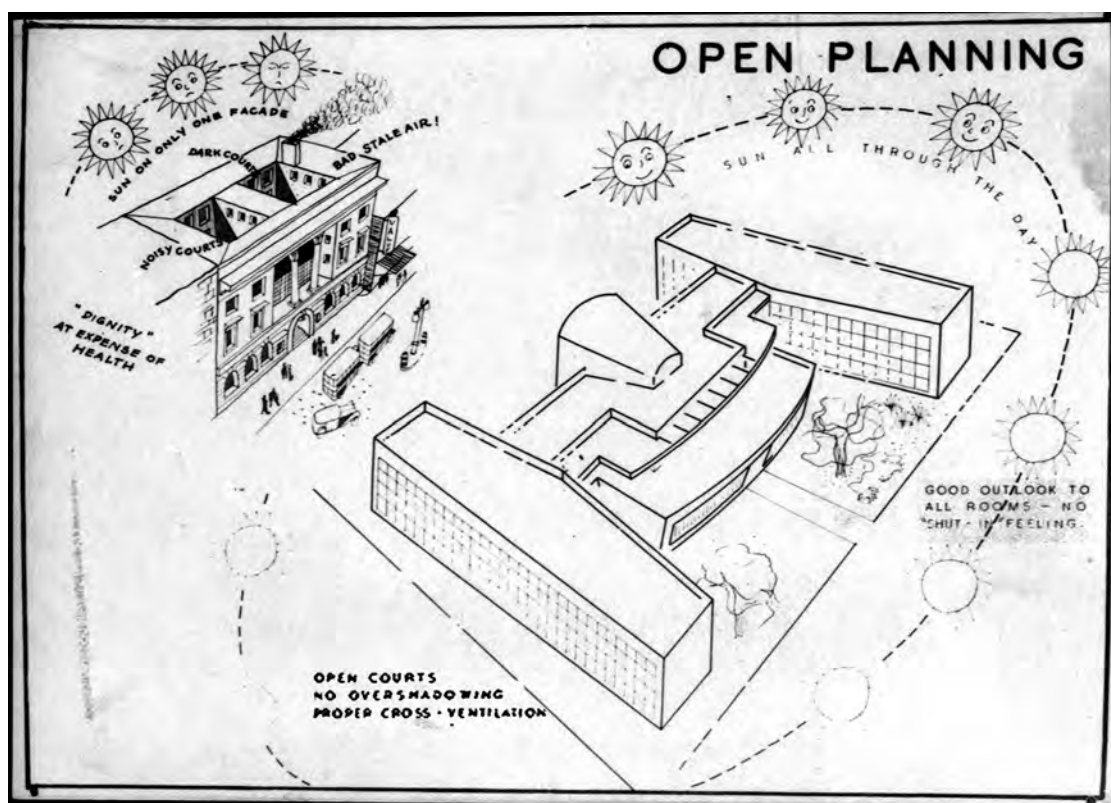


Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 1 No 4 Winter 2011/12



The fight for Finsbury Health Centre

How patients and residents worked to keep it as a place for community healthcare

Las Vegas weddings in Georgian London ● An armchair cruise down the Fleet river ● The company that brought TV into living rooms ● Christmas at Beale's emporium on Holloway Road ● A corner garden on Upper Street ● Growing up in a tenement in the 1930s ● Four pages of winter reading ● Your local history questions answered ● News and events

About the society

What we do

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

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

We also aim to document archaeological findings in the borough.

Local historical and literary walks are arranged for groups.

Why archaeology?

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

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

Our website

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

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

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

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

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

Deadline for the spring issue is 1 February.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history,

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

• See Letters, page 6

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Any questions?

Contact editor Christy Lawrance (details right).

Islington Archaeology & History Society Committee

President

Rt Hon Lord Smith of Finsbury

Vice-president

Mary Cosh

Chairman and acting secretary

Andrew Gardner
andy@iahs.org.uk

Membership and events

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

Treasurer

Philip Anderson
phlpandrsn6@btopenworld.com

Committee members

Kathleen Frenchman
Peter Fuller
Michael Harper
Derek Seeley

Academic adviser

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

Newsletter editor

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

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Join us and benefit from membership

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

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

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

Members also receive the journal four times a year.

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

✂ (photocopies acceptable)

Join the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

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

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

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 1 No 4 Winter 2011/12

Tales of the course of the Fleet river

The Fleet river, which once ran along much of Islington's western boundary, has long disappeared under roads and pavements. Place names remind us of it and you can still hear it gurgling through gratings in a couple of places.

In 2012, the society is planning walks along the Fleet's route, taking in the sights, sounds and smells along the way.

Marriage, Las Vegas style

The Fleet gave its name to the notorious prison and to the also-notorious Fleet marriages.

The area around the prison was the Las Vegas of its day. Couples could just turn up and get married, without having to go through the processes approved by the government and the church. These weddings were extremely popular – the journal looks at why.

Star of Upper Street

As we went to press, English Heritage announced it is to erect a blue plaque to commemorate Gracie Fields, one of the 20th century's biggest stars. Her first home in London was 72a Upper Street, a flat above a sweet shop. She later moved to a 28-room mansion.

A pioneer beyond TV

November saw the 75th anniversary of television broadcasting as we know it, with much attention paid to Alexandra Palace. Yet it was Islington firm AC Cossor that brought TV to the masses, as the first firm to manufacture TV sets.

The Cossor family firms were also pioneers in x-ray tubes, medical devices, radar and air traffic control. They deserve to be better known.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

US slaves and owners database opens up

A database of slaves and slave owners has been set up by the Virginia Historical Society in the US. Unknown No Longer can be searched at <http://unknownnolonger.vahistorical.org>.

Discuss your work in progress online

A website where historians can share and comment on works in progress has been established. The History Working Papers Project can be accessed at <https://libtool.ulib.iupui.edu/wordpress>.

Scottish Roman shoe collection unearthed

About 60 pairs of sandals and shoes that belonged to Roman soldiers have been unearthed at a supermarket building site in Camelon, Scotland, *National Geographic* reported. The cache is one of the largest of its type found in Scotland.

Councils call for tougher scrap metal regulation

Metal thieves who steal from churches, railway lines and war memorials are being helped by outdated scrap metal industry regulations, the Local Government Association has said. It has called for councils to have more powers over how scrap metal dealers operate, including making sellers and their vehicles easier to trace.

Temple of Mithras to return to Roman home

The Temple of Mithras is being put into temporary storage before being rebuilt more faithfully and returned to its original Roman location in Walbrook Square.

Modernist 1930s enclave preserved

Northview estate in Tufnell Park Road was saved from a "hideous" redevelopment in September, after councillors rejected plans to build an extra storey on top of its larger block, against officers' recommendations.

Northview, built in 1938 to a village green design, is nearly intact and retains many original deco features.

Objecting at the planning committee meeting, resident Ben Porter described the proposal as "a bland storey of cement and glass that takes no account of Northview's understated elegance".

Had the storey been given consent, deco parapets, original Crittall windows and art deco banisters with papyrus motifs would have been damaged or destroyed altogether.

Modern architecture expert James Dunnett RIBA, co-chair of DOCOMOMO-



Northview: all stepped parapets and Crittall stair windows would have been destroyed; below: deco banisters with papyrus motifs

UK, the UK branch of the international modern architecture organisation, said the proposed storey was "hideous". He described its "crudity and inelegance" and added that it would make the courtyard feel oppressive. He called Northview "a pleasant and largely unaltered example of 1930s popular modernism".

Gavin Stamp, trustee of the 20th Century Society and *Private Eye* architecture

columnist, wrote: "Altering and enlarging this interesting 1930s enclave seems unnecessary

and certainly undesirable."

The story received extensive coverage in the *Islington Tribune*. Residents were supported by local politicians.

● www.northview.org.uk



Historic Finsbury name must not be lost, says Islington South MP

Emily Thornberry MP described Finsbury's radical past and its politicians at a recent meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society.

The Islington South MP also circulated maps showing proposed constituency boundary changes and discussed whether the name Finsbury should be retained in the new constituency name.

She described Finsbury's radical image as being very different from the City of London's, conjuring up images of people feasting off gold plates.

The Boundary Commission has proposed adding the City of London



Emily Thornberry: radical history must not be forgotten

and three wards from Camden to the constituency and naming it City of London and Islington South.

Ms Thornberry has since written to the Boundary Commission saying that her constituency should retain the "Finsbury" name.

Biggest Roman baths in south London found

Ruins of a Roman bath house have been found on land on Borough High Street being redeveloped for the Thameslink rail programme.

The ruins are believed to be one of the biggest Roman finds in south London. The bath house appears to include a cold plunge bath and hot rooms warmed by underfloor heating.

Substantial walls thought to be from predecessors of St Thomas' hospital have also been unearthed.



Excavations to start at Turnmill building

Works are due to start at the Turnmill building at 63 Clerkenwell Road. The site is within the precinct of St John's Priory – part of the precinct wall have may survived. The 1887 building will be demolished and replaced with a six-storey office block.

Archaeology museum becomes a company

The Museum of London Archaeology is no longer part of the Museum of London. It became a separate company on 1 November 2011, run by a board of trustees. It will retain the same name and address. MOLA and the Museum of London will continue to work together.

Early humans in England knew Neanderthals

Dating a fragment of upper jaw with three teeth from Devon has confirmed that early humans lived alongside Neanderthals. The jawbone is 41,500-44,200 years old, not 35,000 years old as previously thought. It predates other evidence for early humans in Western Europe, which goes back to 39,000-41,000 years ago. The research was published in *Nature* in November.

● <http://tinyurl.com/3j26hfy>

Archaeology awards open for entries

Entries are being invited for the British Archaeological Awards. These must relate to work done since February 2010 and be submitted by the end of 29 February 2012. Contact administrator Sarah Howell, tel: 01992 554962, email: robertkilntrust@btconnect.com, www.britarch.ac.uk/awards/baa2012.html.

Orton's defaced books go on show

The sister of playwright Joe Orton opened an exhibition of his famously defaced library books at the Islington Museum in October.

Leonie Orton-Barnett described Joe as "kind and gentle" and "very caring", at the launch of *Malicious Damage: the Life and Crimes of Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell in Islington*.

This is the first time that all the surviving covers are being displayed together. Also on show are his diaries,



At the opening night



Leonie Orton-Barnett: "Joe was very kind and gentle"

his typewriter and flyers and programmes for his plays.

When living in Noel Road, Orton and his partner Kenneth Halliwell "doctored" library books to protest at what they saw as "endless shelves of rubbish" in Islington's libraries. After adding pictures and texts to the books, the pair would return them anonymously then stand back and observe the reaction of readers.

The couple also stole over 1,600 coloured pictures from art books, which they used

as wallpaper for their flat.

They were caught in 1962 and, after pleading guilty to theft and malicious damage, were each sentenced to six months. Orton found his time in prison inspirational to his writing career.

He went on to become a successful playwright, but his life was cut short when he was murdered in 1967 by Halliwell in a fit of jealousy.

After the court case, the covers were locked in a librarian's drawer and largely forgotten. As Orton's reputation grew, the books became famous.

Rosemary Doyle, Islington Council's head of library and heritage services, said: "There is an irony that the damaged book covers that caused such trouble are now on display in Islington." ■

● See *Borrowed Books to Guerilla Artwork* by Mark Aston, autumn issue, page 20

● Events, page 27

Heritage centre plans stop Pump House conversion

The historic Pump House in Clerkenwell has had a reprieve from plans to turn it into luxury flats and commercial space.

Planners were recommending that consent be given to redevelop the grade II listed building but their report failed to mention it had been earmarked for a heritage centre.

Islington council has allowed other buildings on the Thames Water site to be converted into flats over the past 20 years on condition that the Pump House would become a heritage centre.

After this information came to light, the application was withdrawn from the planning committee's agenda.

The historic site is at the end of the New River, which brought fresh water to London in 1613.

Clerkenwell councillor George Allan described the saga as a "monumental cock-up" and "a tale of greed and incompetence" to the *Islington Tribune*.

He said earlier: "The planners have issued a report saying that because the last planning brief is 12 years old, they do not consider that permission can be refused for the application's failure to provide for a heritage centre I think the Islington planners forgot about all the agreements and are now too embarrassed to admit they have made a major blunder."

