

# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 6 No 1 Spring 2016



## A legacy of homes

George Peabody built homes to give poor people “comfort and happiness”

Flying Scotsman steams again ● Call to reinstate historic road layout ● Islington People's Plaques ● Bunhill Fields tower blocks opposed ● The IAHS in its earlier days ● Filming a 1940s thriller ● Vigilant residents save mosaic ● Scientific testing pioneer ● ‘Justifiable homicide’ of police officer at riot ● Books ● Events and exhibitions ● Letters and questions

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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, walks and other events, 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](http://www.islingtonhistory.org.uk)



📘 [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory.org.uk](https://www.facebook.com/groups/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 length is 1,000 words (please do not submit articles published elsewhere). We like pictures – please check we can use them without infringing anyone's copyright.

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

Deadline for the summer issue is 1 May.

## 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](http://www.islingtonhistory.org.uk)

## 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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## Join the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Membership per year is: £12 single; £15 joint at same address; concessions single £8/joint £10; corporate £25; overseas £20; life: £125 (renewal forms sent out when due)

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# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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## Crossroad plans need the Green Cross Code

Stop, look, listen. That was the message of the Green Cross Code man, and it holds today at Highbury Corner roundabout and other postwar gyratories being remodelled in London.

They were of their time, and have served their time. We now have the chance to reconsider them and a once in a lifetime opportunity to get them right. Perhaps we should pause and reflect on the remodelling of Elephant and Castle and Archway, before launching Highbury Corner into becoming another 50-year guinea pig.

Highbury Corner is more than a roundabout. The arboretum is a memorial garden to people lost in the V1 attack in 1944 that destroyed the Compton Terrace houses that were on the site. Lives lost are hard to comprehend when they are in the thousands; a street gone next door brings the loss home.

The planting of so many varieties of trees in the arboretum may remind us of Islington's diversity of people, from so many backgrounds and histories sharing a space.

Highbury Corner should be a garden of reflection, not an isolated, unapproachable vista. As I write, discussions of how best to address this continue.

### Fifty years back

This year, we said goodbye to George Martin, who grew up in Highbury. Fifty years ago, he produced the Beatles' *Revolver*, when the band were at their pinnacle. It was the same year England won the World Cup. If you remember 1966 – at school, partying, in the pub, starting work or a family – we'd love to hear your memories.

Andy Gardner  
Chairman

*Islington Archaeology & History Society*



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## In brief

### Dad's Army butcher's van back to 1935 glory

The butcher's van from *Dad's Army* has been returned to its original condition by Ford apprentices in the same Dagenham building it would have left more than 80 years ago. The 1935 Ford BB Box Van appeared in the first colour episode of the series in 1969.

### Plague passed on between humans

Plague has occurred in people for more than twice as long as previously thought, according to research on ancient DNA. It would have been spread mainly by contact between people until genetic mutations allowed *Yersinia pestis*, the bacteria that causes plague, to survive in fleas.

### Old War Office to become hotel and flats

The Old War Office in to become a luxury hotel and apartment complex, after the Ministry of Defence sold the site to a multinational company. The Old War Office, completed in 1906, was the army's HQ until the Ministry of Defence was set up in 1964. Ministers who served in the building include Lord Kitchener, Lloyd George, and Winston Churchill.

### Antique 'perpetual' mousetrap still works

A 155-year-old mouse trap on display at the Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading has caught a mouse. On the side of the "simplest, cleanest and most humane trap" is written that it "cannot fail" and "will last". The trap, known as a "perpetual mouse trap" was patented in 1861.

## Flying Scotsman steams again



The Flying Scotsman on its way from King's Cross to York earlier this year

The Flying Scotsman started its first run after a decade-long, £4.2m refit at King's Cross in February.

The locomotive, which was retired from service in 1963, was restored for the National Railway Museum in York, where it will go on display.

The Flying Scotsman, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley

and completed in 1923, was the London and North Eastern Railway's first locomotive.

In 1924, it was selected to appear at the British Empire Exhibition in London and was named the Flying Scotsman after the daily London to Edinburgh service that had run since 1862.

In 1928, it was fitted with a new type of tender with a corridor, which meant crews could change without the train having to stop. This allowed it to complete the first non-stop London to Edinburgh run on 1 May, which took eight hours.

In 1934, it was first train to reach 100mph.

● [www.flyingscotsman.org.uk](http://www.flyingscotsman.org.uk)

## Nominate a person, place or event for an Islington plaque

This year's Islington People's Plaque scheme has opened for nominations.

The scheme recognises significant people, places and events with public plaques. Anyone can make a nomination.

A nominated person must have a connection to the borough by birth, work or residency, be reasonably well known and have died over one year ago. A place or event must be of historical or

geographical importance.

The shortlist of nominations will be published on Islington Council's website, then people will vote for winners. The three nominations getting the most votes will receive an Islington People's Plaque.

Last year's scheme received a record number of votes, and the winner was Mary Tealby, who founded what became Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. ● [www.islington.gov.uk/peoplesplaque](http://www.islington.gov.uk/peoplesplaque)

### Road tunnels plan threatens historic sites

Two road tunnels through London proposed by the mayor of London pose a huge threat to historic buildings, the Victorian Society has said.

Part of the proposed route runs from Camden to Highbury.

Christopher Costelloe, Victorian Society director, said: "We must be careful not to repeat the mistakes of the mid-20th century which saw vast areas demolished for traffic schemes which are often regretted today."

## Repairs ahead for St Mary's church

More than 70 repairs are to be carried out to the 18th century St Mary's Church in Upper Street, including to its landmark 167ft spire. Some of the disrepair is serious. English Heritage recently recorded the portico at the front of the church on its Heritage at Risk Register.

## George Martin

Beatles producer George Martin, who recently died aged 90, grew up in a flat over a shop in Drayton Park in Highbury. He signed the Beatles to Parlophone in 1962 and helped them achieve global success. He set up Wessex Sound Studios in Highbury New Park, where Queen, the Rolling Stones, the Sex Pistols and The Clash recorded music.

## Plans in pipeline to restore Athlone House

Athlone House in Hampstead could be restored after it was sold earlier this year. Its previous owners spent years trying get permission to demolish the mock-Elizabethan house, built in 1871, and replace it with a huge mansion. They gave up after a government planning inspector then a judicial review rejected their plans. The new owners are understood to have discussed restoring the building with Camden.



Our Facebook group now has more than 300 members. Read news, post a photo and join a conversation at [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory](http://www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory)

# Call to restore historic Highbury layout

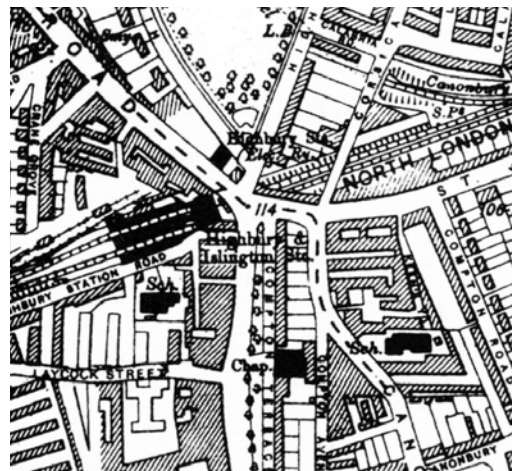
IAHS members have called for the original layout of the crossroads by Highbury Station to be reinstated.

Compton Terrace originally extended to where the roundabout island is; 11 houses at its north end were destroyed by a V1 rocket in the Second World War.

Transport for London have drawn up proposals to redesign the road layout to get rid of the one-way system. Its plans would see the road on the west side of the gyratory closed to traffic, and the rest of the system two-way.

IAHS chair Andy Gardner said: "My suggestion has long been that the pre-1944 street pattern was proven, and the unreachable garden should be re-incorporated into Compton Terrace Gardens.

Map of Highbury Corner before the houses on the end of Compton Terrace were destroyed in the Second World War



"There is good and bad in proposals to close off any of the sides. I'm open to views but, for me, it's obvious to put it back, sensitively, as it was."

The Islington Society, which has long campaigned for the removal of the one-way

system, has criticised TfL's proposals for being too complex.

There are also concerns about the loss of green space from the arboretum, which was planted to commemorate lives lost in the bombing of Compton Terrace.

## Opposition to Bunhill Fields tower blocks grows

Poets, playwrights and environmentalists have called on the government to stop plans to build tower blocks overlooking Bunhill Fields.

The writers, who include Will Self, Heathcote Williams and Jet Payne – whose nonconformist ancestors are buried in Bunhill Fields – made an "emergency appeal for cultural protection of a grade 1 listed park and garden" to communities secretary Greg Clark.

The move came after London mayor Boris Johnson overruled Islington Council, and gave consent for four tower blocks – one of 11 storeys.

Islington Council said the office blocks would "substantially harm the setting of the grade 1 listed Bunhill Fields burial ground, the conservation area, and the streetscape".



Bunhill Fields: grade 1 listed green space in built-up area

The letter asks: "What is the point of having a grade 1 designation if the listed park and garden in question is used as a bait for high-rise property development, and its protected status so easily violated?"

Also objecting to the tower blocks were the Ancient Monuments Society, Georgian Group, Victorian Society, Twentieth Century Society, Blake Society, John Wesley

House and others.

William Blake, Daniel Defoe and writer and baptist preacher John Bunyan are all buried in the grade I listed park and burial ground.

The letter says: "Office spaces are everywhere in London, Bunhill Fields is rare... a natural, historic and spiritual oasis.

"Sadly, its natural beauty and cultural heritage have become a target for developers."

The writers point out: "This is the third time in two years that Islington has been undermined by the mayor's planning powers, leaving the council divided and demoralised in the extreme and seemingly unable to protect the jewel in its crown."

