

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 4 No 4 Winter 2014-15



Looking like the prow of a ship...

The rediscovery of Highbury Pantechnicon

Holloway's medieval moat found ● Different lives at Balfour ● Map shows homes of those who died in First World War
● New River charter ● The synagogue for early immigrants ● Battle bus at the Busworks ● The Islington priest and
the Calcutta cathedral ● A breakfast shock for a dignitary ● Books and events ● Your local history questions answered

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What we do: talks, walks and more

The Islington Archaeology & History Society is here to investigate, learn and celebrate the heritage that is left to us.

We organise lectures, tours and visits, and publish this quarterly journal. We hold 10 meetings a year, usually at Islington town hall.

The society was set up in 1975 and is run entirely by volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, please contact our chairman Andrew Gardner (details left).

www.islingtonhistory.org.uk



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Journal back issues and extra copies



Journal distribution is overseen by Catherine Brighty (details left).

Contact her for more copies, back issues, if you move house and about membership. Back issues can also be downloaded via our website at www.islingtonhistory.org.uk

Contribute to this journal: stories and pictures sought

We welcome articles on local history, as well as your research, memories and old photographs.

A one-page article needs about 500 words, and the maximum article length is 1,000 words. We like receiving pictures to go with articles, but please check that we can reproduce them without infringing anyone's copyright.

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

Deadline for the spring issue is 31 January.

Ever wondered...?

Do you have any queries about Islington's history, streets or buildings? Send them in for our tireless researcher Michael Reading and other readers to answer. Please note we do not keep an archive or carry out family research.

● See Letters, page 6

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Contact editor Christy Lawrance about articles and pictures for the journal (details left).

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Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 4 No 4 Winter 2014-15

Hidden treasures on the doorstep

There have long been stories about a medieval moated manor house roughly where the Holloway Odeon is now. Until now, however, there has been no evidence showing its exact location. A 19th century map refers to a Roman camp – could this actually mark the manor? After all, a medieval settlement was nearby.

This year, two archaeological exercises identified remains of the moat and mapped their findings against an old map, with striking results.

The society's researcher, Michael Reading, was impressed by a picture of a building called "Highbury Pantechnicon", labelled "Date and location unknown" and set out to find out what and where it was. He started by dating the image from the traffic – all horse drawn – then trawled through business directories and old maps. He not only discovered what the Pantechnicon was but also found it, still standing and recognisable.

Curious people who have neither the skills nor the equipment – a 20-ton machine was used at Holloway – can still find hidden treasures. We need to know where to look, so come to our meeting on 21 January for some advice.

Project brings war reality home

Many of you will have seen the Streets They Left Behind signs around Islington, commemorating local people who died in the First World War. Information on these people is now available on a map that can be searched online. The society has strongly supported this project as it draws attention to the servicemen and their families – and therefore the real impact of the war – in the boroughs of Islington and Finsbury.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

Garden Bridge would be rejected if 'private'

The Garden Bridge should be approved despite causing "significant harm" to views because it is open to the public, Westminster City Council planners have said. Their report said the bridge would be a "popular visitor attraction that will enhance Westminster's World City function" but added that if it was a private scheme "of this height and size, the harm to these views would be considered unacceptable and the application refused. However, this proposal is for a public facility, or at least one that will be open to the public for the majority of the time."

EH consults on historic pottery production sites English Heritage is consulting on guidance for historic pottery production sites in England from about 6,000 years ago to the recent past. This free publication will focus on vessel production, but some of its information will be relevant to other types of ceramic production site. Consultation is open until 28 December 2014.

● www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/guidelines-and-standards/consultations/

Churchill funeral train restored for exhibition

Sir Winston Churchill's funeral train has been restored. The South Railway van S2464S, built in 1931, was used during evacuations in the Second World War as well as for transporting goods such as vegetables and newspapers. It will go on show at the Churchill's Final Journey display at the National Railway Museum in York next year.

Maps shows homes of WW1 casualties

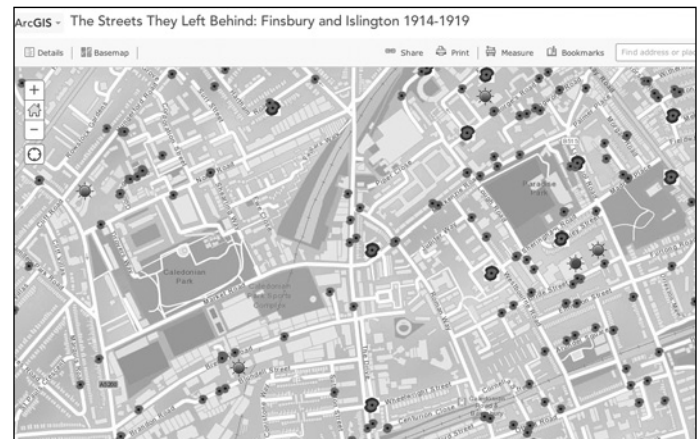
An interactive map commemorating Islington people who died in the First World War has been put online.

More than 9,000 people with Islington connections lost their lives in the First World War. This online resource shows where they lived.

The Streets They Left Behind: Finsbury and Islington 1914-18 project saw plaques being installed on Islington streets to commemorate all those who died in the war.

The Streets They Left Behind mapping project focuses on the streets where these men lived; the home of each man is marked on the map with a poppy.

The map project draws on the Islington Book of Remembrance database, which collected the names of all casualties of conflict (military and civilian) from the 20th century up to the 1950s. It focuses on First World War casualties and places them on an online map



Each poppy on the map marks the home of someone who died in the First World War

by their last known address.

The poppies are scattered around the world, because the map includes people born in Islington who moved elsewhere.

The map is interactive and you can search for people by name, address, service number, rank, regiment, grave reference and other information.

Residence details for 4,300 people have been collected. As it is an ongoing project, council heritage officers

would welcome help to locate other people.

● Information on the Streets They Left Behind map and Islington's First World War commemorations can be accessed via www.islington.gov.uk/ww1centenary

● If you would like to help us trace addresses and other details for people not yet on the map, contact John Shepherd, WW1 project officer, at john.shepherd@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 2837.

Caroline Chisholm memorial restored



The gravestone of Caroline and Archibald Chisholm is back in place at the Billing Road Cemetery in Northampton following restoration.

Caroline Chisholm was known in the mid-19th century as the "emigrants' friend" for improving living and transport conditions for people emigrating from Britain to Australia.

In Islington, there is a blue plaque at the Chisholms' former home at Charlton Place, off Upper Street, then called Charlton Crescent.

Mrs Chisholm held meetings here and elsewhere

giving practical advice to emigrants; these talks could attract over 2,000 people. The basement of the house was fitted out as steerage accommodation.

At 3 Charlton Crescent, Mrs Chisholm also founded the Family Colonisation Loan Society, which lent emigrants half the cost of the fare.

She campaigned successfully for better conditions on board emigrant ships; her insistence that the Family Colonisation Loan Society's ships had better accommodation led to the Passenger Acts being strengthened.

Islington Museum seeks volunteers

Islington Museum is looking for volunteers to help at the museum, including with front of house and research work. The museum would like a commitment of at least six months, with a minimum of one 3.5 hour session per week.

- Information and application forms can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/pab8vmr>

Railway structures listed before works take place

Thirty railway structures along the Midland Main Line have been listed following assessment before engineering work is carried out by Network Rail over the next few years. The work requires electric cables to be placed overhead or under lines, which can lead to the alteration, rebuilding or demolition of bridges, viaducts and tunnels. Nine hundred structures were assessed.

Europe gets its first listed skatepark

A purpose-built skatepark – the Rom in Hornchurch – has been listed. One of the most elaborate and complete examples of a purpose-built skatepark, it was designed by Adrian Rolt and G-Force and opened in 1978. This is the first skatepark to be listed in Europe, and the second skatepark to be listed in the world, the first being Bro Bowl in Tampa, Florida.



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New River charter and oath deposited at London Metropolitan Archives

The original New River Company charter and the oath of Sir Hugh Myddelton, the company's founder and first governor, has been deposited at the London Metropolitan Archives.

In 1613, the New River – an artificial waterway that brought fresh water to London – was opened. Water was brought from Chadwell and Amwell in Hertfordshire, to New River Head in Islington.

The New River Company was created by a charter granted by James I.



Above: the New River Company charter; below left: plaque on terrace near New River head with the company motto

The charter has a partially surviving seal depicting James I. The company's seal (left) shows the hand of providence bestowing rain; its motto was "et plui super unam civitatem" (and I rained upon one city).

The charter was deposited at the LMA by the Rayne Foundation and Derwent London.

As the first governor,

Myddelton swore an oath to the king. In this document, the king commands him: "You shall well and honestlie behave your selfe in the place of Governor of this company, and justlie and indifferently, shall order the matters and causes of this Company according to Right and conscience, and no singular profit to your owne person doe nor take."

Heritage is good for wellbeing

Taking part in heritage is good for happiness and wellbeing.

The *Heritage Counts* report, published in November, showed that visiting different types of historic places – such as historic towns, industrial sites, places of worship and archaeological sites – has a positive effect on life satisfaction and general wellbeing. Visits to historic towns and buildings have the greatest effect.

The effect on wellbeing was found to be equal to or better than doing other activities, including sports.

The monetary value of this was calculated as

£1,646 per person per year on average.

This research was carried out partly because there has been an increase in interest in the relationship between wellbeing and culture.

As well as this research, this year's *Heritage Counts* looks at the most important developments in heritage over the past 12 months, and publishes data including visitor numbers.

The report is produced annually by English Heritage on behalf of the Historic Environment Forum and can be downloaded free.

● <http://hc.english-heritage.org.uk/National-Report>

Abney Park chapel on endangered list

Abney Park Cemetery Chapel in Stoke Newington, built in 1840 and listed grade II, has been named one of the Victorian Society's top 10 most endangered Victorian and Edwardian buildings.

The building is the oldest existing non-denominational chapel in Europe and William Hosking's only surviving public building. Other buildings on the list include public baths, churches, old houses, colliery and mill buildings, a war memorial, a coal exchange, a country hall and a crane.

The Victorian Society is calling for the VAT on repairs to private homes to be cut to 5% to prevent neglect.

Holloway's medieval moat found

A medieval moated manor house has long been known to have existed in Holloway. Its location has now been identified

A medieval moated manor house once stood near where Tufnell Park Road joins Holloway Road, but its exact location was unknown. During excavations of the area on Tufnell Park Road near the Odeon in 2014, archaeologists found remains of the moat and have plotted its site against old records.

The work, by Museum of London Archaeology staff, was carried out to fulfil a condition attached to planning consent given by Islington Council to redevelop the site with five- and six-storey buildings, one with a basement.

Because there was a medieval settlement at Holloway, the area is considered archaeologically sensitive. There has been little previous archaeological investigation of the site.

A field evaluation was carried out on 3-5 March and an archaeological watching brief between 11 and 21 July 2014 by MOLA. (An archaeological watching brief is usually a limited fieldwork exercise; it is not the same as full excavation, although features may be excavated fully.) The watching brief covered an area in the eastern half of the site that matched the footprint of the new basement.

The history

The exact location of the manor house, its outbuildings or its moat is not recorded. However, an early 19th-century map – Dent's parish map of Islington 1805-06 – shows a large L-shaped feature/earthwork there. This feature is annotated "Supposed remains of a Roman camp".

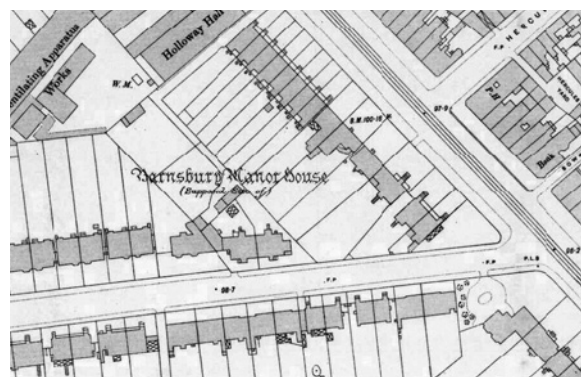
However, there is no known

evidence of a Roman camp, and there are no chance finds dated to these periods. It was not thought likely that the site would contain archaeological remains from prehistoric and Roman periods. The ground is mainly comprised of London Clay; it may have been that this heavy clay soil was less attractive to early settlers and farmers than the fertile, well-drained gravel terrace to the south.

