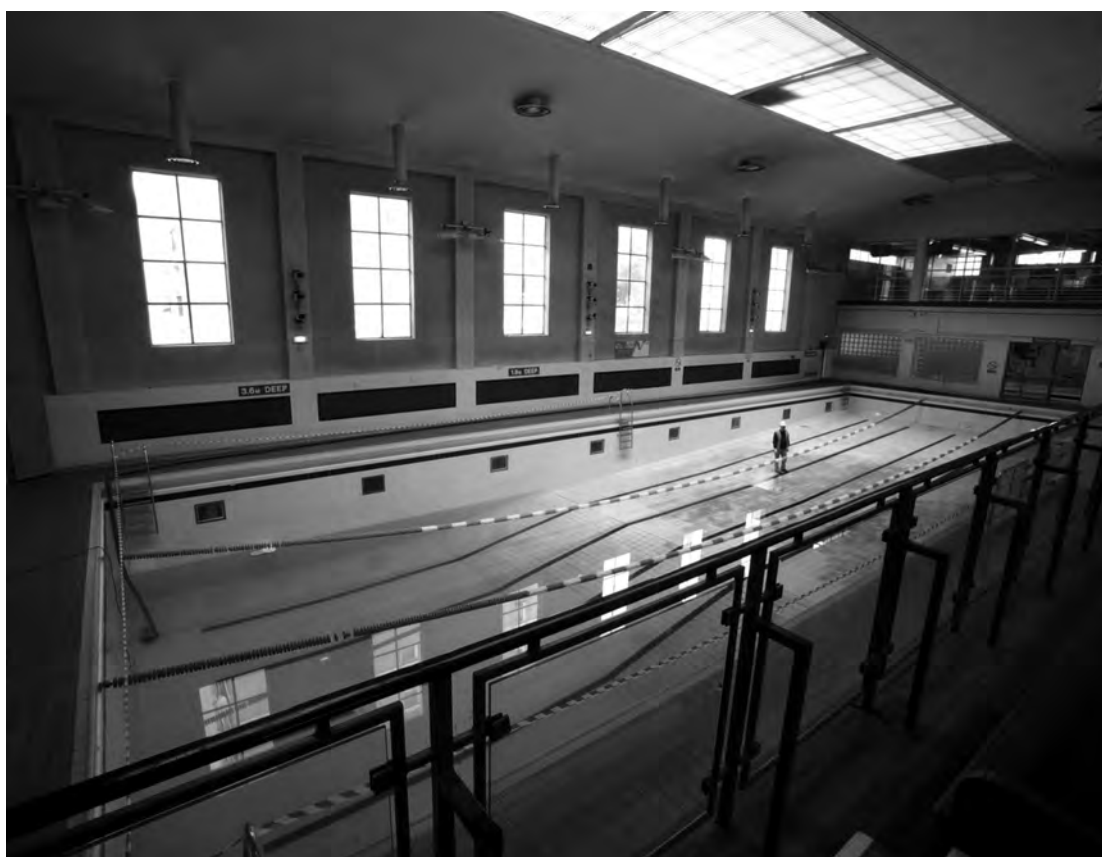


# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 1 No 2 Summer 2011



## Dip into history at Ironmonger Row

Cultural and historical importance of public baths celebrated in words and pictures

Trams below ground: the Hungarian connection ● Victorian social history and business ideas from Beale's store's records ● Strength in unity and workers' history in TUC library ● Archaeology along the railway from King's Cross to Kent ● Artist Geoffrey Fletcher's Islington pictures ● Scandal of baby farming: *The Ghost of Lily Painter* book launch ● Inspiration from tough lives for Islington novel *The Street* ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

# About the society

## What we do

The society arranges lectures, walks, visits and outings in relation to the archaeology and history of Islington.

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks are arranged for groups.

### Why archaeology?

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

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

### Our website

Go to [www.iahs.org.uk](http://www.iahs.org.uk) to find out more about us and find out about our events.

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

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

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

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

Deadline for the autumn is 15 August.

### Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history,

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

• See Letters, page 6

### Copyright

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### Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

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## Join us and benefit from membership

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

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

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

Members also receive the journal four times a year.

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

✂ (photocopies acceptable)

### Membership form

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

Name(s) .....

Address .....

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

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

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

# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 1 No 2 Summer 2011

## The architectural revolution began here

The pictures in this issue of street demolition in Finsbury Park (page 23) bring to mind the work of one of our founding members, Harley Sherlock.

With others of his generation of architects who qualified in the late 1950s, he saw that low-rise high-density housing could use exactly the same economy of land as high-rise tower blocks – and went on to demonstrate it.

A human aspect was returned to new building, carrying the spirit of Lubetkin – “nothing is too good for ordinary people” – and recognising the importance of community. Children playing outside should be within earshot of a mother calling from the top floor.

My mother was a school teacher in south London at that time. Newly housed children would come to school starry-eyed and exclaim: “It’s like a palace in the sky!” Most of them had never known indoor plumbing before.

It is easy to rue the day that large estates were built, some – let’s be fair – very good but many very bad. In context, large numbers of people needed to be housed, as quickly as possible, at minimal cost. It worked for a short time.

Renovated street properties as social housing have worked better here in Islington than the alternative of postwar housing developments in other parts of London, many of which have reached or passed their estimated lifespans.

Through chance, luck and sometimes incompetence, we have been left some of the finest streets and squares in the capital, and some of the most attractive streetscapes in the country.

*Andrew Gardner*

*Chairman*

*Islington Archaeology & History Society*



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## In brief

### Archivists to tweet across the globe

Archivists around the world will be able ask each other questions and discuss their collections at the Twitter Ask Archivists event on 9 June. The event, which will have the #AskArchivists hashtag, will allow archivists and others on Twitter to get in contact with each other.

### An old-fashioned stink pervades the library

If you think there's a funny smell near the leaflet rack in your library, it could be the scratch 'n' sniff cards advertising the *Dirt: the filthy reality of everyday life*, at the Wellcome Collection. The cards have panels that smell of an 18th century tannery, pong de Paris, Marie Antoinette's perfume and sewage sludge. Lovely.

- See events, page 28

### Historical architecture research bursary

A postgraduate research bursary worth £10,000 a year over three years is being offered by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. Applications to the Jonathan Vickers bursary have to be made by 31 July.

- [www.sahgb.org.uk](http://www.sahgb.org.uk).

### Win somewhere to stay with Georgian Group

Prizes in the Georgian Group's raffle this year include a week's holiday accommodation in Venice, California, Lazio, the Swiss Alps, Chelsea or the Scottish Highlands. Tickets are £25 or £200 for 10. The closing date is 31 August.

- [www.georgiangroup.org.uk](http://www.georgiangroup.org.uk)

## MP's papers returned to Islington

A talk on a former Islington's MP visit to Hungary organised by the IAHS has resulted in a collection of his papers being returned to Islington.

Archive papers of Sir George Radford, Liberal MP for Islington East 1906-1917, are now in the Islington Local History Centre.

### The find and a talk

While clearing out a relative's house, Sir George's great granddaughter Helen Morton came across a large collection of his papers.

Ms Morton, who is treasurer at Oxford's Somerville College, saw that the IAHS was hosting a talk about his visit to Hungary, which she attended.

She wrote to the society:

"I would like to find a suitable home for all these papers where they could be kept together and could be available for research by anyone interested in knowing how a moderately wealthy Victorian family lived."

"I am hoping to come to this talk and would be very interested to find out more about my great grandfather's activities and his visit to Budapest."

The papers include Radford's diaries spanning over 40 years, travel journals, correspondence with some well-known people, a lot of family correspondence, his will and estate accounts, household receipts and accounts, books written by family members and lots of photographs.

The papers are still being catalogued so are not yet available to view.

Andrew Gardner, IAHS chairman, said: "It was wonderful to hear from a direct descendent."

"As the local history centre has a number of Radford documents, it will be marvellous to see this grow into a very valuable collection on a man who should be very much better known. It is hugely exciting."

"Many thanks to Helen Morton for her very generous donation, to Tom Lorman for putting Radford back on the map, and to Mark Aston at the local history centre."

- See *Trams under ground – the Hungarian connection*, page 10

## Community mural records nearly 1,000 years of EC1 history

A mural telling the story of EC1 from the 12th century to today has been unveiled at Toffee Park Youth Club.

The 22m mural, designed and guided by artist Belle Benfield, was painted by more than 30 young people from the youth club, assisted by a few older EC1 residents.

The mural was the climax of a six-month project which saw participants at three community venues, including Toffee Park Youth Club, exploring the history of EC1 under the expert guidance of Alex Smith from Islington Museum.

Making History was jointly organised by the EC1 Wellbeing Project and Toffee Park Youth Club and funded by NHS Islington and EC1 New Deal for Communities.

Vikki Ball of the Toffee Park Youth Project said: "For the young people at Toffee Park Youth Project, being involved in Making History has not only taught them about the history of EC1 but has also encouraged involvement in creating a piece of their own history – this fantastic new mural."



Finsbury Health Centre features on the mural at Toffee Park

## Presidential address



The Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury, IAHS president, reflected on Islington's progressive spirit in his inaugural address to the society.

Drawing on stories of politics, housing, health and access to library books, he said: "What the history of Islington tells us is that it has always has been the place of radical thought and progressive ideas."



## Medieval walls uncovered

Archaeologists from the Museum of London Archaeology and elsewhere are unearthing medieval and later findings in Islington.

The building at 49-50 St John's Square EC1, in the inner precinct of St John's Priory, has medieval stone walls surviving to ceiling height in the basement.

Recent work has included lowering the basement floor. This revealed another 30cm of the bottom of the medieval wall, which has been recorded. No archaeological deposits were found below the basement floor.

At 3 and 19 Finsbury Square, EC2, monitoring of trial pits in the basement and a trench in the car park has shown that the site had been truncated to the natural brickearth. A late medieval/early post-medieval ditch and drain found in the adjacent site of 1-12 Finsbury Square continued in the trench.

In addition, a 19th century warehouse and stables are being recorded in Wharfdale Road, N1.

## Government planners reject 'poor quality' scheme to redevelop Egyptian-style former cinema

Plans to redevelop a grade II listed Egyptian-style art deco cinema have been thrown out by the planning inspectorate.

The government planning inspector described the scheme proposed for the former Carlton cinema, which included a cinema, conference rooms and flats on top of the building, as being of "poor quality".

Islington council had rejected the plans because of their effects on the building itself and on the Canonbury conservation area. The proposals did not include any affordable housing.

The planning inspectorate said the developer would have to pay the council's costs.

The building closed as a cinema in 1972 and became a Mecca bingo hall. It is on English Heritage's buildings at risk register.

The developer, the Resurrection Manifestations church, which bought the cinema three years ago, is expected to submit a new application.



### 'An exotic reminder of dreams gone by'

● The Carlton cinema, designed by renowned cinema architect George Coles, opened on 1 September 1930, with a screening of *Welcome Danger*. The ceremony was attended by royalty and Islington's mayor. Tickets cost between 6d and 2s.

The auditorium, with 2,248 seats, was topped by a dome. There was a lounge with palm trees on the first floor.

The manager, Mr Logan,

knew the value of publicity. In 1936, when the Carlton ran *The Milky Way*, he got a local dairy to label 6,000 bottles of milk with the message, "Take milk each day for health and see *The Milky Way* at the Carlton for Happiness".

Chris Draper describes the building as "an exotic reminder of dreams gone by".

● Source: Chris Draper, *Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios*. See Publications, page 25

## Blue plaque for office copying pioneer



David Gestetner outside 124 Highbury New Park circa 1905

David Gestetner, the pioneer of office copying technology, has been commemorated with an English Heritage blue plaque at 124 Highbury New Park, his home from 1898 until his death in 1939.

Gestetner's innovations in office copying equipment changed the landscape of the business and finance industries. They effectively founded the modern office and ended the role of City clerks, who were employed to copy documents by hand.

Gestetner was born in Csorna, Hungary, in 1854, moving to London in 1879.

In 1881 he invented the Cyclostyle (see advert), a pen with a tiny sharp-toothed rotating wheel that was used to make a perforated stencil, through which ink was forced to make copies. A good-quality copy could be produced in 10 seconds.

