

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 2 No 2 Summer 2012



Clocking on in Caledonian Park

The story of a historic clock that is ticking once again

Royal connections that go back centuries ● The very popular Victorian walking races ● Fortress Islington during the English Civil War ● The only British prime minister to be assassinated ● How electric telegraphy helped detectives catch runaway criminals ● Signs of wartime at Highbury Corner ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

About the society

What we do

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

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks are arranged for groups.

Why archaeology?

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

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

Our website

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

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

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

Each page takes about 500 words, and maximum article length is 1,000 words. Email the editor for a copy of our writing guidelines.

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

Deadline for the autumn issue is 1 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

Copyright of everything in this journal lies with the creator unless otherwise stated. While it can be difficult to trace copyright ownership of archive materials, we make every effort to do so.

Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

Islington Archaeology & History Society Committee

President

Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury

Vice-president

Mary Cosh

Chairman and acting secretary

Andrew Gardner
andy@iahs.org.uk

Membership and events

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

Treasurer

Philip Anderson
phlpandrsn6@btopenworld.com

Committee members

Kathleen Frenchman
Peter Fuller
Michael Harper
Derek Seeley

Academic adviser

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

Newsletter editor

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

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

ISSN 2046-8245

Printed by CLP Holborn
16 Baldwins Gardens
London EC1N 7RJ

Join us and benefit from membership

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

We run a wide range of talks, with topics including architecture, gardens, transport, industry, politics, social change, London's waterways, map-making,

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

Members also receive the journal four times a year.

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

✂ (photocopies acceptable)

Join the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

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 2 No 2 Summer 2012

Bright outlook from the top of the tower

Spring can present unexpected opportunities, and this year was no exception. With thanks to our friends at the Islington Society, I accompanied Mary Cosh, author, historian and IAHS vice-president, to explore the Canonbury Tower fully.

These tours don't happen very often, and I hope to tell you more about the tower in the next issue of this journal.

Harley Sherlock of the Islington Society was kind enough to invite guests to his garden after the trip and speak about his life as "an architect in Islington", and the generational changes and attitudes he has seen.

There is a maxim that every generation dislikes the architecture of the preceding one. There is a truth in that because the succeeding generation comes with rebellion.

One thing in particular struck me as I took in a 360° view from the tower roof. I could see that the Northern Heights and, to the south, St Paul's, the Shard and the Gherkin, and everything on the horizon, all round, was grey.

Everything nearby, however, with all the trees in leaf, was green. I thought of the part played by the late Peter Powell, an active member of the IAHS, and others in the vociferous 1980s Brighter Islington campaign.

From where I was standing, on the roof of a 500-year-old building, brighter Islington in spring looked lovely.

We're organising walks and trips this summer. See the inside back page, the leaflets enclosed with the journal and our website, and join us to see the secret corners in our bright borough.

Andrew Gardner

Chairman

Islington Archaeology & History Society



Contents

News	4
People's Plaques winners announced	
Pump House at New River saved from redevelopment	
National planning policy framework gets a mixed response	
Letters and your questions	6
Archway's abandoned hall, a disappearing street and variety in houses	
Recognise a name?	9
Names on coffin plates from Islington Green burial ground	
A regal borough	10
Islington's longstanding royal connections	
Fortress Islington	12
Islington's forts and ramparts defended the city during the Civil War	
Tales of a unique assassination	14
Spencer Perceval, the only British prime minister to be assassinated, had a number of connections with Islington	
Clocking on	16
The clock in the grade II* listed Caledonian Park tower is ticking again	
Detectives beyond the borders	18
Electric telegraphy allowed police to pursue criminals from a distance	
Reminders of wartime	20
How the Second World War changed the face of Highbury Corner	
World-class walkers	22
Gruelling walking races lasting for days took the Victorian world by storm	
Publications and bookshop	24
Events	26
Directory of societies and museums	29
Islington Archaeology & History Society events	31
Including a Fleet River walk	

In brief

Regent's Canal marks 200th anniversary

Friday 13 July is the 200th anniversary of the Regent's Canal Act coming into force. The Regent's Canal was built to link the Grand Junction Canal's Paddington arm with the Thames at Limehouse. It is named after the Prince Regent, later King George IV. The canal was opened in two stages, from Paddington to Camden in 1816, and the rest in 1820.

- www.canalmuseum.org.uk/history/regents.htm

Vikings sailed with mice to their colonies

Mice were carried by the Vikings to their colonies, *Archaeology Daily News* reported. A study comparing modern and ancient mouse DNA showed Viking longboats carried mice to Iceland and Greenland from Norway or the British Isles.

Record your work for archaeology day

This year's Day of Archaeology on 29 June aims to raise public awareness of archaeology and its importance today. People working, studying or volunteering in archaeology are being asked to record what they do on Friday 29 June in any medium.

- www.dayofarchaeology.com

German V2 rocket found in harbour

Part of a German V2 rocket has been recovered at Harwich Harbour, the BBC reported. Few V2 rockets have survived – most were destroyed when they landed. See page 20 for more on Islington during the Blitz.

People's Plaques winners announced

A campaigner whose work helped free innocent prisoners, a healthcare pioneer and an artist will be commemorated in this year's Islington People's Plaques.

Jack Kennedy (1935-2003), who lived in Drayton Park,



Cyril Mann self portrait

was involved in campaigns in the 1970s to release the Birmingham Six and Guildford Four, who had been jailed for involvement in IRA bombings. In the 1990s, he exposed the number of deaths on building sites caused by poor safety standards; his campaign on this issue led to stronger laws being introduced.

Florence Keen (1868-1942) founded the North Islington Infant Welfare Centre and School for Mothers in Manor Gardens in Holloway in 1913. The centre provided mothers with health education at a time when one in 10 children died before their

fifth birthday. By 1920, the clinic had received more than 12,000 visitors and had expanded its services to include dentistry and sunlight treatment to prevent rickets. The organisation is now known as the Manor Gardens Welfare Trust (see spring issue, page 18).

Cyril Mann (1911-1980), a painter and sculptor, was known for exploring the dynamic effects of sunlight. His work was inspired by bomb-damaged buildings in postwar London. He lived in Bevan Court, Cruikshank Street, for 10 years.

Over 3,500 people voted to nominate people and events for a plaque.

National planning policy gets a mixed response over heritage

The National Planning Policy Framework, which has replaced previous national policy, has been greeted generally with relief by heritage organisations.

The final version of the NPPF is seen as being stronger than the much-criticised draft. Planning decisions will still be guided by a presumption of sustainable development, but the definition of sustainable has been strengthened.

English Heritage said the final NPPF would "allow heritage to continue to play a central role in long-term sustainable growth in England".

It added, however, that it would be monitoring planning decisions.

Heritage Action has raised concerns, notably around who would decide whether a site was significant.

Rescue, the British Archaeological Trust, said that the inclusion of the historic environment in core policy meant that: "It is no longer remotely justifiable for local authorities to claim that historic environment planning advice services are superfluous, disposable, or in some way luxurious."

However, it summed up saying: "Overall, this policy framework does not serve the concerns of the historic environment particularly well."

It was particularly concerned about the lack of protection for undesignated sites and buildings.

The draft NPPF was severely criticised for being too much in favour of development. A National Trust petition against its measures was signed by 230,000 people.

MoD accused over HMS Victory 'plunder'

The Ministry of Defence has been condemned by archaeologists including Lord Renfrew, after a US company was permitted to excavate HMS Victory, an 18th-century British warship, the *Observer* reported.

The company would receive "artefacts in lieu of cash" or part of their "fair value".

Lord Renfrew was reported as saying selling off underwater cultural heritage contravened the Unesco convention, and described it as "plundering".

As the *Journal* was going to press, archaeology organisation Mortimer – which described the story as a "scandal" – published information on its website gained under Freedom of Information requests on links between the UK government and the bodies involved. See it at <http://savearchaeology.co.uk/?p=2408>

Archives from 1860
free to search online

Dairy farming, police graffiti at New River Head, painted advertisements and excavations at Finsbury Pavement are among Islington topics that can be researched via the London and Middlesex

Archaeological Society's website. LAMAS's online archive includes its journal *Transactions* 1860-2005 and abstracts from some of its special papers.

● www.lamas.org.uk/archives

Information sought on wooden grave boards

The distribution of wooden grave boards in England is being researched by LAMAS's Colin Bowl. He is looking for records, and old photographs and prints. If you can help him, contact him at c.bowl@tiscali.co.uk, 7, Croft Gardens, Ruislip, HA4 8EY.

Experience sought on local history in schools

Do you have any experience of the role of local historians and local history in schools? If so, LAMAS's local history committee would like to hear from you for a workshop it is running in October with the Museum of London. Contact Eileen Bowl at c.bowl@tiscali.co.uk or phone 01895 638060.

Local listing guidance from English Heritage

This first comprehensive guide to local heritage listing in England – *Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing* – has been published by English Heritage.

● www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/local-listing-guide.pdf

Pump House rescue brings New River Head heritage centre closer

One of the most historic buildings in London – the grade II listed Pump House in Clerkenwell – has been saved from redevelopment.

Islington councillors unanimously rejected an application in April to redevelop the 18th century building into commercial space, and adjacent properties into luxury flats and houses.

It is at the site of the New River Head, where clean water was brought into the city in 1613.

In November, planners had recommended giving consent to redevelop the building but their report had failed to mention that it had been earmarked for a heritage centre.

Islington council allowed



The Pump House: officers had recommended giving consent to redevelop it

other buildings on the New River Head site to be converted into flats over the past 20 years on condition that the Pump House would become a heritage centre.

The heritage centre would mark the end of a walk along the 39-mile artificial

waterway that brought fresh water into central London.

The developer wishing to convert the Pump House said officers had not mentioned the heritage centre when they discussed the application.

David Sulkin of the Amwell Society described the New River Head as the "Globe Theatre of engineering".

Local councillor George Allan said the application "would wreck – with minimal consultation – the planning policies for the site that had been consulted on and overwhelmingly approved by local people in 1991 and 1999, as well as the credibility of the planning system in Islington".

Old public phone boxes go on sale – and brighten up Archway

Two old red telephone kiosks began new lives as floral displays in Archway – as BT started selling its own red K6/jubilee phone boxes for the first time since the 1980s.

The Archway phone boxes, outside the library and in Giesbach Road, are filled with plants including miniature ivy, pansies, narcissus and polyanthus. The scheme was devised by council landscape gardener Colette Blanchard.

If you want to buy a phone box from BT, prices start at £1,950 plus delivery and VAT.

The phone box, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, and introduced in 1936 to commemorate King George V's silver jubilee, became the country's first standard telephone box.



Floral phone box outside Archway library

Scott was reluctant to support the "Post Office red" colour, preferring silver or dove grey.

TUC and Women's libraries saved

The Trades Union Congress Library Collections and the Women's Library are to stay at London Metropolitan University. The collections could have been moved, sold or closed for six days a week because of cash cuts. The TUC and university management have agreed how they will be funded.

Highlight Victorian buildings at risk

The Victorian Society is on its annual hunt for its top 10 most endangered Victorian or Edwardian buildings. If you know of a building built between 1837 and 1914 worth saving, contact the society by 17 July 2012.

● www.victoriansociety.org.uk, tel: 020 8994 1019

Philosophical Magazine: Wikimedia Commons; photos: Christy Lawrence

have a picture of St Philip the Evangelist Church, or tell me where I could find one on the internet?

David Goodwin

By email

Michael Reading writes:

The church of St Philip stood on the corner of Arlington Square and Linton Street, opposite the present St Philip's Street.

It was built in 1855 in an ornate Norman style and seated 1,100 people. The architect was Alexander Dick Gough. It was consecrated in January 1857 and deconsecrated in 1953. It was then used for storage. In October 1954, part of the building was destroyed by fire.

The parish was merged with neighbouring St James in Prebend Street in 1875. In 1978, this church was declared redundant and the parish was made part of the adjoining parishes of St Mary, Islington, and St Stephen, Canonbury.

In 1958, on the site where St Philip stood, Islington council erected a block of flats, Arbon Court. Arbon is on the shores of Lake Constance in north-east Switzerland.

There may be a photograph of St Philip's Church at the Islington Local History Centre or the London Metropolitan Archives.

The London Metropolitan Archives hold many London parish registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, some going back to the 16th century. I believe these are being transferred online by Ancestry.co.uk.

Shoreditch

An old Ordnance Survey map for Shoreditch 1914 shows Columbia Square was in the London Borough of Shoreditch.



The last Methodist central hall built in London: the main hall fronts St John's Way at Archway

The London Borough of Shoreditch, together with the boroughs of Bethnal Green and Stoke Newington, were merged to become the London Borough of Hackney in 1965. The IAHS covers Islington and the former borough of Finsbury, which has been part of Islington since 1965.

The East London History Society, the Hackney Museum and the Hackney Society may be able to help you.

Finally, the Arlington Street you found is in a somewhat different district from the Arlington Street of Islington, as it is in this street that one gains access to the main entrance to the Ritz Hotel.

David Goodwin writes:

Thank you very much for taking the time to provide me with this information. I started following your leads today and have already found them very useful.

It is most interesting to explore a place and a time that I knew very little about, and I thank you for your help in my journey of discovery.