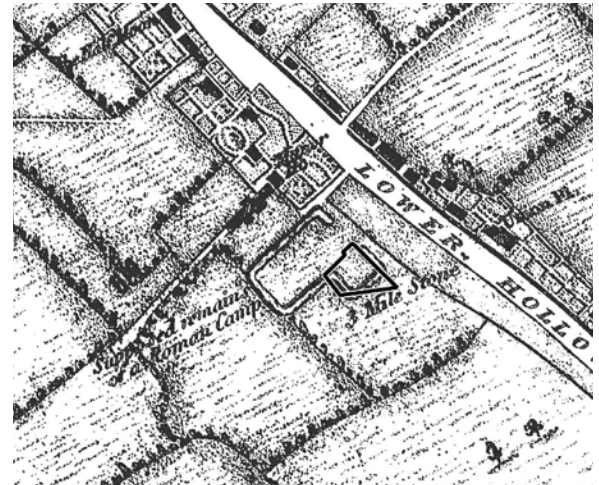
A Saxon settlement existed at Tolentone in the area of modern Tollington, and the site probably fell into the manor of Tollington. Given how close this settlement was, it is likely that features related to it might be found at the site.

The name Tolentone was in use until the 17th century. It was superseded by Holloway and the hamlet had ceased to have a separate identity by the 18th century. During the later medieval period, the area fell within the manor estate of Barnsbury.

The medieval settlement of Holloway and Holloway manor were close to the north of the site so it was possible that features associated with the manor and its defensive moat might extend into the site's area.



"Barnsbury Manor House (supposed site of)" on 1893-1896 Ordnance Survey map. Tufnell Park Road runs horizontally to join Holloway Road



The site marked on Dent's map of Islington, 1805-06: a feature is annotated "Supposed remains of a Roman Camp"

Clues in the records

A number of records show that a moated manor house existed on or near the site. Among these, the Greater London Historic Environment Records refer to a medieval house, moat, barn, stables and brew house next to the site to the east.

The L-shaped feature Dent's map – probably misidentified as a Roman remain – was possibly the medieval moat associated with the manor. Additionally, the Tithe Apportionment of 1805 shows the field just south of the feature was called "the moat" and the one adjacent to it to the east was the "moatfield".

By the mid-19th century, the area was becoming increasingly residential.

Fieldwork and watching brief

In March, three evaluation trenches were excavated. No archaeological features were found in two of the trenches.

However, two features were found in the third trench, at the north-west part of the site. One was a ditch that was probably part of the medieval moat. This was 1.60m wide, around 1.20m deep and contained grey clayey silt. Finds recovered from the it include pottery and clay tobacco pipes, which suggest it was infilled in the 18th century.

A small brick drain, 0.54m wide

and arched with a brick base, was also found. Its red bricks suggest it was built in the late 18th/early 19th century.

In July, the watching brief area was excavated. This covered an area in the eastern half of the site that matched the footprint of a new basement. Due to the size of the area to be excavated, a 20-ton machine was used.

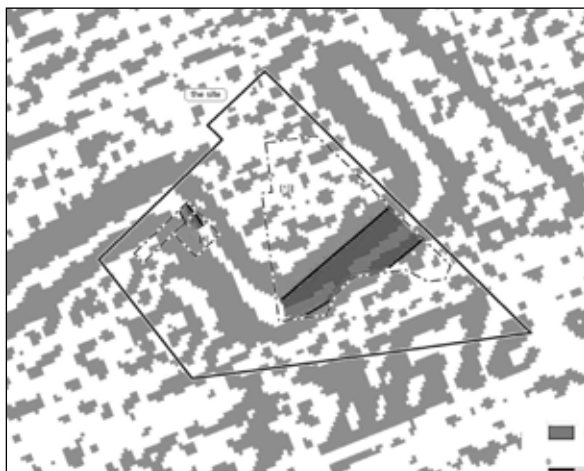
Three archaeological features were found. The earliest of these was a large ditch, which was identified as part of the moat.

The moat contained two fills. The lower fill was comprised of blue-grey clayey silt, heavily flecked with organic matter – probably from degraded reeds and other water-dwelling plants and occasionally charcoal. A fragment of pottery and two fragments of bone were retrieved from it.

This area may have housed buildings such as kitchens, separate from the main manor house. The bones dumped into the moat may well have derived from scraps left over after the butchering of a horse here.

The lower fill was earliest datable deposit, which may have begun to have been deposited in the early post-medieval period although silting may have started earlier. The moat is almost certainly centuries older and likely medieval.

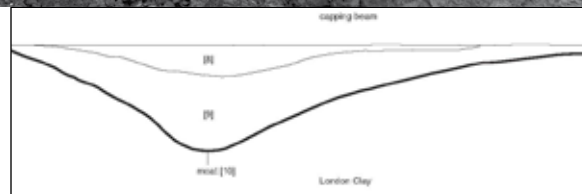
The upper fill was also a waterlogged clayey silt, but was a dirtier brownish/greenish blue



Portions of the moat excavated during the watching brief (dark area, centre) and the evaluation (smaller dark area, to the left) overlaid on Dent's map



Above: the brick drain partially excavated; the moat can be seen in the background obliquely sectioned; right: cross-section of the moat, showing upper and lower fills. Images are from the watching brief report



grey and contained a much greater number of finds, primarily brick and pottery fragments, as well as animal bone, small native oyster shells and a clay tobacco pipe stem.

Dating the moat

The earlier, lower fill probably represents a prolonged period of silting in a watery environment from the 16th or 17th century onwards (abraded pottery dating from 1480-1650 was found towards the base of the silt in the lower fill). It was probably open until the 19th century. At that time – probably during residential development at the beginning of the 19th century – the remaining depth was filled in. All of the pottery from the upper fill dates from 1580-1650, which suggests it was deliberately dumped in the moat, although intermittent dumping may well have already been taking place before the ditch was deliberately filled in.

The uppermost fill of the ditch had been truncated away, which explains the absence of 19th century material in it.

Cutting the moat was an early 19th century brick drain with a flat base two bricks thick and an arched roof. The drain was built of

very shallow-frogged brownish/purple red bricks measuring 225mm x 65mm x 105mm. The internal space of the drain was silted to the top with a totally sterile black sludge.

Modern disturbance had truncated the drain and the top and northern edges of the ditch.

The most recent feature seen was a short length of foundation, 0.6m wide, filled by a very soft loose concrete with fragments of brick. This is likely to date to the late 19th or the 20th century.

The moat was probably the boundary of a complex of buildings; however any traces of these buildings have been truncated away. The portion of moat identified during the watching brief and during the evaluation correlate well with the L-shaped feature on Dent's map. ■

The information is based on reports on the TFN14 watching brief and evaluation reports on 2, 4 and 4a Tufnell Park Road, published by the Museum of London Archaeology. The project director/manager was IAHS committee member Derek Seeley. Many thanks to MOLA for permission for using the text and images from the report.

The centre of a community

The North London Synagogue served what was probably Islington's earliest immigrant population. Petra Laidlaw looks back at an often-forgotten history



Above: the North London Synagogue's opening was covered in the *Illustrated London News*, 3 October 1868; below: the secluded Reform Jewish burial ground

The site of the North London Synagogue in Lofting Road, Barnsbury, was one of the top three candidates in 2014's competition for an Islington People's Plaque. Why – what's so special about it?

It's special because it stands for what is probably the oldest immigrant community in Islington. The Irish and the Italians started arriving in large numbers in the 19th century and Afro-Caribbeans, Asians and others in the 20th, but Jews were settling here in significant numbers well back in the 18th century.

Moving to Islington

By far the largest centre of Jewish settlement at the time was just south east of Islington, around Aldgate and Spitalfields. However, many were drifting westwards and settling in St Luke's and Clerkenwell.

An affluent few, even quite early in the 18th century, took out-of-town houses in Canonbury, Highbury and Holloway. Most of those in the southern parts, however, were humble craftsmen and traders, probably struggling to make a living.

With the centre of London becoming increasingly overcrowded towards the middle of the 19th century, and rapid development of new housing going on around the Angel, Barnsbury, Canonbury, Highbury, Holloway

and Mildmay areas, more and more Jews along with other Londoners moved into these more spacious neighbourhoods.

Islington's Jewish population was always small compared with the East End's. Yet compared to other areas, it was big, representing for most of the 18th and 19th centuries about 5% of the entire Jewish community of the British Isles. It was bigger in the mid-19th century, for example, than the Jewish populations of either Birmingham or Manchester – both reckoned to be large.

Although the Jewish community of the British Isles as a whole was nowhere as large as say, Russia's, it was certainly big by the standards of *immigrant* Jewish communities around the world. The Jewish population of London as a whole in 1850, for instance, was about one-and-a-half times the size of New York's; Islington's Jewish population was bigger than Chicago's. It deserves not to be overlooked.



Lost history

Today Islington's Jewish community tends to be forgotten, doubtless for many reasons. One, surely, is that there is now almost no physical trace of the community that was here.

There is the secluded Reform Jewish burial ground off Balls Pond Road, a sliver of original brickwork where another synagogue once stood in Poets Road and a few old shop signs here and there to stir the curious – but nothing else.

Saddest of all must be the loss of the splendid North London Synagogue in Lofting Road.

Early days

The North London Synagogue did not open until 1868, a century and a half after Jews started settling in Islington. This is because earlier on the main synagogues based in the City had rules preventing competitor synagogues from setting up nearby. Given that most of the Jews in Islington in the 18th and well into the 19th centuries lived in the south of today's borough, the great majority were within walking distance of the City and West End synagogues. They were certainly not going to be allowed to build a synagogue in, say, Clerkenwell.

By the mid-19th century, with the Jewish population in the centre and north of the borough burgeoning, demand was growing for something more local; and by then there could be little

objection from City grandees.

The embryonic congregation first held services in 1861, in rented rooms in Barnsbury Hall in Barnsbury Street. (The site is now occupied by Aria, a shop; see letters, page 6).

Soon, the Jewish congregants outgrew this accommodation and launched an appeal for a purpose-built synagogue.

An Italianate building

A plot of land was found in John Street West (now Lofting Road), the freehold of which appears to have been owned by local builder and developer George Sydney Smith Williams (c1812-84). Eminent 19th century synagogue architect Hyman Henry Collins (c1833-1905) was engaged to design the building, and the foundation stone was laid in 1864 by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild.

Islington's Jewish population once represented about 5% of the entire Jewish community of the British Isles

The Italianate style building was opened in 1868 by the chief rabbi, Nathan Marcus Adler. With the appointment of the reform-minded "forceful and lucid preacher" Morris Joseph (1848-1930) as its first minister, along with a highly regarded musician from Poland, Chaim Wasserzug (1822-82), as cantor, it quickly attracted a large congregation.

Two-thirds of the founders were immigrants – from Poland, Russia, Austria, Germany, Holland and France – but the bulk of the early congregation would have been British-born Jews, descendants of earlier immigrants.

They were mostly of Ashkenazi (north and east European) stock, but the synagogue took some trouble to attract Sephardi (Mediterranean) Jews as well. Most of them lived in Islington,

but some came from places such as Camden Town, Kentish Town and Chalk Farm.

The synagogue soon ran into difficulties, however, when proposals emerged for what looked like a rival synagogue in Dalston. Those responsible for the Barnsbury synagogue – who were still paying off loans for its construction – were doubtful that the rival would confine its catchment to Dalston if it could attract the more affluent residents of Canonbury and Highbury.

After many ructions, the Dalston project went ahead, initially renting rooms in Dalston but soon moving, as feared, across into Highbury, first in Mildmay Road, then into a purpose-built synagogue in Poets Road. Around this time, the size of the congregation at Barnsbury dipped but, within a decade, it had recovered.

From capacity to decline

Both drew congregants from Canonbury and Highbury, with Poets Road also drawing many

from Dalston and Stoke Newington. With the Jewish population of Islington still growing, both synagogues were able to operate at capacity for many years.

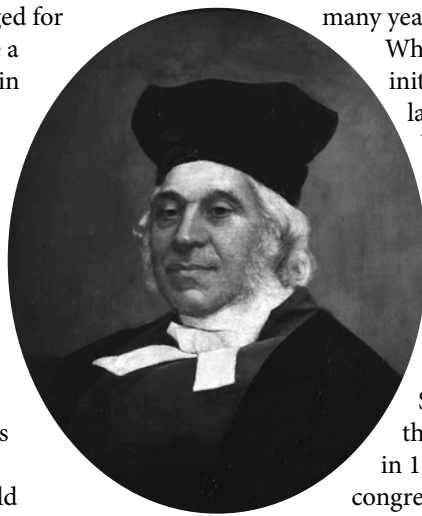
Whatever their initial rivalries and later successes, both synagogues were finished by the outward drift of population in the mid 20th century.

The Barnsbury Synagogue was the first to close, in 1958, when its congregation joined up with that of Poets Road.

The writing was on the wall for Poets Road as well and it closed in 1967.