A petition to Mr Clark has topped 3,000 signatures – sign at <http://tinyurl.com/hueo4lv>.

# Letters and your questions

We draw on the expertise of our researcher Michael Reading and our Facebook group members, so get in touch if you have a query or can respond to anything here

## The William Tyndale school affair: were you there?

I'd be very grateful to receive any recollections from former pupils, staff, parents or others involved with the William Tyndale junior and infants school in the mid-1970s, 40 years on from the uproar and controversy surrounding its radically progressive teaching approaches and methods.

The affair was subject to a parliamentary inquiry; Robin Auld QC's report to the Inner London Education Authority runs to 309 pages and 15 appendices, and was critical of all involved. In addition, *Times Educational Supplement* journalists John Gretton and Mark Jackson wrote an account of the experiment, entitled *William Tyndale: Collapse of a School – or a System?* A group of teachers at the school published their own account, *William Tyndale: the Teachers' Story*.

I would like to collect firsthand recollections and reflections on what happened and would very much like to hear pupils, teachers, parents or anyone else connected with the school at the time.

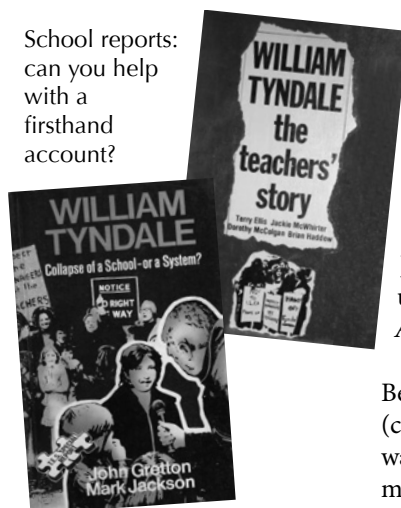
Andy Gardner  
[andy@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:andy@islingtonhistory.org.uk)

## Living in sin – or just saving sacred payments?

I have just learnt something that explains a lot in my research. I noticed that many brides and grooms were recorded as living at the same address before marriage.

"The reading of banns was charged for at each church where read. If the bride and groom were of the same parish there was only one charge.

School reports: can you help with a firsthand account?



"Many couples claimed to be of the same parish in order to halve the charge for banns. This frequently leads to marriage certificates where both the bride and groom give exactly the same address as their residence, something which is most unlikely to be the case, but was a cost saving practice that was widely tolerated."

I found this in a great little book called *Solving Genealogy Problems* by Graeme Davis.  
Linda Sullivan  
*Whitianga, New Zealand*

## Holloway prison's graveyard

Speculation arose on the IAHS Facebook pages following the news Holloway Women's Prison is to close.

I wonder what they will do with the cemetery.  
Mary Wash

This could also apply to Pentonville which too is on the "unfit for purpose" list. The remains of people, even those who were hanged, have to be treated respectfully.

There's a lot of folk myth as well as fact. The remains of

some, such as Ruth Ellis at Holloway and Timothy Evans at Pentonville, were reinterred, in Evans' case after his posthumous pardon (which prevents him from being declared innocent). John Christie is still there, unmourned and unmarked.  
Andy Gardner

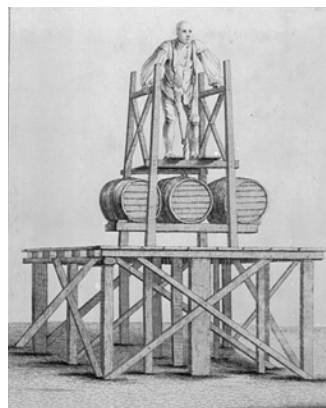
Before the prison was rebuilt (circa 1970), Islington Council wanted the land to build much-needed council housing.

There is even more need for social housing now but I expect it will become "luxury apartments" with a tiny percentage of "affordable" housing around the back.

Wikipedia states that the bodies were moved at this time.  
Barry Edwards

I believe the burial ground was cleared before the 1970s redevelopment. There were five interments, of which four were reburied at Brookwood cemetery in Surrey.

If burials were still in place, there is a procedure for obtaining a licence from the Department of Justice to allow



Strongman and pub landlord Thomas Topham lifting water barrels weighing 1,836lbs

the exhumation of the bodies and the reburial of them in a lawful place for burial. This procedure appears to have been followed in the 1970s when the licence would have been issued by the Home Office.

Derek Seeley  
*Museum of London Archaeology  
IAHS committee member*

Ruth Ellis was buried in an unmarked grave within the walls of Holloway Prison, as was customary for executed prisoners.

Her body was reburied in the churchyard extension of St Mary's Church in Amersham, Buckinghamshire. The headstone was inscribed "Ruth Hornby 1926-1955". Her son, Andy, destroyed the headstone shortly before he took his own life in 1982.

The four women reburied at Brookwood cemetery were Styliou Christofi, Edith Thompson, Amelia Sach and Annie Walters.  
Andy Gardner

## The strongman of the Duke's Head

Does anyone know anything about the Duke's Head pub that was in St Alban's Place, Islington Green. When it was there? I'd like to know its precise location.  
Philip Nelkon

It was on Gadd's Row (south-east corner of St Alban's Place) in the 1730s. A famous strongman, Thomas Topham, was landlord around 1734.  
Craig Cross

Before 1835, the road was Cadd's Row – it was printed on a 1735 map as Gad's Row.

The reference to it being on the south-east side of St Alban's Place comes from *The History of Islington* by John Nelson, published in 1811. Another source states that it stood approximately where 79 Upper Street is now. Today, no 79 is occupied by the Euphorium Bakery.

The building is believed to have stood there in the 1600s when Islington was a village. The map of 1801 shows houses mainly along Upper Street with open fields behind.

It was not there in 1859, the earliest date I have for the Post Office street directories, and it may have disappeared as the area changed from rural to urban, perhaps many years before.

The Duke's Head was kept by Thomas Topham (1710-49) a prodigious strongman of Islington, who started his career as a publican aged 24 at Coldbath Fields.

His wife was unfaithful to him, so he beat her, stabbed her then turned the knife on himself. He died on 10 August 1749 at Hog Lane in Shoreditch. His wife recovered.

There is quite a long description of the many anecdotes about Topham's life and a drawing of him in John Nelson's book.

*Michael Reading*

### **Tibberton Square and the 'Wontner clan'**

I was wondering if any of you know anything about the origins and history of Tibberton Square in Islington.  
*Edwina Wontner Osborne*  
*Via Facebook*

Thomas Wontner built his family home on the site that became Tibberton Square in 1808.

Tibberton Square consists of two terraces of houses, facing each other across a communal residents' garden.

Wontner built the houses in grounds of his home after the



Tibberton Square: two terraces across a shared residents' garden

death of his wife in 1823, who he had met in Tibberton.

By 1970, the square had become run down, so Islington Council bought it and restored the houses as flats; the garden was landscaped and its railings replaced. The opening ceremony for the new scheme in July 1979 was attended by Sir Hugh Wontner, a descendent of Thomas Wontner.

This information is from London Gardens Online ([www.londongardensonline.org.uk](http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk)) and British History Online ([www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)).  
*Valerie Brook*

While researching Beech Hill Golf Club in Hadley Wood, I came across a Wontner: "the architect who converted the old mansion into the club house was Cyril Wontner Smith, a member of Old Fold Golf Club. He lived in The Byres, demolished in 2000 and now 34-36 Beech Hill." Is he part of your clan?  
*Joe Studman*

Sir Hugh Wontner was lord mayor of London in 1973-74. Is he in your family tree?  
*Andy Gardner*

Both of them are. They certainly get around, that Wontner lot.

Cyril Wontner Smith is one of my great great uncles. He died in 1952 in Worthing and I think there was an obituary for him in *The Times*.

He also was involved in refurbishing and extending BMA House in central London, and I think he also worked on Thaxted Church.

If you find anything more, then let me know.

*Edwina Wontner Osborne*

### **Many couples claimed to be of the same parish in order to halve the charge for banns**

#### **Can anyone identify the doctors in the ghost story?**

I am an admirer of the ghost stories of Montague Rhodes James (1862-1936), one of which, *The Two Doctors*, is set in Islington in 1718.

Published in 1919, it tells in the tale of an encounter between two doctors living in Islington, Dr Abell and Dr Quinn, and of their interaction with the rector, Jonathan Pratt. Dr Quinn is described as living at Dodds Hall in Islington.

James was a great scholar, the leading medievalist of his

day, and also provost of Eton and of King's College Cambridge. Most of his stories are based on fact or scholarship up to a point, so it seems likely there is some historical basis to these characters.

It would also otherwise be curious that he should locate the story specifically in Islington, with which he had no other connection known to me. I would be interested to know whether anyone can cast any light on the background to this story.

*James Dunnett*  
*info@jamesdunnettarchitects.com*

I read *The Two Doctors*, but could find no reference to a specific place or person related to Islington. The story is set in 1718 and Islington is described as being "colourful and pleasant". Later, there is a reference to Islington lanes; at the beginning of the 18th century, Islington village was becoming popular and the population was increasing.

While the rector in the story is Jonathan Pratt, the incumbent at St Mary's, the Islington parish church, was Reverend Robert Geary.

I could find no reference to Dodds Hall on the earliest map I have, which is dated

1801, but there may have been a property of that name 83 years earlier.

Also, the author was born some 144 years after the time in which he set his story and the Islington of 1862 would have been nothing like the Islington of 1718.

James, unlike many authors who use a real location, did not include a well-known feature or place, possibly because he had not visited and did not know any. I should be delighted if you find evidence to disprove my opinion.

*Michael Reading*

### Why boxer Len Harvey's green plaque was delayed

I have been researching boxer Len Harvey and his connection with Islington, and found that an Islington People's Plaque about him was due to be put up in 2013 but was not.

