

# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 3 No 2 Summer 2013



## Cinema glamour to rock royalty

The spectacular Astoria theatre was heralded as the “largest and most luxurious in the world” when it opened, and later became famous for hosting legendary rock acts

Islington People's Plaque winners ● Behind the scenes at the Holloway Odeon ● A walk along the Fleet river's upper reaches ● Growing up near Highbury Fields ● Wall Street – the story of a short road ● School television – a learning experience ● Islington's 19th century cemetery ● Research on a Thames disaster ● Books and reviews ● News and events

# About the society

## What we do

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

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks can be arranged for groups.

### Why archaeology?

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

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

### Our website

Go to [www.iahs.org.uk](http://www.iahs.org.uk) to find out more.

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

We welcome articles on local history, memories and research.

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

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

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

● See Letters, page 6

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### Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

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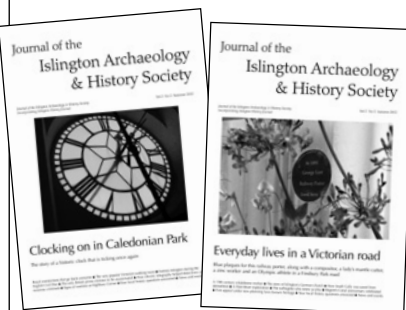
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✂ (photocopies acceptable)

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

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# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 3 No 2 Summer 2013

## We must never fear taking to the stage

This issue of the *Journal* covers some of Islington's cinema and theatre history. As I write, there is speculation about what is to happen to the former Carlton Cinema in Essex Road (pictured below), now in the hands of an evangelical church.

My experience is that such churches usually treat architecture with respect, and cover intact what goes unrestored internally. It would be good to see the frontage cared for, rather than looking sorry and unloved, and original features retained. However, the proposed development behind is less loved.

What we should resist – and is creeping across the borough – is the move towards high-rise developments, which were opposed in past decades. In doing so, we should look towards Islington's long history of dissent in all of its forms – religious, political, theatrical, sexual, musical, architectural, educational. We have always been the borough that says: "I don't agree. I don't hold with your orthodoxy."

We may not always have been right, and we may not always have been successful – but we must never lose our nerve when it comes to raising our voices and taking to the stage ourselves.

Andrew Gardner

Chairman

Islington Archaeology & History Society



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Cover: Islington Local History Centre

## In brief

### Organ played again at Union Chapel

The grade I listed Union Chapel celebrated two firsts in May. The Willis organ was played publicly for the first time since its restoration at the chapel's first interfaith Hindu-Christian wedding on 10 May.

### British Library starts UK website archive

The British Library is to archive every website based in the UK. It will begin with an annual snapshot of the 4.8 million sites, which together have over a billion web pages. It already archives e-books as well as printed books.

### Mammoth blood may have own antifreeze

A fully grown female mammoth with moving blood and well-preserved muscle tissue has been found trapped in ice in Siberia by Russian scientists; the scientists believe the blood may have properties to protect against freezing. The mammoth, aged 50-60 years, lived 10,000-15,000 years ago.

### New competition seeks best modern church

The search is on for the best churches, chapels and meeting houses built in the UK since 1953 in a new architecture competition run by the National Churches Trust, the Ecclesiastical Architects and Surveyors Association and the Twentieth Century Society. Closing date for nominations is 31 July 2013.  
● <http://nationalchurchestrust.org>

## Inspectorate allows Lark demolition

The Lark in the Park pub at Barnard Park in Barnsbury is set to be knocked down to make way for luxury houses.

A government planning inspector overturned Islington council's rejection of these plans last year.

The council and the Campaign for Real Ale referred to cases where the Planning Inspectorate had rejected appeals to turn pubs into homes. However, the inspector said detailed information on these was not provided and that the pub in one was still open.

The inspector said that the fact the property had been empty for four years "indicates to me that the public house was not considered by the local community to be a service of particular value".

The inspector concluded that the proposed scheme



Lark in the Park: inspector not convinced of its community value

would preserve the character and appearance of the Barnsbury Conservation Area.

The decision comes shortly after the Planning Inspectorate approved the demolition of the Good Intent pub at Whittington Park in Archway.

Writing in the *Islington Tribune*, Councillor Martin Klute, who chaired the committee that rejected

plans to demolish the Lark, said the planning inspector had ignored the policy the council had introduced to protect pubs.

● The Campaign for Real Ale has produced a short guide to getting a pub listed as an asset of community value to give it some protection against development. Download the guide from [www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal](http://www.camra.org.uk/listyourlocal).

## Items from the whole period of Roman occupation found in City

Around 10,000 objects and remains of Roman buildings, including a complex draining system, have been unearthed at Bloomberg Place in the City.

The finds cover the entire period of the Roman occupation of Britain, from the 40s AD to the early fifth century.

Museum of London Archaeology workers have found coins, good-luck charms, 250 leather shoes and 100 writing tablets.

Finds also include sandals that look like flip-flops, with cork or wooden soles to protect their wearers against the underfloor heating.

The objects fit mainly into two categories – offerings to gods and discarded objects

in rubbish dumps.

"The ground conditions were perfect for preserving organic remains and hundreds of metal, wood, bone and leather artefacts and wooden structures are being recovered and recorded," MOLA said.

"These finds will contribute to our understanding of life in this part of Roman London."

The extent of the findings has led some people to dub the site the "Pompeii of the north".

The dig has also uncovered the original foundations of the Temple of Mithras. The temple and finds from the dig will be on display at a public exhibition at the new Bloomberg office.

## Blue plaque for London tube map designer



A blue plaque to London Underground map designer Harry Beck has been unveiled at his Leyton birthplace.

Unlike other English Heritage plaques, Beck's plaque uses London Underground's New Johnston typeface.

Beck, an electrical draughtsman, was born at 14 Wesley Road, Leyton, E10, on 4 June 1902 and created the map 80 years ago, in 1933.

## LAMAS seeks history society representatives

The London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's local history committee is looking for new members to represent local history societies in Greater London. If you are interested, please contact John Hinshelwood on 020 8348 3375 or [johnhinshelwood@btinternet.com](mailto:johnhinshelwood@btinternet.com), or Eileen Bowlton on 01895 638060 or [c.bowlton@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:c.bowlton@tiscali.co.uk).

## Bath Abbey to be heated by hot springs

Bath Abbey could be heated by the city's hot spring water from Roman drains. The Church of England has planning permission for the scheme, which will use the 45°C spring water to power an environmentally friendly central heating system. The water currently drains away into the Avon river.

## Museum told it cannot demolish Victorian pub

The proposed demolition of the Marquis of Lansdowne pub, owned by the Geffrye Museum, has been rejected by Hackney council. The decision was welcomed by conservation groups including the Victorian Society, which said the pub's demolition would be a "real historical loss".

## Listing for amazingly detailed model village

A model village in Gloucestershire has been grade II listed. The Bourton-on-the-Water village, completed in 1941, uses authentic building materials including local limestone and Cotswold stone slates. It is so detailed that the church's pews can be seen through its stained-glass windows.

# Boxer who fought at all weights is clear winner in people's plaque vote

A champion boxer, a community activist and a pioneering pathologist are being honoured with Islington People's Plaques.

Len Harvey, Betty Knight and Dr Gordon Signy won the most votes in the annual ballot, with boxer Harvey gaining more than one third of votes cast.

Over 4,700 members of the public voted from a list of 10 nominees.

Len Harvey (1907-1976) was unique in that he boxed at every weight and won British titles at middle, light-heavy and heavy weights. He was also the British empire champion at light-heavy and heavy weights.

He won 111 of his 133 recorded fights, with nine



Len Harvey: empire champion

draws and 13 defeats.

After retiring, he became licensee of the Star and

Garter pub at 44 Upper Street (now the Steam Passage Tavern).

Social campaigner Betty Knight (1936-2010) fought to make things better for people on the Spa Green Estate and in Clerkenwell. In 1996, she received a civic award for her work and dedication to the community.

Dr Gordon Signy (1905-1972) made outstanding advances in pathology. He worked on the investigation and treatment of blood diseases, some of which had previously been untreatable. In the 1940s he founded the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*. He also captained the British fencing team at both the 1964 and 1968 Olympics.

# Fears for mature trees under court plans

Highbury residents are opposing plans that would see the former Islington's coroner's court and adjacent buildings turned into a school and two homes.

The oldest tree in Islington could be felled under the plans, according to Val Hammond, vice-chair of the Friends of St Mary Magdalene Gardens.

St Mary Magdalene Academy wants to open the Courtyard, a school for 36 pupils aged 14-16 with autistic spectrum disorders and communication needs, in



Left: the old coroner's court; below left: adjacent buildings; below: detail of the plans – more at [http://smmacademy.org/our\\_academy](http://smmacademy.org/our_academy) (click on The Courtyard)

St Mary Magdalene Gardens. The gardens have been a public park for many years.

The plans include adding glassed-in corridors to the Victorian buildings.

Campaigners fear that green space and mature trees will be lost, and that the gardens' value as a park could be reduced through traffic and residential use.



# Letters and your questions

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

## Church in Almorah Road

I manage a sheltered housing scheme. Two of the residents recently went to London to find the church where they were married – St John the Baptist church in Almorah Road.

They were unable to find it and I have been trying to find out where it is, what has happened to it, a photo or anything else but have had no success.

*Cheryl Hoskins-Davies  
Sheltered scheme manager,  
Royal British Legion Village,  
Aylesford, Kent*

*Michael Reading writes:*

The church you are looking for was St John the Baptist in Cleveland Road. It was built in 1872 and the architect was W Wigginton.

It was situated at the apex of the triangle of Almorah Road, Cleveland Road and Downham Road. The church suffered bomb damage in 1941 and again in 1944. It was demolished in 1981.

The site has been redeveloped and is now occupied by the Almorah Community Centre.

## Collins' Music Hall – do you remember these faces?

You kindly published a photo and article about Collins Music Hall and my great grandfather Henry Thomas Collins in your winter edition.

As a result of that, a lady contacted me who remembered my grandmother Eleanor Broad who lived in Lewis Buildings; the lady said her own

grandfather had played the piano at Collins Music Hall.

I have since found an earlier photo of Collins staff and possibly performers. I would be grateful if you could publish this in case anyone could date it for me or recognise any of the people in the photo.

It is an earlier photo than the first one – the man I think is my great grandfather is a much younger man in this one.

On the back of the photo is the name of a theatrical photographer, Wrather and Buys of 27 New Bond Street. The only information I have found about them is that they were well-known theatrical photographers and that some of their photographs are in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Thank you for sending the back copies of the journal, which I found fascinating.

*Linda Tyrie  
linda.tyrie@sky.com*



facts that anyone can offer about Tripp Brothers, a gentleman's outfitters in Amwell Street - I think at no 9 but possibly 17 or elsewhere.

Did anyone go into the shop, know who the brothers were or get anything made there? The smallest nugget would be welcomed – and congenially placed as I am researching a book about clothes.

*Susannah Clapp  
susannahclapp@gmail.com*

*Michael Reading writes:*

The Post Office street directories for 1906 and 1912 have an entry in 1906 for Edward Henry Tripp, tailor, of 17 Amwell Street. The entry for 1921 and later years show Tripp Brothers until 1939 when the address is shown as no 59.

I do not think, however, that the business moved, but that Amwell Street was renumbered in 1938 when many streets were renamed and some renumbered. The Amwell Society would be able to confirm my suggestion.

For directories after 1939, I would refer you to the London Metropolitan Archives, which hold the Post Office street directories on microfilm from 1800 to approximately 1995.

## Memories of Union Chapel minister sought

I am working through various papers of the late Rev Ronald Taylor, minister at Union Chapel from 1940 to 1980 (Blitz to Thatcher!).

I'd be very grateful to hear from any members who have personal memories of him – I know some were married by him. I'd very much like to have some first hand recollections.

*Andy Gardner  
Union Chapel, Compton  
Avenue, N1 2XD,  
andy@iahs.org.uk*

## Gentlemen's outfitters of Amwell Street

I am eager to track down any memories, anecdotes or

**Write to [news@iahs.org.uk](mailto:news@iahs.org.uk), via [www.iahs.org.uk](http://www.iahs.org.uk) or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB. Please note letters may be edited. Say if you would like your email/postal address printed, so readers can contact you**

**Note: the society does not carry out family research**

# A tour of the Fleet's upper reaches

Lester Hillman is leading a walk along the Fleet river's course from Pond Square to St Pancras, taking in some interesting residents

A walk from the source of the Fleet to St Pancras Station will be led this summer by Lester Hillman, the society's academic adviser.

The Fleet stretches from the heady heights of Hampstead and Highgate to the tidal Thames at Blackfriars – St Pancras is around half way.

Last year, Lester, a former coxswain, navigated a popular walk along the Fleet's lower reaches from King's Cross to Blackfriars last year. After this tour, society members will have walked along the entire course of the hidden river that flows down Islington's western boundary.