In the same year, Gestetner started production under the name the Cyclostyle Company.

He later applied this system to typewriters.

By 1900, Gestetner employed 100 people at a factory in Cross Street. The business expanded and moved to Tottenham in 1907, and remained open until the 1980s.

His Highbury New Park dates from around 1860. He also lived for several years in nearby Ferntower Road.



## In brief

### Funding to catalogue Sadler's Wells collection

The Islington Local History Centre has been awarded nearly £33,000 to catalogue its Sadler's Wells collection. Dating from the 1730s, this represents all six theatres that have occupied the site since 1683. The papers document how the theatre has survived as an aquatic theatre, a music hall, a theatre for drama, opera and ballet, and in its current incarnation as a dance venue. When completed, the catalogue will be available online and include images.

### More Islington heritage pages go online

There are new heritage pages on Islington's website, with event and exhibition listings, guides to the Local History Centre and information on walks and past exhibitions.

● [www.islington.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.islington.gov.uk/heritage)

### Rescued from a tip and more for the archives

The Local History Centre has acquired a seal from the vestry of St Luke's, which was rescued from a rubbish tip, papers on the Save Finsbury Town Hall campaign of the late 1990s and the papers of Eric Willats, Islington's former principal reference librarian.

### Heritage degrees to cost over £8,000

Most universities in England offering museum- and heritage-related undergraduate degrees plan to charge the maximum £9,000 a year from 2012. The Museums Association survey found that none planned to charge less than £8,000.

# Planners fear money could override merit in 'totally unacceptable' move

Councils will have to take financial matters into account when deciding whether to give planning permission, if the localism bill becomes law.

MPs voted in favour of making "any local finance considerations" material in planning application.

The Royal Town Planning Institute slammed the move as "totally unacceptable", and CivicVoice said it would result in a "profound change with far-reaching consequences for the integrity of the planning system and public confidence in its decisions".

The RTPI said that a financial incentive – such as money from the new homes bonus or community infrastructure payments from developers – could outweigh other factors, such as the views of local people or environmental concerns.

There are concerns that cash-strapped councils would grant consent to unsuitable projects if they came with large payments.

The RTPI said the government had backtracked on a commitment made in February that planning decisions would continue to be taken on the merits rather than money.

### Finance appeal concerns

It is feared that, if a development was rejected because it was unsuitable, a developer could appeal on the grounds that the council had not taken financial issues into account.

RTPI President Richard Summers said: "We are appalled the government is trying to introduce such a fundamental and potentially damaging

change to the planning system without any consultation at such a late stage in the passage of the localism bill."

The Campaign to Protect Rural England said the move would have "hugely damaging consequences for local communities".

Director of policy Neil Sinden said: "Decisions based on financial benefit, rather than on whether proposed development is appropriate, could be hugely damaging to the environment and public confidence in planning."

"It also undermines the fundamental principle that planning decisions should be in the long-term public interest."

The government has said the clause does not change the law. The bill is now being considered by the House of Lords.

## Local authorities turned a blind eye to Pathfinder's damaging potential to secure cash, says planner

A scathing report on the discontinued Pathfinder scheme – which demonised terrace houses as "obsolete" and left areas "half-demolished and derelict" – has been published by SAVE Britain's Heritage.

The report, *Housing Scandal! Pathfinder: a Post-Mortem*, is introduced by planner, Liverpool resident and member of Liverpool Civic Society Jonathan Brown.

Jonathan Brown, a planner, Liverpool resident and member of Liverpool Civic Society, described the Pathfinder housing market

renewal programme as "secretive, top-down and target driven".

He said that the funds made available to local authorities to be involved in Pathfinder "distorted local democracy – councils chased the grant despite the damaging terms".

"You can't entirely blame local authorities on, say Merseyside, for turning a blind eye when up to £2.85bn of investment over 15 years was promised by the city-region's New Heartlands quango.

"That kind of money buys a lot of support, or at least



Derelict shops and housing in Liverpool renewal area

silence... the main parties acted as a 'demolition coalition', afraid to bite the hand that fed such riches, and professional independence was compromised."

# Pooling the memories

A history and photography project about Ironmonger Row Baths is being recorded in time for the pool's reopening in 2012. Polly Rodgers takes a dip into history

**I**ronmonger Row Baths, just off Old Street, is London's best pool for Swimming in History, according to *Time Out* magazine.

A major oral history and photography project – *Plunging into History – Stories from Ironmonger Row Baths and Beyond*, is being produced by Rowan Arts, an Islington arts charity.

This is documenting the baths' cultural and historical importance, and telling the stories of dozens of people who have used the baths and know the surrounding area.

## Early days

In 1844, the Association for Promoting Cleanliness among the Poor built a public washhouse and laundry for



Top: the pool in use; left: washing troughs – wash houses were extremely successful; below: the pool being drained so works can start



the sanitation of the working classes in Glasshouse Yard. The washhouses were so successful that, two years later in 1846, parliamentary legislation "to encourage the establishment of public baths and washhouses" was introduced.

In 1928, the borough carried out a survey of local households and discovered that only 4% had baths of their own. Ironmonger Row Baths was built in response to this. It was not until after World War II that houses were routinely built with their own bathrooms and laundry sinks.

The first plans for a new public baths and washhouse on Ironmonger Row were drawn up by Messrs Cross in 1902. They were rejected on grounds of cost and lay dormant until May 1928, when they were finally agreed.

## Turkish baths and a laundry

In 1931, in a major leap forward in public sanitation, the council opened public washhouses and slipper baths, initially 41 slipper baths for women and 41 for men. In 1938, the extension was opened, which included the swimming pool and Turkish baths. The self-service laundry was opened later in 1960.

Flyers from 1932 show Ironmonger Row offered free

access to the slipper baths for pensioners and unemployed people at 10am-1pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Ironmonger Row Baths has undergone additions and improvements over the years. It closed in May last year for refurbishment and is due to be reopened – restored to its former glory – in time for the London Olympics in 2012.

A book, website and exhibition will be launched by Rowan Arts, alongside the reopening of the baths. The exhibition will tour and 3,000 copies of the book will be given away at the opening.

The website is already up and running, so the project can be followed by visiting [www.plungingintohistory.com](http://www.plungingintohistory.com). ■

● Although interviews are nearly finished, Rowan Arts is keen to hear from people who have worked at the baths and those with exceptionally compelling stories. It is also interested in historical photographs of the baths. If you can help, contact [polly@therowanartsproject.com](mailto:polly@therowanartsproject.com).

Polly Rodgers is assistant project leader on Plunging into History

● *Sweltering Since 1938: Ironmonger Row and the Victorian Turkish Bath*, see Events, page 27, 17 June



# Letters and your questions

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

## Beale's store remembered

Thanks so much for the article (*Beale's store of Holloway Road*, spring 2011, page 8).

The finished result is very high quality indeed. I do hope that the comments that you receive from your members are favourable.

We have many guests every week at West Lodge Park Hotel reminiscing about their wedding or other special occasion that they celebrated at Beale's in Holloway.

Thank you once again.

Andrew Beale

Managing director, Beales Hotels

[www.bealeshotels.co.uk](http://www.bealeshotels.co.uk)

● See page 12

## Queen's Head Street School: why the name change?

I am hoping that, through the channels of the journal, somebody can help me in my research.

The journal for spring of 2011 seems to have surpassed itself in content – it's brilliant. It ticks all the boxes for me!

On to my enquiry. The item on Dame Alice Owen's School reminded me of my school days at Queen's Head Street Secondary Modern in Islington.

I am hoping that some readers might be able to shed some light on my enquiries.

I attended the school from around 1947 to 1952 when I left to start work. Can anyone tell me when it changed to Tudor Rose Secondary Modern and why the name?

I would also like to know the year that the boys' school was demolished and

the new school was built. Did the new build come with the name of Islington Green School then?

If there are any readers who were at the school during this period, I would like to hear from them, via the journal.

As a canal boat owner, due to come through London via the Regent's canal this summer, I was very interested in the *Regency transport* article.

Many thanks for your time.

WG Goodwin

[queenborough@gmail.com](mailto:queenborough@gmail.com)

*Michael Reading writes:*

I will answer the second part of your enquiry first.

Queen's Head Street School originally consisted of two school buildings. These were a graded school for boys and girls age 7-13, built in 1886 and bordered by Queen's Head Street and Rheidol Terrace/Prebend Street, and an infants' school built in 1887, bordered by Queen's Head Street and Raleigh Street. Between the two buildings were the playgrounds.

After the war, the graded school became the Tudor Secondary School. It was demolished in 1962 to make way for a new, much larger building which opened in 1965 as Islington Green School. The school was renamed the City of London Academy in September 2008.

I have not been able to establish why the name was changed to Tudor Secondary School in 1951, but the following may offer a clue.

In 1949, a Ministry of

Education circular asked all London local education authorities to review the names of their schools, particularly those using the name of a thoroughfare, since this was thought to carry a "council school stigma". This definition was not elaborated on.

Renaming was carried out on a large scale. Managers of groups of schools were asked to suggest new names for consideration by education committees. In most cases, they sought the advice of the head teachers and local interests before submitting proposals.

With the above in mind, I suggest a possibility for the name change. The Queen's Head public house at 44 Essex Road was rebuilt after the previous building was demolished in 1829. This had been there from early in the 18th century.

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## Schools named after a road were thought to carry a "council school stigma"

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Like the Old Pied Bull in Upper Street on the corner of Theberton Street, it was linked with Sir Walter Raleigh, hence nearby Raleigh Street. He may have used the old inn, or granted it a licence – a building seems to have been standing there at the time of Queen Elizabeth I. The queen was the last Tudor monarch. I stress that this is conjecture.

At the time of the

renaming, only six of the 21 schools in Islington changed their names, the rest opting to remove "street" or "road" from their names.

The Friends Reunited website has many entries from old pupils who refer to both Tudor School and Tudor Rose School.

## Office name puzzle

I was surprised to see a modern office block in Pentonville Road bearing the nameplate Whittles House.

Since this is my surname and I am unaware of any other person bearing that name, I am curious to know if the name has any local historical significance.

Robert Whittles

[rjw.shalimar@live.co.uk](mailto:rjw.shalimar@live.co.uk)

*Michael Reading writes:*

Whittles House is at 14 Pentonville Road, about 50 yards in from its eastern end, near to the Angel and on the north side of the street left of Angel Mews.

I have looked through all the various records I have on Islington and have searched the internet but, unfortunately, cannot find any reference to the naming of Whittles House.

I have, however, emailed the building's owner, a company called Derwent London, asking if they have any record of the origin of this name, as the building was erected in the late 1980s.

If I receive a reply, I will contact you again. It is unfortunate that your enquiry cannot be answered to your satisfaction.



### Barnsbury Street ancestors

Congratulations on the "new look" journal and its fascinating content, as ever.

In your last issue, Pete Fanning enquired after a plaque at 26A Barnsbury Street (*Seeking an engraved tablet*, spring 2011, page 7).

Whilst I know nothing of the plaque, I can tell you my mother's great-uncle Mark Heslop and his wife Anne (née Holt) lived and worked at the address when he was a Poor Law relieving officer between 1921 and 1929.

Bob Rogers  
London

### Parish at Poole's Park

You were previously asked about St Anne's Church in Poole's Park (summer 2009, page 21).

The Edwardian postcard (pictured) was sent by my grandfather, William Henry Smith, who was vicar's warden at the church, to his daughter Millicent, my mother.

The church was badly damaged by fire bombs or blast in 1940s. My mother and I were ourselves thrice bombed out during that autumn, first from Isledon Road and later from Andover Road, Finsbury Park.

My son took some photographs of the parish when it was being demolished in the late 1960s to make way for the Six Acres Estate (see page 23). Marcellus Road was near the old Hornsey Road School (now Montem School), the towers of which can be seen in one of the photographs.

My mother's family moved to the parish of St Anne's church from Lady Margaret Road in Tufnell Park in 1894.

Doris Evelyn Lea  
Lindfield, West Sussex

### Caslon's blue plaque hidden

IAHS member Margaret Busgith contacted us about the blue plaque commemorating



*St. Anne's Church, Poole's Park, N.*

Edwardian postcard showing the interior of St Anne's in Poole's Park. See *Parish at Poole's Park*, left

Islington typographer William Caslon (*Caslon's blue plaque missing*, spring 2011, page 7).