The plaque will be on the Steam Passage Tavern in Upper Street (he managed it for many years when the pub was called the Star & Garter). The pub is due to be refurbished, and the unveiling has been delayed until that has been completed.

*Philip Nelkon*

*Via Facebook*

### The rural origin of Cross Street's name

Can anyone let me know how Cross Street got its name?

*Chris Burton*

*Via Facebook*

In my booklet on *Cross Street – Islington: a History of One of the Oldest Streets in the Borough*, I start by referring to a map entitled *Map of Islington or Isledon in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I*. This showed an unnamed path or track, beginning at Lower Street (now Essex Road) and continuing westward past the house of Sir Thomas Fowler but petering out before it reached Upper Street.

The surrounding land was rural and one must assume



Len Harvey: green plaque will appear on pub he managed

that, as society progressed, the track developed into a proper thoroughfare. With this in mind, I suggested that "cross" could refer to being able to look across the fields between Upper Street and Lower Street, and Cross Street became common usage.

In his *The History of Islington* published in 1811, John Nelson mentions Cross Street several times when describing properties nearby, but does not mention the origin of its name.

There is another suggestion. Sir George Colebrooke held freeholds in the area, which he sold to a William and later Edward Cross, but I think the street and name were already well established by then.

*Michael Reading*

### Can you identify mystery ceramic items?

My wife Caroline and I bought these ceramic items a junk shops in Hastings a few years ago. They were made by Royal Worcester and their bases are perforated.

Although we've asked people about them, no one seems to know what they are or what they were used for. Does anyone recognise them?

*Peter Fuller*

### Searching for the school with a rooftop playground

My dad moved from Yorkshire to 90 Rhodes Street in November 1945 when he was six years old, and is trying to find out what infants' school he went to.

He can remember walking to school up Rhodes Street, then turning right into Mackenzie Road. He then turned left into what would now be Lough Road or Westbourne Road, and the school was along one of these roads. He says he remembers the school being very tall and the "playground" being on the roof.

I found different three entries regarding Lough and Westbourne Roads.

- The *Journal of the Islington Archaeology and History Society*, vol 2 no 1, mentions that Lough Road used to be Wellington Road.

- *British History Online – Islington Education* says that Westbourne Road used to be Wellington Road.

- The website [thehunthouse.com/.../New\\_to\\_Old\\_London\\_Street\\_Name\\_Changes.htm](http://thehunthouse.com/.../New_to_Old_London_Street_Name_Changes.htm), says Lough Road used to be Wellington Road and the name change occurred between 1929 and 1945, probably between 1936 and 1939.

Can anyone shed any light on this or about the infants' school that was along either of these roads?

*Lesley Matthewson*

By any chance, would he have gone to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Eden Grove?

That was a long, skinny school with the playground on the roof. In my time, in the 1960s, there was a playground and parish hall across the road but they weren't built till well into the 1950s.

*Esther Doyle*

My relatives lived in Lough Road. St James Road (named after St James' church in Chillingworth Road) was renamed Mackenzie Road in 1938. On the junction of Lough Road and Mackenzie Road stood the Wellington pub.

I am reasonably sure in the 1970s and 1980s the Inner London Education Authority owned 84-88 Westbourne Road (intended to be a school extension, which never materialised). So your dad's school might have been in Westbourne Road.

*Bill Patey*

Wellington Road was renamed Lough Road in 1937 when the London County Council renamed a lot of roads to cut down on duplicate names.

A school was built in Wellington Road in 1891 in the London School Board three-decker style, with a school house and rear entrance on Westbourne Road, next to St David's Church. The school buildings in this area were used by a number of schools



Laboratory items? These small items were bought in a junk shop

and had several names.

St Mary Magdalene's building was bombed in 1940 and they used the Wellington Road building, probably alongside the existing school. Apparently, it was renamed Alfred Pritchard School in 1947-51 and later used as an annexe by the Catholic Our Lady of Sacred Heart School (Eden Grove) until they took over former county school building in Georges Road.

*Barry Edwards*

### Smith's Buildings in St Peter's ward

I'm hoping someone can tell me if Smith's Buildings still exist.

A friend's daughter is studying in London (we're in the US). Her ggg-grandfather lived at 11 Smith's Buildings in St Peter's municipal and ecclesiastical ward in 1861. It appears to have housed scores of Irish labourers and their families at this time. Another online reference states that it was used as a school in the 1820s and 1830s.

I would love to give her a modern address so she can see where her ggg-grandfather lived.

*Marianne Holloway*  
*Via Facebook*

There was a Smith's Buildings on City Road, which is now a pavement backed by a block of 1950s council flats.

Incidentally, the term "buildings" before late Victorian times usually refers to a street of small terraced cottages rather than an actual building or block of flats.

*Valerie Brook*

Two Smith's Buildings may have existed in 1861.

From Eric Willats's *Streets With A Story*: "Smith's Buildings, Islington High Street. In 1806, the occupier of one tenement on the site was one James Smith. In 1841, there were 29 tenements and a stable, the owner being the



Compare and contrast: different styles and sizes in Englefield Road

Executor of James Smith."

"In the rate books until 1855, but not in the 1852-60 Islington local directories. On census returns for 1841, 1861, 1871 and 1881.

"Its 23 houses were in 1875 declared then to be insanitary."

The 1871 Ordnance Survey map shows Smith's Buildings, in the parish of St Peter's.

### It appears to have housed scores of Irish labourers and their families around 1861

Regarding the Smith's Buildings in City Road, the block of flats across from Nelson Terrace is the site. The surrounding houses, including those across City Road, are Victorian; they were likely to have been there in 1861, so your friend's ancestor would have known them.

The City Road Smith's Buildings is not marked on the 1871 map, which shows Victorian terraces and St Matthew's Church (which Willats states was built in 1847-48).

Willats does not mention the City Road Smith's Buildings but does mention the neighbouring Andersons Buildings as "Andersons Row,

City Road (1790) – By 1813 changed to Buildings, nos 17-21 demolished 1856-7. All left renumbered 293-307 City Road."

*Barry Edwards*

### A strange group of homes

This strange cluster of buildings at the top of Englefield road do not seem stylistically connected to the other buildings on that street.

The father Thames detail above the ground floor-window of one house and the size of the houses are intriguing. Can anyone cast any light?

*Ivano Ruggeri*  
*Via Facebook*

I have been unable to find any information on why the eight houses at 141-155 Englefield Road are such a mixture of styles in so small a space.

The large white building, no 155, is out of keeping with its immediate neighbours and the rest of the street in style and size. I wonder if this was to do with a lack of space, leading the builder to fill the space as best he could to provide the required number of homes.

Englefield Road was completed around 1860 and appeared in the Post Office street directory in 1866. All the eight houses as they are now appear on the Ordnance Survey map for 1870 and no 155 appears in the 1906 street

directory as the "John Craig Registered Lodging House".

Islington Borough Council did not exist until 1900, and local government came under the vestry, whose powers may not have included anything like planning and development.

*Michael Reading*

A radical change of style and size indicate a change of plan by the speculators who, in truth, were largely responsible for the marching urbanisation if this area in the 19th century. I thought the large white building may have been earlier and the smaller buildings built on its garden.

*Ivano Ruggeri*

### Talk about your Islington

Islington Faces is a website with more than 170 interviews with people who live or work in Islington, including the IAHS's Andrew Gardner. It acts as a living history project, recording the lives, stories and memories of people today.

Islington Faces isn't just about looking back. I love to ask people where they like going in Islington, so there are always loads of good tips about what to do and what's new from Clerkenwell to Archway.

I'm always looking for people to interview, guest writers and photos of the area – just email me if you have an Islington story to share.

Interviews take about 30 minutes and happen at a venue of your choice – home, office, cafe, park, bench. I then write them up and send you a draft. When you are happy with it, I will publish it on [islingtonfacesblog.com](http://islingtonfacesblog.com).

I put one new post a week on <http://islingtonfacesblog.com>, so it's easy to follow.

*Nicola Baird*  
[nicolabaird.green@gmail.com](mailto:nicolabaird.green@gmail.com)

• Write to us at [christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk) or via [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory)

# Earlier days at the society

The Islington Archaeology & History Society recently celebrated its 40th anniversary. Janet Wootton, who was both secretary and newsletter editor, looks at what the society was doing from the mid-1990s

When I moved to Islington to take on the ministry of Union Chapel,

I was aware that I was working with an important historic building. We wanted to develop the church for use in the community and the arts, and we did – and that magnificent dome and tower rose effortlessly above all our activities.

So I started to join every historical organisation I could find: historic chapel and church groups, and, of course, the Islington Archaeology & History Society, and soon became happily involved. I started editing the newsletter in (I think) 1995, taking over from Roy Vinjevold. At some point, we took on the defunct *Islington History Journal*, acquiring its circulation list and ISSN.

In general, articles were based on lectures given to the society, or arose from areas of interest among the members. I remember a long series on 90 years of Islington scouting by Albert Pinching, and found a letter to him, dated May 1999, thanking him for “all the articles” and looking forward to the next instalment – a dream for this newsletter editor.

Lecture topics ranged from ancient inhabitants of London to the development of transport systems (always popular) to the history of industry and architecture. As an example, the autumn 1999 programme included:

- “The conservation of

archaeological and historical artefacts” by Val Munday, Islington Museum development officer, formerly a British Museum senior conservation officer;

- “The immortal Londoner – a Look at interesting London statues” by Valerie Colin-Russ, chairman of the London Appreciation Society and a London guide;

- “Ice wells and ice factories – London’s commercial ice trade” by Malcolm Tucker, engineering historian and archaeologist;

- “The uncompleted Northern Line extension – Finsbury Park to Alexandra Palace” by Jim Blake, local transport historian.

I did say, didn’t I, that lectures on transport always drew large audiences?