David Goodwin

By email

Tram history questioned

Thomas Lorman's article on Sir George Haynes Radford's visit to Hungary in 1906 and its link with the Kingsway tram subway is intriguing, but it appears to be based on several misconceptions (page 10, Summer 2011).

Towards the end of the 19th century, the LCC was acquiring London's company-owned horse tramways; it planned to electrify these and build tram subways. LCC delegations visited the US in 1899 and 1901 to study tram subways in Boston and New York.

It was envisaged that there would be several tram subways in central London, but the one at Kingsway was the only one built.

Construction of Kingsway and the subway took several years. It was opened as far south as Aldwych on 24 February 1906, with the electrified tram route from the Angel. This was well before Radford's visit to

Budapest. The final short section, from Aldwych to the Embankment, was not opened until April 1908. Trams never did run under the Thames.

While Radford may have been instrumental in urging the completion of this final link, he does not appear to have played any significant part in the genesis of the subway scheme as a whole.

The conduit (sub-surface) system of current collection was not introduced to London as a result of Radford's visit to Hungary in 1906, nor was it adopted specifically for the Kingsway subway. In 1901, the LCC bought a demonstration tramcar for evaluation, equipped for conduit current collection, which had been on show at the Tramways & Light Railways Exhibition in the Royal Agricultural Hall in Islington.

Trials were successful and the LCC adopted the conduit system on its first electrically operated tram

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



Anson Road houses, Tufnell Park: why are there so many architectural designs in one road?



route from Westminster Bridge to Tooting, which was opened on 15 May 1903.

By the time of Radford's visit to Hungary in 1906, the system was extensively used in south London as well as on the route from the Angel to Aldwych.

*Graham Bird
London W4, by email*

Mr Bird has provided interesting information. I do, however, suspect that he has misconstrued the central contention of my article.

The construction of the Kingsway tramway subway did not result from Radford's visit to Budapest in the autumn of 1906, seven months after the subway opened.

Radford's visit resulted from his longstanding interest in the Budapest tramway system. During his time on the LCC from 1895, he had come to regard this as the right model for the London tramways and the cross-river tram.

During his visit to Hungary, Radford said during a speech: "We confess that we have learned things from you when considering our electric tramways in London. We did not arrive at any decision before we had sent our officers to Budapest

and obtained from them a valuable report on your conduit system of electrical traction."

Contemporary reports, including one in *The Times*, refer to the subway system in Budapest, as well as the subway in Boston, as being models for the construction of the Kingsway tramway subway.

*Dr Thomas Lorman
School of Slavonic and East European Studies,
University College London*

Ladbroke House's polytechnic past

I was very interested in your article *TV Firm Boxes Clever* (winter 2011-12, page 10). This said: "Cossor House became part of the London Metropolitan University and was renamed Ladbroke House."

The London Metropolitan University did not exist in 1966, when Ladbroke House was acquired by the North-Western Polytechnic, which had headquarters at Kentish Town, where I worked.

At the time the building was taken over in 1966, it was already called Ladbroke House. We understand that this was because it had been owned by Ladbroke's, the bookmaker.

The North-Western

Polytechnic joined with the Northern Polytechnic in Holloway Road in 1971 to form the Polytechnic of North London.

After I left, this became the University of North London and, in recent years, joined up with another of the new universities to become the London Metropolitan University.

I was a librarian at the North-Western Polytechnic in Kentish Town, later the Kentish Town site of the Polytechnic of North London in 1959-87.

*Ann Winsor
Lewes, East Sussex*

Do you remember Kilfrost of King's Cross?

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Kilfrost, a firm that supplies de-icing and anti-icing products to civil and military aviation and transport industries.

Although founded in Northumberland in the 1930s and based there since 1940, between 1936 and 1940 Kilfrost was located at Albion Works, Albion Street

(Balfe Street from 1938), in King's Cross.

At the time, the company started supplying Imperial Airways and the RAF.

I have approached Islington Local History Centre, and would also like to appeal for any information or recollections readers may have.

I'm interested in finding photographs and other information, press cuttings mentioning Kilfrost, information about the war years, and any information about the workforce.

*Christian Forster
Kilfrost, Albion Works,
Haltwhistle,
Northumberland, NE49 0HJ,
christian.forster@kilfrost.com*

Michael Reading writes:

As you have already approached Islington Local History Centre, I would suggest you approach the London Metropolitan Archives for the possibility of photographs.

The IAHS does not maintain an archive. Many of its members have been resident in Islington for the past 20-30 years or so. Very few will remember the borough some 70 or more years ago.

I should add that the social profile of the borough has changed considerably in the past 40 years, with the population half of what it would have been in 1936-40. It is now a highly desirable area in which to live.

I can give you some information on Balfe Street. Built as Albion Street in 1846 by George Crane, it was renamed Balfe Street in

Albion Street was renamed Balfe Street after William Balfe, a composer best known for his opera *The Bohemian Girl*, which was a great success in 1843

1938 after William Balfe (1808-78), a popular composer who is best known for his opera *Bohemian Girl*, which was a great success in 1843.

The Post Office street directory for London for 1935 records Albion Street and the businesses that occupied Albion Works. The old Ordnance Survey maps show that the entrance to Albion Works was through an archway in the line of houses facing into Balfe Street, and there was a considerable area for business use. You can see the archway on Google Earth.

The bomb damage maps of 1939-45 show that Balfe Street and the streets immediately surrounding it did not suffer any bomb or blast damage during the Second World War.

The street today looks in

very good condition and practically unchanged from when it was built.

One road, many designs

I heard a rumour that Anson Road was once the subject of an architectural competition and that's why, unlike many streets in Tufnell Park, the houses are all different. I was wondering if you knew whether this was true or not. Rather curious!

My grandmother lived in Carleton Road during the war and will be very keen to know this.

*Rhiannon
By email*

Michael Reading writes:

I have searched various sources, but have been unable to find any reference to a competition for the building of Anson Road.

However, the search was not exhaustive.

Anson Road was begun in 1860, but appears in the directories as only two properties until 1870. By 1871, nos 1, 3, 5, 7 and 13 and no 2 had been built, so progress was rather slow.

The area was part of an old manorial estate, which in the 19th century was in the hands of the Tufnell family. In 1822, they applied for the necessary legal acts to reduce the copyhold and grant building leases on the demesne.

The estate surveyor, John Shaw, who died in 1870, designed the earliest houses. His successor, George Truefitt, who had also designed many of the houses from 1850, continued, including the Byzantine-style St George's Church on the corner of Carleton Road

and Tufnell Park Road.

Truefitt lived in one of the houses in St George's Grove and later in Carleton Road.

Carleton and Anson were Tufnell family names. Augusta Theresa Tufnell, born in 1831, was the daughter of Henry Tufnell, and married the Reverend Arthur Henry Anson, rector of Potter Hanworth in Lincolnshire.

On 15 July 1944 at 3.21pm, a V1 flying bomb landed at the junction of Carleton Road, Anson Road and St George's Avenue.

Two people were killed and 20 injured. Several houses were destroyed and others badly damaged enough to require demolition.

Your grandmother may have been in residence in Carleton Road at this time, and would remember it.

Islington burials: do you recognise any names?

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



Rankin (Ramkin) James	male	1847	iron	28 May	Fletchers Place, Lower Road, Islington
Raphael Ann	female	1845	iron	27 Nov	13 Windsor Terrace, City Road
Rawle Ann	female	1850	iron	10 Nov	3 James Gardens, Chapel Street, Islington
Ray Thomas	male	1830	iron		
Raybould William	male	1851	iron	24 Dec	Church Passage, Islington
Rayner James	male	1828	iron		
Read Richard	male	1849	iron	13 Jul	3 Cloudesley St, Islington
Read ?	female	1827	iron		
Read William Kerr	male	1822	iron		
Readshaw Sarah Steward	female	1826	iron		
Redding Sarah	female	1851	iron	21 Jan	39 Penton Street, Pentonville
Rees Mary	female	1820	iron		
Rees John	male	1853	iron	22 Dec	Lower Street, Islington
Reeve James	male	1850	iron	13 Jan	2 City Garden Row, City Road
Reeve (Reeves) Alfred	male	1849	iron	8 Nov	2 Bath St
Reeves Mary Ann	female	1829	brass		
Reid David Ker	male	1827	iron		
Renou?? Elizabeth	female	1818	iron		
Retson Elizabeth	female	1852	iron	7 Nov	18 Featherstone Street, City Road
Rice (Samuel)	male	1832	iron	19 Oct	25 Suffolk Street. Upper Edmund Street, Battle Bridge
Rich Sarah	female	18(45)	iron	18 Jun	Gainsford Street
Richards Rebecca	female	1849	iron	5 Aug	4 Whiskin St, Clerkenwell
Richards Benjamin	male	1841	iron	17 Jun	King Street, Islington



A regal borough

Royalty has for centuries played a part in Islington and continues to do so. To mark the Queen's diamond jubilee, Charles Goodson-Wickes describes a long record of service

When Princess Alexandra accepted the invitation to open the new Goldsmiths' Centre in Clerkenwell in April this year, it is doubtful she realised that she was doing so on land that once belonged to the Priory of St John, which was sequestered by her collateral ancestor Henry VIII.

Nowadays, in happier times, the grand prior of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem – a humanitarian organisation respected throughout the world – is her first cousin the Duke of Gloucester. The Princess Royal, commandant-in-chief (youth) opened its Holloway HQ in 2009.

The dissolution of the monasteries (1536-1540) had a

HM Queen Elizabeth II: above in 2007; below right: in 1972

profound effect on what is now Islington but at the time was merely a small hamlet. Much of the land so requisitioned was given to friends of the Tudor monarchy.

The Carthusian monastery established 150 years earlier had rebelled against the Act of Supremacy and several of the monks were tortured and later executed at Tyburn. The buildings fell into disrepair and were used as storage for royal tents and pavilions.

Charterhouse was then granted to Lord North who, having carried out major renovations, acted as host to Elizabeth I when she broke her journey there for five days in 1558 en route from Hatfield House to be crowned at Westminster Abbey.

Charterhouse

The royal connection at Charterhouse was maintained when James I stayed there and held his first council south of the border in 1603, having travelled from Edinburgh. In 1611, Thomas Sutton set up a charitable almshouse and school at Charterhouse, which originally catered for the housing of elderly men who had given service to the Crown and for the education of young boys. Even now, the Queen, Prince Philip and Prince Charles are governors of what was the Sutton charity.

Part of the original monastery's site is now occupied by Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, the patron of which is the Duke of Gloucester. The Queen Mother opened the Science Building in 1964.

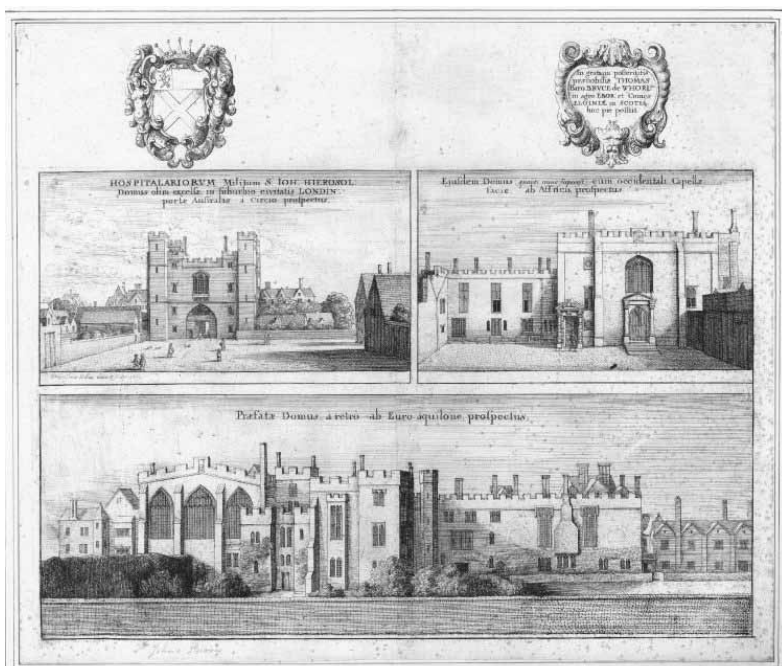
Military history

Elsewhere in what is now the Islington borough, Henry VIII's influence was rather more positive. In 1537, he incorporated by royal charter the Guild of St George to promote the art of handling longbows, crossbows and handguns. At that time, these arms were collectively known as "artillery", and the guild in due course became the Artillery Company. It was given the prefix "Honourable" by Queen Victoria in 1860 and was thereafter known as the Honourable Artillery Company – the oldest regiment in the British Army.

Two hundred years earlier, at the restoration of the monarchy, the company was given the right to form guards of honour in the City of London for visiting royalty and heads of state. The Pikemen and Musketeers have dressed in uniforms of the period of Charles I ever since; in 1830,



Sadler's Wells Theatre has long enjoyed royal patronage. Princess Margaret served as the president of its foundation



The Priory of St John of Jerusalem in Clerkenwell has long associations with royalty

William IV deemed that the Honourable Artillery Company uniform for other ceremonial purposes should be modelled on that of the Grenadier Guards.