*English Heritage has responded:*

The blue plaques team have checked and it seems the plaque has been encased behind a new fascia. We're looking into whether they needed to get planning permission to do this but in the mean time it seems that the simplest explanation is the owner has decided to cover it up.

Do let your reader know that they can contact me directly for an update.

Ellen Harrison  
English Heritage

● Ellen Harrison's details have been passed to Margaret Busgith

### Plymouth Rock and a Massachusetts invitation

IAHS chairman Andrew Gardner has been forging links with the Pilgrim Society in Massachusetts. Here is an edited extract of the correspondence: The Union Chapel in Islington, London, has a cherished fragment of Plymouth Rock which was sent as a gift from the Pilgrim Society, Mass, in 1883. The letter that accompanied it is framed

(transcript below).

We invite any of your members, should they be in London, to visit the Union Chapel and see this fragment. I can also talk about the architecture of the building.

I am copying my greetings to you to the Rev Karen Stallard, minister, and Dr Thomas Lorman, a historian at University College London, who has kindly offered to join me in welcoming visitors.

Andrew Gardner  
Assistant to the minister and deacons, Union Chapel

*In accordance with a vote of the Pilgrim Society we take pleasure in forwarding to you for the Union Chapel at Islington, a piece of "Plymouth Rock" and in certifying that it is a fragment of the rock upon which our Pilgrim Forefathers first landed in December 1620.*

*We are glad that there are those in Old England who prize such a memento of the faith and character of the fathers of New England, and with all good wishes for your welfare*

*and that of the Union Chapel, we are Very Respectfully Yours*  
Thomas Russell  
President of the Pilgrim Society  
Hon J Danforth S---  
of the Pilgrim Society

Thank you for your kind invitation to visit Union Chapel and a far-flung piece of Plymouth Rock. You have a wide-ranging events at the chapel. What an exciting use of your space! Wish I could be there for Fairport Convention.

I will file your message; as we approach the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival, we are working on projects and events leading up to 2020 and will want to spread the word to the UK.

Please get in touch if anyone from Union Chapel will be in Plymouth. I would be happy to share Plymouth Rock and the Pilgrim Hall Museum exhibits.

Ann Berry  
Executive director, The Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum, Plymouth, MA  
[www.pilgrimhall.org](http://www.pilgrimhall.org)

Write to us at [news@iahs.org.uk](mailto:news@iahs.org.uk) or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, London N7 0QB. If you do not want your address printed, let us know

Trams might never have run under the Thames without the tenacity of Islington MP George Radford and his inspiration from a controversial visit to Hungary, writes Thomas Lorman

In 1906, the Eighty Club, a radical pressure group founded by some of the Liberal Party's younger MPs, sent a delegation of 12 MPs and 25 others to Hungary. This included the MP for Islington East, Sir George Haynes Radford.

Although the delegation was welcomed with lavish receptions, elsewhere in Europe there was concern about its political effect.

Hungary was an autonomous part of the Habsburg monarchy and the visit by members of Britain's governing Liberal party was seen by some as a quasi-official British endorsement of Hungarian demands for full independence from Vienna.

Prime minister Henry Campbell-Bannerman privately denounced the club as an "unauthorised and irresponsible body intruding itself into a difficult sphere" and asked his foreign secretary to consider "whether any action should be taken" to reprimand the club for its visit (National Archives).

In addition, the visit gained a whiff of scandal when some of the delegation were accused of drunken behaviour, smoking at dinner and visiting a brothel (Bridge, 1972; National Archives).

As well as showing political naivety and the perils of lavish diplomatic receptions, the visit can be seen as the last hurrah of liberal British sentiment that had viewed Hungary favourably since the 1848 revolutions when the "plucky" Hungarians seized the mantle of reform against the "reactionary" Habsburgs. The subsequent economic boom had turned Budapest into one of Europe's most dynamic cities.

#### To parliament and beyond

Radford was born in 1851 to a well-connected family of

nonconformists. He established the highly successful legal practice of Radford and Frankland in Chancery Lane, which specialised in commercial law, attracting international clients.

Radford decided to seek election on a platform of municipal reform. Aware that his radical politics and nonconformist theology were unlikely to endear him to the voters of Surrey where he lived, he stood in Islington. Here, nonconformism had a firm foothold and voters more likely to support him.

He was elected in 1885, 1888, 1901 and 1904 to represent West Islington on the London County Council. He was a persuasive and witty speaker who took his responsibilities seriously.

However, he became frustrated by the political infighting that bedevilled the LCC and by parliament's determination to regard itself as the supreme body governing local affairs in London.

In an address to voters, Radford said parliament had "taken a wanton pleasure in thwarting the wishes of the people of London" and that London MPs were "obscure persons who are for the most part indifferent to the affairs of London" (1904).

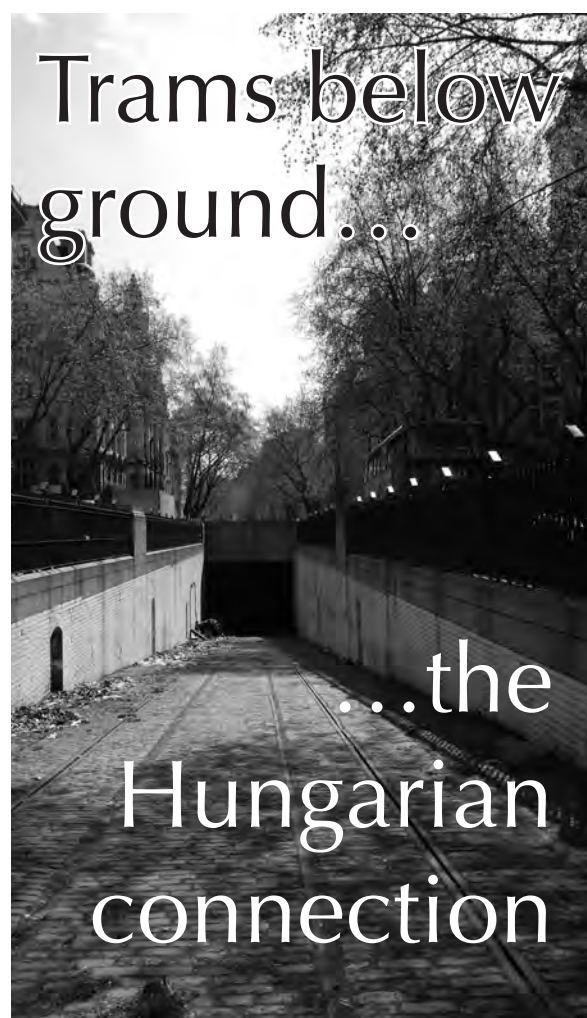
In 1906, he was elected MP for Islington East. Within four months, he had joined the Eighty Club delegation to Hungary.

Yet it was not his political convictions that encouraged him to sign up for the visit. Radford was a defender of free trade, a firm

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Radford ran for parliament in the hopes of breaking the Conservatives' legislative logjam stopping tram modernisation

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Above: the tram subway at Kingsway; after it opened in 1908, travelling by tram from Angel to Kennington took 50 minutes

believer in votes for all and a strong critic of the right of the House of Lords to veto legislation. These policies were the opposite of those espoused by his Hungarian hosts.

Moreover, on the issue of the day that bore best comparison with Hungarian demands for greater autonomy – the Irish Question – Radford, unlike many of his liberal colleagues, firmly opposed Home Rule, insisting the government must "preserve intact the supremacy of the Imperial parliament" (Radford).

There is no evidence that Radford was, before his visit, a Hungarophile. Neither his public speeches nor his private scrapbooks reveal any interest in foreign affairs. However, he had visited America, north Africa and much of Europe. It was more likely he decided to join the visit because of his love of travel.

As someone who had often visited the western part of the Habsburg monarchy, and could



probably speak German, it was likely he would have welcomed the opportunity to see the eastern Hungarian areas.

As far as we can tell, he thoroughly enjoyed the visit. On occasion, he was quite overblown in his praise, declaring, for example, that “the Thames is... compared to the Danube a mere rivulet” (The Eighty Club, 1907).

### Mass transit model for London

Radford had a more practical reason for wishing to visit Hungary. Hungary, like several other European countries and the US, had mass transport systems that would serve as a model for the modernisation of London’s own tram network.

In particular, Radford and his liberal LCC colleagues argued that London needed to replace its horse-drawn trams with electric ones and build a line across the Thames, connecting Islington and north London to the tramlines of south London.

The Hungarian capital, Budapest, served as a template for these ambitious plans. It was the first city in Europe to electrify its tram network fully in 1887.

It had avoided unsightly overhead cables by adopting a conduit system where electricity was supplied via a tram rail. This system had allowed Budapest – as it did Boston and New York – to build a tramline directly under its grandest avenue, Andrásy Út, in 1896 (Radford). This subway is now part of the Budapest metro and is called Metro 1.

London’s cross-river tram would require a subway, based on Budapest’s, under the grand new avenues of Kingsway and the Strand. (The Kingsway tunnel was also inspired by Boston’s Tremont Street subway.)

Horse-drawn trams or overhead cables would not have been suitable, so a slightly modified version of the Budapest conduit system was required.

The Conservative Party’s members on the LCC had persistently objected to the modernisation of the tram network on the grounds of cost

Sir George Radford MP: would have disagreed with with many of Hungary’s policies, but was inspired by its public transport system



and practicality; their colleagues in parliament had, between 1902 and 1906, voted down six bills that would have provided authorisation and funding.

Radford’s anger about this obstructionism had led him to run for parliament in 1906 in the hopes of breaking the legislative logjam (Dunbar, 1975).

He knew that the LCC had sent several experts to Budapest to report on the tram network’s “conduit system of electrical traction”. The Eighty Club visit provided, in Radford’s words, an opportunity to apply “the comparative method to our municipal problems” by seeing first hand how a modern tram network functioned (Eighty Club, 1907).

### ‘Bold, wise and progressive’

During the visit, Radford made one speech – to Budapest’s municipal council. The focus of this was, unsurprisingly, the Budapest tram system.

He said that public transport in Budapest could and should serve as a model for London’s development, praised the rapid electrification of the Budapest tram network, urged his audience to continue to expand and modernise their transport infrastructure and expressed his general admiration that they administered their civic affairs “in a bold, wise and progressive spirit” (Eighty Club, 1907).

We do not know the extent of Radford’s involvement in ensuring the cross-river tram was built after he returned to London. However, his efforts in

parliament ensured that there would be no further veto of the funds for its construction.

On 24 February 1906, the first electrified tram route in north London, between Angel and Holborn and powered by the conduit system, was inaugurated; on 10 April 1908, the Kingsway subway was officially opened.

Islingtonians were now able to go south of the river easily and rapidly on trams that remained in use until 1952. It took less than 50 minutes to go from Islington to Kennington.

Radford remained an MP until his death in 1917. He was awarded a knighthood for his services to London.

Sir George’s contention that Londoners could draw inspiration from Budapest would not be repeated by later politicians.

From 1907, both Liberal and Conservative elements of the British press became more critical of Hungary’s political elite. The tragedies of the 20th century – war and dictatorship of both the right and the left – ensured that British parliamentary delegations would no longer visit Hungary in search of comparisons and inspiration.

None the less, the stone walls and iron railings of the Kingsway subway still serve as a visible reminder of a more fruitful period in Anglo-Hungarian relations.

They are also a monument to the vital role that the cross-river tram played in improving transport for Londoners and to the Liberal councillors and MPs who made it a reality, first among them Sir George Heynes Radford. ■

Dr Thomas Lorman is lecturer in history, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London

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# Victorian values

Victorian records of Beale's store show a wealth of social history – and some fraternal fighting. Its founder continued to come up with ideas, including a bread patent and cakes by post

From the year 1866, when Grandfather purchased his jumbo-sized Testimonial Book, the Beales have been lavish in their expenditure on large leather-bound books to record their doings.