As well as lectures, the society arranged visits to local museums and historical sites, such as the Ragged School Museum and the

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Lecture topics ranged from ancient inhabitants of London to the development of transport systems (always popular) to the history of industry and architecture

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Museum of Childhood. Catherine Brighty, who turned up at each meetings then as now with her well-stocked bookstall – and made a mean pavlova for more festive occasions – organised the visits.

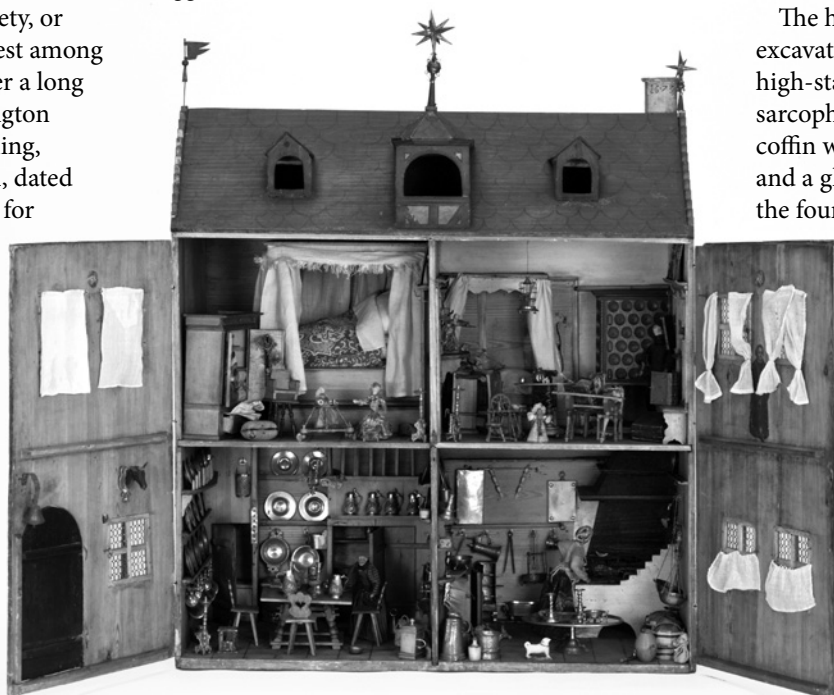
## Medieval village discovered

Rose Baillie, secretary to the society, also arranged visits to archaeological excavations where possible. The August 1999 newsletter reported on the discovery of a medieval village in excavations at Islington Green.

The highlight was the Spitalfields excavation, which turned up “a high-status burial in the stone sarcophagus and decorated lead coffin with finds including a jet box and a glass phial probably dating to the fourth century. The remains

within the coffin were those of a woman in her early 20s. Next to the sarcophagus was a wooden mausoleum containing at least one child’s burial, accompanied by six glass vessels.”

At this time, Barney Sloane of Museum of London Archaeology Service (now the Museum of London Archaeology) was chair of the society. His involvement in



The society organised visits to sites and museums including the V&A Museum of Childhood, where the Nuremberg House (1673) is displayed



Filming Channel 4's *Time Team*: Barney Sloane, a former chair of the society, was involved in the programme, and took on the role of site supervisor

Channel 4's *Time Team* was noted with interest – and he went on to become prominent in his field. Mary Cosh served as vice-chair for a long period, and her book on the New River was reissued in the 1990s.

We enjoyed companionable relationships with other local history societies. The AGM was often held in conjunction with the Islington Society, through architect Harley Sherlock, who was a member of both.

### Cricket and wine

At one AGM, the talk was “The Early History of Cricket”, by Stephen Green, curator and archivist at Lord’s Cricket Ground. There was a note in a committee meeting around that time to the effect that: “Although a box of wine might be purchased for autumn meetings, bottles would be used at the AGM.”

We ran a Quistory Hizz for several years at Union Chapel, with a fish supper, Catherine’s superb desserts and “one free glass of wine” (it doesn’t say whether from a box or a bottle). Questions were set by Richard Wallington, of the Friends of Union Chapel, and

proceeds went to the Friends of the Islington Museum, under the auspices of Jim Lagden, who was one of its founders.

Around the turn of the millennium, we noted that the Images of England project was starting work on “the largest ever photographic survey of England’s built heritage” managed by a dedicated team from National Monuments Record, the public archive of English Heritage.

Over 500 volunteers were to capture 360,000 “defining images”, including: 52 garden sheds, 35 fishponds, one racing pigeon loft, 3,800 milestones and posts, 11 army camps, nine skating rinks, 2,195 telephone boxes, 489 pigsties, 663 lavatories, 192 postboxes, 982 lamp posts, 3,369 country houses, 14,393 churches and chapels, 197 palaces, 425 castles, 2,075 factories and mills and 5,811 bridges.

This was also a period of major changes to the IAHS committee. Peter Powell, a well-known local figure, was elected chair and I became programme secretary and minutes secretary before finally giving in

taking on the role of secretary. Peter Fuller took over as newsletter editor, and made an excellent job of it.

I came across a rather peevish verse that I seem to have sent out with a set of minutes in 2001:

My weary fingers tap the keys  
Recording every statement,  
As arguments chase round and  
round  
With scarcely an abatement.

Then back home my computer  
comes,  
The printer spews out paper.  
A dozen envelopes are stamped –  
It’s really quite a caper.

But when committee next  
convenes,  
My spirits hit rock bottom  
As members say with eyes so wide:  
“What minutes? Never got ‘em!”

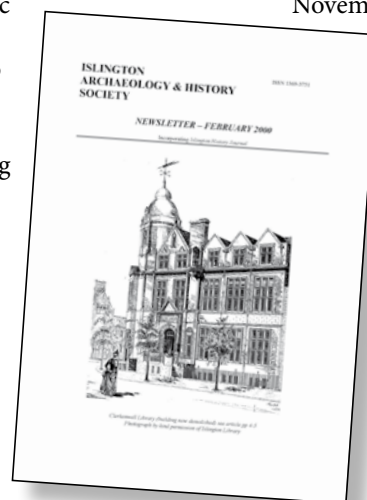
The purpose of this minor verse  
Is not to transgress limits,  
But simply, if you’re reading this,  
YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE  
MINUTES!

At the end of 2003, I left Union Chapel and took on the post of director of studies for the Congregational Federation. The minutes of the November committee meeting

record several new names. Andrew Gardner and Rolando Savva were to take on the roles of secretary and programme secretary, and the minutes record that I had handed over the files.

I thoroughly enjoyed my association with the IAHS. I learned a great deal and met some fascinating people, many more than I can name in a short article. It gives me great pleasure to read the journal, and to see that the society is still full of interest. ■

Rev Janet Wootton was minister at Union Chapel in Islington 1986-2004



The society newsletter in 2000: the cover shows the former Clerkenwell Library, now demolished

# Canonbury thriller

Seventy years ago, parts of award-winning film *Odd Man Out*, starring James Mason, were filmed in Canonbury. Michael Reading was nearly there

It was one late afternoon, in the autumn of 1946, that my friends and I heard that a film crew had arrived in Canonbury Grove and were setting up their equipment.

We went along and found they had already started to unload their vehicles at the junction of Canonbury Grove, Willow Bridge Road (then open to road traffic), and Douglas Road.

A crowd had begun to gather and steadily increased to the extent that a policeman was present to keep order – although this was not really necessary.

We learnt that the film would be a thriller and the main actor would be James Mason, a leading British film actor who had been in many successful films. We were told he would be arriving later, which caused much excitement.

Things moved very slowly, with much discussion and various pieces of equipment being moved around and measurements being taken, probably for shots at various angles.

The afternoon turned into evening, with not too much happening, then finally Mason arrived and was immediately recognised. He spent a long time in discussion with someone who was probably the film's director.

During this time, he removed his camel coloured overcoat in exchange for a darker one, which had large stains down the front. We then learnt that he was to be a man who had been wounded by a gunshot and was now on the run from the police.

Unfortunately, for me, time was beginning to run out. I was only 13 years old and it was now approaching 10pm when I had to

be home. So, regretfully, I had to leave without seeing the actual filming, which I later learnt did not take place until after midnight.

The film was completed and shown in the cinemas in 1947 where it was well received with great success and critically acclaimed.

At the cinema, I naturally waited expectantly to see the familiar streets, not knowing exactly when the particular sequence would appear. I was rather disappointed that what I did see was so short and passed so quickly.

Seventy years on, I have been able to watch the film again on YouTube, and replay the scenes filmed in Canonbury over and over again.

I am now able to describe what happened in relation the familiar streets. Before doing so, it may be helpful if the story of the film is briefly told.

## Story of *Odd Man Out*

The story is set in Northern Ireland and, although the city and the organisation are not specifically mentioned, one can see the likeness to Belfast and the IRA.

Johnny McQueen (James



Mason) is the leader of the group in the city and has been in hiding the past six months after escaping from prison.

He is ordered, with three accomplices, to rob a mill. The gang get the money but, as they are leaving, they are confronted by an armed cashier who Johnny shoots and kills – but not before the cashier has fired his weapon and wounded Johnny badly in the arm.

In the ensuing confusion and panic, the three get to the car, but the fourth member of the gang – the driver – speeds away and Johnny falls out of the car. While the gang argue over what to do, Johnny gets up and dashes away.

The film continues, with Johnny growing weaker due to his wound and trying to get help and reach a place of safety. He meets a variety of people, some who help him and others who shun him.

In the meantime, the police have mounted a large manhunt for the gang. This continues throughout the film, which finally reaches a dramatic ending – which I will not disclose.

The film, directed by Carol Reed, features James Mason, Robert Newton, Cyril Cusack, Robert Beatty and a cast of familiar Irish

Today's view of Canonbury Grove



and English actors. It received a BAFTA award for Best British Film 1948, and was nominated for a Golden Lion award at the Venice Film Festival 1947 and for a Best Film Editing Oscar for 1948.