The Honourable Artillery Company now also fires royal salutes from the Tower of London. The Queen is the captain general and, in 2004, she gave a royal warrant to its Light Cavalry element. In 2010 she reviewed the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers. Prince Michael of Kent, royal honorary colonel, regularly visits the regiment which, among other roles, is part of the Territorial Army. It has deployed troops recently both to Iraq and to Afghanistan.

Range of activities

On the artistic front, Sadler's Wells Theatre has long enjoyed royal patronage from George V

and Queen Mary, followed by George VI and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. Princess Margaret served as the president of its foundation, endorsing the royal family's support of this fine centre of excellence.

In 1978, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh reopened Wesley's Chapel at its bicentenary, attended by Methodist and other representatives.

Arsenal Football Club has had 10 royal spectators since 1922, dating from the Duke of York, who became George VI. Two of his brothers, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) and Prince George (later the Duke of Kent) followed suit. The present Duke of Kent opened the redeveloped Highbury stadium in 1994. The kings of Norway and of Tonga have watched games.

In 2003, Prince Charles visited

in connection with The Prince's Trust to be briefed on the work of Arsenal in the Community. The Queen was due to open the Emirates Stadium in October 2006 but, most unusually, she was indisposed and the Duke of Edinburgh deputised for her.

The Duchess of Cornwall launched the Reading Stars programme at the stadium earlier this year, in her role as patron of the National Literary Trust.

Recent royal visits to the borough include the Queen's visit to open the Children's Eye Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital in 2007, where she is royal patron. She and the Duke of Edinburgh visited the City and Islington College last year to inspect its widely praised Centre for Applied Sciences and to open the Animal Centre.

Last year, the Earl of Wessex opened the City of London Academy in Islington. Most recently, the Duchess of Cambridge adopted The Art Room as one of her charitable patronages and informally attended a class at Robert Blair primary school in Holloway.

Earlier this year, it was most gratifying to see several people from Islington who have given service to the community being present at a reception and lunch in the presence of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Over a period of some five centuries, royalty has continued to play a valued role in Islington, now adapted to modern times.

I am proud to have been appointed as the Queen's representative in the borough when the lord lieutenant is not present.

This record of service in Islington by so many members of the royal family in charitable, educational, military, artistic, religious and sporting activities is a testament to the high standing of the monarchy in this remarkable diamond jubilee year. ■

Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes is representative deputy lieutenant for the London Borough of Islington

Princess Anne (right) opened the London Canal Museum on 9 March 1992; she returned in October 2010 to open *Water and Locks*, its latest permanent exhibition. The



Princess Royal is patron of the London Canal Museum Trust



Fortress Islington

The biggest urban defences in Britain during the English Civil War were built by thousands of volunteer Londoners. David Flintham describes the series of sometimes impressive linked forts that ran through Islington and how they came to be built

During the first year of the English Civil War, a system of fortifications were thrown up around London, a system so large that they were the biggest urban defences built anywhere in Britain during the war.

Comprised of some 24 forts and redoubts connected by an 18km circuit of ramparts, these fortifications were built in response to the threat of attack by King Charles I's army.

London's defences were developed in two distinct phases. The first, started in autumn 1642, took the form of reinforcing the existing medieval walls, blocking streets with barriers or chains, and the building of guardhouses and some small earthworks (probably redoubts) by main roads. This included blocking the northern end of St John's Street and a fortification guarding the roads beyond Islington (Corporation of London Record Office).

The second phase started in February 1643 with plans for a new system of defences, initially comprised of 15 connected forts and including a "small redoubt neere Islington pound. A battery and breastwork on the hill near Clerkenwell towards Hampstead way" (Journals of the Court of Common Council). The "hill near Clerkenwell" was Islington hill, near the north end of St John's Street.

By the end of March, work was well under way, entailing a massive amount of unpaid labour. Volunteers came from all walks of London life and, at any one time, as many as 20,000 men, women and children would

be labouring on the fortifications (*A Perfect Diurnall of Some Passages in Parliament*, 1643; *Mercurius Civicus*, 1643). During April, William Lithgow, a Scottish merchant, walked the entire circuit – known as the Lines of Communication – in a single day. Lithgow described the defences as "erected of turffe, sand, watles, and earthen work" (Lithgow, 1643: 82-83).

Tour of Islington forts

The defences entered Islington at the modern junction of Bath Street and City Road. They then followed the course of what is now Lever Street to the first of four forts in Islington – Mount Mill Fort, just to the south of today's King Square Gardens. It was one of the first forts to be erected, and fort number 6 on George Vertue's 1738 plan of London's defences.

The defences then headed along the line of Sebastian Street to what is now the junction of Spencer Street and St John Street (now the site of a City University London building), where Waterfield Fort was built; this was fort 7 on the Vertue plan.

From here, the defences followed the line of Myddelton Street and Exmouth Market, on to Mount Pleasant and the site

of Pindar of Wakefield Fort (fort 10). The defences continued south-westwards and left Islington at Phoenix Place.

Lithgow's description begins at "Mount Mil-hill Fort", which he found: "standing on the highway near to the Red Bull [probably Goswell Road today]. This is a large and singular fortification, having a fort above, and within a fort, the lowest consisting of five angles, two whereof towards the fields are each of them thrice ported, having as many great cannon, with a flanking piece from a hid corner; the upper fort standing circular, is furnished with eleven pieces of cannon" (Lithgow, 1643: 82).

Continuing westwards, "along the trench dyke (which is three yards thick, and on the ditch side twice as high) I courted Islington, at the lower end whereof I found a strong and large strength called Waterfield Fort, having, within two outer works, a circularie mount, stored with nine great pieces of artillerie" (Lithgow, 1643: 82).

Lithgow continued to "Pinder of Wakefields Fort, being only quadrangle, pallosaded and single ditched, and enstalled with great ordnance and a 'court du guard'" (Lithgow, 1643: 83).

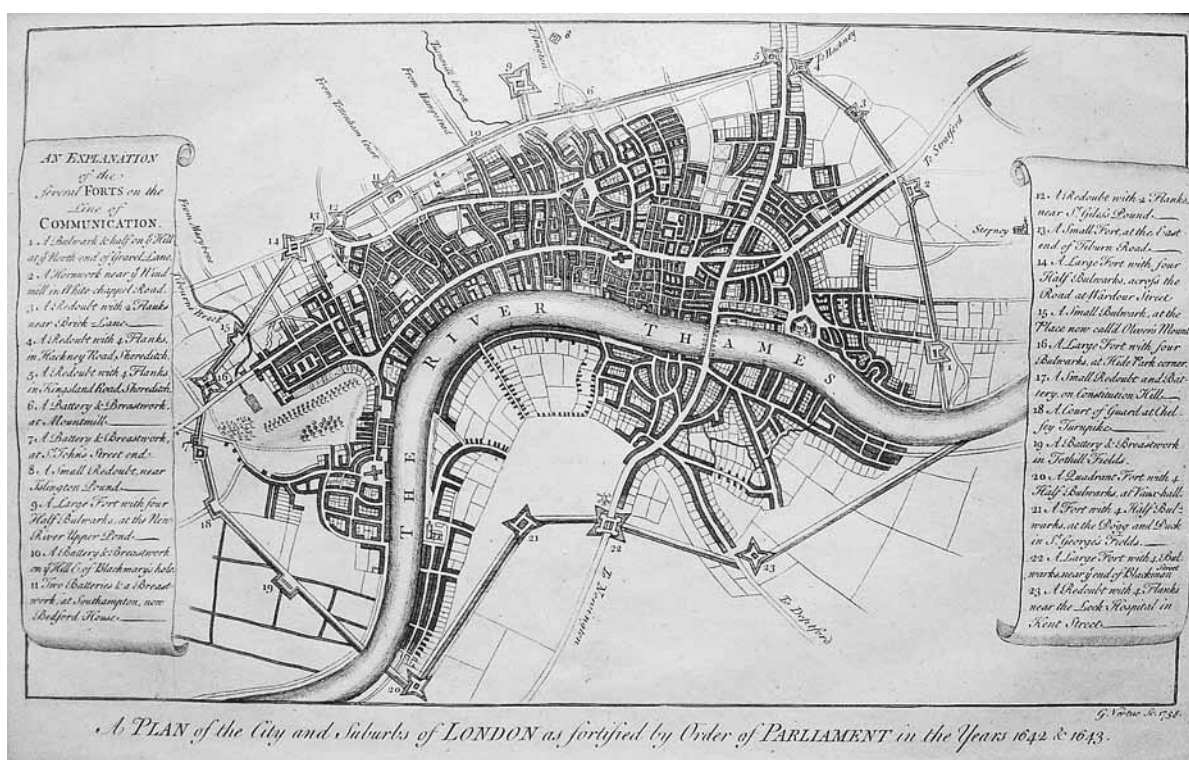
To the north of the main course of the defences on a site now occupied by the reservoir below Claremont Square was Fort Royal (Ward, 2003) (fort 9).

Lithgow "approached to Islington-hill, where there is erected a most rare and most admirable fortification called Strawes Fort, but now Fort Royall. It hath eight angles and a specious interlarding distance between each of the cornered

Mount Mill Fort from *Malignants' Treacherous and Bloody Plot Against the Parliament and City of London by God's Providence Happily Prevented* (broadside, London, 31 May 1643)



George Vertue's 1738 plan of London's defences: forts and a redoubt in Islington are numbered 6-10. The square site jutting out at the top centre was Fort Royal, at what is now Claremont Square



bulwarks. This fort is marvellous perspicuous and prospective both for city and country, commanding all the other inferior fortifications near and about that part of the enclining grounds" (Lithgow, 1643: 82-83).

Lithgow does not say whether Fort Royal was linked to the main circuit of the Lines of Communication. However, in his *History of London* of 1756, William Maitland describes "a covered way (the course of which is still to be seen) ran to a large bulwark at the Upper Pond".

This covered way is also shown on Vertue's plan (Smith and Kelsey, 1996: 132-133). This covered way has long since vanished, but it is likely to have followed what is now Amwell Street (Smith and Kelsey, 1996: 133) and joined the main line of the defences at the top of modern Skinner Street.

End of the fortifications

The defences were demolished shortly after the end of the Civil War and the New Model Army's occupation of London in 1647 (Razell and Razell, 1997: 79). As the Royalists never attacked London, it is impossible to say how the defences would have

stood up to a military assault.

But was defence against Royalists their only purpose? Venetian ambassador Girolamo Agostini certainly did not think so; he believed the fortifications were defence both against the Royalists and "against tumult of the citizens", who were not always solidly behind Parliament (Razell and Razell, 1997: 33).

The Lines of Communication were constructed when London was under a very real threat and Londoners feared the worse. They were prepared to labour in their thousands on the defences, not only because of their support for Parliament but also, more importantly, through self-preservation. They desired to protect their families, livelihoods, homes and ultimately their city from the horrors and ravages of war.

But, by the time the fortifications were pulled down in 1647, Londoners were probably glad to see the end of them. They were expensive to maintain and the destruction of property and farmland, and the disruption they caused, while tolerable in 1643, had probably become unbearable four years later. ■

David Flintham is a military historian specialising in 17th century fortifications; he is a member of the Fortress Study Group (www.fsgfort.com) and the Royal Historical Society (www.royalhistoricalsociety.org). He will be addressing the society in June (see inside back page).

References

- Corporation of London Record Office.
- Journals of the Court of Common Council; 40: 52; and Thomason Tract; E.669: 5, 87
- Journals of the Court of Common Council; 40: 52
- Lithgow W (1643) *The Present Surveigh at London*. Reprinted in Ross WG (1984) *Military Engineering during the Great Civil War, 1642-9*. London: K Trotman: Appendix A, 82-83
- Maitland W (1756) *History of London of 1756*. In: Ward R (2003)
- Mercurius Civicus* (1643) 4 May-16 June. In: Schroeder JJ (1954) *London and the Civil Wars*. University of Wisconsin: 251;
- A Perfect Diurnall of Some Passages in Parliament* (1643) May. In: Brett-James, NG (1928) *The Fortification of London in 1642/3*. London Topographical Society: 11-12
- Razell P, Razell E, eds (1997) *The English Civil War: a Contemporary Account: 1657-75, Volume 3*. London: Caliban Books
- Smith VTC, Kelsey P (1996) *The Lines of Communication: the civil war defences of London*. In: Porter S, ed (1996) *London and the Civil War*. London: Macmillan
- Ward R (2003) *London's New River*. London: Historical Publications: 213

Tales of a unique assassination

There was shock – and some rejoicing – when prime minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated in 1812. Lester Hillman looks at the event and its links with Islington

Spencer Perceval became the only British prime minister to be assassinated when he was shot by John Bellingham on 11 May 1812.

A number of parallels can be drawn between this event and the assassination of US president John F Kennedy in 1963 – notably the shock, causing England's "Kennedy moment", and the suspicions about a conspiracy.

There was the natural sympathy for a widow with a young family. There were parallels in the identification of a lone gunman. Both assassins had previous experience in the uniformed services and, strikingly, both had spent considerable time in Russia.

Troops were stationed in and around Islington immediately after the shooting and at the time of Bellingham's execution.

This suggests pockets of unease were expected. In Nottingham, news of the assassination had been met with scenes of wild jubilation.