These massive volumes have been so obviously expensive that, over the years, no humble member of the staff has ever had the courage to throw them away. They are now guarded by the author of this history as jealously as are the Elgin Marbles by the Trustees of the British Museum, and take up almost as much space.

## Banquet diaries

The banquet diaries stretch back to 1887. They were regarded as sacred both during the period of actual use and for ever after. The older copies are only referred to when a customer nostalgically tells us he believes that his great-grandmother's wedding was held at Holloway or at the old Athenaeum.

We can then tell him exactly what was paid for the Scotch salmon and the game pie, what type and what quantity of champagne was consumed, and perhaps what musical items the three-piece orchestra played during the reception. Sometimes he brings us a fossilised piece of her actual wedding cake, which we dutifully sample and pretend to enjoy.

The diaries reflect the changing fashions of the years. Flutes, piccolos, and harps, in the orchestras supplied, give way to the cornets and trombones of Beale's famous Military Band, – consisting of fifteen middle-

aged men in whiskers and a spurious kind of uniform of the Edwardian Age. Saxophones and drums give way, alas, to the "recorded music" of today.

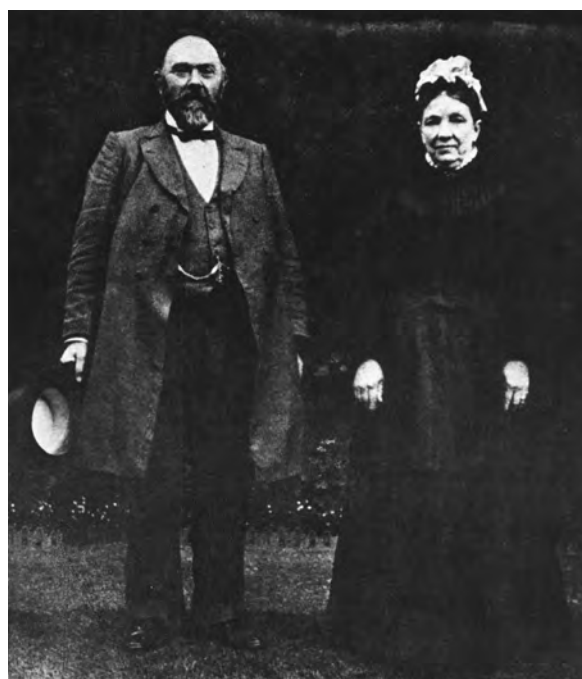
Daimler motorcars take the place of horse-drawn wedding carriages. Dramatic monologues, patriotic songs, magic lanterns, and Punch and Judy give way to more sophisticated entertainment. World wars and depressions reduce bookings to a trickle. Peace, coronations and jubilees bring back the flood. A wealth of social history lies in the banquet diaries of Beale's of Holloway.

The minute books too are not without entertainment. Much treasured is the original book, with the richly comical handwritten entries of the company secretary, a broad-speaking Lancastrian named Beesley Ridehalgh – "Beastly Ride-a-horse" as we children called him.

From the minute book we learn that the board met on the thirteenth day of each month to authorise payments. Cheques were signed by two of the directors, one of whom had to be William the First – he being unable to trust his sons and the company secretary not to run off with the cash the minute his back was turned.

The auditors provided an annual profit and loss account for each of the departments – right down to the last halfpenny.

The results invariably led to quarrels over the charges made



William Beale, Beale's founder, with his wife Christina: he signed all company cheques, "being unable to trust his sons and the company secretary not to run off with the cash the minute his back was turned"

between the sections. For example, in transferring meat from the butcher's shop to the kitchens, William's son Archibald would exact as high a price as possible.

Thomas would regard the charge as scandalous, and maintained that the kitchens were being supplied with all the rubbish that his brother was unable to sell to the general public.

These disputes were recorded by Beesley Ridehalgh for the benefit of posterity. Whatever the auditors might have to say, each of the directors believed that his departments, and his alone, kept the company from bankruptcy.

The nineteenth century was drawing to a close. The long reign of William the First, like that of Queen Victoria, did not long survive it. William had been something of a perfectionist. The premises he built, the equipment he put into them, the goods he sold, and the staff he employed, all were of the best quality he could buy.

He possessed imagination, enthusiasm and energy, and was prepared to spend his money freely on new projects and experiments, not all of which, naturally, were successful.

A fine new canopied entrance to the Assembly Rooms, a

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Orders for cakes poured in from all parts of the country and also from abroad, tropical countries included

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reception room, cloakroom and a new despatch were built. More houses down Tollington Road were added one by one, their gardens quickly swallowed up by the expanding bakeries.

In 1897 William patented a method of making germ bread, of a kind similar to that of Hovis. Beale's "Triagon" bread was still being produced in small quantities when I joined the firm in 1925. It may have provided valuable vitamins for the few loyal food-faddists still surviving, but in my opinion it was practically uneatable. It disappeared soon after my arrival.

### One leaflet, one hundred cakes

In 1902 William conceived the idea of a nation-wide mail order business in Beale's cakes. A four-page leaflet was printed at considerable expense, with a hundred varieties of the company's cakes illustrated in colour.

At still further expense one of these leaflets was inserted into every copy of the *Strand Magazine*, a popular national monthly. Orders poured in from all parts of the country and from abroad as well, tropical countries included!

The whole idea was ridiculous. For sending out perishable foodstuffs by His Majesty's parcel post, the despatch department had available only greaseproof paper, wood shavings, cardboard boxes and string. I shudder to think of the condition of our cakes arriving in summertime at Calcutta or Hong Kong.

Not surprisingly trade dropped off as quickly as it started, and happily no deaths were reported at home or abroad. But the occasional order for a "Shamrock Gateau" continued to arrive for years after the advertisement, from lonely Irishmen exiled in various parts of our far-flung empire. The scheme was William's last "folie de grandeur". ■

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

## News in brief

### Hornsey hits 40

Information on all nationally designated heritage assets has been made available at one place for the first time.

English Heritage's National Heritage List for England brings together information on listed buildings, scheduled monuments, registered parks, gardens and battlefields and protected wreck sites, as well as World Heritage Site records.

● <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk>

### Two saved for now

Athlone House (pictured), a Victorian mansion on Hampstead Heath, has been reprieved from demolition.

The planning inspectorate rejected proposals to replace the 1892 house with a new building that would encroach on Metropolitan Open Land. The owners now plan to produce a similar design with a smaller footprint.

A five-storey building in Chalk Farm, believed to be the 19th century Chappell piano factory, has been saved from demolition and will now be refurbished.



### Half century HADAS

Hendon and District Archaeological Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary with an afternoon party on 7 August at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. If you'd like to go, contact Jo Nelhams on 020 8449 7076 by mid July.

### Highgate tunnel staged



IAHS member Roy Hidson has passed us a copy of an 1824 programme of the Theatre Royal in Newcastle for 2 August 1824, advertising: "the operatic burlesque Tragedy of Highgate Tunnel; or The Secret Arch."

Characters included: John Larkins, landlord of the Horns in Highgate; Jerry Grout an honourable bricklayer, lover and tunneller; and Mum Chance, a perfidious plaisterer [sic], his enraged rival.

Pubs in the play have names such as the Mouse and Mopstick, Cat and Bagpipes, Wig and Water Spaniel and Hog in Armour.

There is finally "a desperate Battle Between the Tunnelers and Landlords, mounted. A hideous crash! Tunnel falls, and destroys all the combatants."



# Beneath the rails

Islington has a great view of much of the archaeology around King's Cross and St Pancras. Lester Hillman takes the train across Kent to see its archaeology and review a new study

Islington has had a grandstand view of much of the archaeological work going on around King's Cross and St Pancras stations. The relocation of buildings associated with rail and gas infrastructure continues to shape vistas.

As the archaeology train pulls out of St Pancras, *Tracks & Traces* devotes six pages to the works in the churchyard around St Pancras Old Church.

High Speed 1 (HS1) – the Islington firm that runs the high-speed rail line from St Pancras – commissioned *Tracks & Traces: Archaeology of High Speed No 1*. This book and DVD chart the fascinating archaeology uncovered with the construction of the high-speed rail link between London and the continent.

The book hurtles down the 109km route to the Channel Tunnel, accomplishing the journey in 100 lavishly illustrated pages

– or just a few minutes if you take the high-speed DVD route. At intervals along the way, it pauses to assess the wider geographical significance of the finds. It charts a fascinating archaeological journey.

There are surface structures in Islington nearby, such as the vent shaft in Corsica Street, although this publication does not refer directly to Islington.

Rachel Starling, environment manager at HS1's HQ in Collier Street, heads the list of people who helped to bring HS1 to fruition.

Like HS1, Eurostar has its headquarters in Islington, at the Regent Quarter complex north of Pentonville Road.

## Out across Kent

It is now more than a decade since early reports about the archaeological work in Kent appeared in *Current Archaeology* (Glass (2000) Channel Tunnel



Excavations at Somers Town Goods Yard; the two pictures above right show museum of London archaeologists excavating the 19th century railway tracks

Rail Link – Intro; 14: 12, 448–465). Kent's archaeology was also celebrated in a booklet published when section 1 of the rail link was completed in 2003.

Two years ago, archaeological highlights featured in *Team Work*, two volumes that chart the completion of HS1 (published by Merrell Publishers in 2008 for London & Continental Railways).

In 2009, an exhibition of archaeology was held in Ebbsfleet International Station (see box, left). Items from King's Cross dating from the 18th and 19th centuries were displayed, alongside casts of 400,000-year-old elephant remains found in north Kent.

The brochure that accompanied that exhibition began an archaeological journey "leaving St Pancras and passing through a tunnel beneath the streets of inner London...".

The latest volume traces that journey in more detail. It will, no doubt, be revisited, with new excursions being incorporated.

Further specialist academic papers are due to be published.

## Human history uncovered



This coffin plate was in the 2009 exhibition in Ebbsfleet, which is now 17 minutes along the track from King's Cross.

It reads: "Mrs Jane Dancer Died 14 March 1798 Aged 31." She was buried at St Pancras a few months after Mary Wollstonecraft, who died in 1797.

Made of fragile metal, the plate is one of about 150 recovered. These plates link names and dates to relatively modest burials and remains which can lead to rare insights.

● See Out across Kent. above



### More digging

Construction pressures at associated sites, capitalising on the HS1 connectivity, are also yielding archaeological dividends.

In the vicinity of Islington is the long-term development of King's Cross Central, on the former railway lands straddling York Way.

The King's Cross Construction Skills Centre further along York Way in Islington opened in March 2009. It offers young people an excellent place to gain heritage construction skills.

The Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Heritage, sponsored by English Heritage, went to the new rail link in 2008. Specialist contractors were appointed, and a heritage induction programme was run for 500 staff at St Pancras.

### Digging before research

The United Kingdom Centre for Medical Research and Innovation is to occupy a site alongside St Pancras International. It has proved controversial, mainly because the site had been earmarked for affordable housing.

The site, which extends over several acres, is the subject of archaeology interest.

Just before Easter there were opportunities – which I took up

– to see works in progress, view an exhibition and learn more about how young people and local communities were being encouraged to become involved.

The objective on this site has been to find out more about the steam engines and pressurised water equipment used to power the heavy machinery. For more information, call 0800 028 6731 or email [info@ukcmri.ac.uk](mailto:info@ukcmri.ac.uk).



### Construction staff outnumbered

Eurostar trains have been running in and out of St Pancras since November 2007. Along with the domestic 2012 Javelin trains, they cross Islington in tunnels more than 20m down.

The bigger picture offered by this archaeology study is unique. It is a 109km slice through the south east and the volume explores the interface with thousands of years of human activity.

Helen Glass, in the introduction, describes the scale: "At the peak of the archaeological fieldwork, there were over a hundred archaeologists working along the route... when construction officially started in 1998, there were more archaeologists on site than construction workers."

In the foreword, Julian Richards, familiar on TV as a broadcaster on archaeology, highlights the recognition given for setting exemplary standards of archaeological practice.

The acknowledgements list eight archaeology teams, specialist advisers and contractors, and some of the 100 or so individual archaeologists.

The IAHS is looking at hosting an evening presentation about the work by an Islington-based company located at the end of a priceless archaeological seam. ■

● *Tracks & Traces*. £15 for book and DVD. IC Art and Design Limited, 58 Lamb's Conduit Street, WC1N 3LW. Print run of 1,000 copies. Available from Amazon, Blackwell's, Waterstone's and other retailers.