Both buildings were demolished for flats. A little of the brickwork of Poets Road survives, but we must mourn the complete loss of the Barnsbury building, surely the finer of the two. ■

Petra Laidlaw is author of *The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s*, which was recently published by the society (publications, page 18). She also leads walks on the theme of Jewish Islington. Email: ajdba@btinternet.com

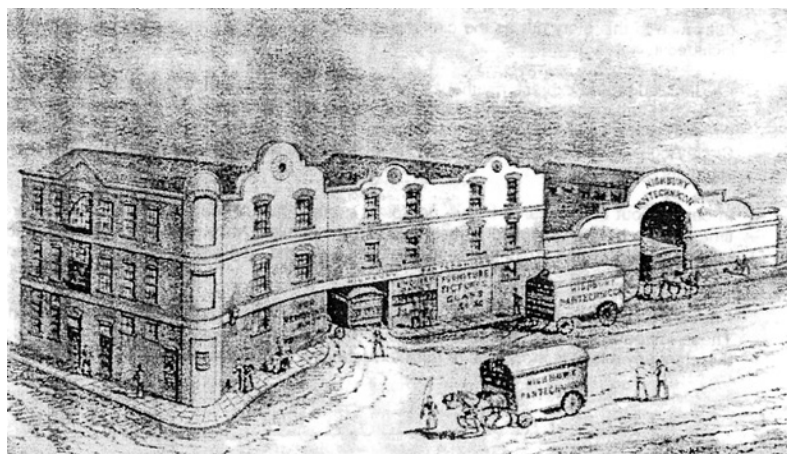


Above: chief rabbi Nathan Marcus Adler, who opened the North London Synagogue; right: Poets Road synagogue in 1969 before demolition



The mystery building

Highbury Pantechnicon looked impressive – but what and where was it? Michael Reading set out to find out



Looking through *Islington Past* by John Richardson, published in 1989, I saw an illustration of a somewhat rather impressive commercial premises. A large 19th century purpose-built furniture depository, it was a hive of activity with horse-drawn pantechnicons arriving and leaving. The picture, was unsigned and may have been an architect's impression. It was captioned "Highbury Pantechnicon".

A revised edition of *Islington Past* published in 2000 included the same illustration, this time captioned "Highbury Pantechnicon, for the storage of furniture. Date and location unknown".

The text of neither book referred to the illustration and there was no reference or bibliography.

Where is – or was – Highbury Pantechnicon?

Tracing old companies

The best source of information on old businesses, especially in the 19th century, are the Post Office directories, which have been published annually since 1800. They contain a wealth of information, with sections on the courts, legal profession, diplomatic service, commerce and trades, and an extensive street index.

The illustration showed horse-drawn traffic only, so I took a guess at 1890 and looked under Removers and Repositories. Working backwards year by year, I found Highbury Pantechnicon listed in Highbury Station Road in 1884 then back to 1879.

The next thing was to visit

Highbury Station Road. I entered through the narrow entrance beside the Cock Tavern and, after walking a few yards to where the road bends to the left, the building was in front of me. While not quite as in the illustration, it was easily recognisable by a distinctive section that looks like the prow of a ship.

Nineteenth century

The 1862 Edward Stanton Map of London shows that where Highbury Station Road now lies was a line of cattle sheds or "layers", abutting the wall that would enclose the North London Railway line. These extended from Liverpool Road approximately three-quarters of the way towards Upper Street.

The remaining quarter was taken up by a square-like area (un-named) adjoining Swan Yard. This may have been part of a larger yard belonging to the White Swan public house on Holloway Road; it was lost to the pub when the North London Railway split the yard into two parts on either side of the railway lines. The White Swan was demolished in 1960.

Swan Yard was, in turn,



1905: Highbury Pantechnicon's curved roof and Dutch gables can be seen above the platform roof on the right

The picture was labelled "Highbury Pantechnicon, for the storage of furniture. Date and location unknown"

connected to Hampton Court (an insignificant alley, despite the name), which provided another exit into Upper Street. Both Swan Yard and Hampton Court survive.

By 1871, the Old Ordnance Survey Map shows the layers had gone, apart for a small section near Liverpool Road; cattle and sheep were now held at the Metropolitan Cattle Market. The square-like area was called Albert Square. This contained 20 cottages, most of which had been condemned as unfit for human habitation in 1869 and later demolished. The North London Railway then built Station Road and a terrace of cottages for their employees.

The company's new building

The Highbury Pantechnicon Company was owned by John Comfort whose offices were on the corner of Hampton Court at 250 Upper Street (now occupied by a branch of Starbucks) and had been established as an upholsterer and furniture remover since 1832. It may be that he took advantage of the cottage clearance to build his premises on the cleared area. These were purpose built with three floors and an elaborate roof with Dutch gables with roundels.

The Post Office Directory for 1879 for Highbury Station Road – where Highbury Pantechnicon is first mentioned – includes two other entries for that road, one for the Highbury Presbyterian Church and one for a William Thomas Smith, shoeing smith.

These three entries appeared for the next two years then, in 1882 a

new entry was added, for the Improved Industrial Dwellings Co Ltd had built four sets of model dwellings, Liverpool Buildings, at the western end of Highbury Station Road. These had been demolished by 1990.

The directories for 1885 and 1886 show Highbury Pantechnicon had become J Comfort & Company Furniture Removers. The Presbyterian Church had become the Union Hall and the shoeing smith was now William Thomas Crane Junior. A new school opened in 1885.

The Old Ordnance Survey Map for 1894 shows the remaining layers and Albert Square had gone and the Pantechnicon building at the north-east corner of the square.



The largest part of Highbury Pantechnicon's area was taken up by a building to the right of the main repository, where horses were stabled and pantechnicons parked. The repository building followed the curve of the Highbury Station Road, giving it its ship-like appearance where it joins Swan Yard. On that side of the building, just below a small brick gable, are the doorways on the first and second floor to where furniture and goods were lifted by hoist. Liverpool Buildings are shown along with the row of cottages for the railway employees.

Some time between 1885 and 1900, the company name changed to George Lickfold, Comfort & Co Ltd, which would suggest that a Mr George Lickfold now owned the company but had retained the Comfort name. John Comfort may have retired or died by then.

Also by 1900, William Thomas Crane had ceased shoeing horses and become an omnibus builder. Two small business had been



established in the cottages; at no 9 was Thomas Dawson, a boot maker and at no 11 was Emma Jones who had a Chandler's shop.

After 1900

J Lickfold (Comfort) Ltd's last appearance in the Post Office directory – the name is slightly different – is in 1905.

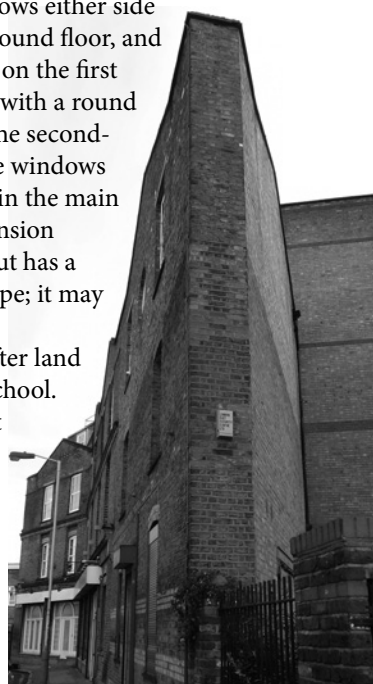
There is evidence from this time of the curving roofline and Dutch gables. A postcard of Highbury Station in 1905, reproduced in *Islington Past*, shows them just above the station platform roof.

By 1914, the Old Ordnance Survey Map shows the stables and pantechnicon park had been demolished and the space taken over by the school.

A three-storey extension with a brick gable roof had been built. This had two windows either side of a door on the ground floor, and two windows each on the first and second floors, with a round window between the second-floor windows. The windows line up with those in the main building. This extension looks substantial but has a shallow, wedge shape; it may have been built on remaining space after land was ceded to the school.

It is probable that when the stables were demolished the Dutch gables were replaced by the brick gables that are there today. The mansard roof

Above: The building today; below right: the shallow, wedge-shaped extension



may have been added at the same time – it would have been cheaper to build than another storey.

The consistent weathering of all the brickwork suggests that these various works took place at the same time, between 1905 and 1914.

By 1915 the Post Office Directory no longer listed the furniture removal business. Over the past 50 years, the wealthy and professional classes were being replaced by the more artisan classes. It was likely a furniture depository was no longer needed.

The building now contained three metals trade businesses. These were iron wire bin maker F Benson, art metal worker Bridgewater & Co and scrap metal dealer Richard Mansfield.

By 1930, the building at 1-3 Highbury Station Road had a single occupier again – Charles Levy, wholesale hardware merchant. This business was there during the Second World War.

The building seems to have suffered very little war damage, despite the destruction wrought by the V1 which landed at nearby Compton Terrace on 27 June 1944, which necessitated the demolition of the adjoining 251-258 Upper Street. These buildings probably shielded 1-3 from damage. They were later rebuilt and, appropriately, now contain the White Swan pub.

During the 1960-70s, the railway employees' cottages disappeared and the school closed in 1967. Liverpool Buildings had all been demolished by 1990.

By the end of the 1980s, the old building was rather dilapidated. It was acquired by publishers Harrington Kilbride from nearby Cross Street, who carried out major refurbishment. Today, it is occupied by Circle Housing.

Opposite is an original North London Railway building. That, the school, the caretaker's house and the old Pantechnicon are the only reminders of the 19th century. ■

This article is an edited extract of *The Highbury Pantechnicon. A Minor Personal Mystery Solved* by Michael Reading. Copies are held at the Islington Local History Centre

Battle bus visits the Busworks

A 1910 London bus toured former battlefields as part of First World War commemorations – after a visit to a former Islington bus factory

A 1910 London bus was turned into a First World War battle bus in September for a 10-day tour of Western Front battlefields in northern France and Belgium.

Advertisements and signs on the bus were removed, the windows boarded up and the body painted khaki. It was fitted with military headlamps and equipped with a pickaxe and shovel, then military markings and a War Department number were applied.

Before its transformation, the B-type bus B2737 paid a visit to Islington's Busworks building in North Road N7, where the first B-types were made.

An Islington bus factory

The Busworks in North Road, N7 – as its name reminds us – was a bus factory.

In 1888, the London General Omnibus Company took a lease on a plot of land next to the Metropolitan Cattle Market, where it built a factory for building and repairing horse-drawn omnibuses.

Omnibus manufacture started

Clockwise from right: bus B2737 at the Busworks; visitors included Hilda, 98, who once worked on the buses; B2737 is turned into a battle bus; B-type buses in France during the First World War



with carpentry, followed by ironwork then wheel making. The buses were then taken up to the first floor to be painted. They were then moved to a building to the rear to be upholstered and, finally, had signs written on them. The finished buses were stored in a garage next to the manager's house and general office; the house is still there.

At the beginning of the 20th century the internal combustion engine came into use. The company designed the B-type open-topped bus and prototypes were built at the Busworks.

The Busworks building was not suitable for a modern mechanical production line and the buses were made elsewhere – the B2737 was made at the AEC Works in Walthamstow in 1914.

This was the world's first reliable mass-produced motor bus. Nearly 2,500 were made but only four have survived.



The Busworks was used as a bus repair depot until the 1950s.

The factory complex is now home to the Busworks, which provides spaces for small businesses, and the Pleasance theatre. Across a cobbled lane is Shillibeer's bar – named for George Shillibeer, who operated London's first omnibus service.

Buses at war

More than 1,000 B-type buses were requisitioned and converted for service on the Western Front.

This was the first use of motorised transport in a war. The buses took troops to the front lines in convoys of over 70 vehicles and returned with the sick and wounded, or with men leaving the trenches for rest periods. Some were used as mobile pigeon lofts for field communication. Many buses were driven by the same men who had driven them through London. ■



For more on the Busworks building's history, go to www.busworks.co.uk/history-of-the-busworks

The Islington priest and the Calcutta cathedral

Daniel Wilson (1778-1858) was an Islington priest who became bishop of Calcutta and led in the building of a cathedral in Calcutta.

A vigorous evangelical Anglican minister, he served as vicar of St Mary's Islington from 1824 until 1832, when he was appointed bishop. He energised the religious life of Islington during his ministry there, playing a major role in getting three new churches built for an expanding population,

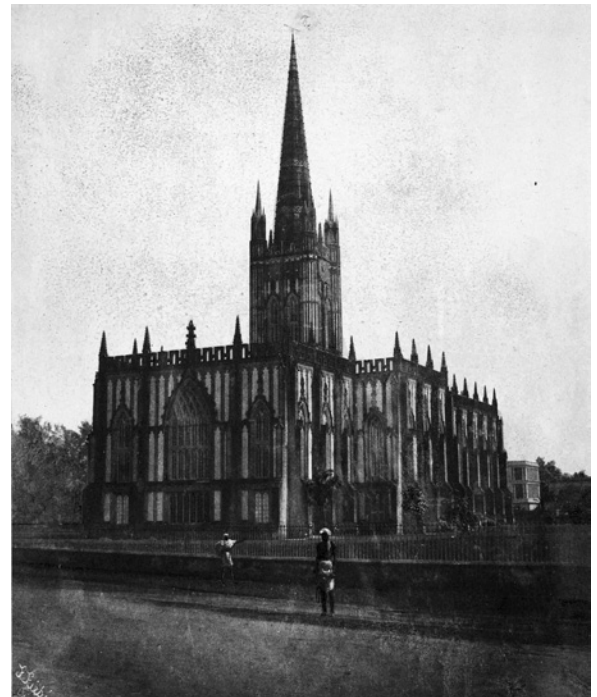
namely St John's Holloway Road, Holy Trinity Cloudesley Square and St Paul's Canonbury.