Times were unstable. On a wider stage, a global war was to break out; in the month after the assassination, America declared war on Britain and, four days after that, Napoleon invaded Russia.

Locally, riots broke out down the road at Clerkenwell's Spa Fields in 1816.

The assassin

On 19 April 1812, the assassin, John Bellingham, was formulating his plans in lodgings barely half a mile from the museum. On 20 April, he bought two pistols for four guineas from WA Beckwith, a City gunsmith just off Smithfield.

Bellingham had a grievance against the government over compensation for unjust imprisonment in Russia. After the assassination, he made no attempt to escape.

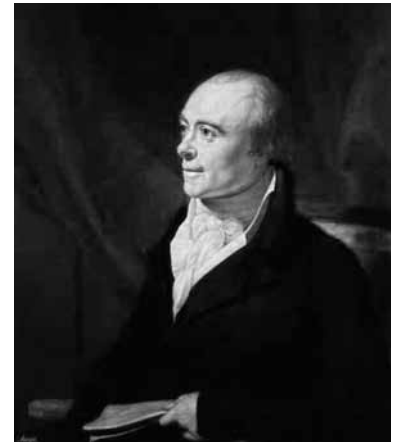
Was Bellingham insane? At his trial just a few days after the shooting, Bellingham was at pains to avoid any such plea. As a boy, he might well have walked across Islington to Old Street where his father was confined for a year in St Luke's asylum and may have wished to avoid the same experience.

Less than a month elapsed between Bellingham buying the pistols and being imprisoned, tried, executed and his body given to Sir William Blizard for anatomy at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

Thomas Paine, Joseph



Memorial to Thomas Paine in Angel Square. Perceval was a junior counsel for the Crown at Paine's prosecution



Spencer Perceval

Grimaldi, and Mary and Charles Lamb played their parts in a story featuring St Luke's Hospital, local militias and Clerkenwell jurors.

All these events played out in and around Clerkenwell with a Clerkenwell grand jury hearing the charges just before the trial.

Just 90 minutes after the shooting, Angel residents Charles and Mary Lamb had their Kennedy moment. That Monday evening, they were visiting Samuel Taylor Coleridge in Highgate, more than five miles from the Houses of Parliament, when diarist Henry Crabb Robinson brought the news. Coleridge's house is still standing; today it is home to model Kate Moss.

In 1792, Spencer Perceval was a junior counsel for the Crown in the prosecution (in absentia) of Thomas Paine for seditious libel.

Islington's monument to Thomas Paine is tucked away in Angel Square. Unveiled on 13 June 1991, it commemorates the bicentennial of *The Rights of Man* and Paine's link to the Angel.

Not far from the monument, the Regent's Canal emerges from a tunnel.

The bill for the construction of the canal had been laid before

parliament only four days before the assassination. Perceval, who was not only MP for Northampton but also a lawyer, would have been familiar with the issues. When he lived in Hampstead, he would have ridden to parliament over part of the canal's Regent's Park alignment.

Meetings with fellow ministers might have been entertaining; Perceval's lord chancellor Lord Eldon was a great fan of Joseph Grimaldi (who lived in Islington) and is reported to have seen *Mother Goose* no fewer than 12 times.

Gunsmith industry

In December 1816, the Beckwiths' Skinner Street premises were ransacked for weapons in connection with the Spa Field Riots. Four years later, the Beckwiths sought recompense from parliament for the damage.

In the 1840s, gunsmith Henry Beckwith – the son of WA Beckwith – briefly operated in River Street, off Myddelton Square.

The clock monument at the Angel celebrates local industrial heritage, which included expertise in gun metal.

Political tradition continued

Spencer Perceval left a large family. He and his wife Jane had 12 children who survived to adulthood; she had 20 pregnancies. Two of his sons appear to have had links to Islington.

One son, also named Spencer, continued the parliamentary tradition. He embraced the Catholic Apostolic Church and may have visited Edward Irving at 4 Claremont Square, where there is a blue plaque to the founder of the movement.

Dudley, another of Perceval's sons, seems to have been one of the unsuccessful candidates for the Finsbury parliamentary seat in 1837.

Perceval's mother was a member of the Compton family in Northampton, who owned land in Islington. A later



Above: local gun metal expertise noted at Angel's clock; left: WA Beckwith label

Compton gave the land for the Northampton Institute, today's City University.

Street name reminders

Islington Museum, which hosted a talk on the assassination, is framed by Spencer and Percival Streets.

Compton, River, Ashby and Penton Streets, Northampton and Charterhouse Squares, the Regent's Canal, Liverpool Road, Angel and Claremont Squares – all these names played parts in the tragic drama.

Percival Street dates from 1802-03, when Perceval was attorney general, the spelling variation coming later.

Liverpool Road is named after Robert Banks Jenkinson, Lord Liverpool, who was prime minister for almost 15 years after Spencer Perceval.

The Castle Ashby estate in Northamptonshire was owned by the Compton family.

Beyond Islington

Visitors to Hampstead and Ealing will find Perceval commemorated there.

All Saints church Ealing is named in honour of Perceval and his date of birth on All Saints' Day on 1 November. It was built after one of his daughters bequeathed £5,000 to erect a church and tower in his memory.

Not far from St Peter's Church in Belsize Park is a Perceval Avenue, named in 1913 around the centennial.

John Bellingham's family had lived for a time in Liverpool, coincidentally in Islington Street in Liverpool's Islington district. His widow discontinued her millinery business and may have reverted to her maiden name.

Today, a distant relative, Henry Bellingham, is the Conservative MP for North West Norfolk.

Anniversary events

Regency Outrage! The Assassination of Spencer Perceval was the subject of a talk at Islington Museum in April, organised jointly with the Islington Archaeology & History Society.

Other commemorative events were held in May in Ealing and Charlton, where Perceval lived, and at the Palace of Westminster.

Spencer Perceval was born on 1 November 1762, which makes 2012 a 250th anniversary. A society walk – *Perceval Perambulation* – has been devised. Keep an eye out for more details in the autumn. ■

Lester Hillman, academic adviser to the IAHS, gave the talk on Spencer Perceval at Islington Museum

Sources

All Saints Church Elm Grove Road, London W5 3JH
Gillen M (1972) *The Assassination of the Prime Minister: the Shocking Death of Spencer Perceval*. Sidgwick & Jackson Guildhall Library, City of London Corporation, Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7HH
Hanrahan DC (2008) *The Assassination of the Prime Minister: John Bellingham and the Murder of Spencer Perceval*. Sutton Publishing
Islington Museum and Local History Centre (see Directory)
London Canal Museum (see Directory)
St Luke's Church and Charlton House, The Village, Charlton, London SE7 8UG
St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, London NW3 4HJ



Clocking on

The Caledonian Park Clock is ticking again. Mark Smulian talks to Alfie Dennen about how his Stopped Clocks Project got it going

aims to bring public clocks back into use.

The “Cally clock”, as it is known, was built in 1855 by Clerkenwell clockmaker Morris and Sons, when the area now occupied by Caledonian Park and the Market Estate was developed as a livestock market.

Pubs were built on each corner – three of which still stand, though none is in use – and the 151ft clock tower was erected as both a focal point and a means of letting people at the market know the time.

The tower was built from Portland stone with a slate roof to a design by John Bunstone Bunning, architect to the City of London.

The clock survived the wartime bombing that damaged the market and remained ticking off the minutes after the livestock market closed in the postwar years and its bric-a-brac successor shut in 1963. It was grade II* listed in 1972.

In the mid 1990s, a local



Alfie Dennen: “Public clocks are a symbol of the disconnections between ourselves and our recent past when they served a communal function”

volunteer named Jim Burrows took on the task of winding it. When he became unable to continue, winding duties were taken over by officers at a nearby council office but, when their workplace moved, no one was available to take on the task and the clock stopped.

There was nothing wrong the clock itself, which had been restored in 1993 by clock repairer John Smith & Sons, but could anyone be persuaded to ascend a series of steep stairs and ladders once a week and then turn a heavy drum to wind the clock?

This is when Mr Dennen became involved. He is interested in links between art, technology and society and admits he knows little about the mechanics of clocks.

He says: “I think because I run Stopped Clocks people have a notion I am a real horologist, but I’m not.

“My interest is a societal one, as the clocks are objects that reflect the change in culture and

Below: the grade II* listed clock tower and view from it; opposite page, clockwise from top left: the works; pendulum (in box); setting the time; the weight rises; bell in the tower; steep steps and gears; bevel gears in the clock face room; getting the pendulum moving

Christy Lawrence





society and are quite a potent symbol of the disconnections between ourselves and our recent past when public clocks served a communal function."

Morris and Sons made the clock sufficiently well that it will run on time for a week after each winding and, beyond "greasing every two or three years", needs little maintenance, Mr Dennen says.

Having convinced the council he could do the job, Mr Dennen became the Cally clock's winder, and makes a weekly visit to do so.

It was an attractive project for Stopped Clocks because, he says: "In majority of cases where clocks have stopped, there is a problem with the mechanism or with the

this clock only needed someone to wind it, which is quite rare."

Health and safety rules mean someone cannot be in the clock tower alone. The *Journal's* visit to accompany Mr Dennen saw the editor and I don high-visibility vests and hard hats and climb up.

Go up a few flights of wooden staircases, and one reaches the clock chamber. Here sits a mid-Victorian turret clock, which looks like three round drums laid next to each other horizontally fixed to a metal frame that bristles with levers and ropes.

Winding the clock involves fitting a large metal handle to a protruding rod then turning the heavy mechanism vigorously until the clock's weight completes its ascent from the ground to the clock chamber.

That done, and the time and pendulum checked, the weight can be left to make its week-long journey back to the ground.

There is more to see, though. Steep wooden steps lead into a chamber between the four clock faces, then an even steeper one goes out onto a terrace that, on a clear day, offers views as far as Alexandra Palace, Docklands, the Crystal Palace transmitter and the Wembley Arch.

The steep stairs mean that, while the tower is occasionally open for events, it cannot generally be opened to the public for safety reasons.

Mr Dennen explains his enthusiasm for the clock: "It is the sense of the clock tower becoming a living thing, an avatar of London itself, that we want to explore.

"Clocks are fascinating not just in their mechanical nature but in how they regulate our understanding of the world, and embody time and memory.

"We're very pleased to have this clock running again." ■

Mark Smulian is a freelance journalist. www.marksmulian.co.uk



Detectives beyond the borders

The electric telegraph in the 1840s helped the Metropolitan police pursue criminals to sea and stations beyond England, supplementing traditional detective skills. Joan Lock describes two cases, and how the new police force impressed Charles Dickens

The electric telegraph, first installed in 1843 between Slough and Paddington railway stations, aided in the arrest of a murderer two years later.

John Tawell had poisoned his mistress in Slough then was seen heading for the train to London. An electric telegraph to Paddington preceded him. He was arrested, charged, found guilty and hanged.

By 1849, only about a third of the railway network of had been connected but it still helped.

One Friday afternoon in August of that year, a Mr Flynn informed PC Wright that his cousin, Patrick O'Connor, had not been at work that day, nor was he at his lodgings. Flynn had seen him the night before and knew he had been on his way to supper at 3 Minver Place in Bermondsey. He asked the PC to go there with him to find out whether O'Connor had arrived.

The door of 3 Minver Place was answered by Maria Manning, a handsome, well-dressed woman with a slight French accent. Yes, she told them, she had expected Mr O'Connor for dinner but he had never arrived, which had surprised her, him being a man of such regular habits. She was so surprised that she had gone to

A Morse telegraph of 1837



Paddington station in 1850: the electric telegraph, first installed between here and Slough, was used by the police to apprehend a murderer

his lodgings and been even more surprised not to find him there.

A couple of days later, the 50-year-old O'Connor had still not surfaced and his relations and friends were becoming concerned. Flynn and PC Wright visited the now somewhat flurried Mrs Manning again, who murmured about "poor O'Connor" whom she now recalled could be erratic.

Flynn broke open O'Connor's boxes to find them empty. The next day, police found 3 Minver Place empty as well. Three days later, two PCs dug up the garden and gave the flat a more thorough search during which one of them noticed that some of the mortar between the kitchen flagstones looked damp. Underneath, they found the naked body of a man embedded face down in unslaked lime.

The skull had extensive fractures and a bullet wound to the temple. The body was quickly identified as that of O'Connor by its very long jaw bone and fine set of false teeth. Identification by real teeth was not then possible.