# Shows of strength in workers' unity



From trade union campaign materials, pressure group pamphlets and political publications to records of individual workers, the Trades Union Congress Library holds a wealth of information going back to 1860. Christine Coates delves into the archives

From its foundation in 1868, the Trades Union Congress has been involved in the creation of the welfare state and public health, education and social services. It has helped to ensure legal rights in employment and an end to discrimination.

The Labour Party was set up by the TUC so that working people could have their own representatives in parliament.

The TUC has played an important role in international affairs, and union representatives have sat on public bodies and government advisory boards at national and international level.

The TUC Library documents this rich history and is a major research resource for the study of all aspects of trade unions, lifelong learning and people at work.

The library collects not only trade union and political publications from the UK and overseas, but also official and pressure group publications as well as material from campaigns and policy areas in which the TUC has been involved.

The emphasis is on British material, but most countries are represented, especially those in Europe, North America and the Commonwealth. There are special collections on women workers and the labour movement in the

former colonies, plus a number of deposited archives, including those of the Workers' Educational Association and the Labour Research Department.

The library was established in 1922 as part of a joint TUC-Labour Party research and information department, managed by a committee of representatives from both organisations and chaired by Sidney Webb.

It brought together books, pamphlets, periodicals and other material collected from the 1860s onwards by the TUC Parliamentary Committee, the Labour Party Information Bureau and the

Women's Trade Union League.

The joint library remained in existence until 1956, when the TUC moved out of Transport House in Westminster for its current home, Congress House in Bloomsbury, taking what it considered as its half of the library.

In the 1990s, it was decided to deposit the TUC Library in a university where its holdings would be accessible to academics and the general public and, in 1997, the library was reopened at London Metropolitan University as the TUC Library Collections. The TUC retained its ownership of the library and continues to add material on a regular basis.



Top: Mary Macarthur addresses a demonstration in Trafalgar Square over the Corruganza box makers' strike in 1908. Above: demonstration on Copenhagen Fields in 1834 supporting the Tolpuddle Martyrs

## Academics to family historians

The library receives a wide range of enquiries. These are from not only researchers – academics from the UK and overseas – but also from the media, national and local government, trade unions and local and family historians.

Local history resources, including primary sources for Islington's history, can be found in the publications of local labour movement bodies such as the Islington Trades Council, or in special collections with major local content, such as the 1926 General Strike Collection, which has reports from local councils of action.



Over the past 10 years, the collections have undertaken a major digitisation programme, and images from their holdings can be seen on The Union Makes Us Strong, The Workers' War: Home Front Recalled and, most recently, the Winning Equal Pay: the Value of Women's Work websites (see box, right).

## Two centuries of social history

The Union Makes Us Strong presents a history of the British trade union movement since the development of organised labour in the early 19th century.

Introduced by a timeline of nearly 200 years of social history illustrated with digitised newspapers, photographs, posters and documents, the site also includes several themed learning packages:

- The General Strike collection
- All 1,700 pages of the original manuscript of the novel *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* by Robert Tressell, voted one of the nation's 100 best-loved books in the BBC's 2003 Big Read event and an influential classic of working-class literature.
- The Register of the 1888 Bryant & May Matchworkers' Strike with personal details of all 700 individual strikers, plus related images and documents.



Over 6,200 copies of this 1934 poster were distributed

- The fully searchable digital copies of the TUC annual congress reports from 1868-1968 provide a major source for academic researchers. The 18,000 pages are filled with the voices of giants of the British labour movement – Keir Hardie,

Islington Bulletin, 12 May 1926. Under the *The Islington Front* headline: "Holloway Busmen: Everything favourable. Position unchanged. Men's motto: SOLIDARITY SPELLS SUCCESS."



## See the collections

For information on the TUC Library Collections, see [www.londonmet.ac.uk/tuc](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/tuc).

The library is open to visitors, 9.15am-4.45pm, Monday-Friday. To make an appointment, telephone 020 7133 3726, fax 020 7133 2529 or email [tuclib@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:tuclib@londonmet.ac.uk)

## Archives online

- The Union Makes Us Strong: [www.unionhistory.info](http://www.unionhistory.info)
- The Workers' War: Home Front Recalled: [www.unionhistory.info/workerswar](http://www.unionhistory.info/workerswar)
- Winning Equal Pay: the Value of Women's Work: [www.unionhistory.info/equalpay](http://www.unionhistory.info/equalpay)

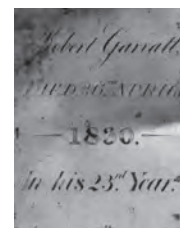
All images are from the TUC Library Collections

Ernest Bevin and Will Thorne, to name but a few. The reports tell the story of how the trade union movement responded to war, the Russian Revolution, the depression of the 1930s, the social revolution of the 1960s – and how a motion at the 1899 Congress by the Railway Servants led to the formation of the Labour Party. ■

Christine Coates is librarian, TUC Library Collections, London Metropolitan University

## Islington burials: do you recognise any names?

Hundreds of coffin plates were recovered from the Islington Green burial ground. Do you recognise any of the names or addresses? They were provided by Derek Seeley of the Museum of London, an IAHS committee member. If you recognise any, contact him at [dseeley@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:dseeley@museumoflondon.org.uk)



Patterson	Sarah	female	1823	iron		
Payne	Joseph	male	1845	iron	1 Jul	54 Bath Street, St Lukes
Payton (Paton)	Margarett	female	1852	iron	25 Apr	11 Lower Queen Street, Lower Road, Islington
Pe(nny)	Thomas (Thos Wm.)	male	1851	iron	6 Aug	Lower Smith Street, Clerkenwell
Peace	Henry	male	1830	iron		
Peak	Emma	female	1827	iron		
Pearce (Pearne)	Mally?	female	1833	iron	7 Mar	City Arms, City Road
Pearl	(Joseph)	male	1848	iron	25 Oct	James's Buildings, Liverpool Rd, Islington
Pearson	Mary Ann	female	1828	iron		
Peartree	William George	male	1852	iron	15 Jun	14 James's Buildings, Clerkenwell
Pennett (Pennat)	Margaret	female	1852	iron	17 Oct	Georges Terrace, White Conduit Fields
Perkins	James	male	1838	iron	4 Mar	Belvidere Road, Lambeth
Perry	Henry William	male	1837	brass	5 Jul	Spencer Street, Clerkenwell
Peter	Edmund	male	1845	brass	5 Aug	4 Cloudesley Street, Islington
Peterkin?	James	male	1821?	iron		





Camden Passage, 1973

**G**eoffrey Fletcher (1923-2004) was a renowned artist, author, connoisseur of off-beat

London and Islington enthusiast.

Born in Bolton on 3 April 1923, he arrived in London in the summer of 1945 to study at the Slade School of Art.

During this period, he lived in the attic of a boarding house in Bloomsbury and it was from there that Fletcher discovered a London overlooked. He embarked day and night on sketching expeditions, drawn to the unusual and eccentric sights off the tourist track – more interested in drawing on the hoof than attending formal classes.

In 1950, Fletcher's drawings began to appear beside articles in the *Manchester Guardian* (now *The Guardian*), depicting buildings and sights that were being proposed for change, a result of the postwar reconstructions put into action by the London County Council. He was taken on by *The Daily Telegraph* in 1958 and, for the next 30 years, contributed

# A different view of a familiar city

Artist and writer Geoffrey Fletcher was fascinated by the off-beat side of London, and only too aware that the city's landscape was changing rapidly. Nina Hymans looks back at the Islington enthusiast's life and works

drawings to its London Day by Day column, written under the pseudonym Peterborough.

Fletcher also wrote many books. *The London Nobody Knows*, his most well-known book, was published in 1962 and made into a documentary film featuring the British actor James Mason in 1967 (see review, opposite).

This is no ordinary guidebook – Fletcher leads the reader on tours around London to the overlooked corners he found so intriguing. He often would impart a snippet of history,

a personal reflection or an anecdote as accompaniment to his drawings.

His work was enjoyed and encouraged by those eager to see a different way of looking at a familiar city and also by those opposed to the changing landscapes of London. Developments in construction works were happening so quickly during the building boom that there was often a melancholy in Fletcher's writing as he acknowledged that, even between the writing and publication of his works,

## Geoffrey Fletcher's Islington: Impressions in Time

Islington Local History Centre,  
Until 28 June, free

"Islington, like St Paul's, is something that has to be seen for oneself: in fact it is a total experience, requiring all the senses and all the faculties"  
*Geoffrey Fletcher's London* (1968)

A unique opportunity to experience Islington history through the eyes of Geoffrey Fletcher.

**Islington Local History Centre, 245 John Street, London EC1V 4NB**  
020 7527 2837 [local.history@islington.gov.uk](mailto:local.history@islington.gov.uk)





Above: St Luke's Hospital, 1960; right: 53 and 54 Newington Green, 1984;  
below left, Geoffrey Fletcher in 1970

the places he described could be gone or changed forever.

From the early days of his London wanderings, Fletcher developed favourite places to visit. These locations became the studied and researched subjects of his artwork and books. One of the most important to him was Islington.

His love for Islington is recorded in the many artworks in the Geoffrey Fletcher collection held at Islington Local History Centre and the numerous

chapters of his written work featuring the borough.

He loved the architecture of the borough and recording Islington people going about their day-to-day lives, shopping down Exmouth Market, playing in the arcade on Upper Street and eating at Manze's Eel and Pie Shop. His recording of Islington buildings, some now gone, greatly enriches our visual history of the area now and for the future.

More than anything, Islington

seemed to possess an air of comfort to Fletcher as he often wrote that it was when he felt "low in spirits" he most required the familiarity that Islington offered. ■

Nina Hymans is collections assistant at Islington Local History Centre

## Review: *The London Nobody Knows*

This short film of London in 1967, available to borrow on DVD from Islington libraries, is about as far as it's possible to get from the swinging London of contemporary films like *Blow Up* and *Smashing Time*.

*The London Nobody Knows*, based on a book by Geoffrey Fletcher and narrated by actor James Mason in an accent that now sounds quaintly posh, concerns the bombed-out or soon-to-go remnants – both physical and human – of the London of the hungry 1930s and before.

Islington features in a sequence on Chapel Market caught on busy day in which a box of writhing live eels plays a strangely prominent role.

Nearby Camden appears in the shape of the Bedford Theatre, a once

grand music hall in Camden High Street, then in a state of sad dereliction and awaiting demolition.

The film offers some gripping insights into the London of the time, but cannot decide whether it is documentary or funny.

There are jarring leaps from surrealistic attempts to imitate what would once have gone on in an "egg breaking factory" to interviews with Salvation Army hostel inmates and footage of brawling meths drinkers.

It also shows how London can change, taking in a Spitalfields which Mason remarks was once prosperous but is by 1967 a desperate slum where he visits a house where Jack the Ripper hid a corpse within what was then within living memory. The area

is now the height of fashionable living for artists.

The film ends with a wrecking ball swinging and Mason reminding us that "most of Victorian London was fairly hideous" and that "modern monstrosities" would one day suffer the same fate.

Coupled on the DVD is *Les Bicyclettes des Belsize*, another short, is an uninteresting, almost dialogue-free fantasy about a man who cycles round Hampstead in pursuit of a model he fancies, and which offers little in the way of local colour.

The two films were shot in the same city in the same year, but you'd never guess that. ■

Mark Smulian is a freelance journalist



# Baby farming: a Victorian scandal

Desperate single mothers often placed their babies with baby farmers, in the hope that their children would be cared for. But many of these children were killed.

Caitlin Davies describes the story that influenced her book, *The Ghost of Lily Painter*

**A**melia Sach and Annie Walters were the first women to be hanged at Holloway Prison, in 1903. They were convicted of murdering a four-day-old baby, and suspected of killing many more.

Sach and Walters were baby farmers, women who looked after children in Victorian and Edwardian times. The children often belonged to unmarried servants, forced to farm out their child to keep their jobs. They paid a few shillings a week, or a one-off sum for an informal adoption.