He was ordained in 1801 and was vicar of St John's Bedford Row in Bloomsbury from 1808 until 1824.

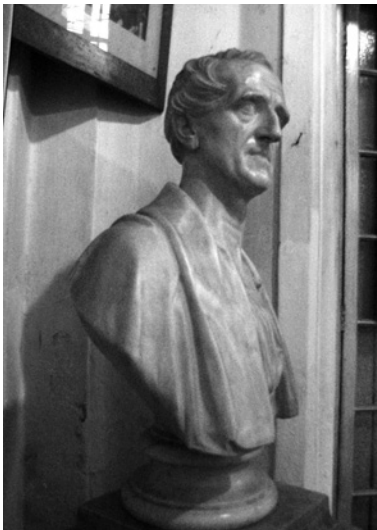
When he was appointed Bishop of Calcutta, his son, the younger Daniel Wilson, succeeded him as vicar of St Mary's and remained in that post until his death in 1886.

Daniel Wilson the elder remained in charge of the Anglican Church in India, later as Metropolitan of India, until his death in 1858.

One of his projects in India was the building of a cathedral – St Paul's, on the Maidan in Calcutta – which was completed in 1847. It was designed in Gothic revival style by Major William Forbes.



Left: Daniel Wilson and his memorial; above: photo of St Paul's in Calcutta in 1851 by Frederick Fiebig



In it is a bust of Daniel Wilson and a memorial to him of a modest sort, in accordance with his wishes. The latter has the Greek inscription “ο θεος ιλασθητι μοι τω αμαρτωλω”, that is, “God be merciful to me a sinner”. From the parable of the Pharisee and the publican in St Luke's Gospel, chapter 18, it is the prayer of the publican that Christ contrasts favourably with the self-satisfied prayer of the Pharisee. ■

Richard Wallington is chair of the Friends of Union Chapel

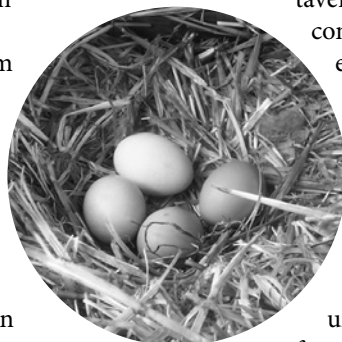
A breakfast shock for a dignitary

The British Newspaper Archive is a partnership between the British Library and findmypast to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next 10 years.

The following extract is from the *Morning Post* dated 1829.

How to keep eggs fresh

A certain worthy divine from the north, who visits the General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland every year, has for time immemorial taken up his annual abode in a certain tavern in the old town.



This healthy mountaineer has an instinctive horror at all deleterious mixtures in human food, whether solid or liquid; and the reason he assigned for frequenting the above tavern was that he could always command the luxury of fresh eggs for breakfast.

These he always boiled himself, and would take none except he found them hot from the nest.

This year he appeared as usual, like the bittern at her appointed time, but unfortunately he laid his forepaw on a couple of plump eggs, but quite cold, and

apparently not laid yesterday.

The man of the church waxed wroth, and summoned the waiter. Betty assured him they were fresh, but could not explain why they were cold.

The landlady was next taken to task, and threatened with the loss of a customer, unless this suspicious phenomenon was satisfactorily cleared up.

“Deed, Sir,” replied the hostess, “I am so sorry for’t; but to tell gude’s truth, Sir, I couldna get the cat to sit on them this morning!” ■

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk



Different lives at Balfron

Balfron Tower was built to combine heroic architecture with affordable housing. Christy Lawrance visited before its transformation into fashionable flats

Balfron Tower in Poplar, east London, was opened to the public in October 2014 before it is refurbished and the flats sold to private owners.

Designed in 1963 by Ernö Goldfinger and built between 1965 and 1967, it is part of the Brownfield Estate Poplar in east London. It was listed grade II in 1996.

High-rise blocks such as Balfron would transform living conditions for working people. They would provide high-density housing which would free up open space that could be enjoyed by children and adults alike, and tenants would have their own kitchens and bathroom, and ample natural light.

Balfron Tower is imposing. The main door is reached via a concrete walkway, giving the feel of crossing a drawbridge, and the slit windows in the service tower are reminiscent of those in a castle.

The building is made of reinforced concrete (the term brutalism comes from the French *béton brut* and refers to unfinished or roughly finished concrete). It contains 146 homes – 136 one- and two-bedroom flats and

10 maisonettes. Every flat has a balcony with a planter.

The “noisy” areas – the two lifts, rubbish chutes, laundry rooms and the boiler – are in a service tower, separate from the flats and connected by eight walkways.

Flats had an interlocking arrangement; many front doors open to staircases leading up or down to living areas. For example, someone whose flat is on the 11th floor would take the lift to the 12th, then walk down the staircase behind their front door to reach their home.

This arrangement allowed more flats to lead off the same corridor, which was intended to make better use of space, increase the speed of lift service and encourage

Above: concrete walkways join the “noisy” lift shafts to the flats; below: the 1960s kitchen in flat 130; bottom right: lifts do not stop at every floor because the flats interlock

interaction between residents. To increase the community feel, new tenants were rehoused alongside their former neighbours.

The corridors are tiled in strong, bright colours – yellow is used on floor 12 and blue on floor 24, for example. Inside the flats, the rooms are decently sized, with kitchens big enough to hold a table.

Opening Balfron Tower for tours and visits to a temporary museum in flat 130, where Goldfinger and his wife lived for a couple of months (see box, right), were organised by the National Trust. It was the trust’s first foray into brutalism.

Joe Watson of the National Trust said to *The Times*: “As the National Trust, we’re seen as being guardians of beauty, and it’s hard to describe Balfron Tower as beautiful.

“They weren’t aiming at a beautiful architecture, but a sublime, heroic architecture. They wanted to stand up and be counted.”

He added that many people were leaving homes that were dark, overcrowded and infested with vermin for places that were “full of light, with views of London and fitted bathrooms and kitchens”.

Islington architect James Dunnett worked on phase III of the Brownfield, including on Glenkerry House (below) as Goldfinger’s assistant in 1973-75.



Goldfinger flat becomes 1960s domestic museum

For two weeks in October, flat 130 on the 25th floor – where the Goldfingers stayed (see box opposite) – was opened to the public as a temporary museum.

The flat was furnished in 1968 style by designers

Wayne and Tilly Hemingway, with brightly coloured furniture, crockery, lampshades and wall hangings – probably more fashionable than those belonging to the first tenants – as well as contemporaneous crockery

and shaving materials, plus tins of Peak Frean’s biscuits, Crosse & Blackwell cream of tomato soup and Heinz beans. On the balcony is a floral sunlounger. All taps are Supataps – washers could be changed without having to turn off the supply.

DIRECTORY		
FLOOR	FLAT NO.	FLAT NO.
24	129	146
22	DRYING ROOM	
21	111	128
18	93	110
15	80	92
12	62	79
10	DRYING ROOM	
9	44	61
6	26	43
3	8	25
GROUND FLOOR	1	7
LOWER GROUND FLOOR	TENANTS-STORES	
FLOOR	FLAT NO.	FLAT NO.



He stayed at Balfron for a week in October courtesy of the Bow Arts Trust for his research into Goldfinger supported by the RIBA.

In 2007, ownership of the tower and much of the Brownfield was transferred to social landlord Poplar Harca, which has estimated bringing Balfron up to standard at around £137,000 per flat. Refurbishment of

the block is due to start next year.

Most of the tenants have been rehoused, many in neighbouring Carradale House. Like at Balfron, the flats in Carradale have an interlocking arrangement and a service tower linked by walkways.

The proceeds of Balfron sales will go toward Poplar Harca's other homes. Buyers are showing interest already, and top-floor flats are expected to fetch up to £750,000 each. Homes originally conceived as good-quality, affordable housing for local people in the 20th century will in the 21st become the fashionable homes of the better off. ■

Sources: English Heritage; National Trust; *Inside Housing*

1: Balfron Tower; 2: view from 12th floor kitchen; 3: living room, flat 130; 4: slit windows in service tower; 5: bedroom, flat 130; 6: 24th floor corridor; 7: Glenkerry House, viewed from Balfron Tower – Carradale House is on its right



No one steals the doormats: Ursula Goldfinger's observations on Balfron Tower life

Ernö Goldfinger and his wife Ursula stayed in flat 130 for two months in early 1968. Goldfinger wanted to know what it was like to live in Balfron. They talked to the new tenants and invited them to parties at no 130.

Strengths and problems were identified. For example, tenants said two lifts were not sufficient so an extra lift was added to the plans for Trellick Tower.

Ursula Goldfinger took copious notes during their stay. The corridors could be

"appallingly cold", she noted, and the lifts were "very good when both are running and very bad if one out of action (quite frequent)".

She appears surprised by her working-class neighbours: "Without exaggeration... everyone was helpful with the doors, not just to me but with each other or a child, or anyone at all. This applies to all age groups including teenagers. There is a very high spirit of courtesy."

She also wrote: "I have never seen rubbish in [the

corridors]. Milk bottles are left outside all day as people are at work, never turned over or broken. Some people have doormats outside. I have not yet heard that one has been stolen. This happened to me and friends of mine in Hampstead."

While of critical of how her neighbours decorated their homes, she admitted "terrible" taste was not confined to the working classes: "Those [flats] I have been into are beautifully kept, people are going to a lot of trouble to install them

mostly with outrageously terrible furniture, carpets, curtains and ornaments, though I don't think the designs of fabric are much worse than those I see at the Design Centre."

About living high up, she noted: "I have heard many people who live low down say they would like a flat higher up. I have heard of no tenant who lives high up say they would like a flat lower down."

Oldham R (2010) Balfron Tower diary and notes. *C20 Magazine*, 1 September

Publications and bookshop

This issue reviews the life of a north London Mass Observation diarist, takes a tour of Hornsey, tries to solve a murder mystery and considers class and identity in domestic architecture

A Free-Spirited Woman: the London Diaries of Gladys Langford 1936-1940

Edited by Patricia and Robert Malcolmson

£25, *London Record Society*, Boydell Press, i-xxv, 1-193pp, Gladys Langford's personal diaries and her contributions to the Mass Observation project make compelling reading.

The editors, whose approach is meticulous and sympathetic, suggest she wrote as if for a readership.

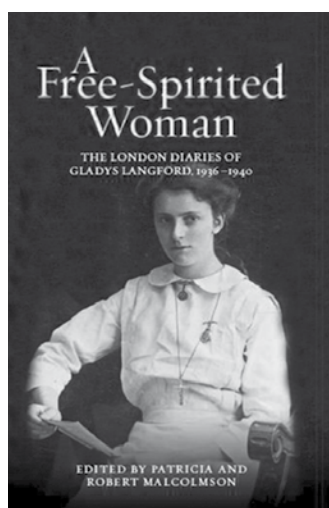
Her diaries provide a engrossing narrative of life in north London, specifically Hoxton and Islington. They are frank about thoughts, desires and relationships, both intimate and casual.

She combines an account of her daily life as a less-than-fulfilled primary school teacher in Hoxton with her complex personal life and thoughts. A brief, unhappy marriage, followed by unsatisfactory affairs, and the financial privations of her day-to-day existence are carefully chronicled.

The central and most satisfying part of her life seems to be an exceptionally busy cultural regime – she was an avid reader of fiction and non-fiction and a compulsive film- and theatre-goer.

All this combines to provide a rounded picture of Ms Langford in which she is unflinchingly self-critical – but also prepared to present her family, friends and casual acquaintances in an unfavourable light too.

Gladys Langford never



moved far from Islington and her account of north London in the late 1930s and early 1940s provides a wealth of detail about life in the area. Her diary and Mass Observation accounts of the lead-up to the Second World War – in particular the “phony war” – are graphic and moving.

The editors have provided a huge amount of background material. This includes details

of her early life and relatively poor background and an overview of “Gladys Langford's London”, with contemporary photographs of Hoxton and Islington.