Pond Square is the starting point. Following for the most part public footpaths, we will cross Hampstead Heath then follow the river's course along the Regent's Canal towpath. Our

route will include old farm lanes and look in on a colourful city farm. With famous and interesting residents along the way, ours will also be a navigation by the stars.

The intention is to go ahead whatever the weather and here's hoping it is fine. The date will be the 10th anniversary of the highest recorded temperature in the UK, when Faversham in Kent hit 38.5°C on 10 August in 2003.

The walk should take about three hours and stout footwear is recommended. The finish at St Pancras Station means excellent public transport, cafes and places for onward exploration are to hand.

## Details and booking

The walk starts at 10.30am on Saturday 10 August at the Highgate Village bus terminal at Pond Square; this is a short bus ride from Archway tube station.

The cost is £5 per person and



Here, where two Fleet tributaries met in 1826, the river was said to be 65ft wide. The bridge spans Kentish Town Road just north of Camden Town station and the canal

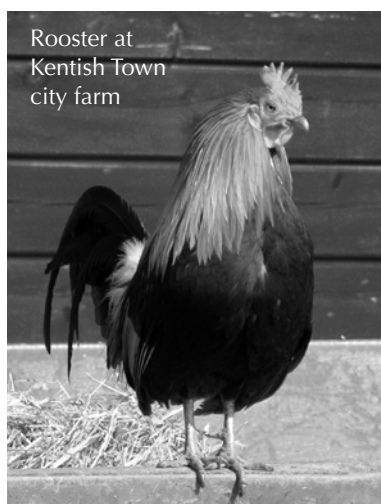
guests are welcome. All proceeds will go to support the society funds. Numbers are limited.

## Where next?

Later this year sees the 400th anniversary of the New River and a walk is being planned. Ideas for further walks are always welcome. ■

## Further reading

Hillman L (2012) An exploration of the Fleet river. *JIAHS*; 2: 3, 13-15  
Hillman L (2011) Islington's western shores. *JIAHS*; 1: 4, 19



## Walking the Fleet: Highgate Village to St Pancras

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 .....

Tel .....

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

# Rainbow Cinema glamour to rock royalty

The Astoria cinema opened as the “largest and most luxurious in the world”. Mark Aston tells the movies and musical story of a remarkable Finsbury Park venue and its move from being a film theatre to hosting legendary rock acts

The Finsbury Park Astoria began life as a 1930s “atmospheric” cinema. With lavish interior scenic effects and ceilings often designed to look like open sky, atmospheric cinemas ushered in a new era of luxurious British picture houses.

Astoria audiences could imagine they were in a Moorish courtyard, below the ceiling of twinkling electric stars. The safety curtain depicted an ornamental garden and the proscenium arch was flanked by rows of quaint Spanish houses.

Art deco swirls and zigzags adorned the spectacular vestibule. Its centrepiece was a fountain in a star-shaped pool that mirrored the octagonal form of the balconied space above – a similar fountain at the Brixton Astoria was removed as people fell in.

The entrance was imposing in cream and green, and the exterior exhibited a simplicity of line.

The architect was Edward Albert Stone, the chairman and principal architect of the Picture House Trust. The interior design was by Tommy Somerford and Ewen Barr and decoration by Marc-Henri and G Laverdet.

## Opening night

The Astoria’s opening night on Monday 29 September 1930 was a sell out. Advertisements in the local press told of the “theatre you have been waiting for!”, which would be the “largest and most luxurious in the world”.

The Astoria’s first film, heralded by a trumpet fanfare,



was *Condemned*, starring screen idol Ronald Colman. This was followed by performances by orchestras, corps de ballet, dancers and other entertainers.

The live stage shows that accompanied the 1930s films were abandoned at the end of the decade but the Wurlitzer organ interludes were kept.

The Astoria survived enemy raids during the Second World War, although adjacent buildings and streets suffered heavily.

## Move to music venue

From the early 1960s, the Astoria began hold concerts. Top acts from all genres played – it was here that Jimi Hendrix first set fire to his guitar on stage in 1967.

Audiences were treated to performances by, among others, the Byrds, the Beach Boys, Chuck Berry, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, Eddie Cochran, Ray Charles, Duke Ellington, Roy Orbison, Nat King Cole, Sonny and Cher, the Rolling Stones, Tom Jones, Dusty Springfield,

Cliff Richard and Shirley Bassey.

The Astoria was also used as a film location, appearing in Cliff Richard’s film *The Young Ones*.

## Beatlemania In Finsbury Park

The Beatles played the Astoria more than any other act, bringing the hysteria of Beatlemania.

Their manager Brian Epstein conceived *The Beatles’ Christmas Show*, a variety stage production. Its 30 sell out shows ran from 24 December 1963 until 11 January 1964. The Beatles ended each show with a 25-minute set. Other acts on the bill included the Barron Knights, Billy J Kramer and the Dakotas and Cilla Black. Between these acts, the Beatles performed light-hearted sketches.

They returned to the Astoria twice – in November 1964 and in December 1965 – the last concert they played at a London theatre.

Afterwards, Beatle George Harrison said: “This is one of the most incredible shows we’ve done.... It seems like the Beatlemania thing is happening all over again.”



## Rainbow rising

The building's last film show, in September 1971, was a double bill of *Gorgo* and *Twisted Nerve*.

Cinema attendance across the country was in decline, with many picture houses closing or being turned into bingo halls. The Who's Pete Townshend, in his song *Long Live Rock*, wrote: "Down at the Astoria the scene was changing, bingo and rock were pushing out x-rating."

A little over six weeks and £150,000 of alterations later, the Astoria re-emerged as the Rainbow Theatre. It was overseen by John Morris, who had stage-managed the Woodstock Festival in 1969.

The Who opened the Rainbow in November 1971. Alice Cooper, Barclay James Harvest, Joan Baez, Wishbone Ash, Mott the Hoople and Family followed. Pink Floyd, Miles Davis, Queen, Liza Minnelli and the Jacksons all played there.

Frank Zappa and the Mothers of Invention were booked for two shows in December. The second was cancelled, after Zappa was pushed off the stage by the jealous boyfriend of a female fan; his injuries included a fractured leg. The cancellation was a setback for Morris; his company went into liquidation in early 1972.

In mid 1972, the lease was acquired by Biffo and there were performances by Black Sabbath, Slade and Yes, as well as David Bowie's Ziggy Stardust shows.

In 1974 the Rainbow was listed grade II – later grade II\*. However, no one was willing to maintain it. The Spanish palace was slowly becoming a slum.

Concerts ran for another year until the theatre ran into financial trouble. After a show by Procol Harum in March 1975, billed as "Over the Rainbow", the theatre closed. For the rest of 1975 and the whole of 1976, it was dark.

## Rainbow reprise and punk

In 1977 the Rainbow rose again, reopening on new year's day with shows by Genesis. For the next five years, new manager Strutworth Ltd put on concerts



and other events, including a pantomime, boxing matches, films and a stage show of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

It also attracted artistes from the emerging reggae and new wave scenes. In 1977, the Kinks, Fleetwood Mac, the Small Faces, Eric Clapton, Elton John, Marc Bolan and Jerry Lee Lewis all played to packed houses – as did Ultravox, the Damned, the Stranglers and the Vibrators.

The energy of punk exploded when the Clash played in May 1977 on their White Riot Tour, supported by the Jam, the Buzzcocks, Subway Sect and the Prefects. This four-hour show was the largest punk gig in London to date, and fans tore out 200 seats.

Around £1,000 of damage was caused but the Rainbow's director, Allan Schaverien, was philosophical: "It was not malicious damage but natural exuberance... we expected some damage and arrangements were made to cover the cost... we shall have more punk concerts soon."

He was true to his word, putting on bands such as the Ramones, Blondie, Siouxsie and the Banshees, the Rezillos, Sham 69, Generation X and, again, the Clash before the end of the year.

Above: the Spanish town interior, 1930; below: an advertisement promises the world's best entertainment, 1930



By 1981, time was running out and financial pressures caused the venue's closure. Elvis Costello and the Attractions played the last concert at the theatre on Christmas eve.

## 1980s: boxing and Bowie

In 1984, proposals to convert the Rainbow into a bingo hall were withdrawn and plans to reopen it as a music venue failed to materialise.

The building remained dark except for occasional events, including unlicensed boxing matches and the press conference for David Bowie's 1990 Sound and Vision Tour. It was briefly a place of worship for the Elim Pentecostal Church.

## Today

In 1995, the building was taken over by the United Church of the Kingdom of God, which restored the auditorium and foyer to their 1930s glory. To celebrate the restoration, the church screened *Sunset Boulevard*, last showed at the venue in 1950. ■

Mark Aston is local history manager at Islington Local History Centre

*From Colman to Costello* runs at the Islington Local History Centre until Saturday 24 August

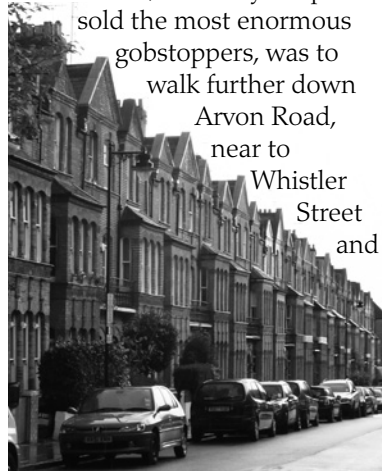
# Growing up by the fields

There was lots to do and plenty of space for a child growing up near Highbury Fields, says Linda Tyrie

I grew up from 1944 to 1962 in the ground floor of a house in Baalbec Road, backing on to Highbury Fields. The fields and the beautiful avenues of trees formed a backdrop to my life – walking up Baalbec Road to the food office in Highbury Crescent/Ronalds Road when I was very young with my mother's coupon book to collect orange juice, and later walking through the Fields to Drayton Park school in Arvon Road and along Church Path through the fields to Brownies, Guides, church and Sunday school.

Always my favourite walk, diagonally across the fields and down Fieldway Crescent, was to Islington Central Library which was my second home. There were many shrubs and bushes around the fields but no formal planting except around the Boer War Memorial. The fields were a peaceful oasis, with plenty of space to play.

An alternative route home from school, via a tiny shop that sold the most enormous gobstoppers, was to walk further down Arvon Road, near to Whistler Street and



Above: view across Highbury Fields, from near Baalbec Road; left: tall houses at the top of Baalbec Road



cut through a tiny sloping road called Framfield Passage to come out to the fields at the end of Highbury Terrace. The houses there were very tiny terraced cottages, built in a dark orangey brown brick. I could not find Framfield Passage when walking around the area a few years ago and it is not listed in the *London A-Z* – it may now be part of a gated housing development.

In a hut in the playground resided a formidable lady attendant. She rarely emerged – her mere presence ensured there was little bad behaviour

In the summer, with my younger brother or friends, I spent many hours in the open-air lido at the end of the fields in Highbury Place. It had a snack bar and a lovely fountain. Outside and further round from the lido was a large paddling pool but our mother forbade us from using that.

In the field behind the lido was a children's playground with a high slide, swings, a see-saw, a sand pit, a metal rocking horse that took several children, and an amazing "witches hat" circular swing – none of them on a safety surface. In a hut in the playground resided a formidable lady attendant, dressed in a long brown overall coat and hat. She rarely emerged, except to

dispense plasters for cut knees, but the mere fact of her presence ensured there was little bad behaviour.

In those days, the back gardens of the houses in Baalbec Road did not have gates onto the park. At the back of the houses were dense bushes which were a great place to make dens and play hide and seek. From the back garden, I could look across to Highbury Grove on a Saturday and watch for my father walking home from the Arsenal.

The field behind Baalbec Road had a putting green, an ice-cream kiosk, a tennis court and shelters (which always smelt awful inside so we gave them a wide berth). The uniformed park keepers were always in evidence and there was no vandalism.

In the field behind the top end of Baalbec Road, where the one o'clock club is now sited, was an outdoor theatre. During the summer, there were shows, including Punch and Judy for the children and evening variety shows.

We children would stand outside the fence surrounding the theatre and watch the evening shows until we were called in for bedtime. There was always a very warbly lady soprano and I remember drifting off to sleep to the sound of the singing.

I think I was very lucky to have spent my childhood so near to Highbury Fields. ■

# The story of a small street

Wall Street, near the junction of Balls Pond Road and Southgate Road, has changed considerably over the years. Charlie Greenfield tells its story



It is some 50 years since the buildings on Wall Street were demolished, so it is unlikely that many people would know of it as a street as I do.

The street was only about 300 yards long and very narrow; it is part of Islington's history, in spite of its insignificance.

My research turned up a number of maps, dating from the late 18th century. These showed how Wall Street developed from a track across open countryside until it took on its final form at the end of the 19th century.