Some baby farmers looked after the babies well, but others took the money then starved or poisoned the babies, abandoned them on the streets, or even murdered them.

Sach, a trained midwife, ran a lying-in home for pregnant women in East Finchley. She advertised her services in the local press: "Accouchement, before and during. Skilled nursing. Home comforts. Baby can remain." Walters' job appears to have been to dispose of the babies.

## Suspicion raised

In the winter of 1902 Walters took lodgings with Alice Seal, who was married to a police constable. After receiving telegrams from Sach – "To-night, five o'clock" – Walters brought two babies back to her lodgings, which then disappeared.

The police placed a watch and Walters was arrested with a dead infant in her arms. She admitted having given the baby chlorodyne, a lethal but not illegal mixture, which she

was probably addicted to herself. Sach was charged as an accessory.

An all-male jury convicted them both, despite their protestations of innocence; the press denounced their "unwomanly callousness".

Their execution was the last double female hanging in Britain. One of the hangmen, Henry Pierrepont, wrote in his diary: "These two women were baby farmers of the worst kind and they were both repulsive in type."

Five years later, the Children's Act was passed; foster parents had to be registered and those who neglected or ill-treated children could be prosecuted. By the 1920s, baby farming had almost disappeared. ■

## Review: *The Ghost of Lily Painter*

I must begin this review with a declared interest, as I am mentioned in the acknowledgments for lending support to the book during its evolution.

One of the most frequently received enquiries to the Islington Archaeology and History Society website is one where someone has tracked a previous family generation to a specific address, and hopes to find out more.

In essence, they are on a quest for the biography of a home. This is the essence, too, of the journey that begins Caitlin Davies' sixth novel.

I've always been slightly anthropomorphic about buildings. I've sometimes had the sensation of a building whispering "over here. You've found me – I've been waiting for you."

The protagonist, Annie Sweet, moves to the Holloway of the present, to a house that she feels has chosen her rather than vice versa. With time on her hands she is instantly drawn to investigate who has been there before her.

The story jumps between her day-to-day thoughts, to the diaries of an Edwardian police inspector, and the life and times of Lily Painter, a rising music hall star.

A macabre story develops with the appearance of Amelia Sach and Annie Walters, names that will be familiar to IAHS members. The present-day chapters are realistic enough to sound as if they could be semi-autobiographical – some aspects clearly are – and the

*The Ghost of Lily Painter* will be launched on 9 June at 6pm at Islington Museum

IAHS is delighted to support the launch of *The Ghost of Lily Painter*. Its author Caitlin Davies spoke to the society about her historical research last year in the second of two lectures on Victorian and Edwardian baby farmers, the first of which was given by Joan Lock.

Ms Davies is a journalist and author of six books, including *Place of Reeds* and *Friends Like Us*. She lives in Holloway.

IAHS members wishing to attend should contact Marissa Cox, tel: 020 7840 8494, email [MCox@randomhouse.co.uk](mailto:MCox@randomhouse.co.uk)





historical chapters are convincing.

Ms Davies is no stranger to the subject matter. Last year, she delivered the second of two linked lectures on Islington's baby farmers, at which she discussed her wide research.

Some real characters have been fictionalised and some, such as the inspector, are fictional. Sach and Walters have been effectively fleshed out. There is surprisingly little reported speech on record – neither took the stand at the inquest or trial.

Those of a historical bent will see Sach and Walters coming some time before they appear, through references to Danbury Street and East

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The present-day chapters are realistic enough to sound semi-autobiographical and the historical chapters are convincing

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Finchley. Local knowledge does not detract from the storytelling, however – it increased my enjoyment of it.

The fact I could foresee the ending from about halfway through left plenty of room for intrigue as to how we would arrive there, unexpectedly, via the Second World War.

I was so drawn in that having started reading late in the evening, I had to pick it up and finish it first thing the next morning, and not put it down until I had. With much but far from all of jigsaw in place, it was the final 100 pages I found most absorbing, as the stories had to resolve and reconcile with each other. ■

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Andrew Gardner is chairman of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

● *The Ghost of Lily Painter*, £12.99 (hardback) 352pp. Hutchinson. Published 2 June 2011

## St Pancras hotel reopens

The St Pancras Renaissance Hotel opened on 5 May, exactly 138 years after it first opened in 1873.

These pictures were taken circa 1888.

Islington has had a grandstand view of works at King's Cross and St Pancras. See page 14



# Inspiration from tough lives

Kay Brellend describes how her grandmother, who lived in Campbell Road, a notorious slum, was the inspiration for her novel, *The Street*



**T**he *Street* is a novel set in Edwardian times that follows the poverty-stricken lives of the Keiver family and their kith and kin. Campbell Road, where the family live in two dirty rooms, is a notorious slum that houses criminals and prostitutes amid destitute folk lacking the means to move elsewhere.

The heroine, Alice Keiver, yearns from an early age to escape her squalid surroundings. She battles closer to a better life and a family of her own

away from the road, yet it is a bittersweet achievement as along the way she loses people she loves.

## Early chapter discovered

My grandmother lived with her family in Campbell Road, a slum known as the Bunk, until she was a young woman, leaving in 1922. After her death at the age of 92, my mother drafted a couple of chapters of a novel inspired by my grandmother's wretched early life in the road stigmatised as the worst street in north London. These papers

remained among her personal possessions and were discovered only when she died.

As a family, we had become interested in our genealogy and my father wondered if the novel could be completed as a tribute to my mother and grandmother.

Ideas on how to continue my mum's work had been filling my mind for some time before I began putting them in writing. Once properly started, the book became a test – I felt I must not fail. I owed it to people, some of

## From *The Street*: a carefree day with a shadow of distant news

**"**Just as well neither of them's old enough to join up and be a sailor in the navy. They'd sink a ship before the war's properly started." Alice's rueful comment made her two companions burst out laughing as they observed the boys' unsuccessful efforts to row their boat in a straight line.

It was a hot Saturday at the beginning of August and Alice, Sophy and Sarah Whitton were lounging on scratchy parched grass that sloped up and away from the Finsbury Park boating lake. They had walked from Campbell Road the short distance in the blistering heat and found a shady spot beneath trees. Gratefully they'd collapsed down on the ground to have a rest. They had begun to pool pennies to see if between them they had enough cash to take a boat out on the lake and still have some left to stop off at a café for a bite to eat on the way home.

A long, low whistle had curtailed their calculations. A moment later a group of youths had bowled up and sat down close by. Danny and Geoff

Lovat – who were on friendly terms again now Sophy was back to normal – had been amongst a quartet of young hounds. Herbert Banks, also from Campbell Road, was with them; so was a boy Alice recognised as being out of Queensland Road.

A session of good-natured catcalling back and forth had taken place between the groups of boys and girls for some while. Bored with that, Geoff and Herbert Banks had stood up and wandered off towards the lake. A little while later Alice had watched the two of them – in possession of an oar each – rotating a boat in clumsy circles towards the centre of the lake. It was that amusing sight that had prompted her to make her remark about the war that'd recently been declared on Germany.

The news that they were at war had been shocking, and oddly exciting, but it all seemed very distant and unreal, especially on a glorious carefree summer day such as this.

"I saw me dad in the week," Sarah said. "He reckons now he's lost his job he's going to volunteer for the army.

It's regular pay 'n' grub, he says. And he wants to do his bit for his country."

Alice frowned. "He's a bit old, ain't he?"

"Thirty-seven, I think. I hope they don't let him in. I don't want him to be hurt or nuthin'."

"Me dad brought in the newspaper and we read all about it. It's all going to be over by Christmas anyhow," Alice told her friend reassuringly. "So even if your dad does go to war he'll be back home before you know it."

"I heard Herbert Banks's been boasting he's going to go to the recruitin' office and pretend he's nineteen so's he can join up."

Alice snorted derisively. "He don't even look fifteen even though he is. He won't get away with that, not even if he draws on whiskers."

Suddenly the two younger girls realised that Sophy had been unusually quiet during this lively discussion. Presently it was the main topic of conversation for most people. In the factory where Alice worked all the talk at dinnertime was about how the Hun were due a good thrashing.

whom I had never met yet sensed I knew intimately, to make their story a success.

Writing to first draft took about six months and I was glad of the advice and encouragement from my agent and editors.

Jerry White's study – *Campbell Bunk: the Worst Street in London Between the Wars* – comprised of eye-witness testimony and was of immeasurable help when I was researching the book.

### Mixed feelings after escaping

It was fascinating to read about the ambivalence that some former residents felt for the Bunk. One might expect such a slum to be shunned by those fortunate enough to get away. But many interviewees, having endured years of hardship and having vowed to flee at the first opportunity, were drawn back to see what had changed and what had remained the same. Ultimately, physically escaping was perhaps the easy part, and freeing one's heart and soul from its influence less possible.

Writing about Campbell Road was engrossing and emotional.

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It's difficult to comprehend that my uncomplaining, generous grandmother had endured a squalid childhood

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It's difficult to comprehend that my uncomplaining, generous grandmother had endured a squalid childhood. Yet, if battling against such odds shaped the robust, wise woman who would continue to grow her own fruit and vegetables to distribute among us all when a nonagenarian, then the Bunk was not entirely without merit.

Without my mum's few pages of typescript giving hope and inspiration, the novel probably would not have come about. I like to think it was her final gift to us. ■

● *The Street*, £7.99, HarperCollins

## Goodbye, old streets



IAHS member Doris Evelyn Lea has kindly sent us these photographs of demolition in Finsbury Park to make way for the Andover estate.

These streets were near Campell Road – a stump of which remains, now named Whadcoat Street.

● see Letters, page 3





# Publications and bookshop

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

## The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish

Mary Cosh

This book shows that no two squares in the Islington Parish are the same. They range in style from dignified row to railway Gothick, to pastiche to architectural joke.

Squares can be in the shape of a rectangle or triangle, and terraces that face ornamental gardens are included.

This area covered is the old village of Islington with adjoining areas of Highbury, Canonbury, Barnsbury and the Clothworkers' estate.

This follows a study begun with the squares of Finsbury and Clerkenwell. It is illustrated with historical pictures and maps.

*Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society, 1993. £7.50 + £1.20 p&p*



This is just a small selection of books offered by the IAHS. We sell more at our meetings (see inside back page) and at local festivals.

## Angus McBean in Islington

Edited by Mary Cosh, foreword by Angus McBean

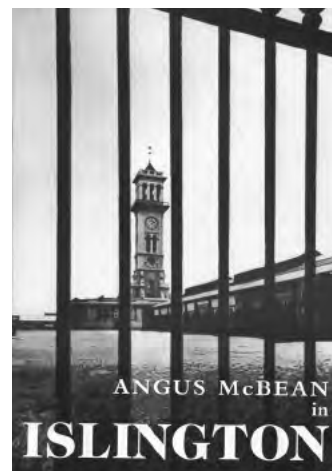
These pictures serve as a reminder of Islington as it was, with gas lamps and trolley buses, and well known and unusual places.

Houses, interiors, cinemas, music hall, churches, squares and terraces are all recorded. One picture shows an imposing yet ornate 1870 entrance, topped by a lion and unicorn, that leads to a vinegar factory.

Angus McBean was a leading theatrical photographer who lived in Islington for 15 years, first in Gibson Square then in Colebrooke Row.

He photographed stars including Ivor Novello, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh, and was official photographer for the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells.

McBean took photographs for the Islington Society's initial exhibition in 1960. A repeat exhibition at the



Islington Museum in 2000 led to the suggestion that some of them should be reprinted in a book.

*Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society, 2001, £4.50 + 60p p&p*

## An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury

Mary Cosh

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

Then it's the start of Barnsbury proper, the site of pleasure gardens, and trades unions and market history. See the classic houses and squares – and unusual features such as sphinxes guarding a doorway.

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

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



## Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

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Please make cheques payable to "Islington Archaeology & History Society"; send this form or a photocopy to IAHS, 8 Wynyatt Street, London EC1V 7HU

## Picture palaces of the past and the present

With the former Carlton cinema in the news (page 5), it's a good time to revisit cinema history.

### Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios

Chris Draper

Britain's first cinema, the first modern film studios and the first cinema in a train carriage were all in Islington.