### Watching online

To watch this very brief clip of Canonbury, go to <http://tinyurl.com/oddman-1946>.

When it starts, move the timing indicator to 41.50 minutes and the scene described above will begin.

Looking at Canonbury Grove in the film and comparing it with a photograph of today, very little has changed, other than there seems to be more foliage on the trees. Cars are parked today but in 1946, there were none. ■

### Canonbury streets scenes

The scene opens with Johnny McQueen walking slowly across the screen from right to left, with a long shot of Canonbury Grove up to Canonbury Road, with a truck appearing behind him (1).

There is then a shot from inside the cab of the lorry showing Johnny turning towards it, with the railings of the New River behind him (2).

The camera returns to Johnny – the lorry passes in front of him and he staggers back and falls to the ground. The camera follows the lorry and we have a long shot of the railings of the New River in Douglas Road.

The camera immediately returns and we see two middle-aged women, one exclaiming “it hit him!”, who start moving. There is a long shot again of Canonbury Grove, with the two women running towards the Johnny (3). They help him up and take him through the gateway of the first house in Canonbury Grove (4).



## Vigilant residents save Victorian mosaic

managed with a few residents to prevent this rare Victorian mosaic path from being concreted over by partners for Islington during their recent repairs programme on Pyrland

Road, writes *Ivan Ruggeri*.

Incredibly, Partners for Islington, not renowned for their sensitivity to our Victorian heritage, were about to cover it with concrete. The path has now been cleaned.

Many buildings in Islington, while not being listed, have heritage features that are being obliterated.

Fine iron railings are being destroyed and let's not even start considering plastic windows and horrific satellite dishes.

Here in this London street is something that connects us directly to one of the most wonderful and ancient art forms.



Above and left: beautiful restored mosaic path – its tiles have orange, yellow, red, blue and green hues; right: how it was



# A legacy of homes

American philanthropist George Peabody built homes to give “ameliorate the condition of the poor and needy”. Alan Pattison tells his story

George Peabody was a successful businessman who turned to setting up museums and libraries and providing homes for the “poor and needy ... to promote their comfort and happiness”.

Peabody was born in Danvers in Massachusetts, a small town near Boston in the US on 18 February 1795, the third of eight children. He only had four years of education, between the ages of seven and 11, before he started as an apprentice in a dry goods store. When he was 16, his older brother's dry goods store burned down and his father died.

So, in 1811, he went to Georgetown in Washington, to work in a wholesale dry goods warehouse for Elisha Riggs. By 1814, he had become a partner in the business, which became Peabody, Riggs & Co and was relocated to Baltimore. By 1829, he was the senior partner of the business, which had branches in Philadelphia and New York.

In this role, Peabody made

several business trips to England to purchase goods. On one trip, he negotiated an \$8 million loan for the near-bankrupt state of Maryland, accepting no commission on the transaction as a show of good faith to his home state.

He moved to London in 1837, setting up as George Peabody & Company, Merchant and Banker, which became Morgan Grenfell investment bank and is now part of Deutsche Bank. He amassed a fortune of \$20 million and spent a large proportion of it on philanthropic works.

His first interest was education in his home area in the US; his Peabody Institute provided a library, art gallery and music academy in Baltimore. He also funded a museum and library in Danvers, a natural history museum at Yale University and a museum of archaeology at Harvard University.

He contributed to many colleges and historical societies and his Peabody Education Fund was endowed with \$3.5 million to promote education of southern children of all races.



He then turned his attention to London, where his first ideas were for drinking fountains or schools. However, following the advice of Lord Shaftesbury, he took up the suggestion of housing, leaving the final decision to his trustees.

On 26 March 1862, he launched the Peabody Donation Fund, with an initial gift of £150,000. The aim of the organisation, he said, would be to “ameliorate the condition of the poor and needy of this great metropolis, and to promote their comfort and happiness”.

*The Times* reported: “We have today to announce an act of beneficence unexampled in its largeness and in the time and manner of the gift.”

Shortly before his death in 1869, Peabody increased his gift to a munificent £500,000 – equivalent to about £35 million today.

By 1867, Peabody had received honours from the US and Britain, including being made a freeman of the City of London, the first American to receive this honour. When he refused to accept a baronetcy or the Grand Cross of the Bath, Queen Victoria sent him letter of appreciation and a large miniature of herself.

A bronze statue of him was unveiled by the Prince of Wales on 23 July 1869 behind the Royal Exchange in the City of London.



The first block of Peabody homes in Commercial Street, Spitalfields, depicted in the *Illustrated London News* in 1863, shortly before it opened; it is now private flats

Peabody died in England on 4 November 1869 aged 74 and was buried in Westminster Abbey. However, when his will was opened, it showed he had asked to be buried in his home town of Danvers – South Danvers was renamed Peabody – and he was reburied there.

He received a number of enthusiastic eulogies, including: “Isn’t it not more wonderful than the legend that delighted our childhood, the tale of Whittington, citizen and mercer and thrice Lord Mayor of London.”

By the time he died, his money was already doing good; the first Peabody estate opened in Spitalfields in 1864.

### Islington legacy

The Islington estate was built in 1865, on a site just off what is now Essex Road that was reputed to have once been the home of Sir Robert Duce, a lord mayor of London in the 17th century. It was only the second estate built by Peabody, and is the oldest in still its ownership.

Designed by Henry Astley Darbishire, Peabody architect until 1885, its first four blocks were built at a cost of just over £40,000. An annual report in 1866 praised the estate for its “good order and contentment” as well as the “health and morality of the children”.

In 1996, major portions of the estate – namely Peabody House, the 12 workshops in Peabody Yard and blocks A-D – were all designated grade II listed buildings because of their significance in the history of housing provision for the working classes.

There are a number of other old Peabody estates in Islington, including the Whitecross Street estate which was started in the 1880s and consisted of 21 blocks on the east side of Whitecross Street between Roscoe Street and Errol Street.

An anonymous article in the *Pall Mall Gazette* in 1883 said of the new estates: “You will be confronted, when you reach the top of Whitecross Street, by several lofty structures, which form what,



The Islington estate, the second estate built by Peabody, is the oldest the housing trust still owns

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An annual report in 1866 praised the estate for its “good order and contentment” as well as the “health and morality of the children”

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from the number of blocks, we have ventured to describe as Peabody Town.”

It was reported that the collective cost of the new estates was £194,000 – including land and building costs – and that “the population of Peabody Town is now close on four thousand souls”.

There is some uncertainty about the origins of the Palmer estate near Archway. It was probably known in the 19th century as Holloway estate, and was renamed in honour of a 17th century clergyman who had donated the land. Its new owners, the Charity for the Relief of Poor Widows and the Children of Clergymen (later the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy), sold the estate to Peabody in 1972. Some of the homes were in a state of disrepair and were demolished; new ones were built in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The Roscoe Street estate near the Barbican was opened in 1883. It suffered severely during the Second World War; six blocks were burnt out as a result of an air raid in December 1940, and two more blocks were badly damaged in

1941. When the war ended, it was decided to demolish the ruins and start again.

The area was enlarged by acquiring the site of a church that had also suffered war damage. Two closed burial grounds were incorporated into the site after the removal of the human remains.

The first of the new buildings opened in 1957 and included two blocks, each 13 storeys high. While it has sometimes been said that they were London’s first tower blocks, this is incorrect as public authorities had already built some. However, they were the first multistorey blocks that were allowed to be built without a second staircase. The last four Victorian blocks were also demolished so Banner House could be built in 1972.

The Priory Green estate, a modern estate designed and built in 1957 for Islington Council, was transferred to Peabody in 1998. The community centre, Hugh Cubitt House, was shortlisted for an RIBA Design Award in 2005 and was featured in the *RIBA Journal*.

The Peabody link with Islington is due to continue with a proposed development at Archway, which is going through public consultation. Archway Campus is a residential-led mixed-use scheme for a former university campus site. ■

Alan Pattison has lived in Islington for more than 30 years



# Facts not opinions

Engineer David Kirkaldy pioneered the scientific testing of structural materials in the late 19th century. Chris Rule tells his story

**T**he name of David Kirkaldy, who once lived in Islington, is seldom recognised but in Victorian engineering circles he was both well known and widely respected.

David Kirkaldy was born in 1820 in Dundee in Scotland, the son of a prosperous linen merchant. He worked for a short time in the family business but decided to pursue a career in engineering and, in 1843, became an apprentice in the Glasgow engineering works of Robert Napier.

Kirkaldy's natural talents, especially in engineering drawing, ensured that he rose quickly to an important position in the Napier business and, in 1848, he was appointed "chief draughtsman and calculator".

During his time with Napier, he developed many new procedures for testing engineering materials. In 1861, he decided to resign and concentrate instead on developing his own business.

In the 19th century, many engineers performed only rudimentary testing of the materials they were using. It took major disasters such as the collapse of a new railway bridge over the river Dee in 1847 or the Tay Bridge Disaster of 1879 to highlight the need for thorough testing of construction materials and for engineers to base their decisions on verified test results, not on assumptions.

## A huge, unique machine

During 1861-65, Kirkaldy designed his "universal testing machine" which was made for him by Greenwood & Batley in Leeds. This enormous, unique machine weighed some 116 tonnes.

David Kirkaldy decided to move to London to set up his business and, on 1 January 1866, opened his testing works in The Grove in Southwark.

The business grew rapidly and, in 1874, the works moved to 99 Southwark Street, where this enormous testing machine survives in working order.

David Kirkaldy's approach to materials testing is preserved in stone above the entrance to the building – "Facts Not Opinions".