There is a comprehensive index, plus extensive footnotes and appendices, one of which contains lists drawn up by Gladys of “Books Read, Plays, Films and Exhibitions Seen, and Concerts Heard in 1937”. These lists display the breadth of her cultural hinterland. They show that even when she was desperately short of money for food (which happened often) she would not forgo such (for her) essential elements of her existence.

The diaries repay revisiting. They satisfy on many levels – social and cultural history and personal and psychological insights intertwine to produce an impressive (and well designed) book. ■

Richard Pugh

Special offer: 25% discount on *A Free-Spirited Woman*

Members of the Islington Archaeology & History Society can get a 25% discount on *A Free-Spirited Woman*, cutting the price from £25 to £18.75

To get the 25% saving, quote discount code 14249 when you order. Orders can be placed by phone on 01394 610600, by fax on 01394 610316, by email at trading@boydell.co.uk or online at www.boydellandbrewer.com.

Postage is £3.00 per order in the UK, £7.50 per book (up to a maximum of £30.00) to mainland Europe and £13.50 per book outside Europe.

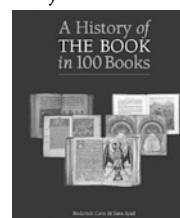
This discount offer runs until 31 December 2014

A History of the Book in 100 Books (hardback)

Roderick Cave and Sara Ayad
£25.00, the British Library,
<http://shop.bl.uk/>

This history runs from inscriptions on tombs, scrolls, writings on papyrus and the first bound books in Roman times to the invention of printing for the masses and the e-book reader.

The 100 books cover subjects as diverse as religion,



science, crime, travel and fashion. Classic examples are included alongside

less well-known titles and each entry is placed in its historical context.

Animal Bones And Archaeology: Guidelines For Best Practice

Polydora Baker and Fay Worley plus specialist contributors
Free, English Heritage, download from www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/animal-bones-and-archaeology

These guidelines aim to promote high professional standards in zooarchaeological practice in project planning, excavation, reporting and archiving. It supports archaeology advisers, project managers, field staff and zooarchaeologists through outlining the potential of animal bones, highlighting the importance of archaeological methods and promoting understanding of zooarchaeological reports and data sets.



Everyman's Castle: the Story of our Cottages, Country Houses, Terraces, Flats, Semis and Bungalows

Philippa Lewis

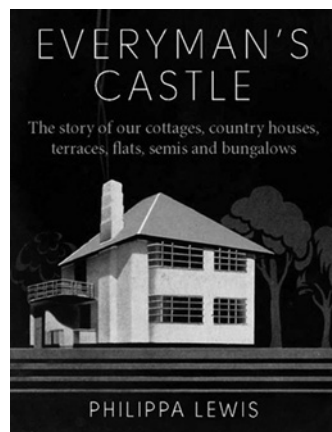
£20, Frances Lincoln, 2014

The entire history of British domestic architecture from ancient hovels to the present day is covered in this remarkable book.

The history is detailed, informative and entertaining, with official information interwoven with literary and other contemporary references. Numerous images of paintings, advertisements, plans, photographs and cartoons show different types of homes and how they were viewed – paintings depict life in a country cottage as ideal as well as harsh.

This is a social and psychological history as well as an architectural one and, from the outset, Lewis shows that “home” is far more than a place to live.

She examines what different housing styles meant for their inhabitants, admirers and



detractors. Class and identity are intrinsic to housing; where you lived depended on your choice – or lack of it.

The desire for a lifestyle that is both urban and rural is explained in the chapter on suburbia, where everyone has their own patch of land. Suburban semis raised high feelings, with praise for their generous proportions and light, while detractors sneered at Tudor-style design and leaded window panes.

Fashions in homes change – the idea of living in flats “existing horizontally, sandwiched between others”

horrified some people, while younger people later enjoyed the independence that came with flat sharing. Winifred Holtby, who shared a flat with Vera Brittain, describes the freedom that living in flats offered to for women.

The work of housing reformers is covered, as is the development of working class dwellings and council housing.

How fashions and opinions change is illustrated in the final chapter on bungalows. In their early days, these were associated with unconventional, bohemian lifestyles. By 1947, living in a postwar prefab was “like living in a spaceship”, according to Neil Kinnock; later, bungalows were seen as places to retire.

This chapter ends with Lewis drawing attention to fashion and how people's identity is tied up with that of their homes, pointing out that any contemporary equivalent would be called a single-storey house – never a bungalow.

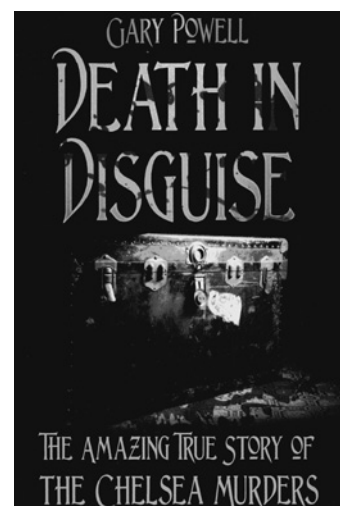
Death in Disguise

Gary Powell

£9.99, The History Press,

01453 883300, www.thehistorypress.co.uk

It is not very often that local historians can help to solve a murder, and this volume, subtitled “The amazing true story of the Chelsea murders” takes the reader through the history of this event in Chelsea during the last part of the 1800s.



The author, a former detective, presents all the facts: there was no direct evidence to place the suspect at the crime scene, no weapon recovered, not even a motive. The book lets you decide the outcome.

You are taken through the trial up to the verdict, and you are presented with many photographs and prints of Chelsea in the 1870s to give you atmosphere of the time, plus the rather gruesome covers of the *Illustrated Police News* about the crime.

So immerse yourself in helping to solve a crime that shocked the residents of Chelsea to the core.

Peter Fuller

Hornsey Village – a Walk

Lesley Ramm and Eleri Rowlands

£4 + 65p p&p. Hornsey Historical Society

As soon as I picked up this colourful, descriptive help for appreciating all that Hornsey Village offers, I wanted to walk around the area.

The walk is in three parts, with the routes plainly marked out and bus stops shown on the map at the back.

The village of Hornsey's history can be traced back to its establishment as a settlement in the county of Middlesex before the Norman conquest; its name is derived from the Old English Heringes-hege, meaning enclosure for Hering's people.

Route one moves westward from the New River along the High Street.

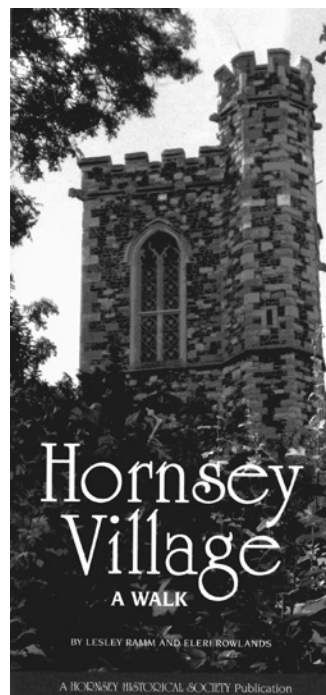
Route two takes you into Priory Road, Priory Park and along Middle Lane.

Route three starts at Rokesly Avenue, then goes along Tottenham Lane to the High Street.

There are numerous colour photos of buildings and items of interest in each walk, such as the medieval tower of St Mary in walk one, views of Priory Park in walk two and, in walk three, the society's own HQ – the Old Schoolhouse.

Did you know that the New River flowed through the grounds of The Three Compasses (Hornsey's oldest pub) and was a favourite of Londoners enjoying the angling offered?

This and many more snippets of information make this booklet a must for the



local historian – I for one am already planning a visit to the area.

Peter Fuller

Buy from the IAHS

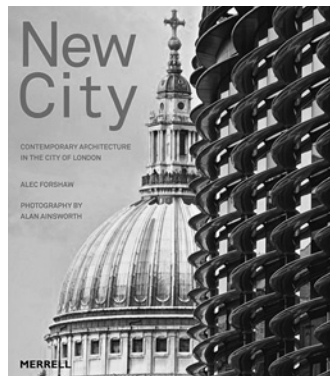
You can order using the form overleaf or buy at our meetings and at local fairs. If you have any queries, contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.

All items on this page are available from the Islington Archaeology & History Society. Some are signed by the author – contact Catherine Brighty (details opposite) for information

New City. Contemporary Architecture in the City of London

Alec Forshaw, with photography by Alan Ainsworth
£19.95, Merrell, 224pp;
available from the IAHS
The City of London saw massive redevelopment over the past 25 years. This book examines its architecture from offices blocks to shops, cultural organisations and public spaces and includes over 200 photographs.

The book starts with historic development, the effects of changes to financial regulation and the roles of the City of London Corporation



as planning authority and developer. It also looks at the work and influence of large and small architectural practices.

The main part of the book shows 12 guided routes and includes detailed descriptions of individual buildings.

20th Century Buildings in Islington

Alec Forshaw
£14.99, Islington Society;
available from the IAHS

Islington is better known for Georgian and Victorian than for 20th century architecture, and fewer than 50 of its listed buildings are 20th century. However, the majority of Islington's residents live in 20th century buildings, many built by the council.

Alec Forshaw, who was principal conservation and design officer with Islington Council for 20 years, shows the sheer diversity and number of 20th century buildings in Islington.

Modern buildings such as the old drapers' store on Seven Sisters Road are described, along with rare surviving features such as the neon diver on the former Hornsey Road baths.



The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s

Petra Laidlaw
£9.99 + £2.80 p&p, Islington Archaeology and History Society

Islington has been home to a sizeable Jewish population for over 250 years, although their long history is largely forgotten.

Several were well to do and public figures in public, while many more lived in much humbler circumstances. This volume traces a cross section of characters, their religious life, their occupations and their contact with the rest of the community.



Bargain books

Two IAHS books are on sale.

The London Dog from the Romans to Today; The London Cat. Its Lives & Times; The London Cat II

James Dowsing
£4.00 + 75p p&p, Sunrise Press
available from the IAHS
From royal corgis to Battersea mutts and a heroic wartime poodle, *The London Dog* looks at a London dog's life over the centuries.

The two *London Cat* booklets show how London and cat history are intertwined – there are cat paw prints on the Museum of London's roof tiles. There are wartime cats, theatre cats, cathedral cats, political cats and, yes, Islington cats.



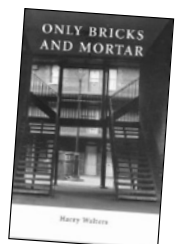
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, with photographs by Pauline Lord. Hardback.
£9.95 (was £20) + £2.10 p&p
This book is a must for anyone interested in the history of home decor. It tells the story of how one house changed since 1785, illustrated with glorious colour photographs.



Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters
£5 (was £7.99) + £1.50 p&p
A tale of growing up and working class life from the 1930s through the Second World War to the 1970s in notorious council tenements in Popham Road, where *Cathy Come Home* was filmed.



Publications order form (photocopies acceptable)

Name

Address

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

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

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



Buy from the society store

The society stocks books, postcards, maps of Islington and beyond and more – some are listed here.

Call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 to check if we have a map of your area, if no price is given, to order several items or if you would like to arrange to collect items in person.

Book title	Author	Price (£)	p&p (£)	Total (£)
An Architect in Islington	Harley Sherlock	14.99	2.80	17.79
Angus McBean in Islington	Mary Cosh, ed	4.00	1.20	5.20
The Building That Lived Twice	Alec Forshaw	20.00	2.80	22.80
Church Design for Congregations	James Cubitt	11.00	1.50	12.50
Cinemas of Haringey	Jeremy Buck	9.99	1.50	11.49
The Contexting of a Chapel Architect: James Cubitt 1836-1912	Clyde Binfield	18.00	1.90	19.90
Criminal Islington	Keith Sugden, ed	5.00	1.40	6.40
53 Cross Street. Biography of a House ON SALE	Mary Cosh and Martin King	9.95	1.90	11.85
Dead Born	Joan Lock	7.99	2.80	10.79
Dead Image	Joan Lock	7.99	2.80	10.79
Discover De Beauvoir Town and Environs	Mike Gray and Isobel Watson	1.50	0.75	2.25
Discover Stoke Newington. A Walk Through History	David Mander and Isobel Watson	4.95	1.20	6.15
Dissent & the Gothic Revival	Bridget Cherry, ed	15.00	1.65	16.65
An Historical Walk Along the New River	Mary Cosh	4.00	1.65	5.65
An Historical Walk Through Barnsbury	Mary Cosh	4.00	1.65	5.65
Islington's Cinemas & Film Studios	Chris Draper	5.00	1.65	6.65
Islington: Britain in Old Photographs	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.65	14.64
Islington: the Second Selection	Gavin Smith	12.99	1.65	14.64
Islington Byways	James Dowsing	4.00	0.75	4.75
The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s	Petra Laidlaw	9.99	2.80	11.79
London Cat 1	James Dowsing	4.00	0.75	4.75
London Cat 2	James Dowsing	4.00	0.75	4.75
London Dog	James Dowsing	4.00	0.75	4.75
London's Mummies	James Dowsing	4.00	0.75	4.75
Only Bricks and Mortar ON SALE	Harry Walters	5.00	1.50	6.50
New City: Contemporary Architecture in the City of London	Alec Forshaw	19.95	2.80	22.75
1970s London	Alec Forshaw	12.99	1.65	14.64
London's New River in Maps. Vol I Part I	Michael Kensey	£20		
London's New River in Maps. Vol I Part 2	Michael Kensey	£25		
The Squares of Islington Part II. Islington Parish	Mary Cosh	7.50	1.50	9.00
20th Century Buildings in Islington	Alec Forshaw	14.99	2.80	17.79
Other items				
Old Ordnance Survey maps		2.50	0.75	3.25
Union Chapel mug		6.00	2.80	8.80
New River Tea Towel		6.00	1.50	7.50

Caledonian Park and its Surroundings

Sylvia Tunstall, Patsy Ainger, Robyn Lyons
£5.00 + 75p p&p, Islington Society Caledonian



Park and its surroundings reflect the energy and ambition of the Victorian Age and are full of architectural, historical and social interest. This booklet, produced by Caledonian Park Friends Group, follows a mile-long walking route covering most of the area within the boundaries of the enormous Metropolitan Cattle Market that once occupied the site.