The borough was also the birthplace of Robert William Paul – the father of British cinema – who designed a camera that could take moving pictures, and a projector so they could be shown on screen.

This book tells the story of the development of the film industry in Islington.

Every cinema is pictured, alongside details of opening dates, what was being shown and ticket prices at the time. Cinema events described include a



“phantoscopical exhibition”.

Every film made in the world-famous Gainsborough Studios in Poole Street is listed, including Hitchcock's 1938 *The Lady Vanishes*.

Advertisements for cinema equipment and staff uniforms are reproduced. .

The guide runs from cinemas in shops – such as the one in the terraced house next to the Finsbury Park Astoria – to grand picture palaces.

The Astoria, now a church, is a star of the book, with black and white and colour pictures of its Andalucian Village.

Another star is the Gaumont – now the Holloway Odeon – with images of its mighty Wurlitzer, projection room, and the auditorium before and after war damage.

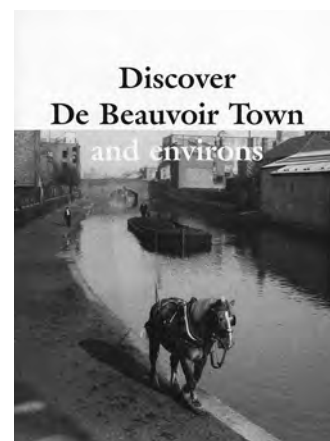
For the Gaumont's opening night, which was relayed by the BBC via the broadcasting room at the top of the cinema's tower, 2s6d tickets were changing hands for 15s and £1.

On a happy note, the Coronet on Holloway Road, opened as the Savoy in 1940 (yes, during the war) was vacant at the time of writing. It has since been restored as a Wetherspoon's pub and retains a cinema feel.

*Published by the London Borough of Islington, £5 + £1.20 p&p*

### Discover Be Beauvoir Town and Environs

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.

*Published by the Friends of Hackney Archives. £1.50 + 60p p&p*

### The London Cat. Its Lives & times. Includes: Confessions of a Cat-Sitter

### The London Cat II. Plus: By Public Demand, Return of the Cat Sitter

James Dowsing

After last issue's mention of the *London Dog*, we come to *The London Cat*. These two booklets show how London and cat history are intertwined – paw prints can be seen in roof tiles at the Museum of London.

There are literary cats, wartime cats, stylish cats (like Binks, ginger cover cat on *Cat II*) and cathedral cats.

Political cats include Winston Churchill's tomcat Jack, and Humphrey the Downing Street cat, pictured with an uneasy-looking Cherie Blair.

Theatres have long been

home to cats, including one who ate actress Beryl Reid's hat and mistook the sand on a stage set for a giant litter tray. London Underground cats include Pebbles, who dozed on the ticket barrier.

Islington cats include the Dick Whittington's cat statue in Archway, and *The Owl and the Pussy Cat* was created by Holloway resident Edward Lear.

There is plenty of London feline miscellany amid the historic pictures.

*Published by Sunrise Press  
London Cat I: £3.50 + 60p p&p  
London Cat II: £4.50 + 60p p&p*

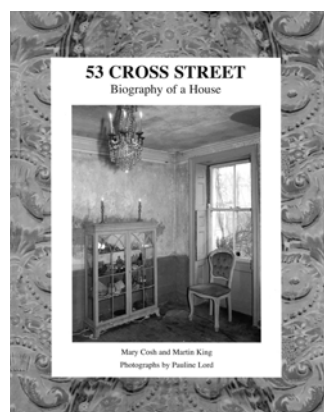


### Historical maps and postcards

From Alan Godfrey

Want to know what your area looked like many years ago? We stock a number of fascinating historical maps of Islington and further afield. We've also got a range of postcards. Call us for details.

*£2.50 each + 50p p&p*



### 53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, with photographs by Pauline Lord. Hardback.

This beautifully presented hardback traces the history of 53 Cross Street from 1785 when it was built. It follows it as it gained a floor and lost half its back garden for St Mary's church hall, and through various forms of occupation and ownership.

Martin King, who moved here in 1990, uncovered many original features, including 1785 paintwork. He made a remarkably complete record of the decor from its building date.

A great source book on historic decor.

*Published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society  
£20 + £1.75 p&p*

# What's on

Events, exhibitions, study days, walks and more. Information on organisers can be found on our directory, page 29. Details of Islington Archaeology & History Society events can be found on the inside back page

Events can change so please confirm details with event organisers

To have your event listed here, email: [news@iahs.org.uk](mailto:news@iahs.org.uk)

*Wednesday 1 June*

## **Wapping in the 18th century**

Walk led by Derek Morris  
Organised by the Docklands History Group.  
5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London Docklands.  
[www.docklands-historygroup.org.uk](http://www.docklands-historygroup.org.uk)

*Thursday 2 June 2011*

## **Boating in the 1950s and 1960s**

Talk by Colin Scrivener  
7.30pm, London Canal Museum, £4/£3 members/

concessions  
020 7713 0836, [www.canalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk)

*Saturday 4 June*

## **London seminar: the Oxford Expedition to Egypt**

Organised by the Egypt Exploration Society, £16-£28  
[www.ees.ac.uk](http://www.ees.ac.uk)

*Wednesday 8 June*

## **Vaudeville and the music hall on film**

Roger Fillary and Keith Fawkes  
Organised by the Hornsey Historical Society.  
8pm, Union Church Community Centre, Ferme Park Road/ Weston Park.  
[www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

*Thursday 9 June*

## **Spanning the ages: a london bridge pub walk**

Karen Chester, City of London guide lecturer  
Organised by the Historical Association, central London branch.  
6.30pm. £3.50/£7. Jill Kilsby, 07957 627 783, [malcolm.kilsby@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.kilsby@blueyonder.co.uk)

*Thursday 9 June, 7pm*

## **Lost London 1870-1945**

Philip Davies, English Heritage  
Talk illustrated with historical photographs from Philip Davies's book *Lost London 1870-1945*. £5.  
The Hunterian Museum, Royal College of Surgeons, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields,

WC2A 3PE.

020 7869 6560, [www.rcseng.ac.uk](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk)

*Saturday 11 June*

## **Midsummer London walk, Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia**

Neil Lloyd  
Organised by the Historical Association, central London branch.  
10.45am, booking: Jill Kilsby, 07957 627 783, [malcolm.kilsby@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:malcolm.kilsby@blueyonder.co.uk)

*Sunday 12 June*

## **Summer tunnel boat trips**

Boat trips from London Canal Museum through Islington Tunnel and back, with a guide to explain the tunnel's history.  
Trips at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm, lasting 50 minutes. Book in advance through the museum.  
020 7713 0836  
[www.canalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk)

*Tuesday 14 June*

## **Sapphire mining in Montana**

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

*Wednesday 15 June*

## **History and restoration of Kentish Town Baths**

Camden History Society.  
6:30pm  
020 7586 4436, [www.camdenhistorysociety.org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

*15 June 2011*

## **Islington's Regency Renaissance**

Lester Hillman, visiting professor, London

## Historic almshouse open days

Compare almshouse living in the 18th and 19th centuries at the Geffrye Museum.

Open Saturday 4 June and 2 July, Wednesday 15 June and Thursday 9 and 23 June. Groups visit on Wednesdays, so call to check it's not booked up before visiting.



Tickets: adults £2.00; friends, disabled visitors and children free.

**Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2 8EA**  
020 7739 9893, [www.geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk)

Left: 1780s almshouse; right: 1880s almshouse. Photos: Morley Von Sternberg



Metropolitan University  
Business School  
Organised by the Islington  
Archaeology & History  
Society.  
8pm, Islington Town Hall,  
Upper Street, N1. Follows  
annual general meeting at  
7pm. More information on  
inside back page.

*Thursday 16 June*  
**Islington's Book of Remembrance. We will remember them**  
The new online Book of Remembrance is a memorial to over 13,000 people from Islington who died in war or conflict from 1899. Find out how to search for people, places or events, and contribute information.  
6pm, Islington Local History Centre. No booking required.  
020 7527 7988, local.  
history@islington.gov.uk

*Friday 17 June*  
**Sweltering since 1938: Ironmonger Row and the Victorian Turkish bath**  
Malcolm Shifrin  
Illustrated talk organised by the Rowan Arts Project.  
4.30pm, The Old Fire Station, 84 Mayton Street, N7.  
http://therowanartsproject.com/ir-baths  
● See page 7

*Friday 17 June*  
**Adventures with the Lewis Chessmen**  
Dr Irving Finkel  
Organised by the City of London Archaeology Society.  
6.30pm for 7pm, St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane EC3  
www.colas.org.uk

*Saturday 18 June*  
**Georgian villas and Edwardian terraces along Forest Road**  
Guided walk with the Walthamstow Historical Society. 2pm, free.  
Meet at the William Morris Gallery, Forest Road, E17  
07792 750017, walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk

## Street cries: depictions of London's poor

Museum of London,  
Until 31 July, free

*Street Cries* shows the huge range of what street vendors sold and how they and other poor people were viewed in the 17th to the 19th centuries.

Some of these illustrations present an idealised vision of the poor; others are among the first works of art to attempt a realistic view of London's



Left: shrimp seller, c1759, by Paul Sandby; right: rat-trap seller by Thomas Rowlandson

poorest inhabitants.

The exhibition includes illustrations by Gustave Doré, Théodore Géricault, Thomas Rowlandson and Paul Sandby.

**Museum of London,  
150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN**  
10am-6pm, Monday to Sunday  
020 7814 5511, www.museumoflondon.org.uk

*Sunday 19 June*  
**Summer boat trips**  
Details as for 12 June.

*Saturday 25 June*  
**Egypt in the age of the Pyramids**  
Study day, Brunei Gallery  
Lecture Theatre, SOAS.  
£18-£32.  
020 7242 1880, ees.ac.uk

*Sunday 26 June*  
**Markfield Beam Engine steam date**  
Markfield Road, N15 4RB  
Call 01707 873628, email info@mbeam.org or check www.mbeam.org for times.

*Sunday 3 July*  
**Royal College of Physicians tour for blind and partially sighted people**  
Audio tour of the RCP's grade I listed building.  
Royal College of Physicians, 11am-3pm, 11 St Andrews Place, NW1 4LE, free.  
Booking: 020 7375 1043, enquiries@vocaleyes.co.uk

*Sunday 3 July*  
**Mayhem in Mayfair**  
Ann Archbold, London City Guide  
Walk on darker side of

London organised by the Historical Association, central London branch.  
Book through Jill Kilsby, 07957 627 783, malcolm.kilsby@blueyonder.co.uk

*Wednesday 6 July*  
**What was happening in the docks and on the Thames in July 1911?**  
Sally Mashiter  
Organised by the Docklands History Group. Follows AGM.  
5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London Docklands.  
www.docklands-historygroup.org.uk

*Thursday 7 July*  
**The Lee Valley waterways and works**  
Jim Lewis  
7.30pm, London Canal Museum, £4/£3  
020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

*Sunday 17 July*  
**Model dwellings, protest and a hint of gentility – the village borders**  
Guided walk with the Walthamstow Historical Society 2pm, free.  
Meet outside Vestry House Museum, Vestry Road, E17  
07792 750017, walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk

*Thursday 21 July*  
**English Heritage listing in Camden**  
Camden History Society, 7.30pm  
020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

*Sunday 24 July*  
**Evening towpath walk**  
7.30pm, London Canal Museum, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

*Monday 8-Friday 12 August, Monday 15-Friday 19 August*  
**Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project: Field Schools**  
Two field days are for people with basic archaeological excavation skills at the edge of Epping Forest. £90 per week.  
Contact: Pauline Dalton, 01992 813 725.  
Supported by West Essex Archaeological Group, www.weag.org.uk, www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk

# Festival of British Archaeology

16-31 July 2011

<http://festival.britarch.ac.uk>

Huge number and range of events – a tiny sample here. See <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk> for all events.

23-24 July

## Tower beach 'dig'

Foreshore open for digging, with experts on hand to identify finds, and stalls about archaeology and conservation.