He added that the Islington Building Preservation Trust held £100,000 for a heritage centre and the Heritage of London Trust was believed to be keen to take on the project.

The planning application was "in connection with various alterations and extensions to the buildings known as the engine/pump house and adjacent building".

It said: "Notable works include the formation of lower ground floor and rear extensions to single storey southern building erection, insertion of a new floor within southern building, various fenestration alterations to the buildings."

Letters and your questions

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

Printer of Cross Street

I am researching publisher/printer RE King & Co Ltd, which was at 20 Cross Street during 1912-22.

The Islington Local History Centre has no photographs of the building then, and no archives of the firm, which seems to have disappeared.

Can you possibly help me with anything please?

I bought a copy of your excellent *53 Cross Street*. Many thanks for publishing this.

Professor John Spiers.

Via email

Michael Reading writes:

In 2005, I completed a booklet entitled *Cross Street*, a history of one of the oldest streets in the borough. I lodged two copies at the Islington Local History Centre.

In the booklet, I make two references to no 20 Cross Street: "No 20, now the Frame Factory, is an obvious industrial building and was built in the late 1890s and occupied initially by John Wright Thomas Jun Co, a pattern card manufacturer. It was also given the name of Leslie Works.

"It is the tallest building in the street, with five floors, and has been occupied at various times by different businesses, including several in multiple occupation, which continues today.

"The substantial ground floor/basement had served as a foundry at one time in the past."

The booklet includes photographs, some historic and others taken by myself. A 2005 photograph of no 20 is captioned: "The former foundry of Opperman Gears

Ltd who occupied the ground floor, now the Frame Factory. Other separate businesses have and still do occupy the upper floors."

I imagine that RE King & Co occupied the upper floors between 1912 and 1922.

Two family pubs

My great-grandfather, Alfred Pascall (1852-1901) is described in the 1901 census as the manager (tavern) of the Rotherfield Arms in Rotherfield Street and living at 119 Essex Rd with five of his sons – Alfred John (1883-1960), Arthur Edwin (1884-1915, killed in WW1), Henry J (1887-1963), Thomas Frederick (1893 – last heard of in a nursing home in 1980) and his twin brother Robert Reginald (1893-1974).

There were three other children – George (1890-1968), my grandfather who was at the Licensed Victuallers school with a sister, Annie Ellen (1888?-?) and another girl (Cissie? the youngest child?) who does not appear on either census but is in a family photograph taken around 1897-98.

The building (no 140?) on Rotherfield Street near Essex Road might have been a pub. Nearby is Shepperton Road school, which Arthur attended. The Embassy pub at 119 Essex Road looks modern.

I would like to know if you can help me with:

1. Where was the pub?
2. Did he own it?
3. Was he the chairman of the Licensed Victuallers' Association for London?
4. Do you know of any photographs of the pub and/

or 119 Essex Rd as they were around that time?

5. What happened to the pub and the family after Alfred died? His wife, Anne, died in 1898.

6. Are there any Pascalls in the area?

I have two rather battered Victorian silver pint tankards from the pub, engraved with the pub's name, that were presumably taken after Alfred died and before the pub was sold or taken back by a brewery.

Graham Pascall

Via email

Michael Reading writes:

You are right that 140 Rotherfield Street was a pub; the Duke of Clarence built it in 1861-62 and it was the only pub in Rotherfield Street.

Shepperton Road School was opened in 1879 by the School Board of London and closed in 1957. It was replaced by Rotherfield Street Primary School, which is approximately in the centre of Rotherfield Street.

The pub at 119 Essex Road was named The Embassy in the last 15 years and was formerly the Thatched House. An inn has stood on this site since the early 18th century.

It was once kept by the father of William Hawes MD (1738-1808) the founder of the Royal Humane Society.

An inn has stood on the site of the The Embassy in Essex Road since the early 18th century

(Hawes Street is nearby).

The original inn, nicknamed Job's House, was destroyed by fire in 1829.

Another building was erected and stood there until the night of 8 March 1941 when a bomb fell on it, killing 19 people and injuring many others. It had only a ground floor for many years until it was rebuilt to what you see today.

I will now deal with your six questions.

1. The Rotherfield Arms was at 38 Shepperton Road, where Rotherfield Street joins Shepperton Road; one side of the building is in Rotherfield Street and the other in Shepperton Road. It is almost opposite the old Shepperton Road School. It is now private housing.

2. To find out whether your relative owned the pub, ask the Land Registry if any conveyance of the property has taken place in his name.

3. Try the London and South East Licensed Victuallers Association, 22 High Street, Colliers Wood, SW19 2BH, tel: 020 8540 1275.

4. There may be photographs of the Rotherfield Arms and the Thatched House at the London Metropolitan Archives.

The Islington Local History Centre holds bomb damage reports for 1940-45 and an air raid album, which contains a photograph of the Thatched House just after it was bombed. There is a short description: "High Explosive bomb through the window of first floor of the Public House, demolishing the Public and Private Bars, and penetrating the basement. Road in front

partially blocked. Partial Building necessary."

The www.deadpubs.co.uk website has a photograph of the Rotherfield Arms as it is now. Follow the links.

5. The Rotherfield Arms was probably open until 20 years ago but, like many pubs, it has closed due to the decline in business and social changes in Islington in particular. Family history research is outside the scope of the society's help.

6. A rather crude method of checking where people live is looking at the telephone directory. However, many people are not listed.

On a personal note, I used to live in a block of flats in Halton Road, some 50 yards from the Thatched House. In 1941, my mother and I were evacuated but my father stayed, and was waiting to be called up into the RAF.

On the night of 8 March with the air raids going on, he came down from our fourth-floor flat and stood in the doorway, ducking down when the bomb landed. He then rushed over to the pub, probably being one of the first to arrive and helped with trying to extract people from the debris.

Graham Pascall writes:

On looking again the 1901 census, I saw Alfred Pascall is described as a tavern manager and his son Arthur Edwin (16) as a tavern barman, both living at 119 Essex Rd and *working at home*. He may have managed the Thatched House.

The Deadpubs record for the Thatched House does not mention Alfred by name. Chamberlain and Harwood, who took over in 1899, may have employed him as manager when he left the Rotherfield Arms.

My father and grandfather, to my knowledge, never mentioned any business connection with the



A small survivor: the former Rotherfield Arms is now residential

Thatched House, even though the family were living above it in 1901.

Perhaps an enquiry to the Licenced Victuallers Association could put an end to all my speculation.

Seeking a nursing home

A family member lived in Islington in Arlington Way and Clousby Place (I think this should have been Cloudesley Place) and worked at the "Middleton Nursing Home".

I can find no reference to a Middleton or Myddleton Nursing Home. If this person's home address was incorrect, she may have worked at a nurses' home rather than a nursing home.

I have been in contact with the folks at the Islington History Centre but they have been unable to find a solution.

Could any of your members or records shed some light on this mystery?
Rod Jones
By email

Michael Reading writes:

Like the Islington Local History Centre, I have searched all the sources I have but without success.

I offer two rather tenuous suggestions.

1. Middleton Nursing Home may be listed in the index to trades and professions in the Post Office directories for the

years your relative lived in Islington. These directories, dating from 1800, can be inspected at the London Metropolitan Archives.

2. Cloudesley Place is very near to the former London Fever Hospital in Liverpool Road. This hospital was merged with the Royal Free Hospital in 1948 and closed some years later.

The original buildings have been converted to homes, but its archives are available and may be the place to look for the nurses' home.

The archives are at: The Hoo, 17 Lyndhurst Gardens, NW3 5NU, tel: 020 7794 0692, email: archive.enquiries@nhs.net. The archivist is Ms Vicky Rea.

A rare conditional baptism

Further to George Goodwin's letter (autumn, page 6), you certainly have to be baptised before you can be confirmed but, as most people are christened as a child – or used to be – that is not often a problem.

The Anglican church is very liberal about what baptisms it recognises but when I was confirmed there was a problem.

I had been christened in a congregational church and, as each congregation varies, it was not possible to be sure that the baptism had followed all the correct procedures.

I was therefore (re-)baptised "conditionally". The priest said: "If thou hast not been baptised before I baptise thee" Conditional baptism is very rare and I have never met anyone else who has gone through it.

I have often wondered what God would have done if I had been baptised twice. Eternal damnation? Thunder and lightning?

Beverley Charles Rowe
Camden Mews, NW1 9DB

Dawson's City Road store

Dr Charles Jenkins asked for information on Dawson's department store in our last issue (autumn, page 7).

George Goodwin responds: I do recall Dawson's store as a child. It was located at the junction of New North Road and City Road.

I remember that we had a collector call to our house for his weekly dues. (If my memory serves me right, his name was Mr Sleep.)

One of my favourite experiences of Dawson's services was getting new black boots for school. The first thing my father did was to put studs on the soles and "Blakey's" on the tips or heels to save wear and tear.

I think the store was still functioning in the late 1950s or even the early 1960s. (I could be wrong though!)

I hope this helps in some small way.

George Goodwin (an old north London lad)
By email

Write to us at news@iahs.org.uk, via www.iahs.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, London N7 0QB. If you would like your email or post address printed so other readers can contact you directly, let us know

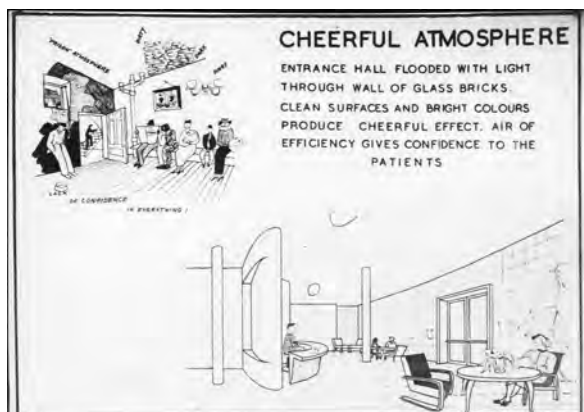


The fight for Finsbury Health Centre

Barb Jacobson describes how patients and residents battled the bureaucrats to stop the sale of Lubetkin's icon and prove it was fit for healthcare more than 70 years after it was built

Finsbury Health Centre on Pine Street, EC1, famously designed by Berthold Lubetkin and built in 1938, has the distinction of being one of the first public health centres offering free services. An inspiration for the NHS, it is a model of good health building design that is still studied by architects around the world.

Light and bright: "Entrance hall flooded with light through wall of glass bricks"



It is – as was proved by the campaign to save it from closure and private sell-off – a building that has inspired enduring affection on the part of the surrounding community. It represents an ideal of what promotes good public healthcare.

The building has been sorely bashed about over the course of its existence, first by war and then by the NHS. It has stood entirely neglected over the past 17 years, since a partial restoration in 1995.

Plans were drawn up in 2002 to refurbish the centre completely under New Labour's public-private LIFT programme when suddenly, after six years' work – as long as it had taken to be fund, design and build the original building – the local primary care trust that owns the grade I listed centre decided to move all services out and sell it to the highest bidder.

A press release was sent out in March 2008. A small paragraph appeared in the *Islington Gazette* but inspired little response.

Then, in August, after a series of spreads in the *Islington Tribune* about the imminent closure and people's memories of Finsbury Health Centre, three local residents, all patients at FHC, got together to petition the secretary of state for health for its refurbishment and preservation as a health centre.

The next few months were a real lesson in how bureaucracy works in a time of market fundamentalism. None of us really knew much about how the NHS was run locally.

The key body we had to contend with was Islington primary care trust (PCT), a quango that had replaced the local statutory health authority and community health councils. It was made up of the great and good who could be trusted not to question the bureaucrats too deeply.

Digging out facts and figures

The PCT that autumn held a consultation that did not include an option to keep services at Finsbury Health Centre. We made various Freedom of Information requests for key facts that were missing: the 2002 plans; the actual cost of refurbishing the building (as opposed to rental under private finance initiative plans described below); and maps showing where patients who used the various services at FHC lived.

In November, the campaign organised the most well-attended meeting during the entire consultation, where more than 100 patients, health workers, local trade union representatives, architects and conservation experts quizzed the head of the PCT and her trusty minion.

All we were told, besides a list of the many defects for which the NHS was itself responsible, was that the building was not "fit for 21st century healthcare".