The earliest map, of 1795, shows a track running south from Balls Pond on what later became Balls Pond Road to the Rosemary Branch Gardens white lead works; it is named King Henry's Wall. Another path crosses it at an angle, at an isolated house, Islington Common House. Ten years later, the house had become the Cot and the boundary of its grounds have same angle as the previous map. Balls Pond and Lower (later Essex) Roads are named here.

An 1825 map confirms that the track is what would become Wall Street by the presence of the newly built Dorset Street and Orchard Green, which later became Dove Road and Wakeham Street.

A new feature is Feston Place, a short spur at an angle suggestive of the angle of the boundary of the Cot's grounds, off Wall Street and with buildings along it. It eventually became Baxter Grove.

## Brick fields and a cattle market

The next map of any significance (1831) shows Feston Place as having quite substantial building along it while, to its south, is a large area designated as brick fields. Further south, other roads have been laid out.

By 1837, a new cattle market had opened on the site of the brick fields between Lower Road and Southgate Road, which had been built parallel to Wall Street. The market was built by a John Perkins in 1836 but was a failure and had closed by 1852. A plan for the sale catalogue was produced in the same year,

which shows Wall Street abutting its northern side. The catalogue also includes a picture of the impressive Market House and its entrance on Lower Road.

By 1868, Wall Street had been developed with two terraces – Brunswick Place and Alfred Place – though Feston Place is still named. However, in 1845-68, Wall Street was called Motts Lane. The 1873 25" Ordnance Survey map shows it as Motts Lane five years after the name change. This map also shows the whole area fully developed to, more or less, the state it was when I first knew it.

The 1894 OS map gives Wall Street its final name and also shows the layout of the tramways. The 1915 OS map shows the one-way tramway along Dorset Street, which was extended across Wall Street into Southgate Road to accommodate it.

In 1898 Charles Booth's published his famous Poverty Map. In his notes, he describes Wall Street as "mixed, some comfortable others poor", which, I suppose describes as it was when I knew it. ■

Charlie Greenfield used to live in Wall Street

Wall Street now, running parallel to Southgate Road to the left

Right: nearby Victorian survivor Canonbury Works, a box factory in Dove Road, where the author's mother worked when she left school in 1914



Christy Lawrence



The Laycock Centre now, set back behind open space on Laycock Street

# A learning experience in school television

An ambitious experiment in TV broadcasting, with teachers taking on the main roles, started in an Islington school. It didn't go quite to plan, remembers John Gardner

**T**urn right as you exit Highbury and Islington tube station, walk a few yards down Highbury Station Road and you come to the Laycock Centre on the left. It is instantly recognisable as a former London County Council school, circa 1920.

Laycock Street Council School for boys and girls opened in 1915. Today it is a smarter and more impressive place than when it was a school but even from the road you can almost smell the chalk and plimsolls. The playground is a car park rather than an outlet for the boundless energy of young children.

This much is obvious to the casual observer. So what distinguishes this building from other one-time school premises? It one was once the cradle for an ambitious and bold experiment in communication. It was the first home of the Educational Television Service (ETVS) – a closed-circuit schools broadcasting service conceived and initiated by the Inner London Education Authority.

Programmes were distributed over the Post Office's cable network. The ETVS was thought to be one of the largest closed circuit television systems in the world. It later moved to a bigger school in Tennyson Street in Battersea.

## A 'liberating' TV station

Why would an education authority want to create and run anything as hideously expensive as making and distributing television programmes?

At the time, there were just three national television stations – BBC 1, BBC 2 and ITV. There was no internet or social media and therefore no means of interacting with a diverse, distributed yet specific audience. There was certainly no way of targeting television programmes at particular groups of children.

While the BBC and ITV were broadcasting to schools, this was at very limited times and they were showing a narrow range of programmes to a national audience.

The ETVS was conceived as a liberating force that would give teachers control over what was broadcast, how it was made, how it was used and how it developed. And therein was one of its weaknesses and, ultimately, one of the reasons for its decline.

We are all television critics. We sit at home, we watch and we turn it off if we're not impressed. We might even wonder why someone gets paid so much to simply read the news. If we think that way, it's because we've never tried to do it.

There is a complexity about television that can make it harder to master than radio, live theatre or film. Yet the ILEA, in its wisdom, believed that teachers could be converted into presenters and actors – that they could write their own scripts and direct their own programmes.

To that end, the ILEA converted the Laycock Street school into its first television centre with a production studio, a training studio, a recording suite and a master control room.

## Technical talent

The ILEA did draw the line at having teachers working on technical aspects of broadcasting. It recruited not teachers but professionals from the world of broadcasting. Why did these

people desert the glamour of big-time television for this tiny outfit in north London?

In the late 1960s, outside the BBC, the film and television business was closed to many. The big explosions of technology, of producer choice and of independent studios were yet to come. So, there was a pool of experienced and talented technicians with nowhere to go and waiting, in effect, for dead men's shoes. To them, the ETVS represented a chance to leapfrog to a higher position and to participate in a pioneering experiment.

However they were doomed to disappointment, and the teachers were destined to learn just why media people earn so much money.

### **An unforgiving screen test**

Children are harsh critics. If something they see doesn't ring true, they won't accept it. And, if they happen to view it en masse, they are more likely to ridicule it.

Subconsciously, the benchmark for any performance is set by what we see on our televisions every evening. This is what the teachers – as jack-of-all-trades producers, presenters and writers – were up against.

There is no inherent reason why a good teacher cannot become a natural presenter or a creative director, as these roles share common skills. In fact, a few of the teachers trained by the ETVS did successfully cross the road to professional television.

However, it is no more possible to batch process teachers into competent broadcasters than it is to convert them into county cricketers. It takes inherent talent to succeed in television, whether in front of or behind the camera.

### **Frustrations and final days**

Between the technicians and the teachers existed professional respect but a wide cultural gulf. They came from different worlds and spoke different languages.

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The benchmark is set by what we see on TV. This is what the teachers – as jack-of-all-trades producers, presenters and writers – were up against

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Teachers “practised” – studio technicians “rehearsed”; teachers “started again” – technicians went “from the top”; and so on. On one memorable occasion, a presenter said: “I’ll just write my ad libs on the script.”

Frustrations boiled over as the technical crews tried to achieve – with limited budgets and in cramped conditions – what they knew was possible.

You cannot do drama in particular on the cheap. The camera is the most unforgiving of observers. It exposes your every expression to the most intense and revealing scrutiny. And no worthwhile programme ever succeeded without a good script or an effective commentary.

The Educational Television Service was an excellent concept but flawed in its implementation. It produced some excellent and relevant material. It transmitted throughout the school day, dovetailing with school timetables. It provoked discussion and interaction and activities, and encouraged children to think about



issues for themselves.

In the end, it was overtaken by technology. It was doomed when rising cable costs forced it to distribute programmes by video cassette, which were bought or rented by individual schools. The crunch came when there was insufficient demand from the schools to sustain the enterprise. The ETVS closed in 1977.

How different things might have been, given a different production model and today's technology. It's something to think about next time you walk down Highbury Station Road. ■

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John Gardner was a sound engineer, initially for the BBC, later for ILEA and Decca



Above: former boys' door;  
left: the playground is now a car park

Christy Lawrence



# Burials beyond the boundaries

Islington and St Pancras cemetery was opened in the 19th century after local graveyards became crowded. Richard Baldwin gives a brief history

Some 800,000 people, from the workhouse to high society, are buried here. Graves include those of: top row, second from left: coffee planter Edward Valentine Carey; and top right corner: balloonist George Green

Balloon memorial: Sean Holloway; other pictures: Christy Lawrance



In the mid 19th century, London's burial grounds were becoming so crowded and insanitary that the government had to act.

The Metropolis Burial Act, which came into force on 1 July 1852, and two acts shortly afterwards ended burials in existing grounds in London and forbade burials within 100 yards of a home. Vestries therefore had to look afield for land. Each vestry had to set up a burial board, specify its rules and empower it to raise money and agree works contracts.

In 1853, St Pancras burial board

purchased the 87.5-acre Horse Shoe Farm in East Finchley for £200 per acre. This became the first cemetery to be established under the burial acts.

## A cemetery for Islington

Pressure for a cemetery was growing in Islington. In March 1853, Daniel Wilson, the vicar of St Mary's, called for most of Islington's traditional burial grounds to be closed by the end of the following year.

In November, an order in council called for the closure of several burial grounds in London by the date Wilson had

recommended, including Bunhill Fields and St John's, Clerkenwell.

On 15 December, Wilson convened a public meeting at St Mary's to discuss the proposed cemetery. The meeting recommended that the burial board purchase 30 acres of St Pancras' ground at £300 per acre.

The St Pancras burial board, under its agreement with the Islington board dated 15 April 1854, built two chapels, lodges, main roads and viaducts.

The cost of building the episcopal and dissenting chapels, board room, lodges, iron gates, roads, drainage and the viaduct and laying out the cemetery came to £22,308 13s 8d.

The firm of William Masters of Canterbury (1796-1874) laid out the cemetery grounds (see box).

The architects, Barnett and Birch, won the commission for St Marylebone cemetery the year after St Pancras and Islington opened. However, this project was dogged by controversy, from complaints about the fairness of the competition to legal proceedings over exceeding the

## The radical landscape gardener

William Masters, whose firm laid out the cemetery grounds, influenced both landscape design and politics.

To quote from the *The Disused Burial Grounds of St Pancras*: "The farm was a bleak,

barren wilderness, vastly different from the cemetery at the present time... trees and shrubs now adorn the ground."

Masters' work was drawn on extensively by John Loudon and Charles Darwin.

He agitated for the Representation of the

People Act 1832 to put an end to rotten boroughs, established the Canterbury Museum and served as the city's mayor.

He laid out Linton Park in Kent and Dane John Park in Canterbury, and a garden at Walmer Castle. His *Gardener's Chronicle* obituary said he had a "picturesque"

rather than a formal style, and his nursery showed "the effects of ornamental trees and shrubs, and of isolated specimens of the more noteworthy trees".

Masters' style can be seen to good effect at St Pancras and Islington, with its avenues of cedars and limes, and fine conifers.



budget and, in 1856, the partnership was dissolved.

The church was consecrated by the Bishop of London on 25 July 1854 and the first interment, of William Powis, took place on 1 August 1854 in a public grave. The first private grave was sold on 17 November.

### A double cemetery opens

The opening of the cemeteries was described in the *Illustrated London News* of 29 July 1854, which is quoted below. As there are no burial board minutes about this, this report is the main contemporary evidence of the two cemeteries' design.

"St Pancras possesses fifty acres, and St Mary's Islington, thirty acres; in the former about thirty acres, and in the latter twenty acres, were set aside for the purposes of consecration, the remainder being appropriated for the burial of the Nonconformist population. The only division distinguishing the boundary of the ground belonging to the two parishes is by iron posts and chains [now removed], giving the impression that the whole of the ground is one large cemetery.

"At the approach from the Finchley and Barnet Road is a Gothic lodge [demolished in 1970] containing residences for a gate keeper, offices, and meeting rooms.... On entering the cemetery, the first object presented is the raised terrace, which, in addition to being of considerable architectural pretension, is well adapted for the erection of tablets and monuments upon its face; or even at some future period, the arches upon which it rests may be formed into capacious catacombs."

This structure is no longer visible; it may be buried, given the contours of the ground here.

"The Episcopal chapel stands upon a considerable elevation. It is of Kentish Rag and Bath Stone; and is of Gothic and Early Decorated character, cruciform, and finished with a tower and spire, about 100 feet in height: the same is boldly sculpted by Farmer, of London; it contains a finely toned bell."

Inside the chapel, the "windows throughout are filled with stained glass, of a peculiar depth of colouring. That at the western end of the building is occupied... with figures typical of the Resurrection, with the Ascension; above, and in each of the side-lights, is the Tree of Life, and diagonal binding, inscribed with portions of the burial service. The eastern window contains the dove, and a geometrical pattern neatly displayed, and in either transept window is delineated the seals of the Burial Boards of the parishes of St Pancras and Islington, with monograms, and other emblematical devices.... The roof is of a light character, open and stained oak; as is the other wood work of the building."

### Chapel on a hill

The report continued: "The Dissenters' chapel is situated upon the brow of a fine hill... the valley below being spanned by a very neat and substantial viaduct, with Gothic circles and buttressed, supporting the carriage way. The building is six sided, with flying buttresses and ornamented pierced parapet, and has an elegant stone lantern."

The dissenters' chapel has been demolished. The site was used for the burial scene in the 1974 film *The Great Gatsby*, and

the "grave" dug was reused in the 1980s for the "burial" of Ken Livingstone in a film about the demise of the GLC.

### Highgate

The new cemetery had to compete against Highgate cemetery, which opened in 1839. During the 1860s, advertisements for St Pancras cemetery were posted in north London railway stations to attract custom from Highgate.

There are several family connections between the cemeteries. For example, the grave of the balloonist Charles Spencer Green, with a balloon carved in relief in Highgate, is matched by that of his son George in Islington, which has a three-dimensional balloon on a pedestal (top right corner).