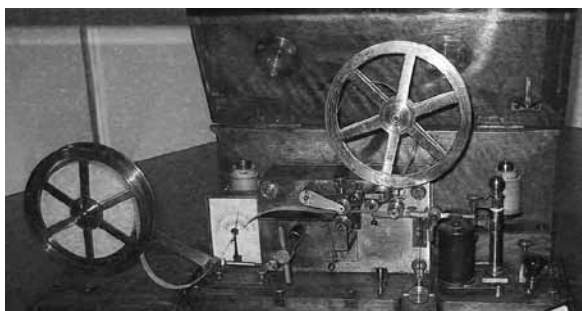
O'Connor had been Maria's suitor when she had been in

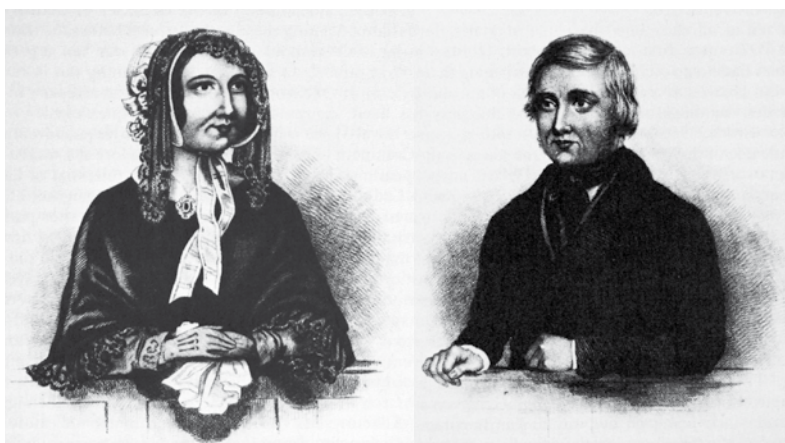
service but he had been ousted by the younger Frederick Manning who, although only a railway guard, appeared to have better prospects. Manning told her he expected a substantial inheritance and had other ways of getting money. When he put these ways into practice, he was sacked by the Great Western Railway who objected to money going missing from their trains.

The Mannings were keeping a beer house in Hackney Road when Maria discovered that O'Connor had become wealthy. He became a family friend and regular visitor to 3 Minver Place.

Search on land and at sea

Detective Inspector Frederick Field was sent to France with Sergeant Whicher to search Parisian hotels and keep watch at railway stations. Another two detectives were searching ships in Portsmouth when they received a telegraph instructing them to stop and search the SS Victoria. The ship's timetable had been found on the Mannings' mantelpiece and two persons named Manning were on the passenger list.





Maria and Frederick Manning; below: *Household Words*, the weekly magazine edited by Charles Dickens

The Victoria failed to respond to signals instructing it to stop so the Royal Navy provided the detectives with a high-speed steam yacht. On board, they found two seasick people named Manning – Mrs Rebecca Manning, who did not answer Maria’s description, and her daughter.

In the end, the good old-fashioned method of asking cab drivers for information helped. Maria Manning had left home alone in a great hurry in a cab piled high with boxes and a carpet bag. The cab had taken her to London Bridge station where she deposited the larger boxes labelled: “Mrs Smith, passenger to Paris, to be left till called for.” Then she went on to Euston station.

Among the items in the boxes were a “bloodstained” dress and letters from O’Connor. At Euston station, the detectives were told that a woman answering Maria’s description with luggage marked “Mrs Smith”, had taken a train to Edinburgh.

An electric telegraph was sent to Superintendent Moxey, head of the Edinburgh police. The response was almost immediate. Scarcely had the detective who had sent the message returned to Scotland Yard from the telegraph office than a messenger brought the news that “Maria Manning had been arrested”. She had been caught trying to sell some of O’Connor’s French Railway stock. She told Moxey that her husband was very violent so she had fled him.

Where was Frederick Manning? Before she took flight,

Maria had sent him out to sell their furniture. When he came back, she had gone with the loot and almost everything else they still owned. He, too, took flight.

Whichever, back from France, was sent to Plymouth to search an Australian emigrant ship. Two more detectives went to Jersey, where they caught Frederick Manning asleep in his lodgings.

He quickly fingered Maria as the murderer, claiming that he was afraid of her. She had asked O’Connor to go downstairs to wash his hands before dinner, he said, and, at the foot of the stairs, she had put one hand on his shoulder and shot him in the head using the other. When a detective pointed out that there were other wounds to the head, Frederick made no reply.

They stood trial, each still blaming the other, but it soon became evident that both had been involved in a premeditated crime.

A medical student, who had lodged with them but had been asked to leave on the pretext that Maria’s elderly mother was coming to live with them, described how Frederick had pumped him as to: what drugs would produce stupefaction while allowing a man to sign

cheques? Which was the most vulnerable part of the skull? Would an airgun make much noise when fired? And could a murderer go to heaven? The student had told him that behind the ear was most likely to produce fatal results, an airgun did not make much noise but murderers could not enter heaven.

Shopping with murder in mind

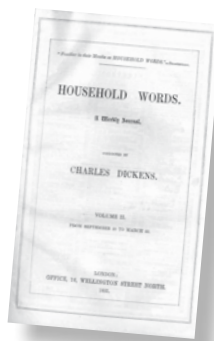
Tradesmen recalled that, in late July, Frederick had purchased the crowbar and ordered a bushel of slaked lime “for his garden”. On the day before the murder, Maria had bought a strong shovel. Later, Frederick admitted that, finding O’Connor was still alive and moaning after having been shot by Maria, he had finished him off with the crowbar. “I’d never liked him well,” he said.

They were both convicted and their execution attracted the largest crowd ever to attend a public hanging – 30,000-50,000. Charles Dickens was there and, in letters to *The Times*, he condemned “the wickedness and levity” of the crowd. The dress Maria wore was made of black satin – a fabric that immediately went out of fashion.

Shortly after the Mannings were executed, Charles Dickens invited the detectives to the office of *Household Words*, the weekly magazine he edited. He was very taken with them. He liked their camaraderie and how they put each other forward to tell their tales.

Dickens’ articles about the detectives improved their public image a great deal and made them famous – Inspector Bucket of *Bleak House* is said to have been based on Inspector Field.

Unlike most working-class people, they had power and interesting lives. They gave the impression that they lived “lives of strong mental excitement”. ■



An electric telegraph was sent from London to the head of the Edinburgh police. The response was almost immediate

Joan Lock is a former police officer and author of *Scotland Yard’s First Cases*; she wrote on this topic in the spring issue. www.joanlock.co.uk

Reminders of wartime

Second World War bombing changed the face of Highbury Corner. Lester Hillman and Andrew Gardner looked back at the war and its after effects when they addressed local charity the Stuart Low Trust

The first Vergeltungswaffe Eins, V1 – Revenge Weapon No 1 – to hit London landed a week after D-Day in June 1944. Two weeks later, a V1 flying bomb hit Highbury Corner.

The explosion cost 26 people their lives and left 150 injured, some of whom died later. These casualties are recorded on a plaque on Compton Terrace.

The V1 hit the end of Compton Terrace at 12.46pm on Tuesday 27 June 1944. It destroyed several houses and the Cock Tavern, and damaged the station beyond repair. Canonbury Road was also badly damaged.

The effect of the war on Islington was discussed at an IAHS presentation to the Stuart Low Trust (see box).

Today's townscape helps us understand the scale of the damage. All that remains of the old station's facade is a column between the station entrance and the Famous Cock Tavern (left). The pillar stands sentinel, a sole reminder of the former Highbury Corner buildings.

Writing just a few days after the bomb fell, on 30 June 1944, George Orwell, Islington resident and *Tribune* editor, said: "What is your first reaction when you hear that droning, zooming noise? Inevitably it is a hope that the noise won't stop. You want to hear the bomb pass safely

overhead and die away into the distance before the engine cuts out. In other words, you are hoping it will fall on somebody else. So also when you dodge a shell or an ordinary bomb – but in that case you have only about five seconds to take cover and no time to speculate on the bottomless selfishness of the human being."

On boxing day 1944, a V2 rocket hit the Prince of Wales pub on Mackenzie Road with the loss of 68 lives and, on Thursday 8 March 1945, one hit Smithfield, killing 110. The final V2s hit the outskirts of the capital in 1945.

Film and photography heroine

D-Day priorities on bomber resources meant that targeting launch sites had been problematic for the allies.

The film *Operation Crossbow* was discussed at the Stuart Low talk. Operation Crossbow was the code name of the Anglo-American campaign against the manufacture and deployment of German long-range weapons.

The 1965 thriller, starring Sophia Loren and Lilli Palmer, is a fictionalised account of the development of the German V1 flying bomb and V2 rocket, and defence efforts against them.

The film drew on *Evidence in Camera*, the wartime memoir of Constance Babbington-Smith, a

photographic interpreter at the Allied Photographic Intelligence Unit. After she identified a V1 at Peenemünde in Germany in 1943 from a photograph, the RAF bombed the area.

The film also looked at the role of German test pilot Hanna Reitsch, who successfully landed a V1. Test pilots had been killed or seriously injured flying piloted versions of the V1.

Reitsch wrote that the V1's high stall speed – roughly the minimum speed needed to maintain flight – was the problem as the pilots had little experience of landing at very high speeds.

German Werner Von Braun may be seen as the pioneer of the V2. The Stuart Low Trust talk was held on 23 March, the centenary of his birth in 1912, and the IAHS was one of the few organisations to mark this.

At the end of the war, he was only 33 years old. He went to the US and became director of the Marshall Space Flight Center in Alabama, responsible for the Saturn V rocket. On 16 July 1969, this rocket lifted Apollo 11 on its way to the moon landing.

The issue of postwar treatment of Germans such as Von Braun was raised. Soviet efforts to exploit their captured rocketry were discussed, along with Russia's role in launches today.



V2 rocket (Vergeltungswaffe 2 – retaliation weapon No 2) at the RAF museum

Plans are afoot, led by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, to recover the Apollo 11 engines from the Atlantic, where they have lain for 40 years at a depth of 14,000ft.

V1s over London today

V1s can be seen in London today. One hangs aloft a few seconds' flying time from Islington at RAF Museum London in Colindale.

The museum houses over 100 aircraft from around the world including the Spitfire, which played a part in countering the V1 threat. This year is the museum's 40th anniversary. Entry is free.

There is also a V1 at the Science Museum – you can reach out and touch the rivets on the wing.

Train named for hero

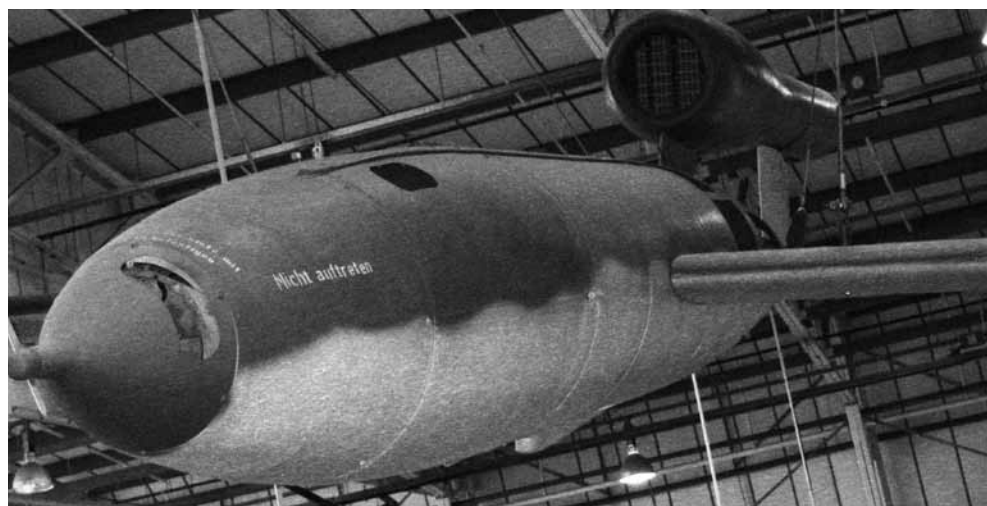
Eurostar trains now travel below Highbury Corner to and from St Pancras International. Almost unnoticed, Highbury Corner maintains a subtle link with the V1 through Eurostar – one of its trains is named Michel Hollard.

From rail shipments in occupied France, Michel Hollard provided invaluable intelligence to the allies about the V1 and the launch sites. His contribution was recognised when the train was named on 27 April 2004, with ceremonies in France and London. ■

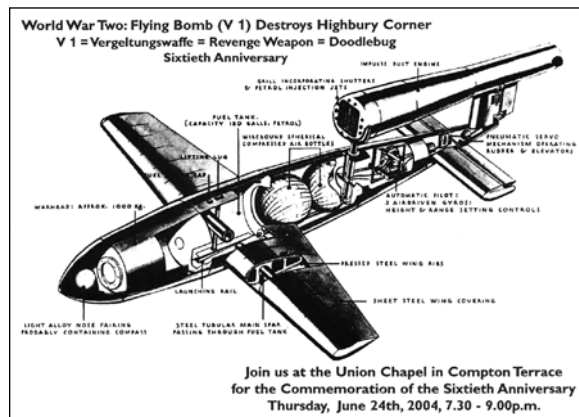
Lester Hillman is academic adviser of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Aftermath: the myth of a name

Much of Highbury Corner was rebuilt after the war. The corner



Above: V1 at the RAF museum; right: inside a V1, from an invitation to an event at the Union Chapel commemorating the attack on Highbury Corner



layout was finally removed in the 1960s when the roundabout was built. Yet Highbury Corner still exists – as it did before the bombing – as a small number of addresses before the A1 becomes Holloway Road.

What is signed Highbury Corner around the (attempted) gyratory is Upper Street as far as the station, St Paul's Road as far as Barclays Bank and Canonbury Road as far as the Hen and Chickens pub.

The south side should be considered a spur from Compton Terrace, as it replaces in part the road destroyed in the bombing.