We were told that it would be too expensive to rent after

refurbishment. This was because, under the private finance initiative policy current at the time, this would involve another company not only doing the refurbishment but also taking over ownership and management of the building, on a loan that the NHS would effectively be paying back over 25 years.

The audience agreed that this form of 21st-century finance was “unfit for purpose”, and pointed out several other options, including the formation of a community trust to oversee fundraising and refurbishment. The PCT has remained blind to this option until very recently.

Meanwhile, the PCT board voted to sell the health centre in January 2009 and, in a brave move, Islington council’s health and wellbeing scrutiny committee decided to refer the matter to the secretary of state for health less than two weeks later.

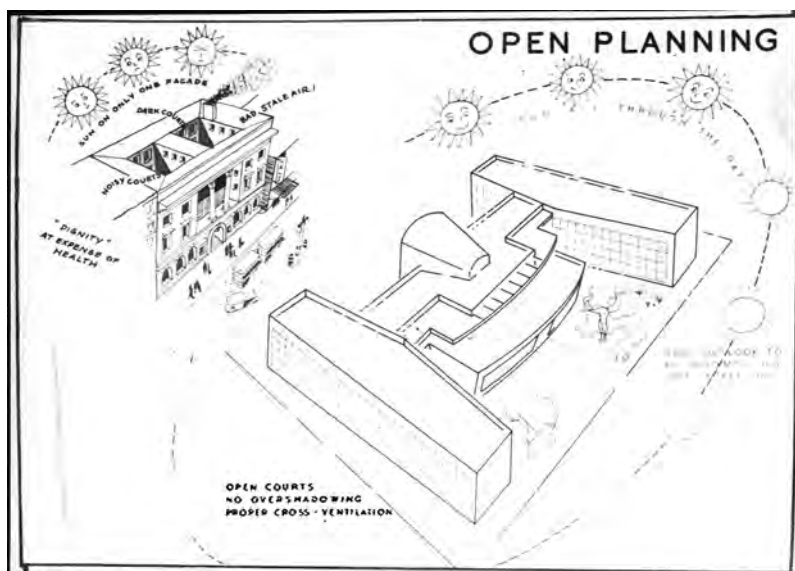
The next few months were a real lesson in how bureaucracy works in a time of market fundamentalism

After claims by the PCT that there “was still room for negotiation”, the matter came back to the council. Later, the PCT was shown to have had no intention to budge.

Under Councillor Martin Klute’s leadership, the health and wellbeing scrutiny committee undertook an eight-month review of the evidence, which concluded in March 2010 that the PCT should agree not to sell and consider other funding options. After a five-month delay excused by the general election, the PCT decided to ignore the committee.

Wider events took over, however. With cuts after the election both to the PCT and to funds for NHS buildings, an alternative brand-new South Islington Health Centre that the PCT had planned to show the secretary of state was shelved.

Right: natural light all day, unlike in a Victorian building; below: efficient layout, with no stairs for patients to climb and all offices on one level on the first floor



Despite the board’s decision to ignore the council’s thoroughly considered advice, in January 2011, they admitted that services at Finsbury Health Centre had to remain where they were.

They sold the neighbouring Pine Street building to the charity that runs the Michael Palin Stammering Centre and used the funds recouped to do emergency repairs ordered by English Heritage, plus some decoration and works required to improve infection control, as well as reorganisation of the extra space resulting from the Michael Palin centre move. These were due to be finished in November.

Looking ahead

The building’s future is still uncertain, however. The Health and Social Care Bill going through parliament abolishes PCTs but gives little thought to what happens to their NHS property.

The Finsbury Health Centre Building Preservation Trust is

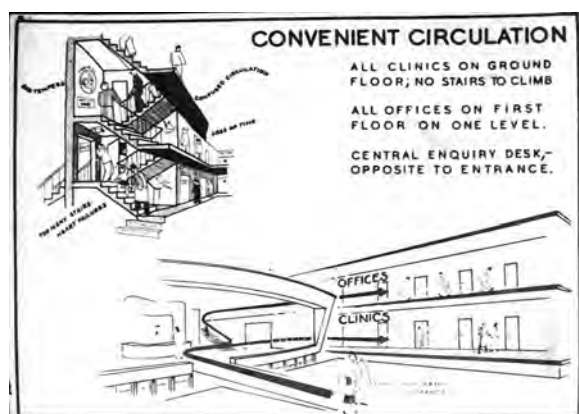
being formed to raise funds to refurbish and update the building fully and, if necessary, take over ownership and management. It has already identified several likely sources for capital grants.

Some buildings in a city, especially those built for community benefit, become the equivalent of mountains or rivers in a natural landscape. They are part of the identity of the place – when they are removed from public use, damaged or demolished, a community loses an important connection not only to its past but also to its hopes for the future.

When it was built, Finsbury Health Centre must have looked as if it had landed from outer space among the drab and filthy terraces surrounding it. Finsbury borough council went to some effort, commissioning the lovely cartoons by Gordon Cullen shown here to explain the building’s radical design.

Over four generations, it has become part of the landscape. It and the surrounding community deserve to see Finsbury Health Centre again live up to Lubetkin’s favourite motto: “Nothing is too good for ordinary people.” ■
● For information on Finsbury Health Centre Building Preservation Trust and details of meetings, see www.savefhc.org.uk.

Barb Jacobson is founding member of the Campaign to Save Finsbury Health Centre



TV firm boxes clever

Television as we know it began 75 years ago – an Islington firm first brought sets into the nation's living rooms and was a pioneer in many other areas. By Christy Lawrance

The first UK company to sell TV sets to the public was AC Cossor of Clerkenwell. Alfred Charles Cossor had worked at his father's firm, which was renowned for its high-quality x-ray and cathode ray tubes, so it was only natural he went on to design cathode ray tubes for televisions.

His firm was an innovator in cathode ray oscilloscope and valve technology, and had a major role in the second world war, making receivers for the world's first radar defence system.

Family firms

In 1859, his father, also called Alfred Charles Cossor, set up a company in Farringdon Road that made scientific glassware. It was a pioneer in the manufacture of x-ray and cathode ray tubes. Alfred Charles joined him in 1875, then younger son Frank in 1885 (Accoson; Grace's Guide).

Alfred set up his own

company, also in Farringdon Road, to make equipment for radios, which were soon to become commonplace in the home (Grace's Guide; Raytheon).

Frank took over the scientific glassware company. This moved in 1917 to the Accoson Works in Vale Road, near Manor House, then to Harlow in 2007. A fourth generation Cossor, Adrian, joined this firm in 1966 (Accoson).

How x-rays led to TV

The demand for his high-quality x-ray tubes "overwhelmed" Mr Cossor senior, who seemed to be the "only man able to make satisfactory tubes", *Windsor Magazine* reported in 1896. There was a waiting list for his tubes, even though, at 25 shillings (£1.25), they cost far more than the 18d (7½p) charged for mass-produced retail tubes.

A Cossor tube was used in the first public demonstration of x-rays to the Royal Photographic Society by Alan Archibald

Campbell-Swinton, fellow of the Royal Society on 29 January 1896. This tube is in the Science Museum (Early Technology).

In 1908, Mr Campbell-Swinton foresaw how these tubes could become television. Writing in scientific journal *Nature*, he described how "distant electric vision" could be achieved by using a cathode ray tube as both transmitter and receiver.

In 1901, the *BMJ* described how a thermostat made by "Mr AC Cossor of Farringdon Road" regulated the temperature of paraffin wax baths, even though the author had been "informed by instrument makers that an electrical regulator was an impossibility" (Steen, 1901)

During the first world war, Alfred Charles junior's firm was one of the first to make valves in quantity for the war effort (Grace's Guide).

In 1918, his company moved to Highbury Grove. It started producing kits for building radios, as well as selling other electrical equipment. It launched its highly

Viewers could watch wonders such as a burning building and a galloping horse artillery, and were promised they would not miss a "naughty look" at the music hall

Pioneering broadcast from the heights of north London



BBC camera in Alexandra Palace TV studio

On 2 November 1936, the BBC began the world's first regular high-definition television service from Alexandra Palace.

"From the large bay windows of the offices below the aerial, nearly all London can be taken in at a glance. The importance of height in this context cannot be overemphasised ... the range of the ultra short waves used for television is extended as the height of the transmitting aerial

is increased," said the BBC press release.

The BBC had already carried out experimental transmissions from Alexandra Palace, including for the Radiolympia exhibition in London (Baily, 1950).

By the mid 1930s, there had been over 50 proposals for television, from 11 countries.

Not everyone was impressed. The *Daily Telegraph* sniffed: "Novelty appeal will soon pass. What then?" (O'Connor, 1986).

successful Melody Maker radio in 1927 (Raytheon). You can still find these for sale on eBay.

By 1937, the firm had bases in Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Dublin, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield. Cossor remained a leader in oscilloscope development, introducing a dual beam version (Grace's Guide).

Television

In 1936, Cossor became the first company in the UK to sell a television set (Grace's Guide; Raytheon).

There were no televisions on the market but a few people had made their own, following instructions in a hobbies magazine (Baily, 1950).

In a 1937 brochure, *Cossor Television – The Annihilation of Distance*, the company describes itself as the "largest self-contained Radio manufacturers in the British Empire".

Brochure illustrations show a family clustered around a huge TV, watching wonders such as the roof falling in on burning building, a horse artillery galloping across the screen and sporting events. An opera from Sadler's Wells is shown, with a promise that viewers will not miss a "naughty look" or "wagging eye" at the music hall.

The brochure explains how cathode ray tubes work, and shows men and women at work in the firm's factory (Early Television Museum).

Radar in and after the war

Cossor had a major historical role in radar during the second world war.

In 1935, the Daventry experiment, which used Cossor cathode ray tubes, found radio waves could be used to detect aircraft. The Radio Detection and Ranging system – better known as radar – was highly secret (Grace's Guide; Raytheon).

Cossor made the receiving units and displays for Chain Home Radar, the first operational radar system in the world, which gave the RAF 20 minutes'



AC Cossor junior (standing) in the Farringdon Road workshop in 1896 with his chief assistant, William Underhill Hilliar. The two young workers appear to be assembling an induction coil. The picture shows small x-ray tubes, as well as gas torches, foot-operated bellows, glass tubing and tools. The wall behind Cossor is decorated with Gaiety Girls postcards. The photo was taken by Charles W Gamble for the *Windsor Magazine*

warning of the Luftwaffe (Grace's Guide; Raytheon).

Only two men were entrusted with the full details of the radar project – Dr JM Dodds at Metrovicks and Mr LAH Bedford at Cossor (BBC Archive).

After the war, AC Cossor introduced the first radar systems for air traffic control and continued to produce radios and TVs.

Industrial unrest

The period after the war saw much workers' unrest, and Cossor did not escape this. In 1945, 2,293 strikes were recorded by the TUC – the highest number to that time – and 2,205 were recorded in 1946 (TUC Archive).

Young women at the Highbury factory went on strike for a 2d per hour pay rise. The strike was called off and hailed as a victory for bringing women's demands to public attention (*Glasgow Herald*; TUC Archive). In the same year, an unofficial strike followed the suspension and dismissal of shop stewards (University of Warwick).

Leaving Islington

EMI acquired control of Cossor in 1949, and Cossor sold the rights to use its name for home radios and TVs to Philips in 1958.

In 1958, it left Islington for Harlow, and was acquired by Raytheon in 1961. Cossor House

in Highbury became part of the London Metropolitan University and was renamed Ladbroke House. Many of its interior art deco furnishings remain (TUC Archive).

The Cossor name has long disappeared from household radios and TVs, but the firm's products survive. The BBC reported in 2010 of a Huw Finney in Maidenhead, who says: "I still use a 1929 Cossor to listen to Radio 4 ... I have displayed it in the kitchen." ■

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Christmas at Beale's

The whole of north London seemed to descend on Beale's store in Holloway with money to burn on Christmas eve, recalls John Beale, the store founder's grandson

Beale's had always come into its own at Christmas. To a large extent, it lived for Christmas, far more so than was good for its health. Its wares were regarded as expensive but, at Christmastime, one could afford the best.

It was exciting and enjoyable for all, even for the staff who worked almost until they dropped, for little if any overtime pay. It was uneconomic because each family stocked up with such an absurd quantity of food and drink that trade was virtually at a standstill for weeks after.