Kirkaldy's approach was cut into stone above the entrance to his testing works



The Kirkaldy family's second Islington home in Carleton Road

The first London home of the Kirkaldy family was in Kentish Town. By 1878, David Kirkaldy had moved to a larger house at 55 Hilldrop Road in Islington, and the 1881 census records him as a widower living there with his two children and two servants.

By 1884, the family had moved yet again, this time to a much larger detached house nearby at 45 Carleton Road, also in Islington. David Kirkaldy died at 45 Carleton Road in 1897 and was buried in Highgate Cemetery.

The family business was inherited by his son, William George Kirkaldy, who lived at 6 Carleton Road, and he continued to run it until he died in 1914.

In 1914, William George's son, David William Henry Kirkaldy, was only four years old so ownership of the business passed to William George's widow, Annie. Together with a Dr Gulliver, she ran the business until 1934 when David was old enough to take over.



David WH Kirkaldy continued to run the family business until 1965 when, after being run for 99 years by three generations of the Kirkaldy family, it was sold to Treharne & Davies, which continued to operate the testing works until 1974 when it was closed down.

Following closure, the future of the works and its unique testing machine appeared uncertain but Dr Denis Smith, a lecturer in industrial archaeology at Goldsmiths College at the University of London realised the importance of the works and campaigned successfully for it to be preserved as a specialist industrial museum.

A team of dedicated volunteers then set about restoring the machine and maintaining it in working order and the Kirkaldy Testing Museum was opened in 1984. This year, 2016, marks the 150th anniversary of this remarkable machine, an important part of London's industrial heritage. ■

Chris Rule is long-term resident of Islington and is a member of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society: he has also has written several books on industrial heritage.

## Industrial survivor

The Kirkaldy Testing Museum building was first listed in 1971 and was upgraded to grade II\* in 2014, putting it in the top 5% of UK listed buildings. The listing includes the testing machine.

The building was designed in an Italian Romanesque style by Thomas Roger Smith; its exterior, ground floor and basement are largely unaltered.

It has historic interest as the world's earliest purpose-built independent commercial materials testing laboratory. Many investigations into failed structures, including the collapsed Tay Bridge, were carried out here.



The Kirkaldy Testing Machine circa 1891: it is one of the earliest testing machines in the world still in working order and can be seen in operation at the museum

The Kirkaldy Testing Museum, 99 Southwark Street, SE1, is open on the first Sunday of each month 10am-4pm.

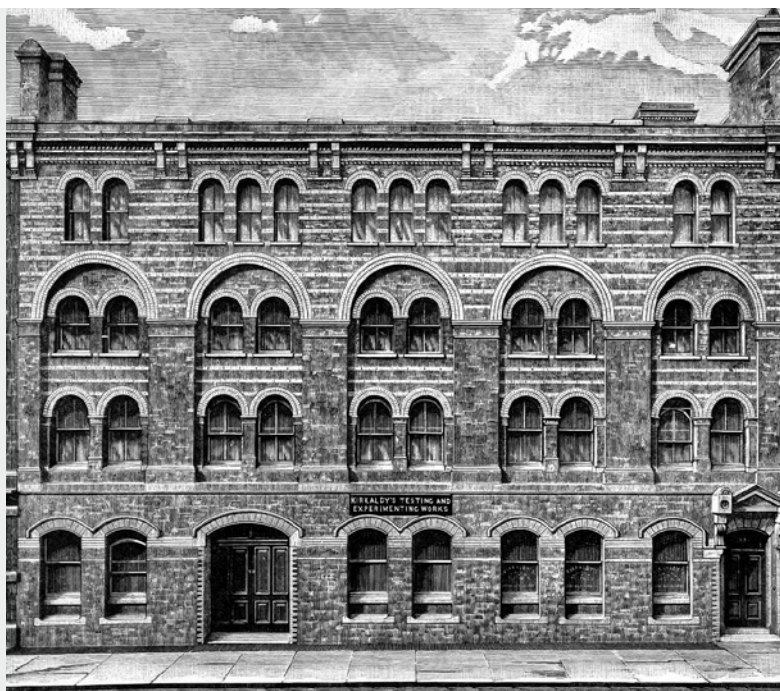
The big machine may be in operation – the museum attempts to run it on every normal opening day. There are smaller machines which visitors can have a go on and break something under the guidance of an experts.

Admission, including a tour, costs £5/concessions £4).

More information at [www.testingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.testingmuseum.org.uk).

It took major disasters to highlight the need for thorough testing of construction materials and for engineers to base their decisions on verified tests, not on assumptions

*David Kirkaldy and his Testing and Experimenting Works* by Chris Rule, a book telling the stories of the Kirkaldy family and the testing works, is available from the IAHS for £5 (see page 21).



# Publications and bookshop

This month, we bring you the history of Smithfield, amusement parks, a church tower over the centuries, what Victorian rubbish can tell us and Crossrail archaeology

## Smithfield: Past, Present and Future

Alec Forshaw

£18.99, 304pp, Robert Hale, 2015

Smithfield and its surrounding area have a fascinating and diverse history. In the medieval period, there were four religious houses, a hospital, a livestock market, an annual fair, various trades and a place of execution.

The religious houses, the executions, the fair and many of the trades have gone, and the livestock market was replaced by the present meat market in the mid 19th century.

The meat market building opened in 1868, and is one of the greatest surviving commercial buildings of Victorian London. It continues to thrive as a meat market, after major modernisation in the 1990s,

but the later buildings to the west – the poultry market, general market and annex market – are disused.

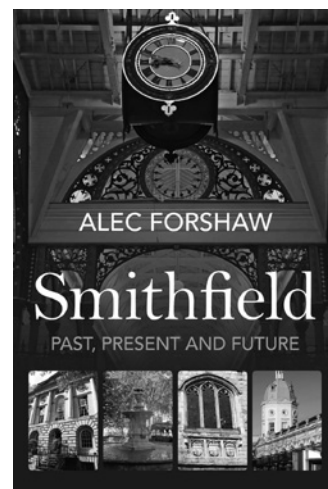
Their future has been the subject of a struggle, through two planning inquiries, between the forces of light (the Victorian Society and SAVE) who want the buildings conserved and put back into use on the lines of the old Covent Garden market, and the forces of darkness (the City Corporation and big business) who want to demolish most of them and add to the towers of Mordor. The forces of light prevailed in both inquiries, much assisted by the efforts of the author of this book, who was Islington Council's conservation officer for many years before retiring in 2007.

This is a timely new (third) edition of this excellent book, first published in 1980, which brings the story of the market

up to date with an insider's account of the planning inquiries and other recent history of the market buildings and the surrounding area.

It retains from the previous editions a concise and readable account of the history of the area from the medieval period on with, in addition to the history of the markets, chapters on St Bartholomew's Hospital, the religious houses, commerce, and life and leisure. Anyone on the lookout for congenial pubs or restaurants in the area will find the last chapter particularly useful.

The book ends with two chapters on regeneration and the prospects for the future, which are essential reading for anyone with an interest in the future of this area. Forshaw ends on a note of cautious optimism, and it is to be hoped that the next edition



will contain good news of the (currently unresolved) fate of the redundant market buildings, and a fuller account of what will be a major railway interchange between Crossrail and an enhanced Thameslink.

The next edition could also correct some minor errors – the architects of part of Barts Hospital the L'Ansons are referred to as L'Anson for example – but none of these detract seriously from the excellence of this work.

Richard Wallington is chair and membership secretary of the friends of Union Chapel

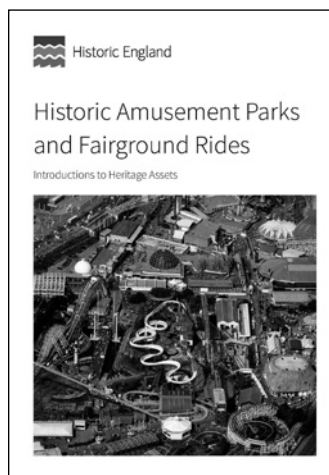
## Historic Amusement Parks and Fairground Rides

Free, Historic England, 2015.

Download from <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-historic-amusement-parks-fairground-rides/>

England has some of the finest amusement park and fairground ride heritage in the world, a surprising amount of which survives.

Many seaside amusement parks were founded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, but their origins can be traced to pleasure gardens, first created in London during the



17th century, and annual fairs that took place around the country where people

gathered to trade and enjoy entertainment. Fairgrounds were also much influenced by the 1890s Coney Island fairground in the US.

The guide singles out Blackpool Pleasure Beach for its pre-1939 fairground rides. Worldwide, there are only 35 rollercoasters that predate 1939, which shows how important Britain's fairground heritage is.

Rollercoasters can be traced back to ice slides in Russian cities, and there was once a "montagne Russe" at Sadler's Wells in Islington; an advertisement in October

1823 announced it would soon be closing.

This short guide provides an introduction to the history and development of buildings associated with historic amusement parks and fairground rides.

Wonders such as Sir Hiram Maxim's Captive Flying Machine, a "ruined abbey" and menageries are described alongside traditional rides such as gallopers, ferris wheels, railways and water splashes.

This download is illustrated with colour and black and white images, including several aerial shots.

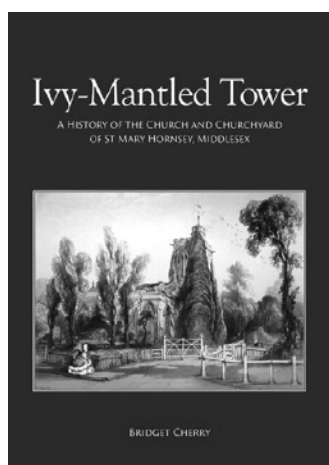
## Ivy-Mantled Tower. A History of the Church and Churchyard of St Mary Hornsey, Middlesex

Bridget Cherry

£19.50, 133pp, Hornsey Historical Society, 2015

The entry for St Mary Hornsey in Pevsner's *Buildings of England* consists of just 18 lines; in *Ivy-Mantled Tower*, architectural historian Bridget Cherry, herself author and editor of many of the Pevsner guides, carries us way past this spare description and charts the history of the church and churchyard from its 13th century origins through an early 19th century rebuilding and a second rebuild just 60 years later.