### Records

The St Pancras burial board had one register of burials, but later divided them into church, chapel and Roman Catholic registers. The Islington burial board kept one register. All burial and cremation records are now stored on one database. ■

Richard Baldwin is business administration manager at Islington and Camden Cemetery Services



### Help create valuable records

There is no record of the memorials and few records of interesting local people. Richard Baldwin is hoping to form a group of people to record inscriptions, photograph memorials and find interesting people in the burial records.

Such records will become a valuable resource for future generations.

Contact Richard Baldwin on 020 7527 8804 on (Wednesday-Friday), Richard.Baldwin@islington.gov.uk



# Picture palace

It is 75 years since the Holloway Odeon opened. Mark Smulian goes behind the historical scenes

**T**he Odeon cinema is an unmistakable landmark at the junction of Holloway Road and Tufnell Park Road, yet it is lucky to have survived at all and even more so to still function as a cinema.

When it opened in 1938, the event was considered important enough for a BBC radio outside broadcast of the variety programme that began proceedings.

The building, then called the Gaumont, was the work of

American theatre architect C Howard Crane, who also designed the Earls Court Exhibition Centre.

But it was designed for a world about to end, which means it now houses behind, above and below its screens a curious hidden labyrinth, which the *Journal* was able to explore with manager Mark Redding.

The cinema opened with a single screen and enough seats for 3,006 people to watch it. In an era when it was common to visit the cinema weekly, it needed that capacity.

In keeping with popular tastes, it was designed to be capable of staging full live variety theatre performances as well as films.

Mr Redding has a copy of a programme from its opening on



5 September 1938. Patrons would have seen the film *The Hurricane*, starring Dorothy Lamour, once they had passed through a French renaissance style foyer, thought to have been painted gold, into the equally palatial auditorium.

The programme notes the presence of a Wurlitzer organ “designed for this magnificent cine variety theatre”, capable of imitating 32 instruments and effects including the little-known chrusaglott.

It promised: “A new era in modern entertainment combining the best of stage and screen. Each and every week the first release film together with interesting short subjects will be seen in conjunction with a full hour of variety by world-famous artistes.”

The variety bill on the first night featured popular singing star Jessie Matthews (later famous for the radio soap opera *Mrs Dale's Diary*), comic actor Will Hay, Louis Levi and his broadcasting orchestra, Scottish singer Will Fyffe and comedians Leslie Sarony and Leslie Holmes.

A director in the circle could control both film and stage performance by whispering, so as not to disturb the audience, “into a small control panel fitted with a micro telephone of the very latest type”.

It opened at 1.30pm (5.30pm on Sundays) and admission charges ranged from 6d to 2/6, depending on seats and times.

The Odeon's Holloway Road side now accommodates small shops at ground level. Above, a flat roof houses only a disused gobo

Historic pictures: Odeon





– a machine that looks a little like a dalek – that once projected an Odeon logo on the side wall.

Beneath the shops is a small working boiler house that still has (non-functional) 1930s bakelite gauges and other equipment.

In 1938, the flat roof terrace was the cinema's restaurant, where one could indulge in a three-course lunch or supper for 1/6 and snacks from 1/- with, slightly surprisingly for the time, vegetarian dishes available.

Barely a year later the Second World War began and, though the cinema stayed open, it took a direct hit from a V1 rocket on 8 November 1944 and was further damaged by a V2 in January 1945.

This destroyed all but the front and foyer, and postwar restrictions on the use of scarce building materials left cinemas a long way down the list for repairs.

It remained a ruin for 14 years, but reopened on 21 July 1958, when a contemporary account notes the guests of honour were stage stars Donald Sinden "in a white dinner jacket", and Anne Heywood "in a low cut evening gown with sequinned bodice". Its first film, *Run Silent, Run Deep*, starred Clark Gable and Burt Lancaster. In the intervening

years, televisions had become common, boosted by the 1955 launch of ITV, and cinema attendance was in decline. Accompanying variety shows were now a rarity.

A nondescript door gives onto the ghostly world of the cinema's variety era. Guided by Mr Redding's torch, one can see doors still labelled "chorus", "organist" and "band room", the stairs that once led from this netherworld to the auditorium, and a lethal-looking ladder down which the organist would go to sit at the Wurlitzer before rising before the audience.

The cinema was renamed the Odeon in 1962 and, as the small screen continued to take away the big screens' audience, it was subdivided into three cinemas in 1973 and later into the present eight, which vary in size between 72 and 330 seats, seating a total of 1,599 people.

Subdivision makes it hard to imagine the Odeon in its 1938 heyday, but Mr Redding says, roughly speaking, screens 1 and 2 are in the old circle, screens 4 and 5 are in the old stalls, screen 3 takes up the former restaurant, screen 6 is part of the original screen space and screens 7 and 8 are in the backstage area.

It's still a cinema of

considerable size but the surprise as Mr Redding guided the *Journal* around is the disused space.

The tower at its north end on the Holloway Road side is almost entirely empty, but that on Tufnell Park Road is in use. An empty manager's flat is halfway up the staircase and the tower gives access to projection rooms and the roof, where equipment is in place to raise and lower the Odeon's flag.

There is also a trapdoor here once have descended to haul up chandeliers from the foyer when bulbs needed replacing.

Mr Redding has managed the Odeon on and off since 1999 and one of the major changes he has seen is the conversion of the cinema to all-digital screenings in November 2010.

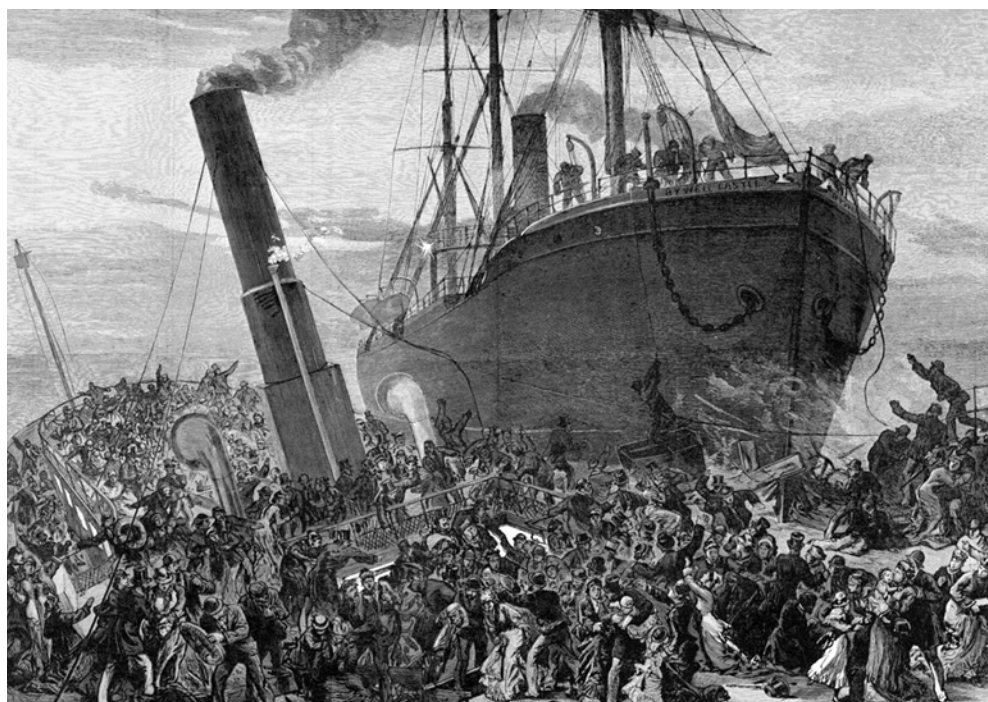
The equipment for 35mm films remains, though. Screens 1 and 7 have 35mm projectors, and machines to splice lengths of film together and form them into reels remain available, though none has recently been used.

However modern its films, the cinema's facade and the foyer are grade II listed and a reminder of times when cinemas were main landmarks in their communities and vied with each other over the splendour of their decoration. ■



Top: 1938 interiors; below: laying the foundations in 1937 to completion in 1938; above: chorus room, bakelite equipment and band leader's room; left: the Gaumont and its souvenir programme





## Researching a disaster

Joan Lock consulted numerous sources when researching for her fiction and non-fiction books on the *Princess Alice* disaster. This wealth of material was detailed – and inconsistent

With the London Metropolitan Archives, the British Library and the Guildhall all on our doorstep, we Islingtonians must be among the luckiest of London researchers.

At the first of these, when researching for my Victorian crime novel *Dead Born*, I found the coroner's reports on the collision of the *Princess Alice* with the Tyne collier *Bywell Castle*. At the second, I read *The Wreck of the Princess Alice*, edited by Edwin Guest and published by Weldon's Shilling Library in 1878. This included a collection of newspaper cuttings, an area by area rundown of the dead and missing – and some extraordinary methods of “restoring the apparently drowned”.

Although I had this material to

hand, I needed to get out by the Thames with *Dead Born's* Sergeant Best as he sailed on the *Princess Alice* pleasure steamer in pursuit of a suspected child dropper – a baby farmer about to abandon a dead child.

At the Woolwich archives, I learned about the Arsenal area and its numerous fatal accidents and street violence, the pleasure garden at North Woolwich and some of the riverscape the sergeant would have seen in 1878. At Gravesend archives, I found out about the remarkable Rosherville Pleasure Gardens and the popular resorts of Gravesend and Sheerness.

Back in Islington, Best's sidekick Constable Smith was keeping observation while posing as a hokey-pokey man – an ice-cream seller. This was another learning curve – thank you, London Canal Museum.

The collision between the *Princess Alice* and *Bywell Castle*; below: Captain Grinstead, master of the *Princess Alice*



There was an embarrassment of riches in the newspapers, with descriptions of the jollity before the impact. Passengers roared out: “We don't want to fight but by jingo if we do!” (an Afghan war threatened), while a group of middle-aged ladies countered with *Onward Christian Soldiers*. Then came reports of the horror that followed, as people fought for their lives. This was followed by the lists of the missing, those who were found and those identified, plus narratives of survivors – which in some newspapers underwent a little verbal embroidery.

These seemingly endless lists are full of details about what upper working class and lower middle class people would have been wearing on such a day out. Many men and women wore fashionable “side-spring boots”, which had elastic at the ankle; the widespread wearing of boots did little to aid survival.

The lists also reveal how many of the victims hailed from Islington and its surrounding areas. Whole families were wiped out, plus most of a 30-strong bible party from the Cowcross Street Mission, teachers and pupils from Queen's College for young ladies in Tufnell Park, and PC Cornelius Briscoe; this local hero from the Metropolitan's N Division had rescued a drowning child from the Regent's Canal but proved unable to save himself and his family from the Thames.

After experiencing the fatal impact alongside Sergeant Best and the terrible fights for life, we follow his pursuit of the murderer which culminates, according to one reviewer, in “an unguessable final twist”.

I like to stick to the facts as much as possible in my fiction. I was pleased that, when returning to this research for the non-fiction *Princess Alice Disaster*, I had done this when working on *Dead Born* published 12 years earlier. For example, in *Dead Born*, Best and his fellow survivor “little Joseph” are

stripped of their soaking suits and re-clothed by a kindly Woolwich gentleman's outfitter, which is exactly what happened to several of the real survivors.

### Digging deep for non-fiction

When it came to the non-fiction work, naturally, I had to dig much deeper. Had I known how overwhelming and how inconsistent the sources would prove to be, I sometimes think I would never have started.

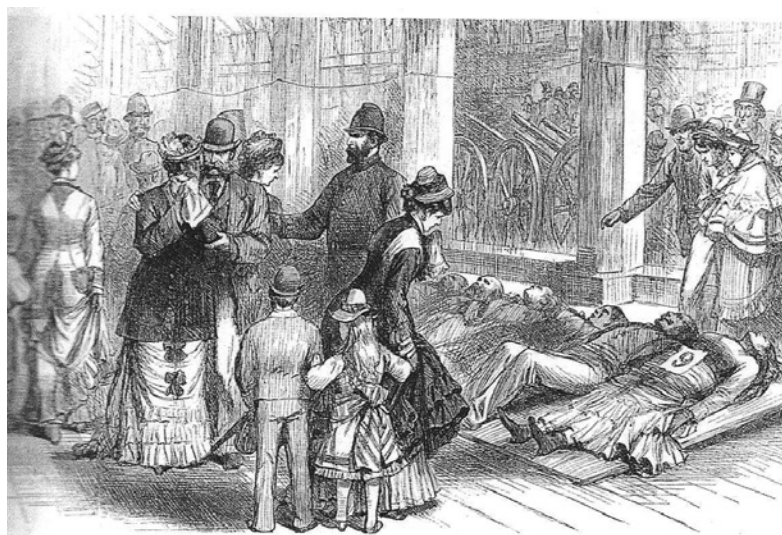
There were lost tempers and infighting at the long-running inquest, the Board of Trade inquiry and Court of Admiralty hearing. Letters to editors made life-saving suggestions from inflatable overcoats and crinolines to cork belts decorous enough for women to wear when boarding. Channel swimmer Captain Webb weighed into the debate over the lack of swimming facilities. Questions were asked in the House of Commons.