In the mid-1930s, Christmas was the main event in the Holloway calendar. No sooner was Easter over than the Christmas crackers and novelties had to be ordered from Tom Smith's, Sparagnapane's and other suppliers, for the Bazaar which was held in the Grand Hall during the week before Christmas.

Fancy and 'free' goods

Next we would visit Messrs Mansell, Hunt and Catty, and other showrooms, to select small china figures of Father Christmas, snowmen, eskimos on sleighs, miniature houses, churches and castles, together with holly pickets, robins, coloured paper frills (with tartan patterns for shortbreads and Dundee cakes), silver cake boards and cardboard boxes in different shapes and sizes for the Christmas cakes.

Fancy picture boxes, ribbons, gold thread and wrapping papers were needed for our own chocolates and, in early summer, huge orders would be placed for

Beale's staff bought from Mansell, Hunt Catty & Co well ahead of Christmas

fancy tins of biscuits and shortbreads from Huntley and Palmer, MacFarlane Laing, Peak Frean and others.

In August, samples of dried fruits began to arrive by every post from Mincing Lane merchants. After careful inspection for quality, price and cleanliness (for stalks and stones were often included free, especially from Persia and Turkey), contracts would be placed for currants, sultanas, raisins and cut peel for the making of our own mincemeat, Christmas puddings and fruit cakes. And woe betide us if we forgot to order pudding basins, cloths and wrappers, in four sizes, at the same time.

Planning for the frenzy

Everything was so ridiculously complicated – so many shapes and sizes and varieties of goods, so many items to be ordered, received, checked, sorted, stored, requisitioned, transferred, charged, used and finally sold. Only the cheapness of labour made it possible at all and, in the end, it could only be marginally profitable at best.

Detailed plans were made early for Christmas production in the bakeries. Dundee cakes would be baked in the last week of November, followed by

Christmas cake bases, then lighter fruit cakes and madeiras. Later would come the swiss rolls which were set on thin oblong silver cake boards and decorated with chocolate fudge, holly pickets, robins, and mottoes, as "Yuletide Logs". These were a must in most customers' homes.

By October, the chocolate department would be in full swing. A regular order of up to one 1,000 one-pound boxes of chocolates, given by the directors of Ever-Ready Batteries to their staff, added to the pressure on this small department.

It was all very small beer, of course, compared with modern large-scale factory production. But no one working at Holloway at Christmas could have thought of it as such – certainly not the poor storeman man-handling some 20 tons of raw materials in a day, with the harassed despatch manager driving an equally massive outflow of manufactured goods through the same yard in the opposite direction.

Mechanical aids to the man-handling were minimal. Though the 140lb bags of flour were pulled up tediously on an old-fashioned chain hoist, they had to be carried to the correct dump on a man's shoulders. In earlier days, incredibly, a sack of flour weighing 280lbs was carried by one man.

As the last days arrived, the regular staff, augmented by a host of extras in the shape of housewives, country cousins, city clerks and students, worked steadily to the final frenzy of Christmas Eve, when the whole of north London seemed to descend upon us with money in its pocket.

The piles of chocolate boxes and the gaily coloured crackers began to disappear from the Grand Hall, which was enlivened (questionably) by a three-piece orchestra playing mournfully in a corner

We had always specialised in fresh cream cakes and cream moulds, and the last 24 hours were given to the filling and decoration of these – hoping and praying that the weather would not turn warm and muggy, for the cold stores could not accommodate a quarter of the production. Customers would come from miles around to buy our strawberry and vanilla creams, “S and Vs” as we called them, made from fresh dairy cream, calves’ foot jelly, vanilla from the pod and our own strawberry puree.

In the meat department, fine white turkeys and geese, many with prize-winning rosettes on their gorgeous breasts, hung on every inch of rail. In an outbuilding at the rear, a party of old-timers, half buried in feathers, sat plucking and gutting the poultry, bullied both by the head butcher with his waiting queue of customers and by the despatch manager desperately trying to catch the last van to Tottenham. Another butcher churned out endless strings of pork sausages on a cumbersome hand-turned machine.

The fruit and vegetable department had stocked up well with fancy packs of figs, dates, muscatels and almonds, walnuts, chestnuts and boxes of tangerines wrapped in silver paper. Yellow and white chrysanthemums and Christmas roses added to the show. Out of sight but of no less importance were the more humble King Edward potatoes and the Brussels sprouts.

The grocers made up several hundred parcels of groceries for the Mayor to distribute to the poor of Islington. They consisted of humdrum packets of rice, prunes, sugar, tea and the like, and supplied practically at cost. Even so, I remember that the rice was of less than our usual quality to get down to the required price. It could hardly be described as festive fare.

On display for more affluent Islingtonians were familiar round boxes of Metz fruits, orange and



lemon slices, Chinese figs, candied peel, crystallised ginger, jars of stem ginger and other dainties.

Down in the basement, coffee roasting was taking place, adding its own distinctive aroma – though once or twice the roaster must have nodded off awhile, until the smell of burnt coffee beans sent the manager flying down the stairs to wake the culprit up.

Packed with customers

The piles of chocolate boxes and the gaily coloured crackers began to disappear from the Bazaar in the Grand Hall. This was a comparatively quiet area that had to be enlivened (questionably) by a three-piece orchestra playing mournfully in a corner.

Down in the store, queues for the holiday bread built up early on Christmas Eve and, by 10 o’clock, the whole ground floor would be packed solid. I myself would be on my feet from morning till night, rushing madly from top to bottom of the six-storey building.

The task of our faithful despatch manager, Mr Norton, approached nightmare proportions on the night before Christmas Eve. Had he collapsed

Hot work in Beale’s bakery: queues for holiday bread built up early on Christmas eve

with fatigue, as well he might, utter chaos would have ensued. One despaired that the sorters and roundsmen could ever get it cleared in time.

But somehow, by 10 o’clock on Christmas Eve, all but a handful of baskets, where the customer had not been at home, had been safely delivered. And, in those far-off conscientious days, it was a point of honour not to let a customer down. Even the directors would set out on Christmas morning to deliver the last mislaid order, or perhaps to satisfy some late-ordering Scrooge with his turkey.

Yet, with all its economic foolishness, I still look back with pride to the old store as it appeared at Christmas. I can recall with pleasure the fairytale atmosphere of the decorated windows and counters, piled high with good things ready for the onslaught of happy children and their parents. From the point of view of service to the public, perhaps they were our finest hours. ■

Many thanks to Andrew Beale – William’s great-great grandson – for allowing us to reproduce this extract from *Minding Our Own Business*, his history of Beale’s of Holloway

Las Vegas in Georgian London

Couples wishing to marry quickly or secretly used to head for the taverns, coffee shops and houses around the Fleet prison. At one time, these Fleet marriages ended up accounting for more than half of the weddings in London. By Christy Lawrance

The area around the Fleet prison has been called the “Las Vegas of its day” (page 19).

Couples wishing to be wed quickly could find numerous inns and other establishments where a parson would marry them on the same day. They could marry in secret, as banns did not have to be read in a church beforehand.

It was, paradoxically, a law to stop irregular marriages in prisons that brought this about.

London marriage majority

Over half of London weddings and possibly 15% of all marriages in England were celebrated in the Fleet by the 1740s (UK National Archives; BMD Registers). The *Report of the Commission into Marriage Law* of 1868 estimated that, in the first half of the 18th century, one-third of all marriages were clandestine (BMD).

Fleet marriages were held every day and night of the year. The whole process could take less than 15 minutes (Georgian London); one John Mottram married more than 2,200 couples in one year (Jeaffreson, 1873).

The main reason for wanting a clandestine marriage was cost (BMD). Public marriage was very expensive, with a festival lasting several days; parents probably preferred to give the money to the young couple (Ashton, 1888). Couples did not need to pay for a marriage licence and were afforded some degree of privacy, avoiding a communal wedding. (UKNA; People in Place).

Other reasons included not needing parental consent, pregnancy, requiring a backdated ceremony to legitimise offspring,

Many taverns had their own marriage certificates: this 1727 wedding was held at the "Hand and Pen and Golden Pott at the Ditch Side"



or to validate claims on an inheritance (BMD; People in Place). Soldiers and sailors may not have been home for long enough to have banns read.

While some Fleet marriages were for criminal or fraudulent purposes, the vast majority had the aim of making a normal lasting union (Herts Family History Society).

Although irregular, these marriages were legal and registers were used as evidence in court (Jeaffreson).

How Fleet marriages arose

Parliament had brought in several laws to prevent irregular

marriages. However, these laws applied only to areas under the jurisdiction of a diocese bishop. This inadvertently gave a near monopoly to areas outside the bishop's control – such as prisons. Jailed clergy who had been dismissed or were in debt had nothing to lose by conducting clandestine marriages (BMD).

The Fleet prison had its own chapel, where non-prisoners could be married clandestinely with “degraded” clergy performing the ceremony (Thornbury, 1878).

Fleet prisoners could live in the area outside the jail, as long as they paid the prison-keeper for loss of earnings. This area was called the Liberty of the Fleet or the Rules of the Fleet. Some prisoners – including jailed clergy – continued with their occupations (HFHS).

In 1711, the government passed laws to stop clandestine marriage in prisons (BMD). Soon, demand sprung up for quick and convenient irregular marriages – speedily supplied by clergymen living in the Rules.

Marriage houses

Clergy living in the Rules were able to set up shop in any building in the area (UKNA).

The Fleet registers

The Fleet registers record more than 200,000 marriages (and some baptisms) performed in the Rules of the Fleet and elsewhere between 1667 and 1754 (UK National Archives).

Unlike most parish registers, they often give the groom's occupation and occasionally the bride's, plus marital status and where they lived (HFHS).

Some entries are duplicated and some forged (UKNA); surnames could be withheld or false (Ashton; BMD).

Registers were bought, sold and inherited, and had value as legal evidence. Around 1783, a Mr Benjamin Panton bought 500-600 of these books from a Mrs Olive, which weighed more than a ton (Ashton).

They kept registers and employed “touters” to attract customers (Thornbury, 1878). Touters, women and men, assumed that anyone walking around the area, especially a couple, wanted a marriage; many touters picked the pockets of those they approached (Jeaffreson).

Fleet weddings were commonly held in taverns that had their own “chapel”. They also took place in coffee houses, private homes and shops – one couple from Hertfordshire were married in a coffin-plate makers’ (HFHS).

Some inns specialised in weddings and had their own marriage certificates printed up. Signs showing a joined female and male hand advertised “Marriages performed within” (Pennant, 1790). The Hand and Pen sign attracted so many couples to one house that its competitors adopted the name (Jeaffreson).

Fleet parsons often worked in partnership with the inn-keepers of the taverns where they lived. A room in the tavern would be set up as a chapel, with the inn-keeper acting as clerk.

Financial arrangements varied. The inn-keepers sold food and drink to the bridal party, and received the clerk’s fee and a small sum for the use of the chapel. The parson received a fee for carrying out the ceremony, often passing a percentage of this to the inn-keeper.

Some keepers of marriage houses ran the whole business, employing a chaplain who received a salary of £20-£30 a year plus board and lodging.

The more prosperous Fleet parsons held weddings in their own lodgings or houses. They kept registers and accounts, sometimes annotating diaries and ledgers with stories, and maintained friendly and lucrative arrangements with West End hotel-keepers (Jeaffreson).

Fleet parsons would attend mansions in the West End, or travel 20 or 30 miles into the country for clandestine weddings in taverns, manor houses or churches (Jeaffreson).

Several genuine chapels held



irregular marriages for couples who did not wish to be married in a fake chapel in a tavern. It is certain that Lincoln’s Inn Chapel was a “lawless chapel”, as they were called. Weddings here were popular with Fleet pastors – a barrister wanting a clandestine marriage would pay well (Jeaffreson).

Unusual marriages

There are records of women trying to marry each other – some were suspected and refused (Ashton).

In January 1742, two couples, who had been married “upwards of 12 years”, swapped spouses, “and the same Day, to the Content of all Parties ... and in the Evening had an Entertainment together” (Ashton).

The *Whitehall Evening Post* on 24 July 1739 reported on a woman who married a soldier in the morning at the Bull and Garter. In the afternoon she returned to marry a butcher, but the parson who had married her in the morning refused, “which put her to the Trouble of going a few Doors further, to another Parson, who had no Scruple” (Ashton).