Angus McBean in Islington

Edited by Mary Cosh, foreword by Angus McBean



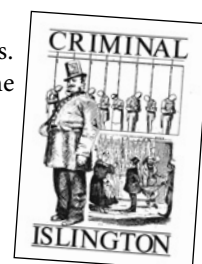
IAHS, £4.50 + £1.20 p&p
Cinemas, music halls, churches, squares, terraces and more from

the 1960s are photographed for this book by renowned theatrical photographer Angus Bean.

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

Edited by Keith Sugden
IAHS, £5 + £1.40 p&p

Rookeries were criminal ghettos, with dense networks of secret escape routes. They were the backdrop to the murder, theft and radical activity.



This history looks at crime and punishment in Islington, social breakdown and political history, and the defeat of the rookeries.

Exhibitions

Spine-tingling fun at gothic horror exhibition

All things gothic are covered in this exhibition. It opens with gothic enthusiast Horace Walpole, examining how his reaction against the Age of Enlightenment led him to write the first gothic novel, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), specifically to create awe and terror – the very opposite of the rational. This triggered a flood of gothic horror novels, such as Ann Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*.

Over the next 250 years, the genre transmuted many times from manmade monsters (Frankenstein) and, later, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, to vampires whose appeal has



Above: a kit with everything you need to deal with vampires; left: Elsa Lanchester and Boris Karloff in *The Bride of Frankenstein*

spawned a long literary and film life then on to the more downmarket urban gothic with blood-curdling penny dreadful tales such as *Sweeney Todd*. Gothic expanded to encompass new forms such as cinema, theatre and art.

Several unsettling pictures are on display, such as Fuseli's *The Nightmare*. Elsa Lanchester's frequent screams in *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935) are audible throughout the exhibition.



Fashion, too, has taken inspiration from the gothic – a catwalk creation by Alexander McQueen's is on display.

Twenty-first century Gothic is not forgotten with photographs of the 2014 Whitby Goth Weekend, commissioned from award-winning photographer Martin Parr.

The star exhibit, on loan from the Royal Armouries, is undoubtedly the Victorian vampire-killing kit, an elegant wooden box containing everything one needs to deal with vampires – wooden stakes and mallet, crucifix, rosary, the *Book of Common Prayer*, holy water, crushed garlic, pistol and bullets.

This exhibition is great spine-tingling fun. ■

● *Terror and Wonder: the Gothic Imagination*, British Library, until 20 January, £10/concs, www.bl.uk/gothic

Elizabeth Hawksley
www.elizabethhawksley.com

Modern artworks inspired by artefacts from thriving Roman port

Artefacts from Roman Ostia are contrasted with the work of two modern Italian artists – Ettore De Conciliis (born 1941) and Umberto Mastroianni (1910-98) – in this exhibition.

The mosaics and statuary from Ostia, a port of ancient Rome, reflect its inhabitants' values of a successful business community that respects the gods and tradition but also prides itself on having taste. For example, there is a statue of the woodland god Silvanus with his autumnal bounty instead of the drunken Silenus, and exquisite mosaics of doves and fishes rather than louche gods behaving badly.

The specially commissioned paintings by De Conciliis offer a contemporary view of Ostia. His serene paintings show views of the river Tiber by moonlight and the flat ochre planes of Ostia's ancient buildings; if there was once bustle

Dove mosaic from Ostia; below: *Savage Fury*, by Umberto Mastroianni



and commerce, it has vanished long ago. His Ostia is uninhabited, except for the occasional boat or tiny twinkling lights in the distance.

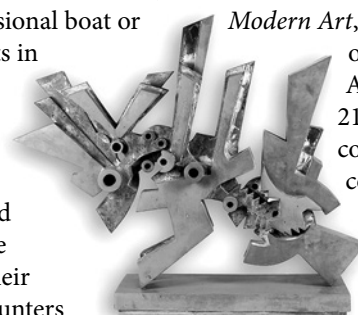
Having visited Roman Ostia, I feel differently; for me, it still feels lived in. For instance, the taverns still have their original shelves, counters

and cheerful frescos.

Mastroianni's work is dynamic. His sculpture *Savage Fury*, for example, has more in common with classical tradition than might appear at first glance. It is not difficult to discern limbs, vestigial eyes and even raised hackles in his bronzes and paintings; they could easily be descended from mythical shape-shifting monsters.

This exhibition sets up some interesting juxtapositions. ■

● *Roman Ostia: Ancient Ruins, Modern Art*, Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art, until 21 December, £5/concs, www.estorickcollection.com



Elizabeth Hawksley
www.elizabethhawksley.com

Style, elegance and fantasy in Horst retrospective

Photographer Horst P Horst (1909–99) created style, created models and reflected culture and high society.

The V&A show follows his life in the six areas in which he excelled – fashion, portraiture, nudes, travel, patterns from natural forms and the homes and gardens of the famous.

While studying in Paris under architect Le Corbusier in 1930, he met French *Vogue* photographer George Hoyningen-Huene. Some of his early pictures for American and French *Vogue* are on show.

While in Paris, painter Christian Berard taught him “a sense of fantasy”. This is apparent in his image of Princess Karam, an Indian socialite; light and shadow around her face give depth and mystery.

The photographs *Tunic* by Alix and *Nuits Blanches* illustrate his sculptural, chiaroscuro style. Horst’s 1937 portrait of Coco Chanel is one of his most glorious.

Several photographs of Horst’s

favourite model, Lisa Fonssagrives, are on display. Lisa with Harp is a nude study with exquisite tones of skin and string, light and shade. Some male nudes are also exhibited, also showing his hallmark skin tones and sculptural forms.

In 1946, he photographed the 15-year-old Carmen Dell’Orefice, who still models today. At the press launch, she posed next to the picture of her 15-year-old self.

Horst’s famous Mainbocher Corset images are included. In one, the model, her back to us and her white corset coming loose, was once deemed too risqué to be published.

Portraits include those of



Right: Muriel Maxwell, photographed for American *Vogue*; left: patterns from nature photographic collage



Salvador Dali, Marlene Dietrich, Betty Davis, Andy Warhol and Yves St Laurent, US presidents and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

Round the Clock, from 1987, epitomises his style: a cloud-like, net skirt is lifted to reveal a woman’s long, stocking-clad legs, with nuances of materials and glimpses of skin, in the composition of a dandelion clock. ■

● *Horst: Photographer of Style*, Victoria & Albert Museum, until 4 January, £8/concs, www.vam.ac.uk/horst

Wendy Kyrle-Pope

Condé Nast/Horst Estate

Constable event shows early influence and life in the country

This exhibition shows how John Constable drew inspiration from established artists as well as the landscape around him.

It opens with Constable’s copies of artworks by 17th century painters such as Ruisdael, Rubens and Claude, which demonstrate, together with some of his early paintings, how he was influenced by their compositional ideas.

The next room shows Constable’s oil sketches, painted outdoors to capture fleeting moments with vigorous, impressionistic brush strokes. These, together with his careful sketches of clouds, show the importance he attached to accurate details of light and shade, which also affected how he composed his paintings.

The full-size oil sketches of his six-foot paintings, such as



Full-scale study for the *Hay Wain* (c1821): Constable’s paintings show how busy the countryside used to be

the *Leaping Horse* and the *Hay Wain*, are shown next to the finished works. The sketches and the finished works are subtly different and we see how introducing a new figure or altering the viewpoint can clarify pictorial depth.

The paintings show how busy a working environment the countryside was in the early

19th century; a barge has a family living on it, anglers fish on the river banks and shepherds move their sheep. Horses don’t come in ones – the hay wain needs three plus a man and his helper to drive it. These are no static, classical landscapes – they are full of activity.

The exhibition is impeccably curated by Mark Evans, who has allowed plenty of room to look and compare; and large square wooden seats offer lots of space where visitors can sit and view any painting on any wall. Thoroughly recommended. ■

● *Constable: the Making of a Master*, Victoria & Albert Museum, until 11 January, £14/concs, www.vam.ac.uk/constable

Elizabeth Hawksley
www.elizabethhawksley.com

Victoria and Albert Museum

What's on

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

Monday, 8 December, 6pm

Long Shadow: the Great War and International Memory, 1914-2014

Talk by Prof David Reynolds.
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 9 December, 11am

In Search of Christmas

Walk starting outside St Paul's tube (exit for cathedral).
London Metropolitan Archives, £8, booking required

Tuesday 9 December, 6.30pm

The Gentle Author's Magic Lantern Show of LAMAS Slides

Museum of London. London and Middlesex Archaeological Society event, £2/concs

Wednesday 10 December, 1.15pm

Women in the Enlightenment

Gallery talk by Felicity Roberts.
British Museum, free

Wednesday 10 December, 6pm

A Cause for Carolling

Talk by Jeremy Summerly, including why *While Shepherds Watched* was the only carol authorised for the Church of England.
Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, free

Wednesday 10 December, 8pm
Bounds Green: a Fascinating Corner of Haringey

Talk by Albert Pinching.
Union Church Hall, N8 9PX, Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 11 December, 1.15pm

Who Killed the Pygmy Hippos? First Settlers on Cyprus

Gallery talk by Thomas Kiely.
British Museum, free

Thursday, 11 December, 1pm

The Guitar, the Steamship and the Picnic: England on the Move

Talk by Prof Christopher Page.
St Sepulchre Without Newgate, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 11 December, 1.30pm

Curator's Introduction to Ming: 50 Years that Changed China

Lecture by Jessica Harrison-Hall, with speech-to-text transcription.
British Museum, free, booking essential

Thursday, 11 December, 7pm

The West End in the 1800s: Emerging Pleasure District

Talk by Dr Rohan McWilliam
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3. Camden History Society, £1,

Saturday 13-Sunday 14 December

Victorian Christmas

London Museum of Water & Steam

Tuesday 16 December, 2pm

Hogarth Prints

Talk at London Metropolitan Archives. Free, booking required

Wednesday 17 December, 1.15pm

I Saw This and Thought of You: Gift Giving in Ancient Britain

Gallery talk by Katharine Hoare.
British Museum, free

Saturday 20-Sunday 21 December

Victorian Christmas

London Museum of Water & Steam

Monday 22-Wednesday 24 December

Epping Ongar Railway Santa Specials

01277 365 200, <http://eorailway.co.uk>

Monday 29 December, 11am

City in the Blitz

Walk starting outside St Paul's Tube by Caffé Nero.
London Metropolitan Archives, £8, booking required

29 December-1 January

Grand New Year Steam Up

London Museum of Water & Steam

Thursday 1 January, 7.30pm

Waterways of Southern France

Talk by Dr Roger Squires.
London Canal Museum, £4/concs

Thursday 8 January 2015, 1pm

The Guitar and the Romantic Vision of the Medieval World

Talk by Prof Christopher Page.
St Sepulchre Without Newgate, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 13 January, 6.30pm

The Burnt Jubilee Book in the London of Richard II

Talk by Prof Caroline Barron.
Museum of London, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society event, £2/concs

Wednesday 14 January, 5pm

Magna Carta Uncovered:

the City and the Charter

Talk by Lord Igor Judge and Anthony Arlidge QC. Annual Lord Mayor's event.
Guildhall, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 14 January, 8pm

We Will Not Fight: Hornsey's WW1

Conscientious Objectors

Talk by Jennifer Bell MBE.
Union Church Hall, N8 9PX, Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 15 January, 7.30pm