The 15th century square brick and rubble stone tower seen from the High Street today is all that remains visible of the site's 500 year history and, apart from giving the book its title, provides a common element between the



site's three churches.

Once a pretty bucolic village, by the early 19th century Hornsey had a rapidly expanding population and it was realised that the existing medieval church was inadequate to accommodate a larger congregation. Accordingly, in 1832, a replacement church with more than double the previous seating was proposed and built; the old tower was

retained and incorporated into the design and many of the old church's monuments relocated in the new building.

Hornsey continued to grow and by the mid-century had evolved from a country village into a vibrant and populous London suburb. In the 1880s, the 60 year old St Mary's was, again, not only inadequate for the congregation but, given the change of taste in ecclesiastical design, also regarded as being unsophisticated and old fashioned.

Rather than demolition, however, a new larger church was built adjacent to the old and the 1832 church, with its tower now ivy clad, was left to decay until it was eventually pulled down in the 1920s. In its turn, this third church also had a short life; it was ill advisably built on made-up ground, and subsequent settlement and war damage led to its demolition in 1969 leaving the 15th century tower

in sole occupancy of the churchyard.

The story of the three churches starts with an interpretation of the original medieval fabric and proceeds through eight chapters to weave together a complementary narrative of their architectural history and historical context.

Set out in fascinating detail the research, as one would expect from this author, is not only wide ranging and meticulous but readily accessible. Text is supplemented by a wealth of photographs, plans, illustrations, drawings and highly evocative watercolours - a huge amount of informative material to engage both professional and interested layman alike.

*Roger Simmons is a retired architect who worked on the repair and conservation of historic buildings, including as conservation manager for the Churches Conservation Trust*

## What the Victorians Threw Away

Tom Licence

£4.50, 108pp, Oxbow Books, 2015. Available from the IAHS

Tom Licence gave an enthralling talk to the society in January, and we're now stocking his new book.

Rubbish can be examined to reveal stories about the people who threw it away and to look at the origins of our throwaway society. To this end, Licence has spent much time going around the country digging up old rubbish dumps.

He reveals how everyday household items, dug from the ground, contribute to the bigger story of how our not too distant ancestors built a throwaway society on the twin foundations of packaging and mass consumption. His research also illustrates how our own throwaway habits were formed.

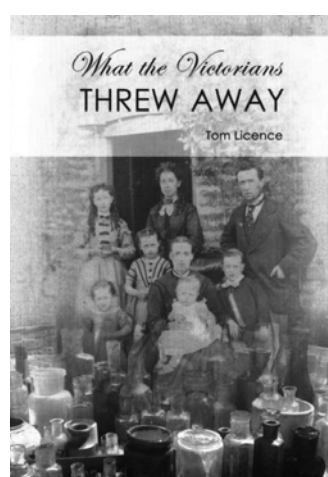
The world of people who lived in England before the First World War now is fast fading from ours, yet does not appear overly distant.

It is not too late for us to encounter these people so intimately that we might catch ourselves worrying that we have invaded their privacy.

Digging up refuse is like peeping through keyholes. How far off are our ancestors in reality when we can sniff the residues of their perfume, cough medicines and face cream?

If we want to know what they bought in the village store, how they stocked their kitchen cupboards and how they fed, pampered and cared for themselves, there is no better archive than a rubbish tip within which each object reveals a story.

A glass bottle can reveal what people were drinking,



how a famous brand emerged, or whether an inventor triumphed with a new design. An old tin can tell us about

advertising, household chores or foreign imports. A broken plate can introduce us to the children in the Staffordshire potteries who painted in the colours of a robin, crudely sketched on a cheap cup and saucer.

The book's three main case studies are a labourer's cottage in Kent, a post office in Shropshire and a rectory in Norfolk. The objects discarded by these households reveal the detail of their everyday lives.

● Tom Licence's database of found objects is at [www.whatthevictorians threwaway.com/](http://www.whatthevictorians threwaway.com/)

### 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, would like to collect books in person or would like to make a trade or bulk order, contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541.

## Stepney Green: Moated Manor House to City Farm

David Sankey

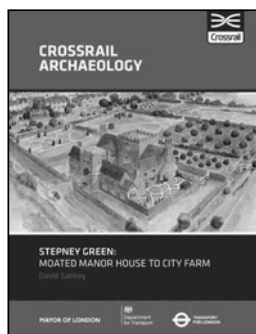
£10, Museum of London

Archaeology

Remains of a late medieval and Tudor moated mansion, Worcester House, were investigated on Crossrail's Stepney Green shafts worksite.

It was a fine country house, once owned by merchants and aristocrats, providing easy access to the city and river Thames and so to overseas trade.

By the late 17th



century, the estate had passed into the hands of radical nonconformists. The house became a Baptist college and a Congregationalist church was built there.

Other parts of the estate were developed as small factories and houses for dock workers. The area suffered severe bomb damage in the Second World War.

Local people describe life before, during and after the war, up to the founding of what is now Stepney City Farm.

## The Thames Iron Works 1837-1912: a Major Shipbuilder on the Thames Investigated

David Harrison

£10, Museum

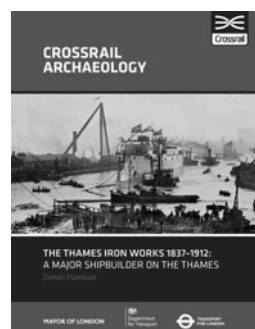
of London

Archaeology

The Thames Iron

Works and Shipbuilding Company, one of the great private enterprises of the Victorian age, launched some of the most famous warships of the time from its slipways at the mouth of the River Lea.

A pioneer of shipbuilding in iron, the yard's expertise was also deployed in ground-



breaking civil engineering projects using iron structures.

Several important components of the yard were investigated at a Crossrail site on the Limmo

peninsula in Canning Town, including engineering workshops, a furnace, a mast house and mould loft building, and a slipway.

An account of the history of the company places it in the wider context of London's 19th-century shipbuilding industry.

## Prefab Homes

Elisabeth Blanchet

£7.95 + £1.50p&p, Shire,

2014; available from the IAHS

At the end of the Second World War, Winston Churchill promised to manufacture half a million prefabricated bungalows to ease the housing shortage; in the end, more than 156,000 temporary "prefabs" were delivered.

Nicknamed "palaces for the people", and with kitchens, bathrooms and heating

systems, they proved popular and, instead of being demolished as intended, they were defended by residents who campaigned to keep their homes and communities.

Nearly 70 years later, Elisabeth Blanchet tells the story of these popular homes and their gardens and shows the various designs that were produced.

Through the memories of residents, she also reveals the communities who were pleased to live in the prefabs.



The IAHS hosted the launch of this book in December 2014.

## New City. Contemporary Architecture in the City of London

Alec Forshaw, with

photography by Alan Ainsworth

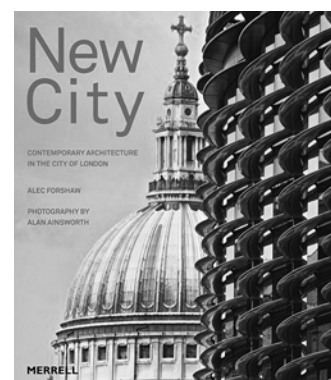
£19.95, Merrell, 224pp;

available from the IAHS

This book examines the City of London's architecture from offices blocks to shops, cultural organisations and public spaces and includes over 200 photographs.

Historic development, the effects of changes to financial regulation and the roles of the City of London Corporation as planning authority and developer are examined, as are the work and influence of large and small architectural firms.

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



## Order form for books from the IAHS (photocopies acceptable)

Name .....

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

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

Please make cheques payable to "Islington Archaeology & History Society"; send this form (photocopies acceptable) to IAHS, 8 Wynatt 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 Brightly on 020 7833 1541 if you wish to order several items or collect them 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
Caledonian Park and its Surroundings	Sylvia Tunstall, Patsy Ainger, Robyn Lyons	5.00	0.75	5.75
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
David Kirkaldy and his Testing and Experimenting Works	Christopher Rule	5.00	1.50	6.50
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
The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s	Petra Laidlaw	9.99	2.80	11.79
The 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
Prefab Homes	Elisabeth Blanchet	7.95	1.50	
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
What the Victorians Threw Away	Tom Licence	9.99	1.50	10.49
<b>Other items</b>				
Old Ordnance Survey maps		2.50	0.75	3.25
Mugs: Union Chapel and Caledonian Park		6.00	2.80	8.80

## 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 public figures, 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.

### 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.



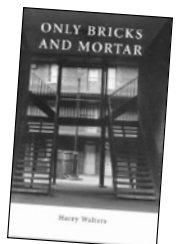
### Only Bricks and Mortar

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.



## Exhibitions

### Artefact commemorates 'justifiable homicide' at Clerkenwell riot

This cup, on display at the *Crime Museum Uncovered* at the Museum of London, was created after a police officer was killed at the first major clash between political protestors and the recently created Metropolitan Police.

The demonstration, at Coldbath Fields on 13 May 1833, was organised by the National Union of the Working Class to protest against low wages and what they saw as inadequate changes to electoral reform. The secretary of state declared the meeting illegal, the demonstration turned into a riot, and a police officer was killed and two others injured.

Some 600-700 people had assembled by 1pm, rising to 1,000 by 2pm. Before the meeting opened, they were "amused by two professed infidels, who promulgated their doctrines", according to a broadside dated 16 May, citing the *Dreadful Riot in London* reported in the *Caledonian Mercury*. (Broadside were cheap single sheets of paper carrying news, information and ballads.)