In October 1739, a widow “dispensed her favours” between a butcher and a weaver. She married the butcher at the Fleet, then they returned to their separate homes. The weaver, hearing about her

Victorian depiction of Fleet Marriages: the ceremony could take 15 minutes

marriage, threatened to hang himself from his loom if she did not marry him. The widow, wanting to prevent “murder”, agreed and had a second Fleet marriage to him. Back home, the butcher found them in bed. A “quarrel ensued” and she decided on the butcher (Ashton).

The last Fleet weddings

Lord Hardwicke’s Marriage Act put Fleet marriages to an end on 26 March 1754. Breaking the law could be punished by 14 years’ transportation.

Couples wishing to marry in secret had to travel to Scotland, especially Gretna Green, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.

People flocked to the Fleet to get married until the last minute. One register alone records 217 weddings taking place on 25 March. ■

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A garden in a corner

Ten years ago, a garden was opened on an Upper Street corner. Michael Reading tells the story of how it came to be there and what was there before

The small garden on the corner of Upper Street and Barnsbury Street can easily be missed.

Measuring no more than 21ft in Upper Street and 51ft in Barnsbury Street on the site of what was no 168 Upper Street, it is comparatively new, having been created and opened in the year 2002. What was there before? And why a garden?

To answer the first question, it is necessary to go back to the 18th century. At that time, Upper Street was slowly spreading northwards, in a series of rows and terraces, and lines of shops and courts being built, with different names and numbered independently.

The Metropolitan Board of Works (the forerunner of the London County Council) decided to abolish this confusing array of names and numbers and bring some order to the street. From June 1857, the west side of Upper Street was renumbered, south to north, from no 1 at Liverpool Road to No 259, the Old Cock

Tavern (now The Famous Cock) at Highbury Corner. In October 1859, the east side from north to south was renumbered, starting with no 260 on the corner of Upper Street and Canonbury Lane, and continuing southwards to the Angel.

The site of the garden, one of 13 properties, was no 140 at the end of nos 127-140. This line of buildings was renumbered in 1857 to become nos 156-168.

In 1883, the Metropolitan Street Improvement Act was passed and there was an immediate request by the Islington vestry to widen Upper Street from Islington Green to Barnsbury Street to a width of 60ft. However, this meant that many houses – including nos 156-168 – had to be demolished.

No 168 Upper Street was the elegant establishment of one William Gillingwater, who traded as a hair-cutter, wig-maker and perfumier, who had opened this shop in 1840. He had originally been in Long Lane, Smithfield, in the 1830s then in Goswell Road. By the 1840s, Islington

High Street and Upper Street were in their heyday, being both fashionable and populous.

Gillingwater always emphasised his Paris experience. He extolled the quality of his celebrated electric hair-drier and recommended his Kalydor mixture that would remove freckles and sunburn and make the complexion beautiful. Victorian ladies were especially careful to keep out of the sun, for a suntan was the mark of the labouring classes.

While the demolition and road widening was taking place, two brothers named Gardiner, tailors from Glasgow who ran a business in Aldgate selling tweeds and tartans, negotiated and bought the whole site of nos 156-168.

They had an impressive four-storey block built, with considerable Victorian architectural ornamentation. The new building was divided into 10 units and numbered 159-168, with the numbers 157 and 158 being dispensed with. The Gardiners kept eight units for themselves, where they began trading as The Scotch House, and let nos 167 and 168. The Scotch House went on to

Above: the garden last summer; below: Gillingwater's stylish store



become world famous with notable stores in Knightsbridge and Regent Street, until the business merged with Burberry in 2001.

In 1910, the Gardiners left Upper Street and were succeeded by Edward Grove who ran a clothing business until 1916. The London Co-operative Society then took over nos 159-165, later extending into nos 166-167. It occupied the whole row with the exception of Boots the Chemists at the end in no 168.

During a second world war air raid on the night of 4 November 1940, two high-explosive bombs fell on the corner, demolishing no 168 apart from the front section but leaving no 167 virtually intact. In due course, the whole of no 168 was taken down and the end wall adjoining no 167 closed and rendered with cement. All that remained was a bomb site which would disappear behind a wooden hoarding for the rest of the century.

The London Co-operative Society stayed until 1973 when it moved away and the property was taken over by the Islington council, housing five or more departments. In June 2008, the lease expired and Islington council left the building. To date, the building stands empty.

It is almost 65 years since the second world war ended and signs of it have disappeared. New streets, houses and estates have arisen from the rubble.

Since the second world war ended, the council has gradually made the borough greener. This has including new open spaces – including “pocket parks” such as this one – and planting trees in streets which have never had them before.

In due course, the council’s Greenspace division turned its attention to the small area (very obvious from the town hall opposite) on the corner of Barnsbury Street. A budget of £8,000 was set for a woodland planting. The logs and chipping to create the path came from cutting down saplings that had grown wild over the years



behind the hoarding.

Plants introduced to the site included star jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*), black bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*), coneflower (*Rudbeckia foldstrum*), elephants’ ears (*Bergenian cordifolia*), hollyhock (*Alcea rosea*), smoke bush (*Cotinus coggygria*), Red Robin photinia (*Photinia x fraseri*), skimmia (*Skimmia japonica*), spindleberry (*Euonymus japonica*) and fatsia (*Fatsia japonica*).

Because of its size, the Greenspace division wisely decided that the garden should remain locked and no facilities provided for visitors, so the plants would flourish.

A sign at the site says it is called Barnsbury Street Corner. The garden has slowly matured and is now a tribute to the skill and sensitive selective planting by Greenspace. It also seems to be remarkably free from casual litter and rubbish being dumped over the low iron railings.

There have been plans to extend the building over the garden site but these have come to nothing so far. As we went to press, plans for the terrace mainly concern turning offices into shops and exclude the garden site.

So the existence of the garden may continue for longer. Its creation has been worthwhile, as it has enhanced the local environment, and Greenspace



Above left: 1940s bomb damage; above: the garden in 2009; right: early days in 2004



should be applauded for their imagination and skill in bringing this about. ■

Michael Reading is the Islington Archaeology & History Society’s researcher

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Reading M (2009) *The Garden on the Corner. A Brief Description and History* is available at the Islington local history library

A Stroud Green Road day out

The picture on the back page was kindly sent in by Mrs Doris Evelyn Lea (née McDonald) of Lindfield, West Sussex. She also provided the photographs of how the Andover area used to look for our summer issue.

She writes:

"Some readers may remember the shops in Stroud Green Road (on the Islington side of the boundary) as they were during the last war. I worked as a shop assistant in Fines (the grocers) which afterwards became Victor Value and then Tesco.

"I enclose a photograph of the shop assistants and business folk of the Stroud Green Road, assembling for a coach trip to Maidenhead shortly after the end of the war. (I am wearing a polka dot dress near the middle of that photograph.)

"I have a vivid memory of arriving for work during that war, only to find glass all over Stroud Green Road because the houses opposite the shops had been destroyed by a land mine. Then I realised that some of our



regular customers whom I had served the day before or to whom we had delivered groceries were now dead. Nevertheless, all the shops swept up and opened that same afternoon."

A very local history site

Essays on parts of Islington are included on the Local Local History website, set up by Jack Whitehead. He says Local Local History concerns "the histories of extremely small areas, sometimes of only a few dozen streets, but all put into a much wider context".

The Islington essays cover

schools, housing and more. Go to www.locallocalhistory.co.uk, click on Main Menu and you'll see Islington Studies on the left.

Plaque for canal heroine

Crystal Hale has been honoured with an Islington green plaque, which was unveiled at the Angel Festival in September.

She led the campaign to stop British Waterways filling in the canal at City Road Basin for redevelopment. She also founded the Islington Boat Club, the Angel Community Canal Boat Trust and the Angel Festival.

Islington burials: do you recognise any names?

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



Polley	Henry	male	1829	iron		
Polwin?	Alice Gabriel	female	1851	iron	4 Dec	4 Grove Cottages, Barnsbury Grove
Poole	Ann	female	1829	iron		
Poole	Frances Eliza (Eliza)	female	1838	iron	25 Nov	Middlesex Hospital
Pope	Mary	female	1846	iron	21 Oct	Winchester Street, Pentonville
Porter	(Mar)y	female	1840	iron	17 Nov	3 Nelson Terrace, City Road
Porter	Elizabeth Sarah	female	1844	iron	20 Aug	Northampton Street, Islington
Porter	Henry William	male	1851	iron	2 Jan	23 Vittoria Street, Pentonville
Potter	Mary Ann Batson	female	1829	iron		
Potter	Richard	male	1818	iron		
Pottinger	Eliza	female	1844	iron	24 Apr	66 Hermitage Place, St John Street Road
Pottinger (Dixon)	Elizabeth	female	1840	iron	25 Jul	20 Camden Street, Islington
Pratt	Martha	female	1851	iron		
Pratt	Robert	male	1848	iron	12 Mar	Bookbinders Asylum, Ballspond Road
Pratt	John	male	1849	iron	28 Sep	2 Penton Grove, Pentonville
Pratten	Elizabeth	female	1845	iron	20 Apr	18 Little Payne Street, White Conduit Fields



Islington's western shores

Lester Hillman, former coxswain and waterways expert, steers an armchair cruise down the Fleet river, charting a course from the past to the future

A 37lb carp, Kate Moss's sauna, dodgy marriage certificates and mysterious rumblings in Lloyd Baker Street all surfaced in Islington Town Hall during a presentation about the Fleet River.

The October meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society saw Lester Hillman plot a course downstream from Highgate to Blackfriars, from the safe anchorage of Upper Street.

Around 30 people joined the cruise down this half-forgotten watercourse on Islington's western border.

St Pancras en Seine

It may be the Fleet in Camden or the River of Wells in Islington – but the French have christened the area around the International Station St Pancras en Seine.

At the end of Pentonville Road at a bend in the Fleet, the Lighthouse has for more than a century offered navigational reassurance and certainly no one present on the cruise could recall a single shipwreck at King's Cross.

Hidden from view, but here and there just audible and with a distinctive aroma occasionally

drifting up, the Fleet announces its presence with place names like Turnmill Street. The New River may be more familiar but it is the Fleet that feeds the Clerk's Well that defines Clerkenwell.

Later in the armchair cruise, the ancient tidal stretches below Holborn were navigated, but nobody got seasick.

It was comforting to recall that almost a millennium ago Clerkenwell was dispensing Fleetside healthcare packages. In the 12th century, priory hospitals such as St John's and St Mary's Nunnery and later Charterhouse were tending to the sick, many arriving by way of the Thames and Fleet Hythe.

Big plans and a big fish

London's rivers are in the news, with the Wandle and Thames topping the cleanliness league, although after his epic swim David Walliams might not agree. In September, a 37lb mirror carp was caught in the upper reaches of the Fleet.

Recently, Lord Chris Smith, IAHS president, who heads the Environment Agency, has been commenting on Fleet flood risks.

In Highgate, a new basement

sauna in the house where Coleridge once lived has landed model Kate Moss in hot water about geological impacts.

New megaprojects for a sewage tunnel under the Thames and a river park walkway downstream from Blackfriars have implications for London's rivers.

Fleet footed

Guided walks along the Fleet are being considered. Walking from the heady heights of Highgate to the tidal Thames at Blackfriars can take four or five hours. Two walks might be sensible, with the Lighthouse offering a natural divide. So keep an eye out for opportunities to walk on water. ■

● Why did Lester Hillman call an area by the Fleet the "Las Vegas of its day"? See page 14

Two views of the Fleet: lighthouse; iron conduit for the Fleet under St Pancras station



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

Tenement tales

Harry Walters describes life as a boy in the 1930s in the Cottages, a row of neglected tenements near Essex Road

My street was Popham Street in Islington; I was born there. My Popham Street, the old Popham Street, was demolished a number of years back.

It was never lacking in fame and notoriety. Stories about the area grew and grew, some things true, some untrue and others exaggerated.

It was a pretty unremarkable place and made up mostly of flats. These flats, which took up almost the whole of the left hand side of the street going down from the Essex Road end of Islington, have been described in many ways: pigsties, barns, dust holes etc. What at first appeared to be one very large block of flats was in fact four separate blocks, each with its own entrance.

The dirty brick walls, covered in years of grime, crumbling in parts, had always seemed old. There was very much need of repair after years and years of total neglect. The pointing on the brickwork was always falling away from the walls in large pieces. Green moss filled some of the broken brickwork at the base of the buildings.