Pevsner in Hampstead and Bloomsbury

Talk by Susie Harries.
Local Studies Library, Camden History Society, £1

Friday 16 January, 1.30pm

The People's Car: a History of the Volkswagen Beetle

Lecture by Bernhard Rieger.
British Museum, free, booking essential

Friday 16 January, 6.30pm

From Goethe to Grimm

Panel discussion with writers and academics on 18th and early 19th century German literature.
Tickets £5/concs

Tuesday, 20 January, 6pm

The General Election, February 1974

Talk by Prof Vernon Bogdanor.
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday, 22 January, 6pm

The Legacy of Winston Churchill

Talk by Prof Vernon Bogdanor.
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Friday 23 January, 1.30pm
Shall We Stay Or Shall We Leave? Jews in Germany 1945–2015

Lecture by Daniel Wildmann.
 British Museum, free, booking essential

Friday 23 January, 7pm
Germany's Sense of Itself and the World's Sense of Germany

London Review of Books panel discussion.
 British Museum, £10/concs

Tuesday 27 January, 6pm
The Novel & Idealism: George Sand's 'Francois le Champi' (The Country Waif)

Talk by Professor Belinda Jack
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 28 January, 6pm
Did God Evolve? An Evolutionist's Speculation About Religion

Talk by Professor Steve Jones
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 28 January, 7.45pm
The Story of Shredded Wheat

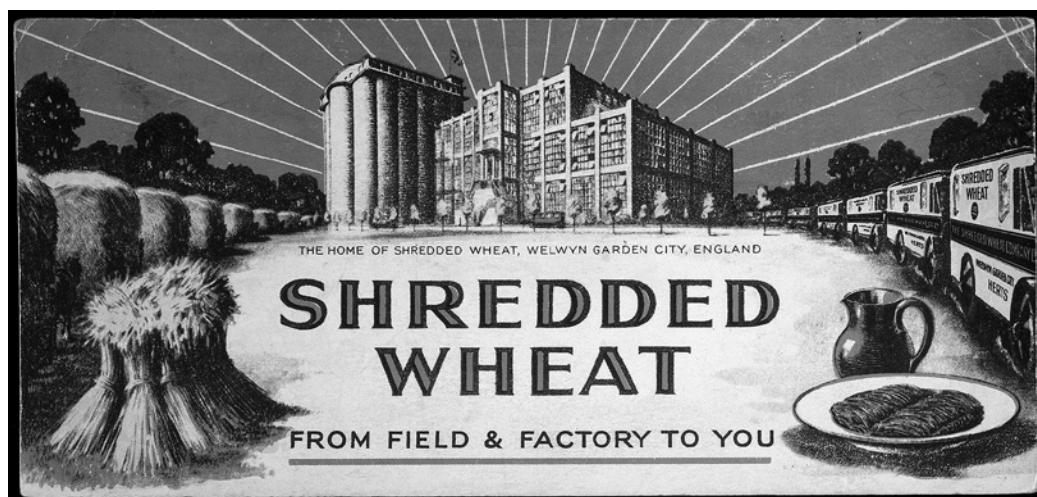
Talk by Colin Barratt.
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Friday 30 January, 6.30pm
Curses! The British Museum's 'Unlucky' Mummies

Roger Luckhurst explores the history of items in the museum's Egyptian collection associated with curses.
 British Museum, £5/concs

Wednesday 4 February, 1pm
The Early Universe
 Professor Caroline Crawford
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 5 February, 7.30pm
The North Walsham and Dilham Canal 1826-2026
 Talk by Ivan Cane.
 London Canal Museum, £4/concs



The story of Shredded Wheat is a topic for the Friern Barnet & District Local History Society on 28 January. They'll be discussing a house in Clerkenwell and the census at their March meeting

Friday 6 February, 6.45-10pm
Farewell Leicester Square
 Adult-only event to mark the end of the Goodbye Piccadilly exhibition.
 London Transport Museum, £10/concs

Tuesday 10 February, 6pm
The Beginning and the End: Images of the Universe
 Talk by Dr Valerie Shrimplin
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 10 February, 6.15pm
AGM & Presidential Address: Gog and Magog: A Tale of Three Giants
 Talk by John Clark.
 Museum of London. London and Middlesex Archaeological Society event, £2/concs

Wednesday 11 February, 8pm
Hornsey Wood House
 Talk by John Hinshelwood.
 Union Church Hall, N8 9PX, Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 19 February, 1pm
Harmony in the Lowest Home: The Guitar and the Labouring Poor
 Talk by Prof Christopher Page.
 St Sepulchre Without Newgate, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 19 February, 7.30pm
What Happened to the Heath after 1871?
 Talk by Helen Marcus.

Burgh House, NW3, Camden History Society, £1

Thursday 5 March, 7.30pm
The Buckingham Canal – Past Present and Future
 Talk by Terry Cavender.
 London Canal Museum, £4/concs

Tuesday 10 March, 6.15pm
Medieval Stonemasonry
 Talk by James Wright.
 Museum of London, London and Middlesex Archaeological Society event, £2/concs

Wednesday 11 March, 8pm
Brunel's Thames Tunnel: the Eighth Wonder of the World
 Talk by Robert Hulse.
 Union Church Hall, N8 9PX, Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Wednesday 25 February, 7.45pm
A Look at John Betjeman
 Talk by by Terence Atkins.
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Monday 2 March, 1pm
Elizabeth's Ghosts: the Afterlife of the Queen in the Stuart Era
 Talk by Prof Carole Levin.
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Monday 9 March, 1pm
North America's Largest Act of Slave Resistance?
 Talk by Dr Nathaniel Millett.

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 10 March, 6pm
The General Election, 1979
 Talk by Prof Vernon Bogdanor.
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Monday 16 March, 1pm
Cultural Misfits: Gender in Early Twentieth-Century Literature
 Talk by Prof Georgia Johnston.
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 19 March, 7.30pm
Town Planning in Camden
 Talk by Lester Hillman.
 Local Studies Library, Camden History Society, £1

Wednesday 25 March, 7.45pm
The National Census and a Look at a House in Clerkenwell
 Talk by by Marlene McAndrew.
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Thursday 26 March, 10am-5pm
Theatres, the Planning System and Local Government
 Course on the planning system and how it can affect your theatre; suitable for those leading theatres, including trustees. Theatres Trust.

Ongoing

Contact the organisations here for visiting arrangements and prices.

Guided Tours of Union Chapel

12.15pm, first Sunday of the month

People rarely have the chance to appreciate fully the beauty, complex architecture and extent of these buildings, including a secret passage and a hidden garden.

£5 donation, book in advance on 020 7359 4019

London Metropolitan Archives: regular events mainly free

Contact the LMA for information, dates and times.

Use LMA: Getting Started
Find out how to get the best out of LMA research facilities.

Behind the Scenes Tour
Tour the archives and meet LMA professionals.

Handling Documents at LMA
Practical sessions on handling archival items and using the archive study area.

LGBTQ History Club
A monthly meeting to explore and share lesbian, gay, trans, bi and queer histories.

Focus on Family History at LMA
Workshop aimed at beginners on using digitised family history sources.

Film Club
Monthly screenings of archive film and discussion.

The British Postal Museum & Archive: online exhibitions

Theses include the Last Post (about the First World War), Christmas Through the Post; Post Haste: Unusual and Bizarre Deliveries, Icons of England, Victorian

Innovation, the People's Post, the Post Office in Pictures, the World's First Scheduled Aerial Post, Mount Pleasant – the Largest Sorting Office in the World, and Moving the Mail: Horses to Horsepower.
<http://postalheritage.org.uk/page/onlineexhibitions>

Mail Rail: a Photographic Exhibition
Recent photos of the whole network, including tunnels and the underground stations used by the postal service. Free, British Postal Museum and Archive, www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/mail-rail-exhibition

Tour of the British Postal Museum & Archive store
Curator-led tour, plus time to look around by yourself. Includes postal vehicles and over 200 post boxes.
www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/museum-tours

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association: walks
Guided walks around Islington and Clerkenwell led by the mayor of Islington's official guides.
www.ciga.org.uk

Historic Almshouse Tour
Visit the Geffrye Museum's 18th-century almshouse to get a glimpse into the lives of London's poor and elderly in the 1700s and 1800s.
info@geffrye-museum.org.uk, 020 7739 9893

Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot
Last Friday and Saturday of every month (not December)
Tours of London Transport Museum's depot in Acton. This holds more than 370,000 objects, including vehicles, railway and bus sheds, signs, ceramic tiles, ticket machines and ephemera.
£12/concs, book on 020 7565 7298 or at www.ltmuseum.co.uk

Exhibitions

13 December-6 September Small Stories: at Home in a Dolls' House

The history of the home, architecture, everyday life and family relationships are told through the stories of 12 dolls' houses from the past 300 years. These include country mansions, Georgian town houses, suburban villas, council estates and high-rise flats. Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood, free

Until Sunday 4 January Christmas Past: 400 Years of Seasonal Traditions in English Homes

Eleven period living rooms are transformed with authentic festive decorations, lighting, music and greenery to give visitors a glimpse into Christmas celebrations in English middle-class homes over the past 400 years. Geffrye Museum, free

Until Monday 5 January Ming: 50 Years That Changed China

Between AD 1400 and 1450, China was a global superpower run by the Ming dynasty. Chinese artists absorbed many influences, and created some of the most beautiful objects and paintings ever made. The exhibition features spectacular objects, including exquisite porcelain, gold, jewellery, furniture, paintings, sculptures and textiles – from museums across China and the rest of the world.
£16.50/concs, British Museum

Until Sunday 11 January Witches and Wicked Bodies

This examines the portrayal of witches and witchcraft in art from the Renaissance to the end of the 19th century, representing an inversion of a well-ordered society and the natural world. It features works by artists including Dürer,

Goya, Delacroix, Burne-Jones and Dante Gabriel Rossetti, as well as classical Greek and Renaissance items.
British Library, free

Until Tuesday 20 January Terror and Wonder: the Gothic Imagination

The UK's biggest ever Gothic exhibition. Two hundred rare objects trace 250 years of the Gothic tradition, exploring our enduring fascination with the mysterious, the terrifying and the macabre in film, art, music, fashion, architecture and daily life.
British Library, £10/concs, ● Review, page 22

Until Sunday 11 January Geffrye 100: a Brief History of the Museum

This small display charts the changing nature of the almshouses and the museum. Geffrye Museum, Free

Until 11 January Pilgrims, Healers and Wizards: Buddhism and Religious Practices in Burma and Thailand

Featuring objects from the 18th century to the present, this exhibition shows the variety of religious practices in Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand, and how Buddhism, spirit worship, divination and other activities interact
British Museum, free

Until Sunday 25 January Germany: Memories of a Nation: a 600-year History in Objects

German history from the past 600 years is examined in the context of the fall of the Berlin Wall, using objects to investigate the complexities of a history full of triumphs and tragedies. On show are artworks by Dürer, Holbein and Richter, plus Meissen porcelain, technological and Bauhaus movement items, and a VW Beetle.
British Museum, £10/concs

Until Thursday 26 February
From East to West: Chinese life in London since 1900

The life experiences of Chinese people in London from 1900 to the present day are explored in this exhibition. It shows how Chinese culture in the capital has developed and prospered. A series of workshops and activities will accompany the exhibition. Islington Museum, free

Until Saturday 14 February

War, Art and Surgery

Explores the relationship between war and surgery, past and present through over 150 pieces of reportage artwork representing military surgeons in training and recently wounded soldiers on their road to recovery.

Hunterian Museum, free

Until Sunday 8 March

Goodbye Piccadilly from Home Front to Western Front

Exhibition commemorating and exploring the contribution of London's motor buses and their drivers to the World War I and the



The Witches' Rout: a witch riding a skeleton, c1520, by Agostino Veneziano from *Witches and Wicked Bodies* at the British Library

upheaval for Londoners on the home front. London Transport Museum, £15/concs (includes museum entry for a year)

Until Thursday 12 March

London Gothic

This exhibition presents documents and images that record fact and fiction about the dark side of London, some of which are on public display for the first time. They include court records dating back to the 17th century, covering witch trials, hauntings and

public executions, as well as plans for a 94-storey, pyramid-shaped mausoleum in Primrose Hill. The "gothic" is examined in many guises including architecture, goth clubs and the gothic imagination.