Letters plagued the coroner, suggesting a faster way of raising bodies – by firing a heavy cannon over the water – and preserving them with one writer's Patent Fresh Meat Preservative. Later began the prolonged investigations and experiments around the effects of Joseph Bazalgette's sewage outlets, one of which was directly opposite the accident site causing, it was claimed, victims to drown in water polluted with raw sewage.

I found memorials, poems, broadsheets and ballads at various sites including the National Maritime Museum.



Right: identifying the dead: around 650 people died – the exact number remains unknown; below: the inquest at Woolwich Town Hall



It became necessary to compare the collision with the 1989 *Marchioness* disaster, where 51 people drowned in the Thames after the pleasure boat *Marchioness* sank after being hit by the dredger *Bowbelle*.

Public efforts to assist victims financially via the Mansion House Fund included two fundraising performances at Collins's Music Hall on Islington Green. The *Islington Gazette* reported "Miss Stella De Vere, attired in glittering dresses, gave three songs of French origin in a decidedly piquant style" and that Miss Jenny Hill's clever character songs included "an artistic impression of a lady advocate of women's rights whose denunciations of 'these men' were highly diverting".

At the victims' funerals, some clergymen seized the opportunity to wax dramatic. The most impressive funeral cortege was afforded to PC Cornelius Briscoe, whose divisional superintendent led nine inspectors, 24 sergeants, more than 300 constables, a fire engine from Clapton with its chief and crew, and the band of H Division playing Handel's *Dead March* from *Saul*.

Other accidents and diseases that made life so fragile then inevitably crept into both books. Scarlet fever caused much grief to Sergeant Best and diphtheria to Princess Alice, Queen Victoria's second daughter and the Duke of

Edinburgh's great grandmother, after whom the boat had been named. Alice succumbed to the disease just as the hearings on the tragedy were winding up.

### Talking to descendants

Contact with some descendants of the passengers added interesting footnotes. One told me that the reason there were so many publican victims – including that of the Alfred Tavern in Roman Road and one from near the Metropolitan Cattle Market – was that the outing was regarded as "a publicans' beano".

The Islington Local History Centre provided me with the subsequent progress on public swimming baths and a mind-boggling view of Thames traffic at the time was afforded by a Board of Trade inquiry report from the National Archives. But nothing prepared me for my startling discovery regarding shipping accidents, particularly collisions, which I reveal in *The Princess Alice Disaster*. ■

● *The Princess Alice Disaster* is published by Hale on 30 June.

Find out more on Joan Lock's books documentaries and radio plays at [www.joanlock.co.uk](http://www.joanlock.co.uk)

In the spring issue of the *Journal*, Joan Lock describes her research for *Dead Born* (*Turning history into mystery*, page 18).

*Dead Born* is available from the IAHS. See publications, page 20

# Publications and bookshop

A major archaeological study of Islington's nunnery, a weighty celebration of London interiors and an overview of industrial heritage are among this issue's reviews

## **The Augustinian Nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell, London. Excavations 1974-96**

Barney Sloane

*Museum of London*

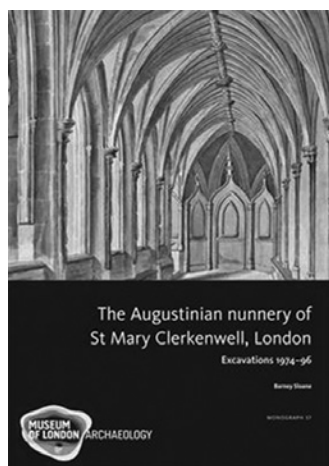
*Archaeology, 278pp, £24 hardback + CD-ROM*

The nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell was the northernmost of three religious houses that lay in the open fields of Clerkenwell, just beyond the city walls.

The church and claustral area, along with service outhouses, gardens and an orchard, were located on elevated ground overlooking the river Fleet to the west. Its water was supplied directly from the Clerks' Well which gave the surrounding area its name.

Within 50 years of its foundation, in 1144, the nunnery owned widespread possessions in southern England, largely through the receipt of grants, gifts, wills and dowries.

However, lax and incompetent stewardship, coupled with the failure of the nunnery's tenants to pay



rent, led to prolonged financial troubles and by 1314 the nunnery was making a plea of impoverishment to the Queen "on account of the hard years".

The turbulent period around 1350-1480 saw further relative decline and financial problems and the area itself underwent a change in character.

The local burgeoning butchery trade, noisy and stinking industries and workshop activity prompted protest from numerous complainants, including the nuns of Clerkenwell. It is all

the more surprising therefore, that industrial activity, albeit on a small scale, was identified within the nunnery precinct itself.

Unusually, and from an early date, the precinct also housed a number of secular tenements, which by the early 16th century were providing nearly 10% of the nunnery's annual income.

During the last period of its existence, around 1480-1539, financial control had been sufficiently regained to allow the substantial rebuilding of the church and cloister and, by the time of its dissolution in 1539-40, it was the second richest Augustinian nunnery in England.

This volume, *The Augustinian Nunnery of St Mary Clerkenwell, London*, follows earlier monographs on Charterhouse and St John's Priory and completes the trilogy.

The book integrates archaeological and documentary evidence to give a sequential history and development of the 14-acre precinct site from its

foundation, the early creation of the parish of St Mary Clerkenwell, through to dissolution in 1539 and the subsequent disposal of former nunnery property.

Text is supplemented by a wealth of plans, illustrations and drawings, the last including detailed conjectural architectural reconstructions of the earlier nunnery church and cloister and some fascinating images of the church, largely rebuilt in 1627, at the time of its demolition in the 1780s.

Specialist appendices cover excavated material, such as architectural stone fragments, ceramic building materials, wall plaster, pottery, plant remains, and animal and fish bones. Although interesting, these are of a more technical nature and directed at the professional.

The section *Aspects of the Medieval Nunnery* not only covers the changing nature of the community via its design and layout throughout its 400-year history but looks beyond to the human aspect – the people and their lifestyle and diet.

This book is an absorbing and detailed account of one of Islington's lost institutions with a huge amount of informative material to engage both professional and interested lay person – certainly this reviewer.

*Roger Simmons is a retired architect who has spent the last 30 years working on the repair and conservation of historic buildings. He was previously conservation manager for the Churches Conservation Trust*

### **Reviewers wanted**

Are you interested in reviewing books or attending exhibitions for the *Journal*? If so, please contact editor Christy Lawrance on [news@iahs.org.uk](mailto:news@iahs.org.uk), and say if you have an area of interest or expertise.

### **Buying from us**

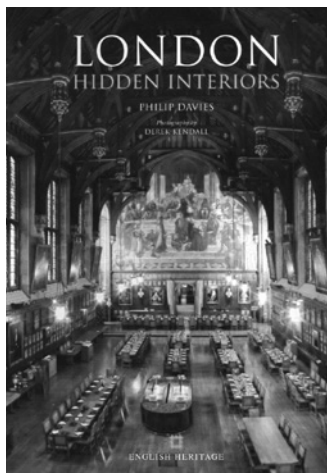
The IAHS stocks books, maps and other items; these are listed on page 23. You can order using the form on page 22 (photocopies are fine), or buy at our meetings and from our stalls at local fairs. We also take bulk and trade orders – contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.

## London – Hidden Interiors

Philip Davies, with photographs by Derek Kendall  
£40, *English Heritage/Atlantic Publishing*, <http://londonhiddeninteriors.co.uk/>  
This book celebrates building interiors in London. A circular tour around the capital begins at the Elizabeth Tower and Big Ben and, in 1,700 spectacular images, the book peers into 180 interiors, public and private, quirky and grand, fantasy and futuristic, large and small. A website at [www.londonhiddeninteriors.co.uk](http://www.londonhiddeninteriors.co.uk) offers guidance on further exploration.

The forceful editorial interventions by Hector, a Bengal clouded leopard cat, are fulsomely acknowledged by Philip Davies. With Derek Kendall's superb photography, the three have delivered the cat's pyjamas.

Islington punches above its weight in this 2.831kg book, with more than a dozen locations revealed in stunning clarity. The Honourable Artillery



Company, New River Head and the St John's Priory complex are natural choices; the selection also includes a rare foray below Clarendon Square into the reservoir. Turn to page 224 for a veritable hymn of praise to the gentlemen's lavatories at Wesley's Chapel, Islington's claim to the finest water closets in Christendom.

Just a few pages earlier the subterranean chambers of the Middlesex House of Detention would have been familiar to many a cat burglar. Space has also been found to rejoice in

lesser known Islington gems, in particular Paget Memorial Mission Hall at Randell's Road, up from King's Cross.

In the introductory words more of Islington's heritage is acknowledged, from Canonbury Tower to Keen House in the heart of *Ladykillers'* King's Cross. Here a hall tucked away in Calshot Street offers a convivial forum for those with a passion for railways past.

Philip Davies was English Heritage director for London and south east England. His last volume *Panoramas of Lost London 1870-1945*. *Hidden Interiors* continues in the league of weighty tomes. Having personally seen frail and elderly purchasers acquiring multiple copies, I know wrists and backs must again be at risk.

*Lester Hillman is academic adviser to the IAHS and worked with Philip Davies 40 years ago. He has met Hector on several occasions.*

## Camden History Review 36

Edited by David Hayes  
£5.95 + £2.50 p&p, *Camden History Society*

Disturbing descriptions of milk sales start the first article, entitled *The Cow with the Iron Tail: the Great Westminster Dairy Company and the Express Dairy*. The iron-tailed cow is a public water pump, often used by sellers to top up when their supplies of milk for sale were running low.

Urban dairies included Laycock's 500-acre farm in Islington; the strength and



Advertisement for the Laval cream separator

## London's Industrial Heritage

By Geoff Marshall  
£16.99, The History Press, 01453 883300, [thehistorypress.co.uk](http://thehistorypress.co.uk)  
This gives an overview of London's industrial history and the people and the companies behind it, drawing on previously unpublished material and original research.

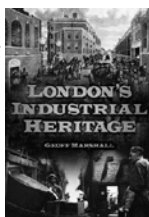
The many industries described run from major engineering firms and breweries to dog biscuit and false teeth factories, as well as the power and transport systems that supported them.

This book is illustrated with drawings, cartoons, photographs and other illustrations in colour and

black and white, showing both industrial settings and people at work in them. The turbine hall in Bankside, now an art gallery, is shown in operation in 1930s. Also pictured is the oldest gas holder in the world, which is in Fulham.

While much of the book concerns south and east London, Islington's place is recorded in printing (including of bank notes), railway transport, hydraulic power, brewing, construction and, of course, in water supply and as the home of the New River Company.

Clerkenwell was home to



London's first recorded windmill in the 12th century; there were six at Finsbury Fields (now Finsbury Square), dating from 1549.

The area is acknowledged as a centre of clock and watch making, as well as related occupations such as dial writer, fusee cutter and escapement maker.

The book does not go into great detail about any one industry, which is hardly surprising given its wide remit, but serves as an overview and a valuable resource. Research sources of each section are listed at the end and the index lists the main industries, companies and people.  
*Christy Lawrance*

stamina of the Irish and Welsh women and girls who sold milk from Laycock's are described with some wonder.

This volume also covers No 1 Chester Place, rented by Charles Dickens for four months, and the stories of Olympic athlete Charlie Ruffell, tailor and politician Donald Nicoll and radical poets Dollie Radford and Anna Wickham. A report is given of a crush at Hampstead Heath station in 1892, when bank holiday visitors swamped the station; eight people died and 14 were injured. A view of 17th century Hampstead is offered via its manorial rolls (translated from Latin and available on Camden History Society's website).

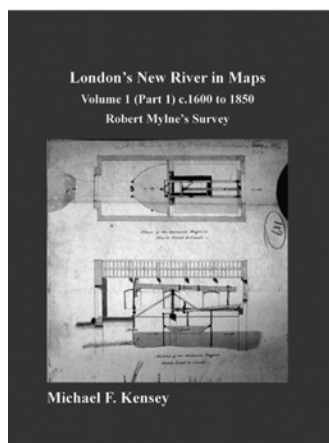
## London's New River in Maps. Vol 1 (Part 1) c1600 to 1850. Robert Mylne's Survey

Michael F Kensey

£20, 330pp, for sale in Islington Museum, on loan from Islington libraries, and available as a reference at Islington Local History Centre. The book can be ordered from the author, michael.kensey@ntlworld.com, 01992 307669

The New River fascinates; it is a massive work of civil engineering, carrying fresh water from Hertfordshire to the City and still in existence after 400 years.

It has recently received



some serious attention; Bernard Rudden penned a legal history and Robert Ward a more general history. Now it's the turn of Michael

Kensey to add a contribution, and magnificent it is.