All at 1.15pm-2pm, free  
**British Museum gallery talks**

16 July: 3,500 years of British Treasure by Ian Richardson

21 July: Treasure in Britain by Janina Parol

26 July: British archaeology: digging up the past by Katharine Hoare

29 July: The Vikings: raiders,

traders, farmers and fine metalworkers by Barry Ager

16, 23, 24, 30 and 31 July  
10am-5pm

## The Rose revealed

Guided tours of archaeological site of first Elizabethan theatre on Bankside. Free. [www.rosetheatre.org.uk](http://www.rosetheatre.org.uk)

## Roman events and activities at the Museum of London

Visitors can handle Roman

objects, tour Roman sites and watch a gladiator show. Most events are free; some require booking. [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk).

Sun 24 July 10.00–16.30

## Ice Sunday at the London Canal Museum

A rare chance to descend, with a guide, via ladders, into the two huge circular Victorian ice wells beneath the museum used from 1857 to 1904 to store ice imported from Norway.

Sunday 24 July

## Markfield Beam Engine steam date

Tel: 01707 873628, email [info@mbeam.org](mailto:info@mbeam.org) or check [www.mbeam.org](http://www.mbeam.org) for times.

Wednesday 3 August

## Greenwich Peninsula

Mary Mills  
Organised by the Docklands History Group.  
5.30pm for 6pm, Museum of London Docklands.  
[www.docklands.historygroup.org.uk](http://www.docklands.historygroup.org.uk)

Saturday 6 August

## Bletchley Park outing

Camden History Society, £35.  
020 7435 5490, [www.camdenhistorysociety.org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

Sunday 14 August

## A stroll down Walthamstow High Street

Guided walk with the Walthamstow Historical Society. 2pm, free.  
Meet at Central Library.  
[walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk](mailto:walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk), 07792 750 017

17 August

## Outing to East Wear Bay Roman Villa, Folkestone

Hendon and District Archaeological Society, £25.  
[www.hadas.org.uk](http://www.hadas.org.uk)

Monday 29 August

## Markfield Beam Engine

## steam date

Tel: 01707 873628, email [info@mbeam.org](mailto:info@mbeam.org) for times.

## Ongoing

Until 2 July

## Afghanistan: crossroads of the ancient world

Over 200 stunning items, dating back to 2000BC.  
British Museum

Until 2 July

## Lost museums: nature and medicine on show

A lost world of cabinets of curiosity from forgotten or dispersed collections.  
Hunterian Museum, [www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums)

Until 31 August

## Dirt: the filthy reality of everyday life

Exhibition on dirt and our attitude towards it taking in a 17th century Dutch house, a Victorian London street and an 1860s Glasgow hospital.  
Wellcome Collection

Until 31 August 2011

## Royal wedding souvenirs

From Fairy Liquid to teabags, crockery and knitted dolls.  
Museum of Brands, £6.50/£4

Until 4 September

## London street photography

Images from 1860 to today.  
Free, Museum of London

Until 11 September

## Baskets and belonging

Nearly 90 indigenous baskets dating from Australia's first contact with Europe.  
British Museum, free

Until 30 October 2011

## Pirates: the Captain Kidd

## Story

This exhibition tells the story of pirate Captain Kidd, looks at how piracy was supported by corrupt MPs and the East India Company and explores pirate myths.  
Museum of London Docklands

# Bell époque: 30 years of Steve Bell, political cartoonist

Cartoon Museum, until 24 July 2011

Exhibition of more than 200 cartoons by Steve Bell, who is seen as the most astute political cartoonist today.

His work ranges from the sensitive to the savage – especially when it comes to hypocritical politicians. His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *New Statesman* and *Society*, *Private Eye*, *Punch*, *NME*, *The Spectator* and *The Journalist*.

He has documented major events and political figures. Who could forget John Major as not-quite superhero, underpants over trousers? His work has covered Thatcherism, the poll tax, New Labour and, more recently, the banking crisis and the coalition government.

**Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1**

10.30-5.30, Tue-Sat; 12.00–5.30pm, Sun;  
020 7580 8155, [www.cartoonmuseum.org](http://www.cartoonmuseum.org)



Royal Wedding mug design, 2011, © Steve Bell

# Societies and museums

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

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like to see your organisation listed here or update any information, email [news@iahs.org.uk](mailto:news@iahs.org.uk).

**Abney Park Trust Memorial Park and Nature Reserve**  
020 7275 7557,  
[www.abney-park.org.uk](http://www.abney-park.org.uk)

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

**The Amwell Society**  
Elizabeth Thornton,  
020 7837 0988, [info@amwellsociety.org](mailto:info@amwellsociety.org)

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

**Bexley Archaeological Group**  
Membership secretary: John Acworth, 40 The Priory, Priory Park, SE3 9UZ, [jrm.acworth@sky.com](mailto:jrm.acworth@sky.com), [www.bag.org.uk](http://www.bag.org.uk)

**British Postal Museum and Archive**  
Freeling House, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DL,  
020 7239 2570,  
[www.postalheritage.org.uk](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk)

**Bruce Castle museum**  
Grade I listed 16th century manor house, housing local history collections. Free.  
020 8808 8772, [museum.services@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:museum.services@haringey.gov.uk)

**Camden Civic Society**  
c/o 32 Hillway, London, N6 6HJ, 020 8340 5972,  
[morton@btopenworld.com](mailto:morton@btopenworld.com)

**The Camden History Society**

020 7586 4436, [jsramsay@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jsramsay@tiscali.co.uk), [www.camdenhistorysociety.org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

**Camden New Town History Group**  
Chairman: John Cowley,  
[cowleyjohn@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cowleyjohn@blueyonder.co.uk),  
[www.camdennewtown.info](http://www.camdennewtown.info)

**Camden Railway Heritage Trust**  
[www.crht1837.org](http://www.crht1837.org)

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

**The Canonbury Society**  
[www.canonburysociety.org.uk](http://www.canonburysociety.org.uk)

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

**City of London Archaeological Society**  
[www.colas.org.uk](http://www.colas.org.uk),  
[email@colas.org.uk](mailto:email@colas.org.uk)

**Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association**  
Secretary: Alice Merino,  
07971 296731, [info@ciga.org.uk](mailto:info@ciga.org.uk), [www.ciga.org.uk](http://www.ciga.org.uk)

**The Clockmakers' Museum**  
[www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library](http://www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library)

**The Docklands History Group**  
020 7537 0368 [info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk)  
**East London History Society**  
[mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk](mailto:mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

**EC1 History**  
[www.ec1history.co.uk](http://www.ec1history.co.uk)

**The Foundling Museum**  
40 Brunswick Square, WC1, 020 7841 3600, [www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk)

**Freud Museum**  
020 7435 2002,  
[www.freud.org.uk](http://www.freud.org.uk)

**The Friends of Friendless Churches**  
[www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk)

**Geffrye Museum**  
020 7739 9893, [www.geffrye-museum.org.uk](http://www.geffrye-museum.org.uk)

**The Georgian Group**  
6 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5DX, 0871 750 2936,  
[info@georgiangroup.org.uk](mailto:info@georgiangroup.org.uk)

**Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)**  
Secretary, 14 Mount Road, Barnet, EN4 9RL 020 8692 8512, [secretary@glias.org.uk](mailto:secretary@glias.org.uk)

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

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

**Hackney Museum**  
1 Reading Lane, Hackney, London E8 1GQ  
Open: 9.30am-5.30pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.30am-8pm Thursday; 10am-5pm Saturday.

**The Hackney Society**  
The Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 07771 225183,  
[info@hackneysociety.org](mailto:info@hackneysociety.org),  
[www.hackneysociety.org/](http://www.hackneysociety.org/)

**Hendon and District Archaeology Society**  
[secretary@hadas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hadas.org.uk)

**Historical Association, Central London Branch**  
Secretary: Ms Chrissie Ganjou 020 7323 1192,  
[stay@cenlonap.co.uk](mailto:stay@cenlonap.co.uk)

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

**Hornsey Historical Society**  
The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL  
[hornseyhistorical.org.uk](http://hornseyhistorical.org.uk)

**Hunterian Museum**  
Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, Hunterian Museum, open Tues-Sat 10am-5pm  
[www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums)

**Inland Waterways Association**  
North-east London branch chairman Roger Wilkinson,  
[roger9796@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roger9796@yahoo.co.uk)

**Islington Local History Centre**  
Finsbury Library, 245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB. 9.30am-8pm Monday and Thursday (closes 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tuesday, Friday and Saturday; closed Wednesday and Sunday; closed 1pm-



2pm; 020 7527 7988; local.  
history@islington.gov.uk

### **Islington Museum**

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

### **Islington Society**

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

### **Dr Johnson's House**

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

### **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**

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

### **The Labour and Wait Brush Museum**

Small museum in hardware  
store. www.labourandwait.  
co.uk

### **The Charles Lamb Society**

28 Grove Lane, SE6 8ST

### **London Canal Museum**

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

### **The London Film Archive**

22 Islington Green, N1,  
www.londonfilmarchive.org

### **London Metropolitan Archives**

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

### **London & Middlesex Archaeological Society**

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

### **London Museums of Health & Medicine**

www.medicalmuseums.org

### **The London Society**

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

### **The London Transport Museum**

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

### **Markfield Beam Engine**

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

### **Mausolea and Monuments Trust**

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

### **Marx Memorial Library**

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

### **Medieval Pottery Research Group**

www.medievalpottery.org.uk

### **The Museum of Brands**

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

### **V&A Museum of Childhood**

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

### **Museum of London**

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

### **Museum of London Docklands**

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

### **Museum of the Order of St John**

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

### **The Musical Museum**

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

### **The National Archives,**

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

### **The National Piers Society**

www.piers.org.uk

### **Newington Green Action Group**

020 7359 6027, www.  
newingtongreen.org.uk

### **New River Action Group**

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

### **Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology**

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

### **The Peckham Society**

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

### **Ragged School Museum**

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

### **The Smithfield Trust**

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

### **Sir John Soane's Museum**

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

### **Spencer House**

27 St James's Place SW1,  
020 7499 8620

### **The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings**

37 Spital Square, E1 6DY, 020  
7377 1644, www.spab.org.uk

### **Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS)**

Richard Buchanan, 79  
Ashridge Crescent, SE18 3EA

### **Sutton House**

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

### **The Streatham Society**

www.streathamsociety.org.uk

### **Thames Discovery Programme**

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

### **The Transport Trust**

Lambeth Road, SE1 7JW,  
020 7928 6464 202, www.  
transporttrust.com

### **Union Chapel: Friends of the Union Chapel**

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

### **The Victorian Society**

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

### **The Wallace Collection**

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

### **Walthamstow Historical Society**

37 Chewton Road, E17  
7DW, contact@walthamstow  
historical society.org,  
www.walthamstow  
historicalsociety.org

### **Wellcome Collection**

183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE,  
020 7611 2222

### **John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism**

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

# Events

15 June

## Islington's Regency Renaissance

**Speaker: Lester Hillman**

8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1

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

## Islington's Archaeology & History Society annual general meeting

The talk will be preceded by the annual general meeting. A notice of the meeting is included with the journal.

7pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1



9 June

## Book launch: *The Ghost of Lily Painter*

**By Caitlin Davies**

6pm, Islington Museum, 245 St John Street, London EC1

If you would like to attend, contact Marissa Cox, tel: 020 7840 8494, email MCox@randomhouse.co.uk

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

As Annie delves in Lily's past, she unravels a dark tale of two notorious baby farmers.

● Caitlin has written about the background to her book piece for the journal. See this and the review on page 20.



## Autumn events

21 September 2011

### Talk

**Emily Thornberry MP**

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

19 October 2011

## Islington's green plaque scheme

**Allie Dillon, Islington Local History Centre**

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

16 November 2011

## Wells and Brimtoy – toymakers of Islington

**Chris Rule**

Two Islington firms were major makers of tin toys in the 20th century in the UK. Chris Rule is a long-term Islington resident and sits on the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society committee.

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

The Islington Archaeology & History Society meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Wednesday of each month at 8pm, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1

# *The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society*

Back page picture



Many of the streets around Finsbury Park were demolished to make way for the Andover Estate in the late 1960s. This evocative picture and others were kindly sent in by IAHS member Doris Evelyn Lea. See inside for her letter and more pictures