Strange names

The best thing about the flats was their names. All called cottages – Edinburgh, Cornwall, Queens and Albany. One cannot imagine where the names had come from, as they bore no resemblance to cottages at all.

Each of the four entrances was large and square, and the stairs stood on either side of the arches. On entering the arches one was always welcomed by the

smell of cats and on the wall was a large sign saying “No Hawkers, No Circulars, No Ball Games”, all of which were totally ignored.

The stairs were not solid, but slabs of concrete on iron supports. Often one of the slabs would become dislodged and a knock would be heard two or three hundred times a day before it was fixed. This usually meant a very long wait, since repair jobs were put off by the landlord until the very last minute.

You learned to live with such background noises and sometimes the voices of people coming out of the pubs, “Mind that bloody step”, at times also some off beat singing. “Shush, you’ll wake up the whole bloody flats.” “Who cares, liven up the place a bit.” Trips and giggles, grunts and groans as they made their way to their own front door.

The flats had three storeys. The balconies formed the perimeter. Each balcony had railings about six inches apart. Over the years a number of small children had to have the help of the Fire Brigade to release their heads. Children always enjoyed watching the dramas of the firemen at work, and it gave the mothers time for a good “chin wag”.

The balconies were a delight for many people who stayed around talking, late into the night during the summer months, sitting on the stairs and drinking endless cups of tea.

The street bookmakers did a good trade, especially if boots or shoes were needed urgently for a child



On entering the arches one was welcomed by the smell of cats and a large sign saying No Hawkers, No Circulars, No Ball Games, which was totally ignored

When I was young the stairs were scrubbed by a couple of very stout maiden ladies. The two sisters, who lived in the block, were paid by the owners. Both ladies had huge legs and enormous posteriors, which would wobble vigorously as they scrubbed away. Their huge legs with elasticated bloomers were a sight to behold by anyone ascending the stairs when they were being cleaned.

The women went about their task with great determination. If you wished to walk up while their work was in progress, adults would get a dirty look, while kids risked getting the flannel swiped across their legs.

The flats to many were like prisons; it would hardly be a surprise to anyone to be told that this was the reason that they had been built. They were old, and always looked so even when I was young. The designer must have had one idea in his mind – to pack as many people as possible into the smallest area possible.

When work was done it was usually on the cheap and slapdash. Consequently there was very little real improvement, or changes made.

Pipes, drains and gutters leaked, stairs were loose and the woodwork rotten. The chimneys were always causing trouble; in parts you could see daylight through them, where the rust had taken its toll. When a chimney caught alight, which was often, the sooty choking smell would creep into every flat. People would quickly rush to close their doors and windows. Others would hurry and gather the washing from the lines.

In the scullery by the sink was a small door which, when opened, was for the disposal of rubbish. When the next-door neighbour opened their door at the same time as ours the time of day could be passed.

My father liked having a bit of fun with the people next door, and would often tap on their side of the door and, when they opened it, he would squirt water on them. They in turn would do the same, and the joke never lost its appeal.

Monday was the main washing day. I say "main" because seldom was there a day when lines of washing of every shape, size and colour were not hung from balcony to balcony like flags.

All hell broke loose when it rained. People would rush in all directions to bring in the washing, often getting several



Seldom was there a day when lines of washing of every shape, size and colour, were not hung out like flags.



Some family parties would go on all night, and probably continue after a dozy day into the next evening

lines tangled. If a chimney went up when the washing was out, up would go the tenants' tempers as well.

The street bookmakers would do business under the arches leading into various blocks, with one "dogging" out (looking out) for the police while Mr and Mrs Smith would be putting their tanner each-way on the hoped-for winner.

It was amusing to see the lengths they would go to in those days to get a bet on. Of course street bookmaking was illegal. It would be as though some clandestine motive was afoot as they made their way to the man in the large stetson hat to stake their fortune. They would then wait patiently around for the next edition of the newspapers and look hungrily down the back column for the latest results.

Sometimes a small crowd would assemble at the Half Moon public house at the top of the street where a lady in a large flowered apron would be taking the money as fast as she could the moment the papers were delivered to her. Betting was a way of life for some.

The alleys and entrances made it easy for the police to approach from any angle, so while the "Bookie" was taking money, or paying out, his eyes were constantly looking over his customers' heads in case of a surprise visitor. A constant feeling of nervousness was in the air.

In those days, there did seem

to be more reason to gamble. The street bookmakers did a good trade, especially if boots or shoes were needed urgently for a child. People realised that their small investment it would hardly alter their lives even if they won. But in some cases a small win would save a great deal of worry.

For some, gambling was a habit, and would govern the amount of alcohol that would be consumed during the week. Those that did drink in many cases were simply trying to escape the worry of just getting from day to day. In some cases it governed if a meal would get to the table. Many family rows came from this and shouting, crying and slammed doors were far from uncommon.

During this time families would gather together much more than they do today: grandparents, aunts and uncles would join together for celebrations at Christmas and New Year. Food would be a joint venture. Drink would in most instances be brown ale, or bitter, and may be whisky or gin. Most other drinks were unheard of. Family singsongs round the piano could be heard from many homes. Some parties would go on all night, and probably continue again after a dozy day into the next evening.

I can remember on one occasion a long line doing the hokey cokey outside my brothers' and sisters' houses, and stopping at the no 30 bus stop at St Paul's Road on one New Year's night.

Some of these family parties continued in the same vein year in and year out, family members having "their own number" (song or monologue) which would be repeated at each party. ■

All text and photographs from *Only Bricks and Mortar* by Harry Walters

This book paints a memorable picture of lives before, during and after the war, with vivid descriptions of the blitz. It also describes the filming of *Cathy Come Home* at the Cottages and their demolition in 1978.

Only Bricks and Mortar costs £7.99 + £1.15 p&p from the Islington Archaeology & History Society. Order form on page 24.

Publications and bookshop

Not much beats curling up with a book on a cold winter's evening, so we bring you four pages of publications

Angus McBean in Islington

Edited by Mary Cosh, foreword by Angus McBean
These pictures, taken by leading theatrical photographer Angus McBean, show how the borough looked in the early 1960s.

Well-known and unusual places, including houses, interiors, cinemas, music halls, churches, squares and terraces are shown.

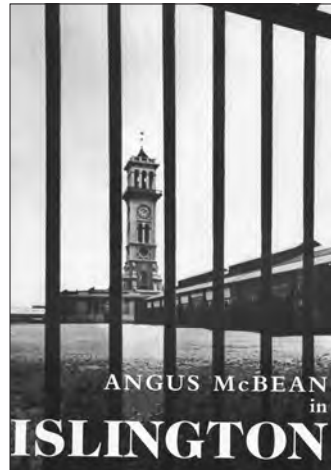
An imposing yet ornate 1870 entrance, topped by a lion and unicorn, leads to a vinegar factory. Light was by gas lamps and transport by trolley bus.

Angus McBean lived in Islington for 15 years, first in Gibson Square then in Colebrooke Row.

He was the official photographer for Sadler's

Wells and the Old Vic theatre, and photographed stars including Ivor Novello, Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh.

£4.50 + 60p p&p, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society (order form and more IAHS publications overleaf)



Vacant Historic Buildings. An Owner's Guide to Temporary Uses, Maintenance and Mothballing

This aims to help owners to reduce the risks facing empty buildings through



precautionary measures and active management.

It applies to all types of heritage buildings, protected or not. It explains what to do when a building is about to be vacated, and how to look after those that have been vacant for some time.

The guide argues that owners will benefit by maintaining their buildings' value and increasing the chances of bringing them back into permanent use.

Stopping The Rot. A Guide To Enforcement Action To Save Historic Buildings

Owners of listed buildings are under no statutory obligation to maintain their

The Building That Lived Twice

Alec Forshaw

This book tells the story of how the Royal Agricultural Hall went from a major exhibition venue to dereliction to a major conference and trade centre.

The book contains wonderful historical photographs and bills advertising events from the Aggie's early days. As well as Smithfield livestock shows, it was host to balls, sporting events, horse and dog shows (including Cruft's), circuses and all manner of trade shows.

In the 1970s, the Victorian hall was neglected and facing demolition. Local campaigners demanded that the building should be saved. It was rescued by local shopfitter Sam Morris who turned it into a centre that now attracts half a millions visitors a year.

Clearly appreciating



Victorian wonder, author Alec Forshaw describes how the main hall "resembled one of the great railway termini, with five rows of cattle stalls replacing the lines of trains, and with pedestrians thronging the platforms in between".

A planner with Islington council at the time, Mr Forshaw went on to become its conservation officer.

The book marks the Business Design Centre's 25th anniversary. *£20, published by The Business Design Centre, book@businessdesigncentre.co.uk*



preserve historic buildings.

It provides step-by-step advice on the main procedures and includes case studies, specimen letters, notices, schedules and agreements that local authorities can use.

While aimed at local authorities, this guidance could help societies in discussion over neglected buildings with councils.

properties in good repair. Local authorities can, however, act to secure repair when a building is being allowed to deteriorate.

This guide sets out tools that councils can use to help

Both these documents can be downloaded free from English Heritage's website at english-heritage.org.uk. For different formats, tel: 01793 414878, fax: 01793 414926 or email: customers@english-heritage.org.uk

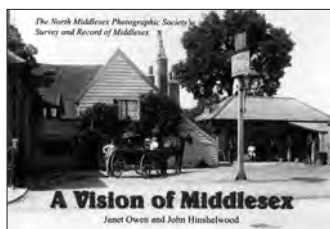
A Vision of Middlesex

Janet Owen and John Hinshelwood

Recognise this inn? This is how the Archway Tavern looked in 1873, with a double-decker, horse-drawn bus about to head off to Holloway.

The photograph is one of 120 taken in the 19th and early 20th centuries for the North Middlesex Photographic Society's survey and record of Middlesex in a book published to mark the 40th anniversary of Hornsey Historical Society.

Long-vanished scenes show Crouch End, Edmonton, Enfield,



Hampstead, Highgate, Hornsey, Palmers Green, Stroud Green, Tottenham, and Wood Green. Churches, fine houses and cottages all feature.

Alexandra Palace is instantly recognisable – even after a fire – but the field on which a stocky

horse grazes has long since disappeared under houses.

Information about the locations as well as the photographers are provided. So we know the picture above was taken by AG Lawson, the names of the roads that met here, and that Archway became the

terminus of several routes perhaps because drivers, other transport workers and horses would have been able to stop there to eat and drink.

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

St Pancras Burial Ground: excavations for St Pancras International, the London terminus of High Speed 1, 2002–3

Phillip A Emery and Kevin Wooldridge

This volume describes the results of archaeological investigations at St Pancras burial ground in 2002-03 during the construction of St Pancras International.

Analysis has revealed the type of people who lived there, their social and religious backgrounds, and funerary practice.

Human bones, wooden coffins and metal fittings were exceptionally well preserved, with burial clothes, textile coffin linings and covers, and even floral tributes surviving. The survival of legible coffin plates has allowed many burials to be matched to documents.

An accompanying CD



includes specialist data and catalogues as well as tables and figures.

We intend to run more on this research in a future issue. *£27.95, 225pp + CD, published by Gifford, hardback, available from the Museum of London Archaeology (see Directory, page 29) and Oxbow Books, 10 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford, OX1 2EW, tel: 01865 241249, www.oxbowbooks.com*

Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios

Chris Draper

This book tells the story of Islington's film and cinema industry. Every cinema is pictured, with details of opening dates, what was being shown and ticket prices at the time.

The guide runs from cinemas in shops – such as the one in a terraced house next to the Finsbury Park Astoria – to grand picture palaces and the first cinema in a train. Cinema events described include a “phantoscopical exhibition”.

Advertisements for cinema equipment and staff uniforms are reproduced.

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

Another star is the Gaumont – now the Holloway Odeon – with images of its Wurlitzer,

projection room and auditorium before and after war damage. For its opening night in 1938, broadcast by the BBC via its tower, 2s 6d tickets were changing hands for 15s and £1.

On a happy note, the Savoy on Holloway Road, vacant when this book came out, is now the Coronet pub, and retains its cinema feel.