Michael Kensey has been fascinated by the New River for over 40 years, and seeks to convey some of the knowledge he has acquired over the years in this book.

It takes the form of a compilation of information rather than a narrative, and is best mined for information rather than read at one sitting.

Chapter 1 is a précis and analysis of archival material; chapter 2 discusses historical features that might be spotted on a walk down the

river, while chapter 3 discusses and partially reproduces Robert Mylne's 1775-1809 survey.

At a time when local history publications are all too often poorly designed and produced, it is a delight to review such a handsome book, with over 100 illustrations, many of which are in colour. It is all the more remarkable for being published and printed in England at the author's expense. I for one hope that Mr Kensey has the energy – and funds – to complete his planned trilogy.

Simon Morris

## Dead Born

Joan Lock

£7.99, The History Press. Available from the IAHS

This atmospheric novel is set in Victorian London at the time of the *Princess Alice* disaster of 1878 – the greatest civilian nautical disaster in British history.

Detective Sergeant Best is sent to investigate after a number of dead babies are found in Islington, believed to have been killed by baby

farmers. Posing as a convalescent, he takes up lodgings next door to a suspected baby farm. He follows a suspect across London, eventually on to the *Princess Alice* pleasure steamer on the Thames.

The *Princess Alice* collides with the *Bywell Castle* collier ship and rapidly sinks. Over 600 passengers and crew are drowned. This horrific incident and desperate attempts by Best and others

to save passengers are vividly drawn.

His suspicions are raised when he suspects a casualty of the disaster was not on board. His investigations, not always supported by his police colleagues, lead him to unexpected discoveries.

Drawing on her extensive knowledge, Joan Lock takes us through Victorian London by omnibus, along the banks of the Thames to the delights of Rosherville

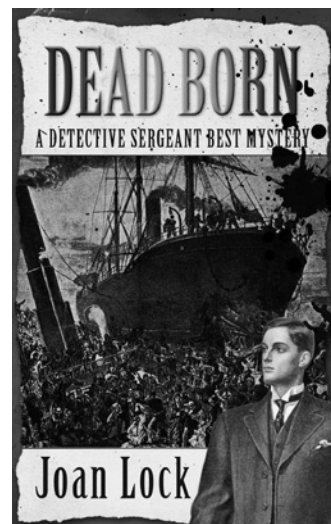
gardens, and around rough Islington streets. She does not shy away from depicting the hard lives and poverty of 1870s London, especially the difficulties faced by women unable to care for their babies and how they were open to exploitation.

The historical detail, unexpected twists and unflinching attention to detail combine to make *Dead Born* a gripping and sometimes disturbing read.

Christy Lawrence

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

● See *Researching a disaster*, page 18



## Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

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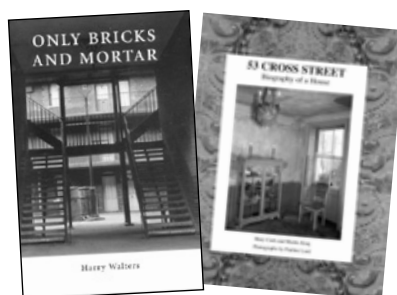
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Please make cheques payable to "Islington Archaeology & History Society"; send this form (photocopies acceptable) to IAHS, 8 Wynyatt Street, London EC1V 7HU

## Publications from the Islington Archaeology & History Society

The society stocks books, postcards, maps and more. We sell these at our meetings, as well as at public events and local festivals.

Listed below are some of the items we stock. Where no price is given or if you wish to order copies in bulk, please call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.



Title	Author	Price (£)	p&p (£)	Total (£)
Angus McBean in Islington	Mary Cosh, ed	4.50	0.69	5.19
Church Design for Congregations	James Cubitt	11.00	1.40	12.40
Cinemas of Haringey	Jeremy Buck	9.99	1.40	5.19
The Contexting of a Chapel Architect: James Cubitt 1836-1912	Clyde Binfield	18.00	1.90	19.9
Criminal Islington	Keith Sugden, ed	5.00	1.40	6.40
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House	Mary Cosh and Martin King	20.00	1.90	21.90
Dead Born	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Dead Image	Joan Lock	7.99	2.20	10.19
Discover Be Beauvoir Town and Environs	Mike Gray, Isobel Watson	1.50	0.69	5.19
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	David Mander and Isobel Watson			
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	Friends of Hackney Archive	4.95	0.69	6.65
Dissent & the Gothic Revival	Bridget Cherry, ed			
An Historical Walk Along the New River	Mary Cosh	5.00	0.69	6.69
An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury	Mary Cosh	4.50	0.69	5.19
The History of Highbury	Keith Sugden	3.00	1.40	5.40
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	6.40
Islington: Britain in Old Photographs	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington: the Second Selection	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.40	14.39
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.40	5.40
Little Italy. The Story of London's Italian Quarter	Tudor Allen			
London Cat 1	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
London Cat 2	James Dowsing	4.50	0.69	5.19
London Dog	James Dowsing	3.50	0.69	4.19
Only Bricks and Mortar	Harry Walters	7.99	1.40	8.49
The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish	Mary Cosh	7.50	1.40	7.90
Other items				
Maps		2.50	0.50	3.00
Union Chapel mug		6.00	2.20	6.90

## Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

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

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

Maps have a high turnover, so call 020 7833 1541 to check and reserve.

We have the following maps in stock:

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

# What's on

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

*Until 30 June*

## **London Festival of Architecture**

Various events, [www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org](http://www.londonfestivalofarchitecture.org)

*Saturday 15 June, 11am*

## **Roman Fresco Painting Workshop**

Workshop with a talk on fresco painting at Pompeii and Herculaneum. £35/concs, booking required, British Museum

*Monday 17 June, 1.15pm*

## **The Romans at Dinner: a View From Archaeology and Art**

Lecture by Katherine Dunbabin. Free, booking required, British Museum

*Monday 17 June, 1pm*

## **The Mosley Riots**

Talk by Prof Clive Bloom. Free, Museum of London, Gresham College event

*Tuesday 18 June, 1.15pm*

## **Eastern India: Crucible of the Buddhist World**

Free talk, British Museum

*Tuesday 18 June, 6pm*

## **What have Henry VIII and Elizabeth I got to do with 21st Century Development Policy?**

Talk by Professor Simon Szreter. Free, Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, EC2, [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)

*Wednesday 19 June, 1.15pm*

## **Bronze Age Britain: In and Out of Ancient Europe**

Free talk, British Museum

*Wednesday 19 June*

## **Richmond's Galleries by Boat**

Hornsey Historical Society visit. 020 8889 7388, [historynews@hotmail.com](mailto:historynews@hotmail.com)

*Thursday 20 June, 7.30pm*

## **Intolerance in London During WW1**

Talk by Jerry White. Camden History Society

*Thursday 20 June, 6pm*

## **Making and Running Great Gardens 1700-1900**

Talk by Professor Sir Roderick Floud. Free, Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, EC2

*Friday 21 June, 1.15pm*

## **Art in New Kingdom Egypt**

Free gallery talk, British Museum

*Friday 21 June, 6pm*

## **Early Steps Towards Farming in the Zagros Mountains of Iran and Iraq: New Archaeological Investigations**

Lecture by Roger Matthews. Free, British Museum

*Friday 21 June*

## **Royal Blue Run**

Three-day historic bus run leaves Victoria coach station at 10.30am.

Thames Valley and Great Western Omnibus Trust, [www.tvagwot.org.uk/royalblue.htm](http://www.tvagwot.org.uk/royalblue.htm)

*Saturday 22 June, 1.15pm*

## **The Kingdom of Urartu: rival of the Assyrian Empire**

Free talk, British Museum

*Sunday 23 June, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm*

## **Guided Tunnel Boat Trips**

Fifty-minute guided tour through London's longest canal tunnel. £8.30/concessions, booking required, London Canal Museum

*Sunday 23 June*

## **Crossness Pumping Station Steaming Day**

Steaming and model engineering day, £5

*Sunday 23 June, 11am*

## **Sleazy St Giles**

Walk led by Ann Archbold. Meet Charing Cross station concourse. £8/£4, Historical Association, central London branch, book on 020 7323 1192, [chrisie@ganjou.com](mailto:chrisie@ganjou.com)

*Tuesday 25 June, 1.15pm*

## **Tracing objects around the Indian Ocean**

Free talk, British Museum

*Wednesday 26 June, 1.15pm*

## **Sculptures of the Parthenon**

Free talk, British Museum

*Wednesday 26 June, 7.45pm*

## **Mr Toad's Obsession**

Talk by Ralph Hutchings. £2, St John's Church Hall, Friern Barnet Lane. Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

*Wednesday 26 June, 6pm*

## **London-Derry Connections:**

### **The early years, 1613-1640**

Talk by Dr Ian Archer. Free, Guildhall, Gresham College event, booking essential, [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)

*Thursday, 27 June 2013, 1pm*

## **Britten and the String Quartet: a Classical Impulse – String Quartet No 3**

Talk and concert. Free, Christ Church Spitalfields, Gresham College event

*Thursday 27 June, 1.15pm*

## **Coins and the Bible**

Free talk, British Museum

*Thursday 27 June-Friday 28 June*

## **Pompeii and Herculaneum Today**

Colloquium on research, conservation, and the sites' future. £60, British Museum.

*Friday 28 June, 2pm and 3pm*

## **The Way of Tea**

Demonstration with history of Japanese tea ceremony. Free, British Museum

*Friday 28 June, 6.30pm*

## **A Little Gay History**

Talk by Richard Parkinson. £5, booking required, British Museum

*Friday 28 and Saturday 29 June*

## **Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot**

Tours of London Transport Museum's depot in Acton. £12/concs, book in advance 020 7565 7298 or at [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

*Friday 5 July, 1.15pm*

## **'Meanwhile, in Britain...': Women Under the Roman Empire**

Lecture by Lindsay Allason-Jones. Free, booking required, British Museum

*Saturday 6 July, 2pm*

**Pompeii: the Last Day**

Film screening, introduced by Professor Maria Wyke. Free, booking required, British Museum

*Saturday 6 July*

**Faversham Open House**

Hornsey Historical Society visit.

£30, book on 020 8889 7388, historynews@hotmail.com

*Sunday 7 July, 2-5pm*

**Classic Car Display at Upminster Windmill**

With free windmill tours.

0300 030 1803, www.

upminsterwindmill.co.uk

*Thursday 11 July, 1.15pm*

**Pompeii and Herculaneum: Curator's Introduction**

Free, British Museum

*Thursday 11 July and Friday 12 July*

**Nubia in the New Kingdom: Lived Experience,**

**Pharaonic Control and Local Traditions – Annual Egyptological Colloquium**

£40, British Museum

*Friday 12 July, 6.30pm*

**Fictionalising Pompeii**

Lecture by Lindsey Davis on writing on Roman life.

£5, booking required, British Museum

*Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 July*

**Tours of Brixton Windmill**

Book at www.

brixtonwindmill.org/visit

*Wednesday 17 July, 10am*

**Cart Making Ceremony**

Worshipful Company of Carmen event, with parade of old and new vehicles. Guildhall Yard, free

*Tuesday 23 July, 1pm*

**The Hoax and the Hunterian: Piltdown Man and Sir Arthur Keith**

Lecture by Professor

Christopher Dean

£4, Hunterian Museum

**Festival of archaeology, 13-28 July**



Finds on the Thames foreshore

Over 1,000 events will be held across the country for this year's festival, organised by the Council for British Archaeology

London events include: Londinium, a walk around Roman London, on 27 July; tours, lectures and film screenings from the Egypt Exploration Society; a Shakespeare's

Shoreditch walk on 13 July; open days at the Rose Theatre; behind the scenes tours of stores and laboratories at the Museum of London and the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre; and archaeological activities and displays on the Tower of London's wharf and foreshore.

In Islington, the London Canal Museum will open its ice wells on Sunday 14 and 28 July, 10am-6.30pm.

Contact: 01904 671 417, festival@archaeologyUK.org  
● www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk

*Friday 26 and Saturday 27 July*  
**Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot**

Tours of London Transport Museum's depot in Acton. Details as for 28-29 June

*Sunday 28 July*

**Crossness Pumping Station Steaming Day**

Steam and transport day, £5

*Monday 29 July-Friday 2 August*

**Archaeological Training Dig**

Learn all the basic archaeology skills.

£100, Bexley Archaeological Group

*Monday 5 August, 6pm*

**A Musical Evening: Franklin's Glass Armonica**

Talk with demonstration of instrument, which produces ethereal sounds from rotating glass bowls.

£5/£3.50, booking required, Benjamin Franklin House

*Tuesday 6 August, 1pm*

**'In Paynted Pots is Hidden**

**The Deadliest Poyson.' English Delftware Drug Jars**

Lecture by Briony Hudson.

£4, Hunterian Museum

*Wednesday 7 August, 6pm*

**LGBT History Club**

Free, drop-in, London

Metropolitan Archives

*Saturday 10 August, 10am*

**Holloway Bus Garage Open Day**

Lots of historic buses.