For many years, there has been talk about closing one side of the roundabout, which would make its central island accessible to the public. The original street pattern

worked, which a reattachment to Compton Terrace Gardens would achieve; there are competing views about attaching it to Highbury Fields or to Dixon Clark Court. Each has its merits. ■

Andrew Gardner is chairman of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Sources

Royal Air Force Museum London, Grahame Park Way, NW9 5LL, www.rafmuseum.org.uk
London Metropolitan Archives (See Directory, p29)

Wellbeing charity hosts talk on Islington in the 1940s

Health, housing, entertainment and public transport were among the topics discussed at a packed Stuart Low Trust event at St Mary's Community Centre on Upper Street.

The talk, by society chairman Andrew Gardner and academic adviser Lester Hillman, soon evolved into a discussion, with firsthand and family insights from a highly

informed capacity audience.

The bombings in Islington – particularly the V1 at Highbury Corner – were explored in some detail (see above).

The chairman's enthusiasm for transport history needed little prompting, and maps of proposed tube extensions and forgotten links across north London were shown.

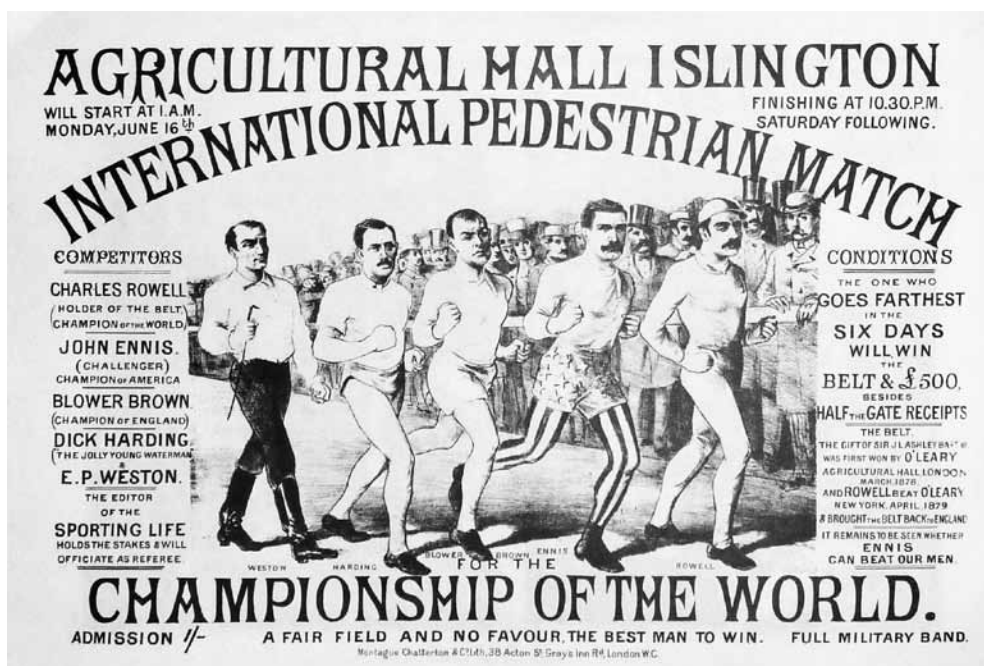
Information on Islington in the

1940s can be found in the Islington Museum in St John Street.

The Stuart Low Trust

The Stuart Low Trust is a health promotion charity that runs activities to improve people's wellbeing.

Contact the trust on 020 7713 9304, info@slt.org.uk, Office 7, Claremont, 24-27 White Lion Street, N1 9PD, or visit www.slt.org.uk.



World-class walkers

Gruelling walking races lasting several days were hugely popular in Victorian times, attracting crowds of spectators to the Agricultural Hall. Christy Lawrance reports

Walking races, lasting the best part of a week, attracted thousands of people to Islington's Agricultural Hall in Victorian times. Large amounts of money were bet and winners took home huge cash prizes.

Pedestrianism, particularly six-day races, had taken the Victorian world by storm. Competitors walked thousands of laps on indoor sawdust tracks. Races could run from first thing Monday morning to late on Saturday – holding races on Sundays would have been beyond the pale. Short rests and naps were grabbed at the side of the track.

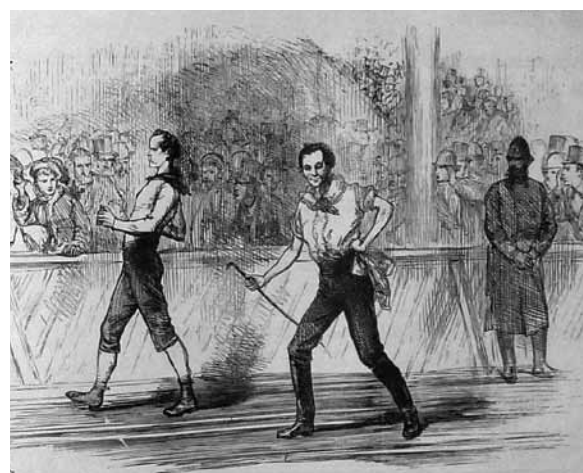
Competitors became famous, earning thousands of pounds. Charlie Rowell – nicknamed the Cambridge Wonder – earned \$50,000 (about £750,000 today)

in 1879 after winning two races in New York.

A notable race drew crowds to the Agricultural Hall in 1877. Over six days, it pitted the best-known walker in pedestrianism's heyday, Edward Payson Weston, against his first major rival, Daniel O'Leary.

Weston came to public attention in 1861 after he lost a

Above: 1897 poster; below: "O'Leary has a steady, well-balanced style" but Weston was "the reverse of graceful" said the *Illustrated London News*



bet with a friend on who would win the US presidential election. The loser – Weston – had to walk 478 miles from Boston to Washington to attend Abraham Lincoln's inauguration. It took him 10 days and 10 hours and drew a great deal of attention.

Inspired by this, he went on to make a living by exhibition walking. Sponsors, eager to gain publicity as crowds flocked to see him, backed him to walk enormous distances against the clock. He was promoted by showman Phineas T Barnum. In 1874, he became the first man to walk 500 miles in six days.

In 1876, Weston moved to England and began beating English champions. Within five weeks, he was attracting audiences of 200,000.

Weston had previously run against O'Leary in Chicago in 1857, with O'Leary, an Irishman who had become a US citizen, winning. However, they were reported to have "great dissatisfaction" over the race and were "anxious to meet on English soil and have an unprejudiced record taken".

So, 20 years on, they competed again at the Agricultural Hall in April 1877 in a six-day race.

The *Illustrated London News* heralded it as "The great walking-match" that "excited great public interest. On each day, the spectators might have counted by thousands and included persons of all ranks." It reported that at least 20,000 people were present on the Saturday night – the *London Standard* reported that 35,000 watched the finish.

The *Illustrated London News* was less than flattering about Weston: "O'Leary has a steady, well-balanced style, which quite comes up to an Englishman's idea of what walking should be; while, on the other hand, Weston has a peculiar jerky gait, which is the reverse of graceful."

O'Leary won, being the first to complete 500 miles. He took 135 hours, breaking his own six-day record. They split the gate

money, O'Leary describing his earnings of \$14,000 (more than £200,000 today) as "a good week's work".

Attending this race was Sir John Astley MP. Despite losing £20,000 betting on Weston to win, he was taken by the sport. He sponsored six-days races with his own prize, the Astley Belt; his involvement made pedestrianism more respectable.

Weston won the Astley Belt in 1879, walking 550 miles in six days. It was suggested – not for the first time – that Weston had deliberately lost earlier races to "land a gamble" later.

'Prize-fighting is mild and humane, compared with such sport(!) as six-day races'

A year later, walking races were still pulling in the punters at the Agricultural Hall. In November 1878, the *Illustrated London News* reported on a six-day contest. Again, it was well attended, with "fully 20,000 spectators present at the close of the contest".

Some 21 men took part. Three dropped out because of accidents; the shortest distance covered by a single competitor was 223 miles.

By day four, the leading two competitors, W Corkey and "Blower" Brown, were close. "A more protracted and grandly

fought one has never been witnessed," said the *News*.

By Saturday, Corkey was in the lead. Despite being taken for a Turkish bath by his trainer, Brown failed to regain lost ground, and Corkey was named winner.

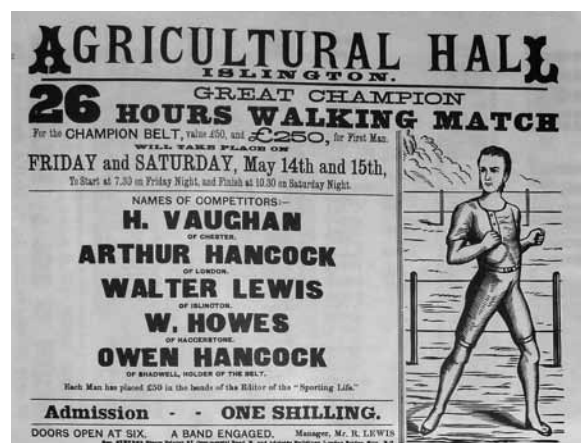
This time, the *News* ended on a cautionary note: "We cannot take leave of the subject without expressing an earnest hope that we have seen the last of these painful struggles against nature....

"As long, however, as prizes are offered, so long will men come forward to compete for them and we suppose the public will continue to flock to these races until a man dies upon the track. Then there will be a sudden revulsion of feeling, a howl of virtuous indignation, and such exhibitions will be sternly repressed. But why not repress them before anything so serious has occurred?

"We have no hesitation in stating that prize-fighting is mild and humane, compared with such sport(!) as six-day races; and that the one should be rigidly put down and the other encouraged, in the same country, is a gross and glaring inconsistency."

After the late 1880s, pedestrianism declined rapidly, but Weston kept on walking. In 1909, aged 70, he walked from New York to San Francisco in 105 days. The following year, he walked from Los Angeles to New York in 77 days; his arrival attracted half a million spectators.

He urged people to walk to



Working the weekend: 1880 poster for a 26-hour race to start 7.30pm Friday and end 10.30pm Saturday

keep fit, warning that cars would lead to laziness. At the age of 88, he was severely injured when knocked down by a taxi, and never walked again. Weston lived to be 90.

Victorian pedestrianism records were unbeaten for a long time. George Littlewood from Sheffield set a record in 1888 of walking 623 miles in six days in a New York race – a record held for nearly a century, until it was broken by Yiannis Kouros in 1984. ■

Sources

Baker TFF, Elrington CR, eds; Baggs AP, Bolton DK, Croot PEC (1985) *A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8: Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes*. British History Online.
Connell JA (compiler), Willats EA (research) (1973, reprinted 1977) *The Royal Agricultural Hall*. London: Islington Libraries
Harris N (2009) When peds walked the earth. *The Independent*; 17 March
Marshall P, Harris N (2010) The world's greatest walker: a Victorian pioneer of ultra-marathons (and coke). *Sporting Intelligence*; 12 March

Eyewitness account: race at the White Lion, Hackney Wick

The scene is not an inviting one. Perhaps there are about a thousand of us present, and most of us are of a class of society we may denominate rough and ready. Even the people who have good clothes do not look like gentlemen. They have very short hair, very flat and dark faces; have a tremendous development of the lower jaw. I am glad to see a policeman or two present.

The heroes of the night slowly walk

up and down the course, wearing long great coats. At length the course is cleared, a bell is rung, and they are off. Six times round the course is a mile – six times ten are sixty.

As round after round is run the excitement deepens; the favourite is greeted with cheers; but when at the end of the third mile he is passed by his competitor excites an enthusiasm which is intense. The bettors tremble.

The race over, for further excitement,

the multitude would rush to the White Lion, the losers to drown their sorrow, the winners to spend their gains; the many, who were neither winners nor Losers, merely because others did so; and thus, as the hours pass, would come intoxication, anger, follies, and, perhaps, bitterness of heart for life.

Extracted from: Ewing Ritchie J (1860) *About London. Chapter 8 – Pedestrianism*. In: Jackson L, *The Victorian Dictionary: Exploring Victorian London*. www.victorianlondon.org

Publications and bookshop

We look at a new history of the British home, plus two unusual railway books, and list some IAHS publications

The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish

Mary Cosh

IAHS, £7.50 + £1.40 p&p

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

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

Terraces facing ornamental gardens are included, and it is illustrated with historical pictures and maps.



Rookeries were criminal ghettos of pickpocketing schools and receiving houses, with dense networks of secret escape routes. They were the backdrop to the murder, theft and radical activism described here.

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

Edited by Keith Sugden

IAHS, £5 + £1.40 p&p

Angus McBean in Islington

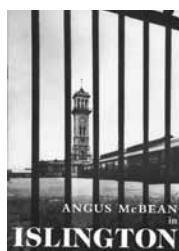
Edited by Mary Cosh, foreword by Angus McBean

IAHS, £4.50 + 60p p&p

Well-known and unusual places from the 1960s, including cinemas, music halls, churches, squares, terraces and more are photographed for this book.

For example, an imposing yet ornate 1870 entrance, topped by a lion and unicorn, leads to a vinegar factory. Light was by gas lamps and transport by trolley bus.

Angus McBean was the official photographer for Sadler's Wells and the Old Vic theatres.



Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

Wonder what Highbury & Islington looked like in 1871

or Holloway in 1914? We stock historical maps of Islington and beyond, as well as a range of postcards. Call us for details.

Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters

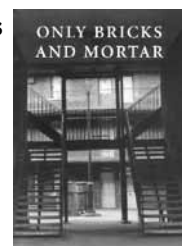
IAHS, £7.99

+ £1.40 p&p

A tale of boyhood in the 1930s

and the second world war, in the notorious council tenements know as the Cottages in Popham Road.

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

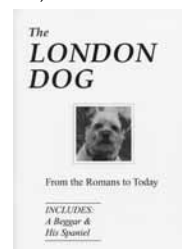


The London Dog from the Romans to Today

James Dowsing

Sunrise Press, £3.50 + 60p p&p

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



Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

Name

Address

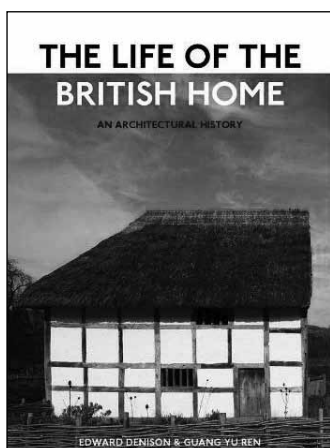
Tel no/email (if we need to contact you about your order)

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

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

All books on this page can be ordered using the form – if you want more than one item, call us on 020 7833 1541

Call 020 7833 1541 for trade orders



The Life of the British Home: an Architectural History

Edward Denison and
Guang Yu Ren
Wiley, £24.99, www.wiley.com/go/britishhome

This book, coauthored by Amwell Society member Edward Denison, charts the evolution of the British home from the stone age to the present day.

This comprehensive book reveals how size, layout and function has evolved from prehistory to today, and describes the many influences and that shaped these changes.

Hundreds of stunning

colour photographs are accompanied by detailed layout plans and drawings. A focus on buildings that are open to the public encourages you to explore for yourself.

The book combines architecture with social history. Great mansions and humbler homes are granted equal attention, allowing a insight into how people from contrasting walks of life have lived for thousands of years.

Ancient round houses, labourers' cottages, back-to-back terraces, overcrowded tenements and 1960s council flats are covered – as well as castles, moated manor houses and stately homes.

Type of homes include stone age homes that predate the Egyptian pyramids, an iron age "skyscraper", Roman villas, castles, medieval halls, rural cottages and 20th century suburbia.

Not only is this volume comprehensive and thoroughly researched, it is also an accessible and entertaining read.

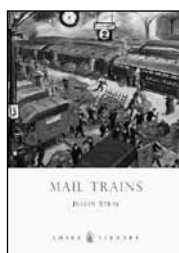
Mail Trains

Julian Stray
Shire
Publications,
£6.99 +
£3.50pp,
available
from British
Postal Museum and Archive,
info@www.postalheritage.org.uk, 020 7239 2570

Mail Trains tells how mail was carried from the 1800s until today. Its author is an assistant curator at the British Postal Museum and Archive.

Mail was first delivered by train in the 1830s, following the success of the penny post. The routes of the first mail trains, their success and resistance to the new services are all described, as are the distinctive red double-breasted frock coats worn by mail coach guards. Before the end of the 19th century, a national network was in place.

A major development were travelling post offices, dedicated carriages where post was sorted en route. The travelling post offices operated from the 1830s to



2010, and involved what appears to be a precarious and even perilous system for collecting mail on the move.

Street congestion and fog in London led to the creation of the Post Office's own underground railway, whose driverless trains ran for 22 hours a day. It ran for 6½ miles, from Paddington to Liverpool Street; its repairs and maintenance depot was at Mount Pleasant.

The book also looks at the effects of wartime and changes brought by mechanised mail sorting.

Types of trains used by different companies and in different areas are covered in detail.

Pictures illustrate every page. These include posters, leaflets, tickets, stamps, maps of train routes and lots of photographs.

London Labour and the London Poor, written by Henry Mayhew between 1849 and 1892, has been reissued by Oxford University Press. Review in the next issue.

Do Not Alight Here

Ben Pedroche
Capital History, £6.95, www.capitalhistory.com

This is the handbook for anyone who wants to find London's lost stations and railway infrastructure.

This is a clear labour of love, and the author has gone out and found almost everything associated with former railways. It does not include maps, so one would ideally need a *London A-Z* to follow the routes.

The book contains 12 self-guided walks and short tube and train journeys. These are not scenic walks but ones that link places that railway buffs will want to visit. Areas include Camden



Figure in railway arch on the Parkland Walk

(taking in York Road tube station), Southwark, Crystal Palace and City Road.

We followed the Parkland Walk from Finsbury Park to Highgate, the route of a railway that reached Alexandra Palace and which

last saw passenger traffic in 1954 before closing in 1970.

The book points out the former Stroud Green station building, now used for mental health care, and a hidden sculpture of a figure leaping from a former railway arch – something I had not spotted before (left).

Crouch End station is the most obvious part of a former railway along this stretch, with intact platforms and parts of the station building remaining.

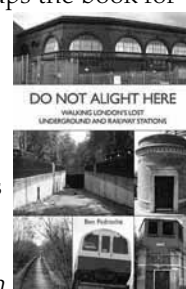
The books discusses the now padlocked Highgate tunnels, which are intact, and describes how one can get a view of the long-closed Highgate high level station, which sits on top of the

underground station.

Mr Pedroche's route then takes Muswell Hill Road, rather than the shorter and more attractive path through Highgate Woods, before meeting the line again at Cranley Gardens and continuing into Alexandra Park, where he describes in detail how and where to see the surviving parts of the line and station.

Not perhaps the book for a casual stroll but useful for those interested in London's lost railways.

Mark Smulian



What's on

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

Wednesday 6 June

Tour of the British Postal Museum & Archive

Archives covering social, postal and design history from 1636 to today. Debden store tour later on same day. 10am-11am, £2, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DL, 020 7239 2570, info@postalheritage.org.uk

Thursday 7 June

Olympic and East End Waterways

Talk by Jeremy Batch. £4/concessions, London Canal Museum, 12/13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Tuesday 12 June

Crossrail and Archaeology

Talk by Crossrail archaeologist Jay Carver. 7.15pm, Upper Room, All Souls Clubhouse, 141 Cleveland St, W1T, London Underground Railway Society, www.lurs.org.uk

Wednesday 13 June

Capability Brown, Father of English Landscape Gardening

Talk by Russell Bowes. 8pm, £1, Union Church Hall, corner of Ferme Park Road and Weston Park, N8, Hornsey Historical Society, www.hornseyhistorical.org.uk

Thursday 14 June

Copped Hall

Talk by John Shepherd (see box, right, for dig). 8pm, Sidcup, Bexley Archaeological Group, 020 8300 1752, www.bag.org.uk

Saturday 16 June

Cinematic Necropolis: Egypt in North East London Walk

Trip from the old Carlton Cinema on Essex Road (right) via public transport to Abney Park Cemetery. 11am-12.30pm, free, Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology, 020 7679 4138, events.petrie@ucl.ac.uk

Tuesday 19 June

Sports Medicine in Britain

Talk by Vanessa Heggie on sports medicine history. 1-2pm, free – book on 020 7869 6560 or museums@rcseng.ac.uk, Hunterian Museum, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3PE

19 June

Station to Station: the Design and Architecture of Railway Stations

Talk on 19th and 20th century designs. 1pm-2pm, free, Victoria and Albert Museum, meet 12.55pm at the V&A Grand Entrance. www.architecture.com, 020 7307 3708, drawings&archives@riba.org

Wednesday 21 June

Thames Cubitt's Woburn Walk

Talk by Rosie Caley. 7.30pm, £1/free, Camden History Society, 020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Saturday 23 June

The Great British Story – a People's History
BBC local history event, supported by Bexley Archaeological Group.



Egyptology and old Essex Road cinema: see 16 June

10am-4pm, free. Hall Place & Gardens, Bexley. For tickets, call 03709 011227 or visit www.bbc.co.uk/showandtours

Sunday 24 June

The Moselle: Haringey's River

Seven-mile walk (you can start half way) along the Moselle, ending at Markfield Park. Meet 11am, Lodge Café, Queen's Wood, N10

3JP. Tottenham Civic Society, www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

Wednesday 27 June

Ally Pally Prison Camp

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

Wednesday 27 June

The Rise of the Teenager

Talk on the teenager in 1950s London. 1-2pm, free, Museum of London, 020 7001 9844, info@museumoflondon.org.uk

Thursday 5 July

14 Locks on the Crumlin Arm, Monmouth and Brecon Canal

Talk by Tom Maloney.

Get digging this summer

Training excavation week for novice archaeologists

30 July-3 August

Experience the main tasks associated with a dig at Bexley Archaeological Group's annual training excavation week. Activities include field walking, geophysics, surveying, excavating, finds processing, drawing and talks. Cost: £150, including annual membership of the group.

Contact Pip Pulfer, 07961 963893, pipspad@hotmail.co.uk, www.bag.org.uk

Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project Field Schools and Taster Weekends

Monday 6-Friday 10 August, Monday 13-Friday 17 August

Two field schools at the edge of Epping Forest for people with basic excavation skills. Cost: £90 per week.

Taster weekends: 14-15, 21-22 and 28-29 July

Cover basic archaeology and excavation. Cost: £50.

Contact: Pauline Dalton, 01992 813 725, pdalton87@gmail.com, www.coppedhalltrust.org.uk

£4/concessions, London Canal Museum, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Sunday 8 July

Outing to Epping Forest

Includes tour of Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge. Meet 3pm at visitor centre. Tottenham Civic Society, www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk.

Sunday 8 July

Guided Towpath Walk to Camden Town

2.30pm, various charges. London Canal Museum, 020 7713 0836, www.canalmuseum.org.uk

Friday 13 July

Guided Towpath Walk to Camden Town

This date is the 200th anniversary of the Regent's Canal Act receiving royal assent. Details as for 8 July.

Friday 13 July

Regent's Canal – a Folk Opera

Performance at London Canal Museum to mark 200th anniversary of the Regent's Canal Act of 1812.

Wednesday 19 July

History of the Cumberland Basin

Talk by David Hannah. 7.30pm, £1/free, Camden History Society, 020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Thursday 19 July

The Dregs of the People Remain: the Black Death and its Aftermath

Talk by Imogen Corrigan. 8pm, Sidcup, organised by Bexley Archaeological Group. www.medieval-lecture.com

Thursday 2 August

Guided Towpath Walk to Camden Town

7.30pm, other details same as for 8 July

CBA Festival of British Archaeology

Saturday 14-Sunday 29 July

We've listed a few events in this festival coordinated by the Council for British Archaeology.

● <http://festival.britarch.ac.uk>

Wallbrook Walkabout

Saturday 21 July

Visit archaeological sites and the Thames foreshore with Museum of London Archaeology and Thames Discovery Programme archaeologists. Book on www.thamesdiscovery.org/events/wallbrook-walkabout

The Rose Revealed

Sat 14, 21 & 28 July, 10am-5pm

Site of Elizabethan theatre. www.rosetheatre.org.uk

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths

Sat 14 & Sun 15 July, 11am-4pm

Rare opportunity to visit ruins (above) at 101 Lower



Modern buildings included (left): a Hoover factory talk and Roman Billingsgate (above) both feature in the festival



Thames Street. www.museumoflondon.org.uk

The Egypt Exploration Society Open House

Tues 17 July, 10.30am-4.30pm

Find out about the society and see some of its material. 3 Doughty Mews, WC1, www.ees.ac.uk

Factory Buildings of Wallis and the Listing of 20th Century buildings

Wednesday 25 July, 2pm

Talk to include the Hoover and Firestone factories' architects. Purcell Miller Tritton, SE1, 020 7397 7171, sueallison@pmt.co.uk

Londinium: the Roman City

Friday 20 July, 10.30am

Walk from All Hallows by the Tower Church crypt, EC3, with amphitheatre visit. £7, 020 7481 2928, parish@ahbtt.org.uk

Beneath our Feet: Archaeology in Action

Friday 20 July, 1.15pm-2pm

Free drop-in gallery talk, room 50, British Museum.

'Enlightening' Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains at the Royal London Hospital

Friday 20 July, 8pm

Free osteology talk in Wandsworth, info@wandsworthhistory.org.uk

Life in Roman Britain

Saturday 28 July, 1.15pm-2pm

Free drop-in gallery talk, room 49, British Museum

Chapter House Open Day

28 and 29 July, 10am-5pm

Visit Merton Priory remains, www.mertonpriory.org

Ongoing

Over the summer

Guided Walthamstow Walks

Old streets, model dwellings, protest, garden city-style architecture and a medieval village centre are just some topics explored. Free. Walthamstow Historical Society, www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Behind the scenes at the Archaeological Archive

Various dates

See and handle some of the thousands of finds not on public display at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre.

£5, book in advance, Museum of London Archaeology, 020 7410 2200, enquiries@museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk

Sunday 10 and 24 June, 8 and 22 July, 12 and 26 August

Guided Tunnel Boat Trips Through Islington Tunnel

11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and

4pm, £8.30/£6, book in advance, London Canal Museum

4 and 17 June, 15 July and 27 August, 23 September

Markfield Beam Engine Steam Dates

Steam dates in addition to normal opening.