£5 + £1.20 p&p, published by London Borough of Islington, available from the IAHS





The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish

Mary Cosh

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

This area covered is the old village of Islington with adjoining areas of Highbury, Canonbury, Barnsbury and the Clothworkers' estate. The book is illustrated with historical pictures and maps. £7.50 + £1.20 p&p, published by the IAHS

Britain in Old Photographs: Islington Islington: the Second Selection

Gavin Smith

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

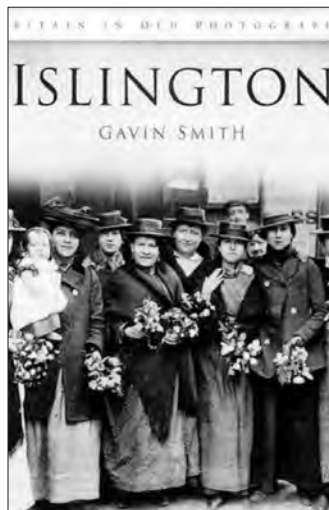
The first collection begins in the 1860s and 1870s.

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

The second collection shows changes over the past century in transport, architecture and industry, from the introduction of street lamps to the

appearance of fashionable shops on Holloway Road and the replacement of horse trams with electric trams.

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



Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

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

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

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

For trade orders, call for information and rates

53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

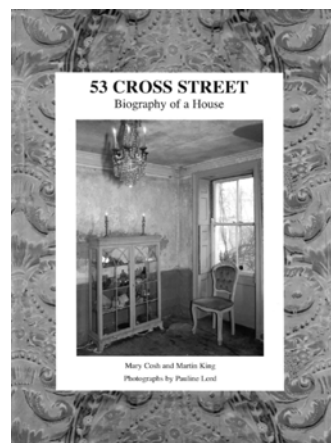
Mary Cosh and Martin King, photographs by Pauline Lord

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

Martin King, who moved here in 1990, uncovered many original features, including paintwork of 1785.

By the time he left Cross Street, he had a remarkably complete record of the decor of the house from its building date onwards.

A must for anyone interested in historic decor. £20 + £1.75 p&p, hardback, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society



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

Edited by Keith Sugden

Rookeries were criminal ghettos, the backdrop to the murder, theft and radical activism, with dense escape routes where no policeman would follow.

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

£5 + £1.15 p&p, published by the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

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Total cost	

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

The Lovers of Pound Hill

Mavis Cheek

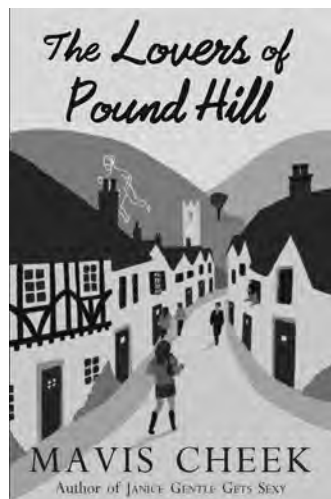
Archaeology has been made the stuff of popular comic fiction by best-selling author Mavis Cheek.

With her long boots and frothy pink skirt, the charismatic young Molly Bonner is far from the public perception of archaeologists.

She turns up at the sleepy country village of Lufferton Boney, determined to discover the truth about a slightly obscene figure called the Gnome cut into a nearby hill. No one knows the origins of the figure with his all-too-obvious appendage – he is assumed to be fertility figure, much to at least one character's distress.

Ms Bonner's arrival and mysterious work has an enormous effect on the cast of village characters. With a light and thoughtful touch, this is a true village satire.

A lot of research is deftly woven in. The author talked



to archaeologists and visited sites, telling her local paper this was "one of the nicest ways to write a book I know".

This makes the book satisfying on an intellectual level as well as being highly entertaining.

The unveiling of the archaeological finding is made as gripping as the stories of the villagers with a mythical figure on their doorsteps.

£12.99, Hutchinson London

Under the Wires at Tally Ho

David Berguer

The title of this book is very apt, as can be seen by the photograph below taken at Nag's Head in Holloway.

This book looks at the effect of transport on a north London suburb in the 20th century, examined from the point of view of residents and transport staff. It and will appeal to anyone interested in social history.

The introduction of electric trams in 1905 had a dramatic effect on people's lives: cheap, regular and frequent

services not only made travelling to work easier but also opened up the countryside to Londoners.

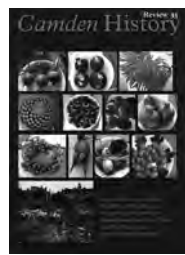
The rapid growth and decline of pirate bus operators which added colour and excitement to the streets of London – an important but often forgotten aspect of transport in the 1920s – is considered.

Trams were replaced by trolleybuses in the late 1930s, which were quieter and faster. They, in turn, became obsolete and vanished in 1962.

Eight comprehensive appendices give details of the vehicles and their routes.

The book, written by the

Camden History Review 35

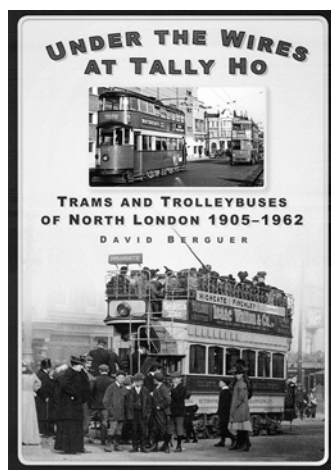


This review looks at why Queen's Square attracted hospitals in the 19th

century, early 18th century religious controversy, Vivienne Haigh-Wood (Mrs TS Eliot), actor John Pritt Harley, the Cumberland Basin allotments – exhibits from its show adorn the cover – and John Sporni, mayor of St Pancras 1937–38.

Sporni, a fascist sympathiser, is mentioned in *Little Italy* (right) for being interned within a few years of being mayor. The review draws on his MI5 records, examines his internment in the light of government policy and gives an insight into Sporni as both man and politician.

£5.95 + £1 p&p, Camden History Society, www.camdenhistorysociety.org



chairman of Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, contains over 90 photographs (not his one on the left, though) and illustrations, many not published before.

£12.99, 127pp, The History Press, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 2QG, www.thehistorypress.co.uk, or from www.amazon.co.uk

Little Italy. The Story of London's Italian Quarter



Tudor Allen
So many Italians lived between Holborn, Farringdon Road and

Gray's Inn Road in the 19th century that the area was called Little Italy.

This publication tells tales of "ice cream, organ grinders and monkeys, hokey-pokey men [ice cream sellers], murder, gangsters and spectacular processions". Call for price, published by Camden Local Studies and Archive Centre

The London Dog from the Romans to Today

The London Cat. Its Lives & Times

The London Cat II

James Dowsing

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

The two *London Cat* booklets show how London and cat history have long been intertwined – paw prints can be seen in roof tiles of the Museum of London.

Cats are everywhere – on the London Underground and in theatres. There are wartime cats, stylish cats, cathedral cats, political cats and, yes, Islington cats.

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

London Cat I: £3.50 +

60p p&p;

London Cat II:

£4.50 +

60p p&p;

London Dog:

£3.50 +

60p p&p.

Sunrise Press



What's on

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

Sunday 11 December

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum Open Day

11am-4pm, free, Markfield Road, N15 4RB, 01707 873628, info@mbeam.org, www.mbeam.org

Tuesday 13 December

Organic Matter, Meteorites and Life in the Solar System

Talk by Professor Mark Sephton, Imperial College. 7.30pm, The Parlour, St Margaret's United Reform Church, Victoria Avenue, N3. Amateur Geological Society

Tuesday 13 December

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's First Project

Talk by Robert Hulse. 7.30pm, £3, Northaw Village Hall, EN6 4NW. Cuffley Industrial Heritage Society, www.cihs.org.uk

Tuesday 13 December 2011

Thomas Layton's Artificial Curiosities: Oceanic Collections of an "Old World Type"

Talk by Glynn Davis, Museum of London, and Catherine Elliott, British Museum. 6.30pm, Museum of London. Organised by London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, lamas.org.uk

Wednesday 14 December

Alexandra Park, Past and Present

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

Wednesday 14 December

A Medieval Christmas Tale

Event on life in Medieval London. 2-3pm, free, London Metropolitan Archives, book on 020 7332 3820, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

Wednesday 14 December

London Letters (1712-13) of Samuel Molyneux, later MP

7.00pm, £1/free, Charlie Ratchford Centre, NW1. Camden History Society, 020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Wednesday 14 December

Christmas Special: Frankincense, Myrrh, Holly and Ivy In Medicine and Folklore

Talk by Julie Wakefield. 7.45pm, £1.50, Time & Talents Centre, The Old Mortuary, St Mary Church Street, SE16. Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Group

Thursday 15 December

Roman Fort Visit

Tour of underground remains. 2-2.30pm and 3-3.30pm, free, Museum of London, 020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/events

Saturday 17 December

Victorian Parlour Musician

1-5pm, Keats House 020 7332 3868, www.keats.house.cityoflondon.gov.uk

Monday 19 December

Way out West – West London in archive film

1-4pm, free, drop in, London Metropolitan Archives, 020 7332 3820, www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

2012

Thursday 5 January 2012

The Suez Canal

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

Tuesday 10 January

Merchant Taylors' Dinner from the 18th Century

Dr Anne Saunders. 8pm, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon and District Archaeological Society, 020 8449 7076, hadas.org.uk

Wednesday 11 January

Images from the North Middlesex Photographic Society

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

Thursday 12 January

Victorian Sunday Schools

Talk by Chris Pond. 2.30pm, Vestry House Museum, Vestry Road, E17, Walthamstow Historical Society, walthamstowwalks@mz48.myzen.co.uk, www.walthamstowhistorical.society.org.uk

Thursday 12 January

How Britain Dug for Victory in the Second World War

Talk by Dan Smith. 7.30pm, Latimer Church Hall, Ernest Street, E1. East London History Society, 020 8980 5672, www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Saturday 14 January

Walking the Roman Wall

£10/£8/£6, Museum of London, 020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/events

Sunday 15 January

Writers and Artists in Islington

Walk led by Clerkenwell & Islington Guides Association. £6/£5, meet 11am, Angel tube, www.ciga.org.uk

Tuesday 17 January 2012

Navigating Hidden London

Talk by Matt Brown, Londonist editor, and David Long, author of *Hidden City: The Secret Alleys, Courts and Yards of London's Square Mile*. 6.30pm-8pm, £8/£6, London Transport Museum, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Tuesday 17 January 2012

Mapping Roman London: from Site Context to Town Plan

Talk by Julian Hill, Museum

Research course

Starts Wednesday 11 January (10 weeks)

Mysteries of London: Researching the Metropolitan Past

Research and analyse original documents and objects from the Museum of London, the Guildhall Library and the London Metropolitan Archive £90/£15, Museum of London; to book, call 020 7608 2753

of London Archaeology.
6.30pm, Museum of
London. Organised by
London and Middlesex
Archaeological Society,
lamas.org.uk

Wednesday 19 January
**The Garrett Ladies of
Gower Street, Designers**
Talk by Elizabeth Crawford.
7.30pm, £1/free, Camden
History Society, 020 7586
4436, www.camden
historysociety.org

Friday 20 January
Roman Fort Visit
Tour of underground remains.
2-2.30pm and 3-3.30pm, free,
Museum of London, 020
7001 9844, www.museum
oflondon.org.uk/events

Monday 23 January
Dickens on Screen
How Dickens' words became
film. Event held with the BBC.
£6/£4/£3, Museum of
London, 020 7001 9844,
www.museumoflondon.org.
uk/events

Wednesday 25 January
Meet the Expert
Rose Briskman, conservation
for Dickens and London.
Free, Museum of London,
020 7001 9844, www.museum
oflondon.org.uk/events

Wednesday 25 January
The History of Numbers
Talk by Dr Stan Gilks
7.45pm, £2, St John's Church
Hall, Friern Barnet Lane,
Friern Barnet & District Local
History Society, 020 8368 8314,
friernbarnethistory.org.uk

Thursday 2 February
**An Evening of Old
Waterway Videos**
With David Tucker
7.30pm, £4 (+ concessions),
London Canal Museum
020 7713 0836, www.
canalmuseum.org.uk

Wednesday 8 February
**From Mean Streets to
Epping Forest**



It shows all the surviving doctored book covers, as well as
other material reflecting their lives and work.