£2, 37a Pemberton Gdns, N19

*Saturday 10 August, 2.30pm*

**Summer in the City Vintage Bus Tour**

Private event starting at Hyde Park, spectators welcome.

Some buses at Holloway bus garage until 12.30pm.

www.self-preservation-society.co.uk/christmas/

*Wednesday 21 August, 2pm*

**How to Read a Victorian Narrative Painting**

Talk by Pete Smith.

**Exhibitions**

*Until 30 June*

**Codebreaker – Alan Turing's Life and Legacy**

Exhibition to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of pioneering computer scientist and wartime codebreaker Alan Turing. On show is largest collection of Turing artefacts in one place, including a device used to break Enigma never before displayed outside GCHQ. Free, Science Museum

*Until Sunday 7 July*

**A Monumental Act: How Britain Saved its Heritage**

Exhibition marking the centenary of the Ancient Monuments Act 1913, including the National Heritage Collection. Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner, www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-centenary/

*Until Sunday 14 July*

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

See review on page 27.

£8/concessions, Victoria and Albert Museum

*Wednesday 17 July-Sunday 15 September*

**Pride and Prejudice: the Battle for Betjeman's Britain**

This exhibition shows how John Betjeman and others campaigned to protect 18th and 19th century architecture, and how the listing system emerged. Quadriga Gallery, details as above

*Until Friday 26 July*

**The Worshipful Company of Gardeners and The Green Team: the Gardeners Who Transform Your City**

Items from the company's collection, plus exhibition on the City's gardens team. Free, Guildhall Library



The immediate and most impressive draw of this exhibition is not death but life. We all know the end of the story; like watching *Titanic*, we know what was to come.

What we are presented with is a close – as close as we can be, centuries later – experience of what life was like in two preserved and for centuries intact Roman cities. With more than 450 artefacts on display, not as museum pieces but as an exploration of life in the first century, we are given the chance to travel back properly. We see what it was like to live in Roman houses, see their architecture and layouts. Panels and boards, almost as studio sets,



# Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum

Review by Andrew Gardner

give the artefacts a context that draws the people of the time out of the schoolroom and into situations we can immediately relate to.

We see shops and workshops incorporated into the ground floors of houses for the purpose of



establishing freed slaves in commerce. The role of women was a powerful one, and attention is paid to their role in controlling their own businesses, often perhaps, like in today's *Dragons' Den*, investing in endeavour.

We see the social life of the household also. Some household art and statuary has been seen as risqué, and certainly there are some male genitalia on display. Most commented on has been Pan, with what I can only describe as a satirically large member, pleasuring a goat who seems rather pleased about it. I didn't see the piece as misogynistic, much more as showing the view of the time of sexual relations and male arousal being very amusing. Younger visitors might see it perhaps in *Carry On* terms and fall about!

The end is, as you would expect, moving. The volcanic eruption lasted less than 24 hours. People did not flee, as the school books tell us, because they thought the ash would not amount to much and would land gently on



them. They cowered in their homes under the holocaust of burning, molten rock.

The casts of the people who died in the buried cities – a mother clasping her child, of a man reaching out – were made from the empty spaces left after their bodies were incinerated. ■

● *Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum* is on at the British Museum until Sunday 29 September, various charges.

From top left, anticlockwise: baker Terentius Neo and his wife, Pompeii; mosaic of a guard dog, Pompeii; carbonised wooden cradle, Herculaneum; satyr and maenads, Herculaneum; gold snake bracelet, Pompeii



*Until Sunday 4 August*  
**Silver Service – Fine Dining in Roman Britain**  
Based around the Mildenhall treasure, a major hoard of highly decorated Roman silver tableware  
Free, British Museum

*Until Monday 26 August*  
**Stands Alone**  
Exhibition about the residents living at the former Arsenal stadium, illustrating the difficulties in creating a sense of community.  
£5/£3 concs, Geffrye Museum. See [www.eyesofchange.com/standsalone/](http://www.eyesofchange.com/standsalone/)

*Until 24 August*  
**From Colman to Costello: a History of the Astoria Cinema and Rainbow Theatre, Finsbury Park**  
See *Cinema glamour to rock royalty*, page 8  
Free, Islington Museum

*Until 23 August*  
**From Hollywood to Highbury: Islington Goes to the Movies**  
Exhibition on Islington's cinematic past, from the Cinematograph Theatre in Finsbury Park to the People's Picture Palace in Clerkenwell. There have been more than

40 picture houses in Islington since 1896, and this exhibition looks at their history, along with that of the film studios, technology and the stars.  
Free, Islington Museum

*2 August-29 September*  
**Mass Observation: This is Your Photo**  
Mainly photographic exhibition of recordings of the lives, opinions and daily thoughts and habits of the British people.  
Free, The Photographers' Gallery, 16-18 Ramillies Street, W1, 020 7087 9300, [info@tpg.org.uk](mailto:info@tpg.org.uk)

*Until 8 September*  
**Extinction: Not the End of the World?**  
Exploration of the role of extinction in evolution, with original specimens including giant deer and birds.  
Various charges, Natural History Museum

*Until 27 October*  
**Poster Art 150 – London Underground's Greatest Designs**  
Display of 150 posters, including 19th century ones.  
£15 (inc museum entry for one year)/concessions, London Transport Museum



# Royal treasures

The histories of the British and Russian royal courts are being celebrated at the Victoria & Albert Museum. Review by Elizabeth Lawrance

Many of you will have seen the pelicans in St James's Park and know that these birds – described by John Evelyn in 1665 as a “fowle between stork and swan” – are the descendents of a diplomatic gift from the Russian ambassador Prince Prozrovsky to King Charles II. These exotic birds would have been a gift fit for a king and are a living legacy of the times this exhibition portrays.

This exhibition marks the 400 year anniversary of the establishment of the Romanovs, the last imperial dynasty to rule over Russia. Many items from

Moscow have survived only because of the courage of their Russian curators.

The central highlight is the magnificent silver sold by British merchants of the Muscovy Company to Tsar Alexis. If any of it had remained in England or France, it would have been melted down to finance either the English Civil War or



those of Louis XIV of France.

Muscovy, as Russia was then known, was stumbled upon by English merchants during the reign of Ivan the Terrible and much trade and diplomatic exchanges took place.

James I introduced the concept of wheeled transport to Muscovy through his gift in 1604 of a coach to Boris Gudonov through the offices of Thomas Smith who was the English ambassador. It was transported in sections by sea to Archangel and then over 11 weeks by land to Moscow. It was too fragile to travel again, so it is represented by a model with a fascinating explanatory film. Such is the depth of this exhibition that the earliest map of Muscovy in 1570 is also there.

This was the golden age of the English court. There are many examples of the objects used to confer status and strength, such as Henry VIII's made-to-measure armour with its totally impractical “bear paw” feet



(pictured below). Another highlight is the Drake Jewel, apparently given to Francis Drake by Elizabeth I together with a portrait of Drake wearing the jewel.

There are many portraits including the Hampden portrait, a rarely seen portrait of Elizabeth I as a young woman (above). An icon type portrait of Mikhail Fedorovich, the first Romanov, is shown with a picture of the Hall of the Faceted Chamber of the Kremlin; the latter shows the tsar's court, which included the patriarch, continuing the “Byzantine symphony” with the church as “the conscience of the tsar” – not always an easy relationship.

There is much strength and depth, with many exquisite pieces, particularly miniatures supported by a film. And, in the final room, against the background of the restoration of the monarchy (diplomatic relationships had ceased with the execution of Charles I), a pelican appears once more – an everyday symbol of London yet with such a story behind it. ■

● *Treasures of the Royal Courts: Tudors, Stuarts and the Russian Tsars* is at the Victoria & Albert Museum until 14 July



Clockwise from left: Dacre Bull, 1507-25; Barbor Jewel (reverse) c1615-1625; silver gilt water pot, 1604-05; Hampden Portrait of Elizabeth I, c1560; dolphin basin, 1635; Henry VIII's armour, c1540



# Directory

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

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

## Abney Park

020 7275 7557,  
[www.abney-park.org.uk](http://www.abney-park.org.uk)

## Alexandra Palace TV Group

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

## Alexandra Palace TV Society

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

## All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum

020 7481 2928, [www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/](http://www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/)

## Amateur Geological Society

25 Village Road, N3 1TL

## Amwell Society

8 Cumberland Gardens, WC1X 9AG, 020 7837 0988, [info@amwellsociety.org](mailto:info@amwellsociety.org)

## Anaesthesia Heritage Centre

21 Portland Place, W1B 1PY, 020 7631 1650, [www.aagbi.org/education/heritage-centre](http://www.aagbi.org/education/heritage-centre)

## The Angel Association

[www.angelassociation.org.uk](http://www.angelassociation.org.uk)

## Arsenal FC Museum

020 7619 5000, [www.arsenal.com](http://www.arsenal.com)

## Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics

[www.asprom.org](http://www.asprom.org)

## Bank of England Museum

Threadneedle St, EC2R 8AH, 020 7601 5545, [www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum](http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/museum)

## Barnet Museum and Local History Society

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

## BBC archive

[www.bbc.co.uk/archive](http://www.bbc.co.uk/archive)

## Benjamin Franklin House

Craven Street WC2 020 7925 1405, [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum

Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3BX, 020 3228 4227, [www.bethlemheritage.org.uk](http://www.bethlemheritage.org.uk)

## Bexley Archaeological Group

[www.bag.org.uk](http://www.bag.org.uk), Martin Baker: 020 8300 1752

## Bomb Sight

Online map of WW2 bombs in London 1940-41. [www.bombsight.org](http://www.bombsight.org)

## British Airways Heritage

[www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en\\_gb](http://www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb)

## British Dental Association Museum

64 Wimpole St, W1G 8YS, 020 7563 4549, [museum@bda.org](mailto:museum@bda.org), [www.bda.org/](http://www.bda.org/)

## British Heritage TV Group

[www.405-line.tv/](http://www.405-line.tv/)

## British Museum

Great Russell Street, WC1, 020 7323 8299, [information@britishmuseum.org](mailto:information@britishmuseum.org)

## British Postal Museum and Archive

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

## British Vintage Wireless Society

[secretary@www.bvws.org.uk](mailto:secretary@www.bvws.org.uk)

## Bruce Castle Museum

Lordship Lane, N17 8NU, 020 8808 8772, [museum.services@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:museum.services@haringey.gov.uk)

## Burgh House & Hampstead Museum

Burgh House, New End Sq, NW3 1LT, 020 7431 0144, [www.burghhouse.org.uk](http://www.burghhouse.org.uk)

## Camden History Society

020 7586 4436, [www.camdenhistorysociety.org](http://www.camdenhistorysociety.org)

## Camden New Town History Group

[www.camdennewtown.info](http://www.camdennewtown.info)

## Camden Railway Heritage Trust

21 Oppidans Road, NW3, [secretary@crht1837.org](mailto:secretary@crht1837.org)

## Canonbury Society

[www.canonburysociety.org.uk](http://www.canonburysociety.org.uk), 1 Alwyne Place, N1

## Cartoon Museum

35 Little Russell Street, WC1, 020 7580 8155, [www.cartoonmuseum.org](http://www.cartoonmuseum.org)

## City of London Archaeological Society

[email@colas.org.uk](mailto:email@colas.org.uk)

## Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association

07971 296731, [info@ciga.org.uk](mailto:info@ciga.org.uk)

## Clockmakers' Museum

Guildhall Library, [www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library](http://www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library)

## Cross Bones Graveyard

[www.crossbones.org.uk](http://www.crossbones.org.uk)

## Crossness Pumping Station

The Old Works, Belvedere Road, SE2 9AQ, 020 8311 3711, [www.crossness.org.uk](http://www.crossness.org.uk)

## Docklands History Group

020 7537 0368, [info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk)

## Dictionary of Victorian London/Cat's Meat Shop

Encyclopaedia and blog, [www.victorianlondon.org](http://www.victorianlondon.org)

## East London History Society

42 Campbell Rd, E3 4DT, [mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk](mailto:mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

## Enfield Archaeological Society

[www.enfarchsoc.org](http://www.enfarchsoc.org)

## Alexander Fleming Museum

St Mary's Hospital, Praed St, W2 1NY, 020 3312 6528, [www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/museumsandarchives/](http://www.imperial.nhs.uk/about-us/museumsandarchives/)

## Friends of Hackney Archives

Hackney Archives, Dalston Sq, E8 3BQ, 020 8356 8925, [archives@hackney.gov.uk](mailto:archives@hackney.gov.uk)

## Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

[www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk](http://www.friernbarnethistory.org.uk). Photo archive: [www.friern-barnet.com](http://www.friern-barnet.com)

## Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

## The Foundling Museum

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

## Forest Hill Society

[www.foresthillsociety.com](http://www.foresthillsociety.com)