1pm-1.45pm, 2.30pm-3.15pm, 4pm-4.45pm, Markfield Beam Engine and Museum, Markfield Park, N15 4RB, 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org

Exhibitions

Check opening times before visiting

Until 10 June

Dickens and London

Major exhibition to mark the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens' birth.

Various charges, Museum of London, 020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/dickens

Until 21 June

Treasures of the Royal Society Library

Exhibition of rare scientific books, some covering health, life and death in London. Free, various times, Royal Society, 6-9 Carlton House Terrace, SW1Y 5AG, 020 7451 2500, <http://royalsociety.org/exhibitions/treasures>

Until 30 June

Spectres of Film: Islington's Lost Cinemas and Other Spectral Spaces

Three works, including photographs celebrating the history of cinema in Islington. Free, A Brooks Art, 194-196 Hoxton Street, N1, 07876 594 398, julia@abrooksart.com

Until 8 July

140th Anniversary of the V&A Museum of Childhood

Photographs showing how the museum was moved from South Kensington and rebuilt in Bethnal Green. Free, 020 8983 5200, www.vam.ac.uk/moc,

Until 12 August

British Design 1948-2012: Innovation in the Modern Age

Exhibition of over 350 British designs from the 1948 Olympics to today, including an E-type Jaguar car, a model of Concorde and Laura Ashley textiles. £12/concs, Victoria and Albert Museum, 020 7907 7073, www.vam.ac.uk/whatson



Brenda Wilshire: one of the Londoners with their royal memorabilia for At Home with the Queen at the Museum of London

Until 25 August

Medieval Meets Modern: Shooting Clerkenwell, Cripplegate and Finsbury

Recent photographs by the City of London and Cripplegate Photographic Society alongside historical images from the Islington Museum's collection. Free, Islington Museum

Until 25 August

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

Exhibition on work done by women over 150 years. Free, the Women's Library, London Metropolitan University, Old Castle Street, E1, www.londonmet.ac.uk/thewomenslibrary

Until 8 September

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

Free, details as for All Work and Low Pay.

Chinese Ink Painting and Calligraphy

Until 2 September

An exploration of Chinese ink painting in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the USA through the 20th century to the present. Free, British Museum, 020 7323 8299, information@britishmuseum.org

Until 2 September

Scott's Last Expedition

This show tells the story of the 1910-13 expedition and reunites artefacts used by Scott and his team with scientific specimens they collected. Visitors can walk round a life-size representation of Scott's base camp hut. £9/concessions, Natural History Museum, 020 7942 5000, www.nhm.ac.uk/scott

Until 16 September

The Noble Art of the Sword: Fashion and Fencing in Renaissance Europe

Exhibition on how the rapier was both weapon and fashion item, and its place in social class, masculinity and honour. Free, Wallace Collection, Manchester Square, W1, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Until 19 September

Island Stories: Fifty Years of Photography in Britain

Over 80 photographs taken since the 1950s. Free, Victoria and Albert Museum, 020 7907 7073, www.vam.ac.uk/whatson

Until 30 September

The Horse: From Arabia to Royal Ascot

The horse had a huge effect

on civilisation from ancient times. This major exhibition explores the influence of horses from their domestication at around 3,500 BC to the present day, taking in their introduction to Europe and Britain's equestrian tradition. Free, British Museum, 020 7323 8299, information@britishmuseum.org

Until 30 September

Athletes and Olympians: Sport in the RAF

Exhibition on how sports were used to boost morale and gain trust abroad, plus RAF personnel competing in the Olympics during this and previous years. Free, Royal Air Force Museum, Grahame Park Way, NW9, 020 8205 2266, www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london/

Until 28 October

At Home with the Queen

Photographic exhibition of Londoners at home with their royal paraphernalia. Free, Museum of London

Shakespeare: Staging the World

19 July-25 November

Collaboration between the British Museum and the Royal Shakespeare Company, giving an insight into London's emergence as a world city in the 1590s and early 1600s, looking at the connections between the exhibits and Shakespeare's text and performance. £14/concessions, British Museum

Angels and Ducats: Shakespeare's Money and Medals

Until 28 October

Exhibition of coins, medals and prints in the times of Elizabeth I and James I, exploring the role of coins and money in Shakespeare's works and professional life. Free, British Museum.

Directory

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

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

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

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

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

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

The Angel Association
www.angelassociation.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
www.crht1837.org

Camley Street Natural Park
NW1 0PW, 020 7833 2311

The Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

East London History Society
www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk

EC1 History
www.ec1history.co.uk

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

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

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

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

Friends of Friendless Churches
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr Johnson's House
17 Gough Sq, EC4, 020 7353
3745, www.drjohnsons house.org

Keats House

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

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

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

Labour and Wait Brush Museum

Display in hardware store,
85 Redchurch Street, E2.
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

London Metropolitan Archives

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

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

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

The London Museums of Health & Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group

http://london-socialist
historians.blogspot.com

The London Society

Mortimer Wheeler House,
46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1,
www.london-society.org.uk

London Transport Museum

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

LT Museum Friends

www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

Markfield Beam Engine

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

Mausolea & Monuments Trust

70 Cowcross Street, EC1M
6EJ, 020 7608 1441,
mausolea@btconnect.com

Marx Memorial Library

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

The Museum of Brands

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

Museum of London

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

Museum of London Archaeology

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46
Eagle Wharf Road, N1, 020
7410 2200, www.museum
oflondonarchaeology.org.uk

Museum of London Docklands

West India Quay, E14 4AL,
020 7001 9844, www.museum
oflondon.org.uk/docklands

Museum of the Order of St John

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

The Musical Museum

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

The National Archives,

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

The National Piers Society

www.piers.org.uk

Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology

020 7371 4445, office@
newcomen.com

Newington Green Action Group

020 7359 6027, www.
newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group

mail@newriver.org.uk,
020 8292 5987

North London Transport Society

www.northlondontransport
society.co.uk, nlts@live.co.uk

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

UCL, Malet Place, WC1, www.
ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie

Peckham Society

www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

www.rcts.org.uk

Ragged School Museum

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

Rescue

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

The Smithfield Trust

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

Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
WC2A 3BP, www.soane.org

The Society of Genealogists

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

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS)

79 Ashridge Crescent, SE18

Spencer House

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

Sutton House

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

Royal Archaeological Institute

Burlington House, Piccadilly,
W1, admin@royalarchinst.org

Thames Discovery Programme

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

Tottenham Civic Society

www.tottenhamcivicsociety.
org.uk

The Transport Trust

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

Two Temple Place

7836 3715, info@
twotempleplace.org

Union Chapel and Friends of the Union Chapel

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

V&A Museum of Childhood

Free, Cambridge Heath
Road, E2 9PA, 020 8983 5200

The Victorian Society

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

The Wallace Collection

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

Wallpaper History Society

wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society

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

Wellcome Collection

183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE,
020 7611 2222

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism

49 City Rd, EC1, www.wesleys
chapel.org.uk/museum.htm

Islington Archaeology & History Society

Events

Wednesday 20 June 2012

The Lines of Communication – London's English Civil War Defences, 1642-47

Speaker: David Flintham

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

The biggest urban defences during the English Civil War were built to protect London from King Charles I's army. Erected by thousands of volunteer Londoners, the 18km of ramparts were studded with 24 forts, four of which ran through the south of what is now Islington. This talk looks at why and where they were built.

David Flintham is a military historian specialising in 17th century fortifications, covering sites in Belgium, England, France, Scotland and South Africa. He has researched London's English Civil War defences for more than 15 years, and has written a book and several papers on this. He is a member of the Fortress Study Group and the Royal Historical Society.

See his article, *Fortress Islington*, on page 12.

Summer stroll

Sunday 1 July

Fleet river: King's Cross to Blackfriars

Walk led by IAHS academic adviser Lester Hillman

2.30pm-4.30pm

The Fleet river runs below London's streets – and you'll be able to see, hear and smell it, learn its story and about what may be the recently rediscovered Faggeswell brook on this.

The walk costs £5. To book, fill in the form or contact events secretary Catherine Brighty at IAHS, 8 Wynatt Street, EC1V 7HU, tel: 020 7833 1541.

Fleet River Walk booking form (photocopies acceptable)

I would like to order tickets at £5 each and
enclose a cheque for payable to the
Islington Archaeology & History Society

Name

Address

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

Autumn events

Wednesday 19 September

The day parliament burned down

Speaker: Caroline Shenton

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

In October 1834, a ball of fire exploded through the roof of the Houses of Parliament. The blaze was visible for miles yet is forgotten today. Caroline Shenton, clerk of the records at the Parliamentary Archives, will tell the story of the fire and its consequences.



Wednesday 17 October

Black people at the Old Bailey

Speaker: Kathleen Chater

Black History Month event. More information in the autumn issue.

Walk: Perceval perambulation

A walk about Spencer Perceval (see page 14). Details to be confirmed.

The Islington Archaeology & History Society Secretary

A secretary is needed to help with the society's organisation and smooth running. If you're interested or would like to know more, please contact chairman Andrew Gardner on andy@iahs.org.uk

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

World champion walkers drew crowds of thousands to the Agricultural Hall in Victorian times; see page 22

AGRICULTURAL HALL ISLINGTON

WILL START AT 11 A.M.
MONDAY, JUNE 16th

INTERNATIONAL PEDESTRIAN MATCH

FINISHING AT 10.30 P.M.
SATURDAY FOLLOWING.

COMPETITORS

CHARLES ROWELL
(HOLDER OF THE BELT)
(CHAMPION OF THE WORLD)

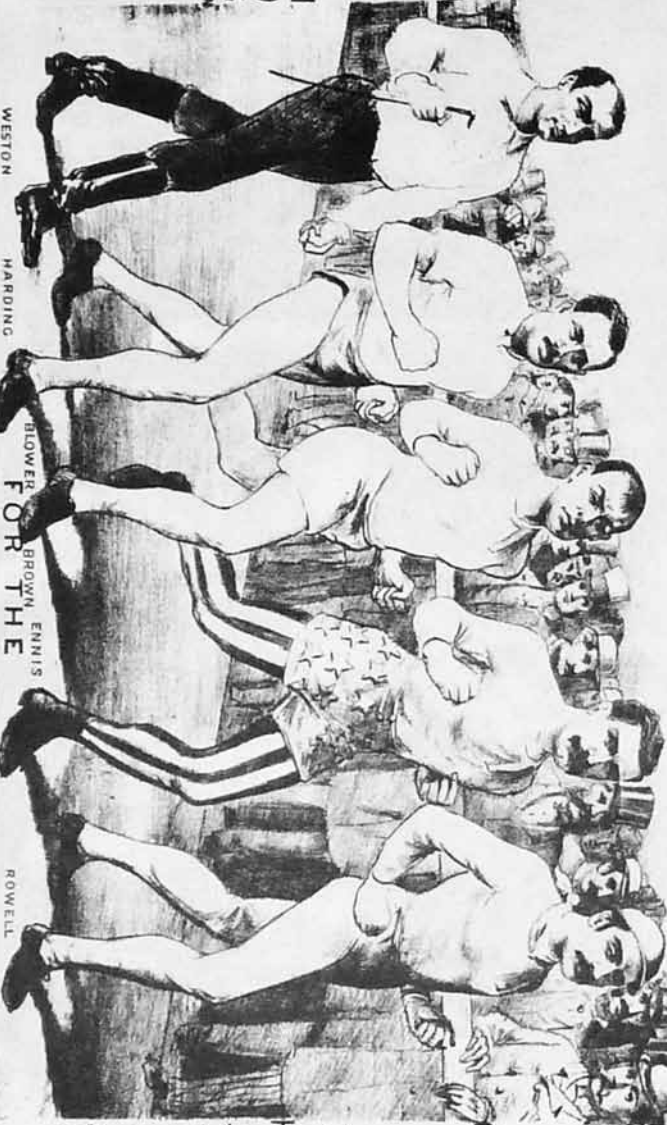
JOHN ENNIS
(CHALLENGER)
(CHAMPION OF AMERICA)

BLOWER BROWN
(CHAMPION OF ENGLAND)

DICK HARDING
(THE JOLLY YOUNG WATERMAN)

E. P. WESTON
THE EDITOR

OF THE
SPORTING LIFE
HOLDS THE STAKES & WILL
OFFICIATE AS REFEREE.



WESTON
HARDING
BLOWER BROWN
FOR THE
ROWELL

CONDITIONS

THE ONE WHO
GOES FARTHEST
IN THE
SIX DAYS
WILL WIN
THE
BELT & £500.
BESIDES
HALF THE GATE RECEIPTS

THE BELT.
THE GIFT OF SIR J. L. ASHLEY-BARTON
WAS FIRST WON BY O'LEARY
AGRICULTURAL HALL LONDON
MARCH 1878
AND ROWELL BEAT O'LEARY
NEW YORK, APRIL 1879
& BROUGHT THE BELT BACK TO ENGLAND
IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
ENNIS
CAN BEAT OUR MEN.

CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD.

ADMISSION 1/- A FAIR FIELD AND NO FAVOUR, THE BEST MAN TO WIN. FULL MILITARY BAND.

Montague Chatterton & Co Ltd, 38 Acton St, Gray's Inn Rd, London WC