Islington Museum, 245 John Street, London EC1V 4NB
020 7527 2837, islington.museum@islington.gov.uk

See talks listed here on 9 February and news, page 5

Malicious Damage: the Life and Crimes of Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell in Islington

Until Saturday 21 January, free

This exhibition tells the
story of the creative and
mischievous talents of
playwright Joe Orton and
his partner Kenneth
Halliwell when they lived in
Islington. For the first time,



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

Thursday 9 February 2012,
Connecting Conversations
John Lahr, author of *Prick Up
Your Ears: the Biography of Joe
Orton* talks to Don Campbell.
7-8.30pm, £8/4, Islington
Museum

Thursday 9 February
**By Horse and Trap around
Leyton and Leytonstone**
Talk by David Boote.
7.30pm, Trinity United
Reformed Church hall,
58 Orford Road, E17 9QU.
Walthamstow Historical
Society, walthamstowwalks
@mz48.myzen.co.uk, www.
walthamstowhistorical
society.org.uk

Tuesday 14 February
**The Medieval Cellars of
Winchelsea**
Dr Richard Comotto
8pm, Avenue House, 17 East
End Road, N3 8QE, Hendon
and District Archaeological
Society, 020 8449 7076,
hadas.org.uk

Thursday 16 February
**The Reconstruction of the
Stepney Area in the Post
Second World War Period**
Talk by Samantha L Bird.
7.30pm, Latimer Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1. East
London History Society,
020 8980 5672, www.
eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Wednesday 16 February
**Charles Dickens and the
Cleveland Street Workhouse**
Talk by Ruth Richardson
7.30pm, £1/free. Camden
History Society, 020 7586
4436, www.camdenhistory
society.org

Wednesday 22 February
The Arts Depot
Talk by Keith Martin
7.45pm, £2, St John's
Church Hall, Friern Barnet
Lane. Friern Barnet &
District Local History
Society, 020 8368 8314,
friernbarnethistory.org.uk

Tuesday 28 February
**Reconstructing Nonsuch:
Evidence, Elevations, and a
Model**
Professor Martin Biddle,
Hertford College, Oxford.
6.30pm, Museum of
London. London and

Middlesex Archaeological
Society, lamas.org.uk

1 March 2012
**Highlights of 26 years of
Kingdom Tours WW Cruises**
Talk by Brian and Velma
Kirtton.
7.30pm, £4/concessions,
London Canal Museum,
020 7713 0836, www.
canalmuseum.org.uk

Thursday 1 March
**Stepney Green Since the
Great Fire**
Talk by Isobel Watson.
7.30pm, Latimer Church
Hall, Ernest Street, E1,
East London History Society,
020 8980 5672, www.
eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Thursday 8 March
**The Lea Valley before the
Romans**
Talk by Ian Heritage.
7.30pm, Trinity United
Reformed Church hall, 58
Orford Road, London E17
9QU, Walthamstow
Historical Society,
walthamstowwalks@mz48.
myzen.co.uk, www.waltham
stowhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Tuesday 13 March
It's All in the Bones

Talk by Jelena Bekvalac.
8pm, Avenue House, 17 East
End Road, N3 8QE. Hendon
and District Archaeological
Society, 020 8449 7076,
hadas.org.uk

Wednesday 14 March

A New Story of Hornsey

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

13 March 2012

Jimmy Garlick, the Mummified Man of St James Garlickhythe

Talk by Ellis Charles Pike,
honorary verger of St James
Garlickhythe.
6.30pm, Museum of
London. London and
Middlesex Archaeological
Society, lamas.org.uk

Wednesday 15 March

The History and Significance of the Mary Ward Settlement

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

Regular events

Friday 16 December, 6, 13, 20
and 27 January; and Saturday
17 December and 21 January

Behind the scenes at the Archaeological Archive

Tours and object handling at
London Archaeological
Archive and Research Centre
at Mortimer Wheeler House.
11am and 2pm, £5, book in
advance on 020 7001 9844,
www.museumoflondon.org.
uk/events

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and
Saturdays (check for dates)

Historic Almshouse open

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



Exhibitions

Until 23 December

Mapping the London Blitz

Free, London Metropolitan
Archives, 020 7332 3820,
www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma

Until 31 December

Separation and Silence: Wandsworth Prison

Exhibition on prison's history.
£3/£2. Wandsworth Museum,
wandsworthmuseum.co.uk

Until 8 January 2012

Hokusai's Great Wave

A rare chance to see the
British Museum's
impression of c1831 print by
Katsushika Hokusai, above.
Free, British Museum,
020 7323 8299, www.
britishmuseum.org

Until 22 January 2012

Building the Revolution: Soviet Art and Architecture

Russian avant-garde

architecture c1922-1935.
Royal Academy of Arts, 020
7300 8000, royalacademy.
org.uk

Until 29 January 2012

William Morris: Story, Memory, Myth

Two Temple Place.
020 7836 3715, info@
twotempleplace.org

Until 5 February

Your 2012

Photographs the Olympic
Park site development.
Free, Museum of London

Until 10 June

Dickens and London

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

Archizines

Until Wednesday
14 December, free

Archizines showcases 60
magazines, fanzines and
journals from around the
globe that offer an
alternative to the
mainstream architectural
press. If they have common
aims, these are to bring
comment and criticism into
everyday life, and wave the
flag for print in a digital age.

Nothing here is under
glass. Pick a favourite, take
a stool, and enjoy.

The creators of *Criticat*
(Paris) say that to critique
architecture is to review "the
world that builds it".

Islington appears twice in
the *Modernist* (Manchester).
William Mitchell, a former
Tomorrow's World presenter
who created the great doors
of Liverpool Metropolitan

Cathedral and the eye-
popping Egyptian Hall at
Harrods, painted a mural for
Islington Green School that
was listed in 2008. Finsbury
Health Centre is praised for
embodying the 1930s
attention to "clean air,
abundant light, logic,
function [and] modernity".

The gloriously titled *Evil
People in Modernist Homes
in Popular Films* looks at the
association of evil characters
and events with modern
buildings and, generally,
on the relationship between
cinema and architecture.

Many publications look
ahead. *Kerb19* (Melbourne)
sees the city developing
through biotechnology into
an interactive organism.
Too Much (Tokyo) focuses,
understandably, on
"relocating, shelter-building
and [...] new ideal cities".

Print is celebrated in a
variety of forms and styles.

Preston Is My Paris uses
newsprint to be accessible
and affordable. It celebrates
Preston Bus Station with
photographs that take as
much interest in the people
passing through as in the
architecture.

For one editor, print is all
about escaping the "tyranny
of the present" while
another says: "You can't
keep and treasure a blog."

Review by Ben Porter

Architectural Association School of Architecture, 36 Bedford Square, WC1B 3ES

10am-7pm Monday-Friday,
9am-5pm Saturday, 020 7887
4000, www.aaschool.ac.uk,
www.archizines.
com

Film baddies live
in modernist
homes – one
publication
examines why



Directory

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

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

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

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

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
www.crht1837.org

Camley Street Natural Park
NW1 0PW, 020 7833 2311

The Canonbury Society
www.canonburysociety.org.uk

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

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

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

The Clockmakers' Museum
www.clockmakers.org/museum-and-library

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

East London History Society
www.eastlondonhistory.org.uk

EC1 History
www.ec1history.co.uk

Forest Hill Society
www.foresthillsociety.com

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

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

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

Freud Museum
020 7435 2002,
www.freud.org.uk

Friends of Friendless Churches
www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Heritage of London Trust
0207 730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

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

The Horniman Museum
100 London Road, SE23 3PQ, free, 020 8699 1872,
enquiry@horniman.ac.uk

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

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

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

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

Islington Local History Centre
Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB. 9.30am-8pm Monday and Thursday (shuts 6pm every other Monday); 9.30am-5pm Tues, Friday and Saturday; closed Wednesday and Sunday; closed 1pm-2pm; 020 7527 7988; local. history@islington.gov.uk

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

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

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

Keats House

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

Kew Bridge Steam Museum

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

Labour and Wait Brush Museum

Small museum in hardware store, 85 Redchurch Street, E2. www.labourandwait.co.uk

The Charles Lamb Society

28 Grove Lane, SE6 8ST

London Canal Museum

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

London Metropolitan Archives

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

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

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

The London Museums of Health & Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Socialist Historians Group

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

The London Society

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

London Transport Museum

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

London Transport Museum Friends

www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

Markfield Beam Engine

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

Mausolea & Monuments Trust

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

Marx Memorial Library

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

The Museum of Brands

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

Museum of London

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

Museum of London Archaeology

Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1 7ED, 020 7410 2200, www.museumoflondon-archaeology.org.uk

Museum of London Docklands

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

Museum of the Order of St John

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

The Musical Museum

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

The National Archives,

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

The National Piers Society

www.piers.org.uk

Newington Green Action Group

020 7359 6027, www.newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group

24 Lavender Road, EN2 0ST, 020 8363 7187

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

University College London, Malet Place, WC1 7JG, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie

The Peckham Society

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

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

www.rcts.org.uk

Ragged School Museum

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

Rescue – the British Archaeological Trust

www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

The Smithfield Trust

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

Sir John Soane's Museum

13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, www.soane.org

Spencer House

27 St James's Place SW1, 020 7499 8620, www.spencerhouse.co.uk

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society (SLAS)

79 Ashridge Crescent, SE18

Sutton House

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

Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society

info@rbhistory.org.uk

Royal Archaeological Institute

Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 0BE, admin@royalarchinst.org

The Streatham Society

www.streathamsociety.org.uk

Thames Discovery Programme

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

Tottenham Civic Society

www.tottenhamcivicsociety.org.uk

The Transport Trust

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

Two Temple Place

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

Union Chapel: Friends of the Union Chapel

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

V&A Museum of Childhood

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

The Victorian Society

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

The Wallace Collection

Hertford House, Manchester Square, W1M 6BN, free, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Walthamstow Historical Society

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

Wandsworth Museum

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

Wellcome Collection

183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE, 020 7611 2222

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism

49 City Road, EC1, free, www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm

Events

Wednesday 14 December 2011

Scotland Yard's first cases

Joan Lock

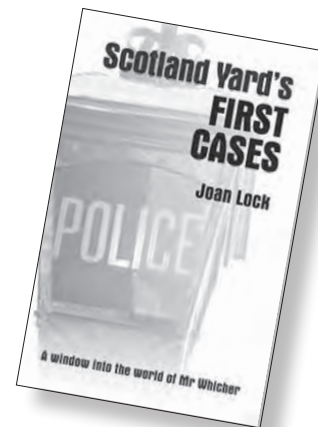
8pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1

Joan Lock, a former police officer, will be talking about her new book, *Scotland Yard's First Cases*, which is due out at the end of November. She is the author of 11 non-fiction police/crime books, including *Dreadful Deeds and Awful Murders: Scotland Yard's First Detectives 1829-1878* and books on the history of British women police officers, a subject on which she is an authority. She has also written radio plays.

When Scotland Yard's first detective branch was set up in 1842, the favoured murder weapon was the cut-throat razor. Large households, with servants and lodgers as well as families, complicated many a case.

As far as forensic detection was concerned, there was no way of telling if blood or hair came from a person or an animal, and photography was too new to help with identification. Fingerprinting was 50 years away and DNA profiling another 100 after that.

Joan Lock's book includes classic cases such as the First Railway Murder, and weaves in developments like the electric telegraph against a background of authentic Victorian police procedure.



Wednesday 18 January 2012

My Family on the Western Front

Doug Kirby

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

William Warby, Doug Kirby's great-uncle, was born and bred in Islington. He enlisted into a territorial battalion, training at Richmond Park and East Sheen before arriving in France in June 1916.

Drawing on several years' research, this talk on William Warby and his involvement in the Great War draws on information from the battalion war diaries, photographs and primary source evidence kept by the family for many years.

Doug Kirby will also discuss how he carried out the research.

Final details for meetings for 15 February and 21 March are being firmed up – please check the society's website at www.iahs.org.uk

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

The Islington
Archaeology & History
Society is looking for a

Secretary

The secretary will help with the society's organisation and smooth running, and give the chairman an occasional push where necessary.

If you are interested or would like further information, please contact chairman Andy Gardner on andy@iahs.org.uk.

www.iahs.org.uk

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society
Back page picture

The workers of Stroud Green Road about to go on a day out in the 1940s. See page 20

