre, will be displayed together for the first time. Also on show will be Victorian song sheets, original programmes, comic caricatures and delicate *cartes de visite*. Free, Victoria & Albert Museum

Directory

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

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

Abney Park

020 7275 7557,
www.abney-park.org.uk

Alexandra Palace TV Group

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

Alexandra Palace TV Society

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

All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum

020 7481 2928, www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/

Amateur Geological Society

25 Village Road, N3 1TL

Amwell Society

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

Anaesthesia Heritage Centre

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

The Angel Association

www.angelassociation.org.uk

Architectural Heritage Fund

Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Rd, 020 7925 0199, ahf@ahfund.org.uk

Arsenal FC Museum

020 7619 5000, www.arsenal.com

Association of Preservation Trusts

Alhambra House, 27-31 Charing Cross Rd, WC2, www.ukapt.org.uk, 020 7930 1629

Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics

www.asprom.org

Bank of England Museum

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

Barnet Museum and Local History Society

www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

BBC archive

www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum

Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX, 020 3228 4227, www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

Bexley Archaeological Group

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

British Airways Heritage

www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb

British Dental Association Museum

64 Wimpole St, W1G 8YS, 020 7563 4549, museum@bda.org, www.bda.org/museum

British Heritage TV Group

www.405-line.tv/

British Museum

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

British Postal Museum and Archive

Freeling House, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DL, and store at Debden, Essex, 020 7239 2570, [minicom 020 7239 257, info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk)

British Vintage Wireless Society

secretary@www.bvws.org.uk

Bruce Castle Museum

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

Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

Burgh House, New End Sq, NW3 1LT, 020 7431 0144, www.burghhouse.org.uk

Camden History Society

020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Camden New Town History Group

www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust

21 Oppidans Road, NW3 3AG secretary@crht1837.org

The Canonbury Society

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

Cartoon Museum

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

City of London Archaeological Society

email@colas.org.uk

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association

07971 296731, info@ciga.org.uk

Clockmakers' Museum

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

Cross Bones Graveyard

www.crossbones.org.uk/

Crossness Engines Trust

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

Docklands History Group

020 7537 0368, info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

Dictionary of Victorian London/Cat's Meat Shop

Encyclopaedia and blog, www.victorianlondon.org

East London History Society

42 Campbell Rd, E3 4DT, mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Enfield Archaeological Society

www.enfarchsoc.org

Alexander Fleming Museum

St Mary's Hospital, Praed St, W2 1NY, 020 3312 6528, www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/museumsandarchives/

Friends of Avenue House

17 East End Road, N3 3QE, 020 8346 7821, www.friendsofavenuehouse.org

Friends of Hackney Archives

43 De Beauvoir Rd, N1 5SQ

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk. Photo archive: www.friern-barnet.com

Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

The Foundling Museum

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

Forest Hill Society

www.foresthillsociety.com

Friends of Friendless Churches

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society

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

Geffrye Museum

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

Georgian Group

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

Gresham College

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

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)

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

Guildhall Library

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

Hackney Museum

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

The Hackney Society

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

History of Haringay

www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay

Heritage of London Trust

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

Hendon and District Archaeology Society

020 8449 7076, secretary@hadas.org.uk

Heritage Group Website for the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers

www.hevac-heritage.org/

Heritage of London Trust

020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historical Association, Central London Branch

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



Ever been on this? It's now in the London Transport Museum

Historic Towns Forum

www.historictownsforum.org

Honourable Artillery Company Museum

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

Hornsey Historical Society

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

Hunterian Museum

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

Island History Trust

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

Islington Local History Centre

Finsbury Library, 245 St John

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

Islington Museum

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

Islington Pensioners' Forum

1a Providence Court,
Providence Place, N1 0RN

Islington Society

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

Joe Meek Society

www.rhis.co.uk/jmas

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4,
www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

Green Dragon Lane, TW8,
020 8568 4757, www.kbsm.org

Locating London's Past

www.locatinglondon.org

London Canal Museum

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

London Fire Brigade Museum

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

London Lives 1690-1800

www.londonlives.org

London Metropolitan Archives

40 Northampton 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

London Museums of Health & Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group

<http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com>

London Society

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

London Transport Museum

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

LT Museum Friends
020 7565 7296, www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

London Underground Railway Society
enquiries@lurs.org.uk

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

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum

Markfield Park, N15, 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org

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

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

Medieval Pottery Research Group
www.medievalpottery.org.uk

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

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

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

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

Museum of London Docklands
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

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

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

National Piers Society
www.piers.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Peckham Society
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Proceedings of the Old Bailey
www.oldbaileyonline.org

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

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

Rescue
British Archaeological Trust, 15a Bull Plain, Hertford, SG14 1DX, 01992 553377, www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

Society of Genealogists
14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, EC1M 7BA, 020 7251 8799, www.societyofgenealogists.com

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

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS)
79 Ashridge Crescent, SE18

St Marylebone Society
www.stmarylebonesociety.org

Royal Archaeological Institute
admin@royalarchinst.org

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

Tottenham Civic Society
www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Wallpaper History Society
wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society
37 Chewton Road, E17 7DW, contact@walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org

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

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

William Morris Gallery
Lloyd Park, Forest Road, E17 4PP, 020 8496 4390, www.wmgallery.org.uk

Wilmington Square Society
www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org

Women's Library Collection
www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

Events

Wednesday 17 April

150 Years of the London Underground

Speakers: Lester Hillman and Andrew Gardner

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

Andrew Gardner, chairman of the society, has long had a fascination with the underground, various plans for it both completed and aborted, and its cartography. He was in the driver's cab on the last passenger service to Aldwych.

Lester Hillman, the society's academic adviser, has long been involved with transport infrastructure in London, most notably around St Pancras for various organisations.

Wednesday 15 May

From Islington to Central Europe

Speaker: Dr Thomas Lorman

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

Dr Thomas Lorman has held lecturing posts in history at University College London and the University of Cincinnati. His research interests include British relations with Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, particularly Hungary.

Wednesday 18 June

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

Speaker: David Ellis

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

David Ellis is a PhD student working on contemporary British history, including community action in urban Britain.

This talk will follow the AGM at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18 September

The New River Company, 400 years on

Speaker from the Friends of the New River Head

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

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

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

Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society will be held at 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Walk: George Orwell's Islington

George Orwell was at his most prolific during his time in Islington.

He was living at 27b Canonbury Square when *Animal Farm* was published. While in Canonbury, he drafted *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, published numerous essays and articles, and broadcast extensively.



Orwell's press card picture, taken in 1933

The tour takes in locations that inspired Orwell. It also includes links to Arthur Koestler, John Betjeman, Malcolm Muggeridge and the Bloomsbury Set.

The walk itself takes about 90 minutes, with an additional hour for questions, answers and debate over tea or coffee, or ale at one of Orwell's favourite pubs.

Cost £8/£7 concessions

Dates and times are flexible

Email: walks@iahs.org.uk

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Back page picture

Steam returned to Farringdon Station this year, generated by the 1898 Metropolitan locomotive no 1, to mark 150 years since the Metropolitan Railway Company opened the first underground railway in London