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Until Sunday 15 March

Wedding Dresses 1775-2014

This exhibition traces the development of the wedding dress and wedding fashions

over the past two centuries. On display are glamorous and extravagant wedding dresses and the growth of the wedding industry is explored. £12/concs, Victoria and Albert Museum

Until Tuesday 31 March

Frontline Nurses: British Nurses of the First World War

Nurses worked at every part of the Allied front lines, in casualty clearing stations, field hospitals and base hospitals. They cared for wounded patients, and combated the illnesses caused by the squalor of trench life: trench foot, dysentery and typhus fever. . Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre, 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN, 0345 337 3368, rcn.library@rcn.org.uk, free

Until Sunday 12 April

Waterways on the Western Front: Untold Stories of World War 1

Hundreds of barges took five million tons of food to prevent starvation in Belgium and transported thousands of tons of munitions each day to Ypres. Through archive film and photos, firsthand testimonies and rare objects, the exhibition charts the critical role played by canals. London Canal Museum, £4/concs

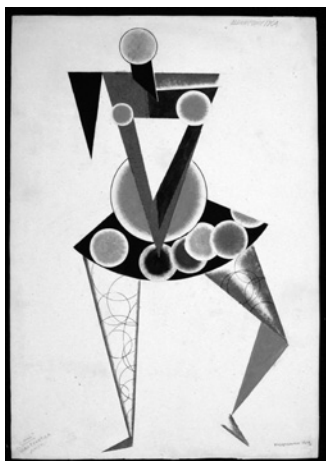
Russian avant-garde theatre design in a time of upheaval

This exhibition shows the creativity and collaboration between artistic disciplines in Russia in a time of revolution, war and cultural change. It brings together more than 150 costume and set designs by 45 artists and designers.

The display starts with designs by Kazimir Malevich for *Victory Over the Sun*, a futuristic opera first staged in St Petersburg in 1913. His backdrops show geometric monochrome patterns and costumes for the production were voluminous and bold.

A star exhibit is a set model by constructivist artist Lyubov Popova's for *The Magnanimous Cuckold*, a farce

by Fernand Crommelynck performed at the radical Meyerhold Theatre. The set for the story of the miller who suspects his wife is unfaithful



Costume by Alexander Rodchenko for *We*

is a mechanical mill, with cog wheels, ladders and grids and conveyor belts. This allowed director Vsevolod Meyerhold to present his acting theory of biomechanics, which favoured gesture and movement over psychological interpretation.

Artist and photographer Alexander Rodchenko used bold geometric forms and bright colours in costumes for *We* (1920), a Proletcult Theatre production that was eventually banned by the authorities.

A soundtrack of Russian folk songs adds atmosphere. ■

● Russian Avant-Garde Theatre: War, Revolution and Design, 1913-1933, Victoria and Albert Museum, free

Directory

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

Check opening times before visiting. If you would like your organisation listed here or to update details, email editor Christy Lawrance on christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk or c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB

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

Alexandra Palace TV Society
Archives: 35 Breedon Hill Road, Derby, DE23 6TH, 01332 729 358, apts@apts.org.uk, www.youtube.com/aptsarchive

All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum
020 7481 2928, www.ahbtt.org.uk/visiting/crypt-museum/

Amateur Geological Society
25 Village Road, N3 1TL

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

Ancestor Search
Guidance on where to look. www.ancestor-search.info

The Angel Association
www.angelassociation.org.uk

Archives Hub
<http://archiveshub.ac.uk/>

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

Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics
www.asprom.org

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

Barnet Museum and Local History Society
www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

BBC archive
www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Benjamin Franklin House
Craven Street, WC2N 5NF, 020 7925 1405, info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Bethlem Royal Hospital Archives and Museum
Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, 020 3228 4227, www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

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

Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archive
230 Bishopsgate, EC2M, 020 7392 9270, www.bishopsgate.org.uk

Bomb Sight
Online map of WW2 bombs in London 1940-41, www.bombsight.org

British Airways Heritage
www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb

British Library
96 Euston Road, NW1, 0330 333 1144, customer-Services@bl.uk

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

British Postal Museum and Archive
Freeling House, Phoenix Place, WC1X 0DL; store at Debden, Essex, 020 7239 2570, info@postalheritage.org.uk

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

Brixton Windmill
020 7926 6056, www.brixtonwindmill.org/

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

Burgh House and Hampstead Museum
New End Sq, NW3, 020 7431 0144, www.burghhouse.org.uk

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

Camden New Town History Group
www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust
21 Oppidans Road, NW3, secretary@crht1837.org

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

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group
www.hevac-heritage.org/

Cinema Museum
www.cinemamuseum.org.uk/

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

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

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

Courtauld Gallery
Somerset House, WC2R 0RN, 020 7848 2526, galleryinfo@courtauld.ac.uk

Cross Bones Graveyard
www.crossbones.org.uk

Crossness Pumping Station
020 8311 3711, www.crossness.org.uk

Docklands History Group
info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

Dictionary of Victorian London/Cat's Meat Shop
Encyclopaedia and blog, www.victorianlondon.org

East London History Society
42 Campbell Rd, E3 4DT, mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Enfield Archaeological Society
www.enfarchsoc.org

Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art
39a Canonbury Square, N1 2AN, 020 7704 9522, info@www.estorickcollection.com

Alexander Fleming Laboratory Museum
St Mary's Hospital, W2, 020 3312 6528, www.imperial.nhs.uk/aboutus/museumsandarchives

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

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

Friends of Hackney Archives
Hackney Archives, Dalston Sq, E8 3BQ, 020 8356 8925, archives@hackney.gov.uk

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

Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

Friends of Friendless Churches

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Garden History Society

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

Geffrye Museum

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

Georgian Group

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

Grant Museum of Zoology

020 3108 2052, www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology, zoology.museum@ucl.ac.uk

Gresham College

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

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)

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

Guildhall Library

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

Hackney Museum

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

The Hackney Society

Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 020 7175 1967, info@hackneysociety.org

Hendon and District Archaeology Society

020 8449 7076, hadas.org.uk

Heritage of London Trust

020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historic Hospital Admission



Smilodon skull in Grant Museum of Zoology

Records Project

www.hharp.org/

Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution Archives

archives@hlsi.net

Historical Association, Central London Branch

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

Historic Towns Forum

www.historictownsforum.org

History of Haringay

www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay

Honourable Artillery Company Museum

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

Horniman Museum

100 London Rd, SE23, 020 8699 1872, www.horniman.ac.uk

Hornsey Historical Society

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

Hunterian Museum

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

IanVisits

London blog and listings,

including history events.

www.ianvisits.co.uk

Imperial War Museum

Lambeth Road, SE1 6HZ, www.iwm.org.uk

Islington and Camden Cemetery

High Road, East Finchley, N2 9AG, 020 7527 8804, www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/cemeteries

Islingtonfacesblog.com

Living history interviews. http://islingtonfacesblog.com

Islington Local History Centre

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

Islington Museum

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

Islington's Lost Cinemas

www.isingtonslostcinemas.com

Islington Society

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

Jewish Museum

www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

Joe Meek Society

www.joemeeksociety.org

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4, www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Keats House

020 7332 3868, keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Locating London's Past

www.locatinglondon.org

London Canal Museum

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

London Fire Brigade Museum

020 8555 1200, www.london-fire.gov.uk/london-fire-brigade-museum.asp

London Lives 1690-1800

www.londonlives.org

London Metropolitan Archives

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

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

020 7814 5734, www.lamas.org.uk

London Museums of Health and Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Museum of Water & Steam

Green Dragon Lane, TW8, 020 8568 4757, www.waterandsteam.org.uk/

London Socialist Historians Group

http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com

London Vintage Taxi Association

www.lvta.co.uk

London Transport Museum

020 7379 6344, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

LT Museum Friends

020 7565 7296, www.ltmuseum.co.uk/friends

London Underground Railway Society

enquiries@lurs.org.uk

London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

www.lwmfhs.org.uk

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum

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

Mausolea & Monuments Trust

www.mmtrust.org.uk

Marx Memorial Library

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

Museum of Brands

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

Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)

020 8411 4394, www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/home

Museum of London

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

Museum of London Archaeology

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

Museum of London Docklands

020 7001 9844, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands

Museum of the Order of St John

St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA, 020 7324 4005, www.museumstjohn.org.uk

Musical Museum

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

National Archives

020 8876 3444, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Churches Trust

www.nationalchurchestrust.org

National Piers Society

www.piers.org.uk

Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology

020 7371 4445, office@newcomen.com

Newington Green Action Group

020 7359 6027, www.newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group

mail@newriver.org.uk, 020 8292 5987

North London Railway Historical Society

www.nlrhs.org.uk

Northview – 1930s estate

www.northview.org.uk

Pauper Lives in Georgian London and Manchester

http://research.ncl.ac.uk/pauperlives

Peckham Society

www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology

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

Proceedings of the Old Bailey

www.oldbaileyonline.org

Ragged School Museum

020 8980 6405, www.raggedschoolmuseum.org.uk

Rescue/British Archaeological Trust

www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

Rowan Arts Project

020 7700 2062, www.therowanartsproject.com

Royal Air Force Museum

020 8205 2266, www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)

66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD, www.architecture.com

Science Museum

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

Sir John Soane's Museum

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

Smithfield Trust

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

Society of Genealogists

020 7251 8799, www.societyofgenealogists.com

Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

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

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society

79 Ashridge Cres, SE18 3EA

Stuart Low Trust

www.slt.org.uk

Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society

info@rbhistory.org.uk

Royal Archaeological Institute

admin@royalarchinst.org

Thames Discovery Programme

Mortimer Wheeler Hse, 46 Eagle Wharf Rd, N1, 020 7410 2207, thamesdiscovery.org

Theatres Trust

020 7836 8591, www.theatretrust.org.uk

Transport Trust

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

Twentieth Century Society

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

Union Chapel and Friends of the Union Chapel

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

Victoria & Albert Museum

Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020 7907 7073, www.vam.ac.uk

V&A Museum of Childhood

Cambridge Heath Road, E2 9PA, 020 8983 5200, www.museumofchildhood.org.uk

Victorian Society

020 8994 1019, www.victoriansociety.org.uk

Wallace Collection

Hertford House, Manchester Sq, W1, 020 7563 9500, www.wallacecollection.org

Wallpaper History Society

wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society

www.walthamstowhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Wellcome Collection

www.wellcomecollection.org

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism

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

William Morris Gallery

Forest Road, E17, 020 8496 4390, www.wmgallery.org.uk

Wilmington Square Society

www.thewilmingtonsquaresociety.org

Women's Library Collection

thewomenslibrary@lse.ac.uk, library.enquiries@lse.ac.uk

Islington Archaeology & History Society

Events

Wednesday 17 December, 8pm, Islington Town Hall

Book launch and talk: the Prefab Museum and the Excalibur Estate



Presented by Elisabeth Blanchet, Prefab Museum founder

The Excalibur Estate in Catford is the only surviving prefabricated postwar estate in

London. Six of the houses are listed; the rest face demolition.

The homes, designed by Ministry of Works architects and built by German and Italian prisoners of war, are single storey with two bedrooms and their own gardens. Occupiers have added decorative features – one is mock Tudor.

One house was turned into the Prefab Museum, where people have shared stories of life in prefab housing. It displayed photographs, films and lots of memorabilia and household items. Sadly, the museum is temporarily closed following a recent fire.

Elisabeth Blanchet will also be launching her book, *Prefab Homes*.

New Year's Day George Orwell walk

Start the new year with a walk on George Orwell and Islington in the 1940s, on 1 January led by IAHS chairman Andy Gardner.

George Orwell was at his most prolific during his time in Islington. While he was living at 27b Canonbury Square, *Animal Farm* was published and he worked on drafts of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, published numerous essays and articles, and broadcast extensively.



The walk starts at 11.30am outside Highbury & Islington Station and take 90 minutes plus time for questions. A second walk may take place in the afternoon, depending on demand.

Cost £8/£7 concs. Booking essential on walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk. Proceeds will go to the Margins winter night shelter.

The Islington Archaeology & History Society meets 10 times a year, usually on the third Wednesday of the month, at Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1. £1 donation/free to members. Everyone welcome. www.islingtonhistory.org.uk

Note: from January, meetings will start at 7.30pm

Wednesday 21 January, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

Predictable surprises: looking for clues

Joint event with the Islington Society

Talk by David Gibson, chair, Islington Society



Hidden treasures, by definition, are those we don't know are there. However, we might be able to determine where they are hidden away. What clues do we have to guide us?

A wealth of information can be found in historical research, photographs and old maps but the most potent clues are in what can be seen. We will look at some visible clues – like this old shop fascia – and what they reveal.

Wednesday 18 February, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall.

The Caledonian Park Clock Tower project



Talk by Chris Hariades, Greenspace project officer, Islington Council

Plans are being drawn up to conserve the grade II listed Caledonian Park Clock Tower and reopen it for local people, and build a visitor centre.

The seven-storey clock tower was opened in 1855 as the centrepiece of the Metropolitan Cattle Market.

A study carried out to prepare for these plans found “significant archaeological potential” below ground, including what may be remains of Copenhagen House (news, autumn 2014, page 5).

Keep up to date about with news and events at our Facebook page.

● www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Back page picture

Separate doorbells for visitors and servants at a Highbury Terrace house