## Friends of Friendless Churches

[www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk)

## Garden History Society

70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7608 2409, [gardenhistorysociety.org](http://gardenhistorysociety.org)

## Geffrye Museum

136 Kingsland Road, E2 8EA

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

### **Georgian Group**

6 Fitzroy Square, W1T 5DX,  
[info@georgiangroup.org.uk](mailto:info@georgiangroup.org.uk)

### **Grant Museum of Zoology**

020 3108 2052, [www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology),  
[zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk)

### **Gresham College**

Free lectures on different topics. [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)

### **Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)**

14 Mount Rd, EN4 9RL, 020 8692 8512, [www.glias.org.uk](http://www.glias.org.uk)

### **Guildhall Library**

Aldermanbury, EC2V 7HH,  
020 7332 1868, [textphone](mailto:textphone)  
020 7332 3803, [guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

### **Hackney Museum**

1 Reading Lane, E8 1GQ,  
[www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum.htm](http://www.hackney.gov.uk/cm-museum.htm)

### **The Hackney Society**

Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 07771 225183,  
[info@hackneysociety.org](mailto:info@hackneysociety.org)

### **History of Haringay**

[www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay](http://www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay)

### **Heritage of London Trust**

34 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1W 0DH, 020 7730 9472  
[info@heritageoflondon.com](mailto:info@heritageoflondon.com)

### **Hendon and District Archaeology Society**

020 8449 7076, [secretary@hadas.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hadas.org.uk)

### **Heritage Group Website for the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers**

[www.hevac-heritage.org/](http://www.hevac-heritage.org/)

### **Heritage of London Trust**

020 7730 9472, [www.heritageoflondon.com](http://www.heritageoflondon.com)

### **Historical Association,**



Sir John Soane's Museum: contains Hogarth's *A Rake's Progress*, 30,000 architectural drawings, 6,857 historical volumes, 252 historical architectural models plus furniture and decorative arts

### **Central London Branch**

020 7323 1192, [www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk), [chris@ganjou.com](mailto:chris@ganjou.com)

### **Historic Towns Forum**

[www.historictownsforum.org](http://www.historictownsforum.org)

### **Honourable Artillery Company Museum**

City Road, EC1, 020 7382 1541, [www.hac.org.uk](http://www.hac.org.uk)

### **Horniman Museum**

100 London Rd, SE23, 020 8699 1872, [enquiry@horniman.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@horniman.ac.uk)

### **Hornsey Historical Society**

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

### **Hunterian Museum**

RCS, 35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, [www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/museums)

### **Island History Trust**

Isle of Dogs, 020 7987 6041,  
[eve@islandhistory.org.uk](mailto:eve@islandhistory.org.uk)

### **Islington Local History Centre**

Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB. 9.30am-8pm Mon and Thurs (shuts 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tues, Fri and Sat; closed Weds and Sun; closed 1pm-2pm; 020 7527 7988; [local.history@islington.gov.uk](mailto:local.history@islington.gov.uk), [www.islington.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.islington.gov.uk/heritage)

### **Islington Museum**

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

### **Islington Pensioners' Forum**

1a Providence Court, Providence Place, N1 0RN

### **Islington Society**

35 Britannia Row, N1 8QH,  
[www.islington society.org.uk](http://www.islington society.org.uk)

### **Joe Meek Society**

[www.rhis.co.uk/jmas](http://www.rhis.co.uk/jmas)

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

17 Gough Square, EC4,  
[www.drjohnsonshouse.org](http://www.drjohnsonshouse.org)

### **Kew Bridge Steam Museum**

Green Dragon Lane, TW8, 020 8568 4757, [www.kbsm.org](http://www.kbsm.org)

### **Locating London's Past**

[www.locatinglondon.org](http://www.locatinglondon.org)

### **London Canal Museum**

12-13 New Wharf Road, N1 9RT, 020 7713 0836, [www.canalmuseum.org.uk](http://www.canalmuseum.org.uk)

### **London Fire Brigade Museum**

020 8555 1200 x 39894, [museum@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:museum@london-fire.gov.uk), [www.london-fire.gov.uk/OurMuseum.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/OurMuseum.asp)

### **London Lives 1690-1800**

[www.londonlives.org](http://www.londonlives.org)

### **London Metropolitan Archives**

40 Northampton Road, EC1 0HB, 020 7332 3820, [ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:ask.lma@cityoflondon.gov.uk), [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma)

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

020 7814 5734, [jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:jkeily@museumoflondon.org.uk), [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk)

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

[www.medicalmuseums.org](http://www.medicalmuseums.org)

### **London Socialist Historians Group**

<http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com>

### **London Society**

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, [www.london society.org.uk](http://www.london society.org.uk)

**London Transport Museum**  
Covent Garden Piazza,  
WC2, 020 7379 6344, [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

**LT Museum Friends**  
020 7565 7296, [www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends)

**London Underground  
Railway Society**  
[enquiries@lurs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lurs.org.uk)

**London Westminster &  
Middx Family History Society**  
[www.lwmfhs.org.uk](http://www.lwmfhs.org.uk)

**Markfield Beam Engine and  
Museum**  
Markfield Park, N15, 01707  
873628, [info@mbeam.org](mailto:info@mbeam.org)

**Mausolea & Monuments Trust**  
70 Cowcross St, EC1M,  
[www.mmtrust.org.uk/](http://www.mmtrust.org.uk/)

**Marx Memorial Library**  
37a Clerkenwell Green, EC1  
0DU, 020 7253 1485, [info@marx-memorial-library.org](mailto:info@marx-memorial-library.org)

**Medieval Pottery Research  
Group**  
[www.medievalpottery.org.uk](http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk)

**Museum of Brands**  
2 Colville Mews, Lonsdale  
Road, W11, 020 7908 0880,  
[info@museumofbrands.com](mailto:info@museumofbrands.com)

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

**Museum of London**  
150 London Wall, EC2Y  
5HN, 020 7814 5511, [info@museumoflondon.org.uk](mailto:info@museumoflondon.org.uk)

**Museum of London  
Archaeology**  
Mortimer Wheeler House,  
46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1, 020  
7410 2200, [www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondonarchaeology.org.uk)

**Museum of London  
Docklands**  
020 7001 9844, [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands)

**Museum of the Order of  
St John**  
St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA,  
020 7253 6644, [www.museumstjohn.org.uk](http://www.museumstjohn.org.uk)

**Musical Museum**  
399 High Street, TW8 0DU,  
[www.musicalmuseum.co.uk](http://www.musicalmuseum.co.uk)

**National Archives**  
020 8876 3444, [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)

**National Piers Society**  
[www.piers.org.uk](http://www.piers.org.uk)

**Newcomen Society for the  
History of Engineering and  
Technology**  
020 7371 4445, [office@newcomen.com](mailto:office@newcomen.com)

**Newington Green Action  
Group**  
020 7359 6027, [www.newingtongreen.org.uk](http://www.newingtongreen.org.uk)

**New River Action Group**  
[mail@newriver.org.uk](mailto:mail@newriver.org.uk),  
020 8292 5987

**North London Railway  
Historical Society**  
Keen Hse, 4 Calshot St, 020  
7837 2542, [www.nlrhs.org.uk](http://www.nlrhs.org.uk)

**North London Transport  
Society**  
[www.northlondontransport.society.co.uk](http://www.northlondontransport.society.co.uk), [nlts@live.co.uk](mailto:nlts@live.co.uk)

**Northview – a Rare Survivor**  
[www.northview.org.uk](http://www.northview.org.uk)

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

**Petrie Museum of Egyptian  
Archaeology**  
UCL, Malet Pl, WC1, [www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie)

**Peckham Society**  
[www.peckhamsociety.org.uk](http://www.peckhamsociety.org.uk)

**Proceedings of the Old  
Bailey**  
[www.oldbaileyonline.org](http://www.oldbaileyonline.org)

**Ragged School Museum**  
020 8980 6405, [www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk](http://www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk)

**Railway Correspondence  
and Travel Society**  
[www.rcts.org.uk](http://www.rcts.org.uk)

**Rescue**  
British Archaeological Trust,  
15a Bull Plain, Hertford, SG14  
1DX, 01992 553377, [www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk)

**Rotherhithe & Bermondsey  
Local History Society**  
[info@rbhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@rbhistory.org.uk)

**Royal Air Force Museum**  
020 8205 2266, [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london)

**Royal Institute of British  
Architects (RIBA)**  
66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD,  
[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

**Science Museum**  
Exhibition Road, SW7 2DD.  
[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

**Sir John Soane's Museum**  
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields,  
WC2A 3BP, [www.soane.org](http://www.soane.org)

**Smithfield Trust**  
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7566  
0041, [smthfld@gn.apc.org](mailto:smthfld@gn.apc.org)

**Society of Genealogists**  
020 7251 8799, [www.societyofgenealogists.com](http://www.societyofgenealogists.com)

**Society for the Protection  
of Ancient Buildings**  
37 Spital Sq, E1 6DY, 020  
7377 1644, [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)

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

**St Marylebone Society**  
[www.stmarylebonesociety.org](http://www.stmarylebonesociety.org)

**Royal Archaeological Institute**  
[admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)

**Thames Discovery Programme**  
Mortimer Wheeler House,  
46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1,

020 7566 9310, [enquiries@thamesdiscovery.org](mailto:enquiries@thamesdiscovery.org)

**Tottenham Civic Society**  
[www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk)

**Transport Trust**  
Lambeth Rd, SE1, 020 7928  
6464, [www.transporttrust.com](http://www.transporttrust.com)

**Twentieth Century Society**  
70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020 7250  
3857, [www.c20society.org.uk](http://www.c20society.org.uk)

**Union Chapel and Friends  
of the Union Chapel**  
Compton Avenue, N1 2XD,  
[www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html)

**Victoria & Albert Museum**  
Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020  
7907 7073, [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

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

**Victorian Society**  
020 8994 1019, [www.victoriansociety.org.uk](http://www.victoriansociety.org.uk)

**Wallace Collection**  
Hertford House, Manchester  
Sq, W1M, 020 7563 9500,  
[www.wallacecollection.org](http://www.wallacecollection.org)

**Wallpaper History Society**  
[wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk](http://wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk)

**Walthamstow Historical  
Society**  
[contact@walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:contact@walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org)

**Wellcome Collection**  
[www.wellcomecollection.org](http://www.wellcomecollection.org)

**John Wesley's House and  
Museum of Methodism**  
49 City Rd, EC1, [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm)

**William Morris Gallery**  
Forest Road, E17, 020 8496  
4390, [www.wmgallery.org.uk](http://www.wmgallery.org.uk)

**Wilmington Square Society**  
[www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org](http://www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org)

# Islington Archaeology & History Society

## Events

Wednesday 19 June

### People and planning in Islington from the 1960s to the 1980s

**Speaker: David Ellis**

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

David Ellis is a PhD student working on contemporary British history, especially community action in urban Britain in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. He is interested in the politics of housing, planning, conservation and gentrification, as well as grassroots activism.

This talk will follow the AGM at 7.30pm

Wednesday 18 September

### The New River Company 400 years on



**Speaker from the Friends of the New River Head**

The society marks 400 years since the New River Company opened a watercourse that brought fresh water to London via its historic site in Clerkenwell.

Wednesday 16 October 2013

### Islington's Kennedy moment

**Speaker: Lester Hillman**

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

US president John F Kennedy was assassinated on 22 November 1963. Where were you when you heard the news? Join Lester Hillman in collecting memories, perspectives and reflections.

### See us at local festivals...

The IAHS stall will be at several festivals, so come along and snap up a book, map or postcard. We'll be at the Amwell Society's village fete on Sunday 30 June, the Islington Angel Canal Festival at 11am-6pm on Sunday 1 September and the Gillespie Festival on Sunday 8 September.

### ...and join us on a pub crawl

Support some great Islington pubs. Date to be confirmed. Email [andy@iahs.org.uk](mailto:andy@iahs.org.uk) if you're interested

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

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

## Summer strolls and Hastings visit

Friday 9 August. Come to Hastings during the Old Town Carnival, with an optional historical tour at 12 noon. Call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 for information or fill in the form.



Old postcard of Hastings Castle

### The Fleet river's upper reaches

Saturday 10 August. Walk led by Lester Hillman. See page 7 for information and a booking form.

## Beating the bounds

Wednesday 28 August. Walk of about two hours led by Clerkenwell and Islington guide John Finn. £5, meet 6.15pm for 6.30pm, Archway tube station. Call 020 7833 1541 or fill in the form to book.



Photocopies acceptable

### Hastings visit and Beating the Bounds

Please tick box

- ☐ I would like to go on the **Hastings visit**.
- ☐ I would ..... tickets at £5 each for **Beating the Bounds** and enclose a cheque for ..... payable to the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....Tel .....

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

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

### *Back page picture*

This memorial is in the Islington and St Pancras cemetery in East Finchley. A volunteers' group to record the memorials is being planned. See page 14