The crowd was being addressed by a Mr Mee, who had been cheered for stating that "noble men" who were "the producing power were the real wealth of the country", when he was interrupted by a cry of "Police!"

*The Times* reported: "The police furiously attacked the multitude with their staves, felling every person indiscriminately before them; even the females did not escape the blows from their batons – men and boys were lying in every direction weltering in their blood and calling for mercy."

Mr Mee was reported to call out to the meeting to "stand firm" but escaped by the back of the House of Correction, the broadside reported.

One officer present was 27-year-old PC Culley. He had joined the Metropolitan Police in September 1829, the year it had been formed.

PC Culley became separated from his fellow officers and disappeared



into a mob. He soon reappeared, holding his chest, which was bleeding heavily. He staggered into the Calthorpe Arms, collapsed into the arms of the barmaid, and died. Two other officers, Sergeant John Brooks and PC Redwood, were also stabbed but survived.

The meeting was dispersed; police pursued demonstrators, and arrested around 30 people.

#### Inquest

Two days later, a coroner's inquest into PC Culley's death opened at the Calthorpe Arms. The 17-strong jury, made up of local tradesmen and led by foreman Samuel Stockton, a baker of Cromer Street, were hostile to the police, seeing their conduct as "ferocious, brutal and unprovoked by the people".

They also said the police's action was illegal because the Riot Act had not been read to the crowds first; they also criticised the government for not taking "proper precautions

to prevent the meeting assembling".

Against the wishes of the coroner, the jury returned a verdict of justifiable homicide. *The Times* of 21 May 1833 heavily criticised the jury's verdict and questioned its knowledge of the Riot Act.

A few days later, an anonymous package arrived at Stockton's home. This contained pewter-type 1¾ inch medals, one for each juror. The inscriptions included: "In honour of the men who nobly withstood the dictation of the coroner; independent, and conscientious, discharge of their duty."

The jurors and their families were also rewarded with a boat trip up the Thames on the steamer *Endeavour*, arranged by a group of radical City men, the Milton Street Committee. Despite the rain, crowds cheered them at Blackfriars. Their arrival at Twickenham was saluted with cannon fire.

A year later, a banquet was held to mark the anniversary of the verdict, hosted by Marylebone MP Samuel Whalley. Following a toast to "the people, the only source of legitimate power", the Milton Street Committee presented the jurors each with a silver cup – a Culley cup.

Nearly 30 years later, when Stockton attended a dinner in March 1861, in honour of his work for the Benevolent Institution for the Poor of St Pancras, his role as foreman of the jury at the inquest was mentioned in a speech mentioned his role at the inquest.

The justifiable homicide verdict was later overturned. ■

● *The Crime Museum Uncovered* is on at the Museum of London until 10 April, £10/concs

Christy Lawrance

#### Further reading

Aston M (2005) *Foul Deeds and Suspicious Deaths in Hampstead, Holborn and St Pancras*. Wharncliffe Books  
Gruner P (2010) *Police officer killed in union protest!* *Islington Tribune*, 9 July  
*Dreadful Riot in London*,

broadside, 16 May 1833.  
<http://digital.nls.uk/broadsides/broadside.cfm?id/15389>  
Open University and Metropolitan Police Authority (2009) *Heavy-Handed Policing: the Killing of Constable Culley*. <http://tinyurl.com/zd99ueg>

## Theatrical displays from London to New York

The creative cross-fertilisation between Broadway and London's West End theatres since 1975 is celebrated in this exhibition.

Rooms have been transformed into a backstage space, full of mysterious shadows and bright, ever-changing lights in neon blues and reds. There are numerous costumes in all their sequined glory, such as Michael Crawford's scarlet and gold suit for *The Phantom of the Opera* and a male swan's costume from Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake*.

I particularly liked the original puppet for *War Horse* – you can glimpse underneath the legs and see where the puppeteers made him come alive. There are also theatre costume designs (including for *Wolf Hall*) and set models.

The Tony Awards section has its own glamour. There's a case full of awards, including the

*War Horse* at the New London Theatre; costume design for *The Phantom of the Opera*



powder blue Wedgwood urn won by Dame Penelope Keith, plus some of the large Laurence Olivier busts that decorate the awards ceremony itself.

Posters, programmes (suspended on wires from the ceiling), and clips from numerous shows are everywhere – I enjoyed watching *A Chorus Line* standing under a brightly lit row of original silver top hats.

Curtain Up reminds us that a successful show is dependent on a huge range of talented

people: set and costume designers, lighting technicians, choreographers, lyricists and composers as well as actors and directors – not to mention the theatres themselves.

This lively exhibition exudes glamour in spades. After its show here, it transfers to New York. ■

● *Curtain up: Celebrating 40 Years of Theatre in London and New York* is on at the Victoria & Albert Museum until 31 August, free

Elizabeth Hawksley  
www.elizabethhawksley.com



## Mausolea and monuments: leaving a legacy in architecture

This exhibition at Sir John Soane's Museum, commemorating the death of Soane's wife 200 years ago, examines the recurring themes of death and mortality in the architect's life and work.

The marriage was harmonious and Soane's grief was immense. He blamed his son George for her death and decided to leave his home and architectural collection to the nation, pretty much on the condition that it was left as it was.

The exhibition shows how death became a fascination for Soane, who was Professor of Architecture at the Royal Academy.

Many of the Roman and Greek monuments that the Georgian architects drew so much inspiration from were funereal and Soane would refer to these in his lectures, through his drawings. He based his own mausoleum – in Old

St Pancras Church cemetery – on that of Rousseau, near Paris.

On display are rarely exhibited drawings for mausolea, funerary sculpture and monuments by architects such as Robert Adam (who Soane venerated), Piranesi, William Chambers, Nicholas Hawksmoor, John Flaxman and George Dance.

Also included are objects from

*Bird's-Eye View of the Soane Family Tomb* by George Basevi, one of Soane's students



three "sealed receptacles" – time capsules Soane sealed with strict instructions to open them on the 30th, 50th and 60th anniversaries of his wife's death. They were in fact opened shortly after his death and resealed. The contents turned out to be both mundane and bizarre, including false teeth, Masonic gloves and cheque book stumps.

For the event, the museum has republished Soane's *Crude Hints Towards an History of My House in Lincoln's Inn Fields*, wherein he visualises his home as a ruin, in the nature of many of the architectural pieces he collected and the glories of Rome that he studied. ■

● *Death and Memory: Soane and the Architecture of Legacy* is on at Sir John Soane's Museum until 2 April, free

Stewart Rayment

# 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

*Saturday 26 March, 1.15pm*  
**Monuments from the Reign of Ramesses the Great**

George Hart  
British Museum, free

*Tuesday 29 March, 6pm*  
**Researching Call the Midwife**

Heidi Thomas  
The National Archives, £6/concs

*Wednesday 30 March, 1.15pm*  
**Ceramics in the Korea Gallery**

Eleanor S Hyun  
British Museum, free

*Friday 1 April, 1.15pm*  
**Death and Burial in Ancient Cyprus**

Thomas Kiely  
British Museum, free

*Saturday 2 April, 1.15pm*  
**An Architectural Walk around the British Museum**

Margaret O'Brien  
British Museum, free

*Tuesday 5 April, 1.15pm*  
**The Conservation of Footwear from the Islamic World**

Barbara Wills and Bronwen Roberts  
British Museum, free

*Wednesday 6 April, 6pm*  
**The Port of London Authority's Works Programme and How it was Affected by the Great War**

Edward Sargent.  
Museum of London Docklands, £2. Docklands History Group event

*Thursday 7 April, 4pm*  
**Being Imperial: Egyptians at Home and in the Levant in the New Kingdom**

Linda Hulin  
British Museum, free, booking essential

*Thursday 7 April, 9pm*  
**The Stratford Canal**

Clive Henderson  
London Canal Museum, £4/concs

*Tuesday 12 April, 1.15pm*  
**British Renaissance Treasures**

Hilary Williams  
British Museum, free

*Tuesday 12 April, 6.30pm*  
**Neolithic Ditches, Middle and Late Bronze Age Enclosures at West Drayton**

Peter Boyer  
Museum of London, London & Middlesex Archaeological Society with the Prehistoric Society, £2

*Tuesday 12 April, 8pm*  
**In the Lift to the Beach: a Visit to the Lundenwic Waterfront**

Douglas Killock  
Hendon & District Archaeological Society

*Wednesday 13 April, 7.30pm*  
**Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre**

Julian Bowsher  
Hornsey Historical Society, £2

*Thursday 14 April, 1.15pm*  
**From Dining Table to Altar: Chinese Ritual Bronzes**

Yi Chen  
British Museum, free

*Friday 15 April, 1pm*  
**Servants in London Households 1600-1700**

Geffrye Museum, free

*Friday 15 April, 1.15pm*  
**Ostentation and Ingenuity: Clockwork Wonders of the 16th Century**

Laura Turner  
British Museum, free

*Monday 18 April, 6pm*  
**The Queen at 90**

Professor Vernon Bogdanor  
Museum of London, free, Gresham College event

*Tuesday 19 April, 1pm*  
**Turing and von Neumann**

Professor Raymond Flood  
Museum of London, free, Gresham College event

*Tuesday 19 April, 1.15pm*  
**Ancient Britain Beneath Our Feet**

Katharine Hoare  
British Museum, free

*Wednesday 20 April, 2pm*  
**How to Read a Coat of Arms**

Dr Robert Peck  
Society of Genealogists, £8.00/concs

*Wednesday, 20 April, 6pm*  
**Sir Christopher Wren: Buildings, Place and Genius**

Dr Simon Thurley  
Museum of London, free, Gresham College event

*Wednesday 22 April, 1.15pm*  
**Men of Metal: French Medals and the Glory of France**

Christopher Stewart, British Museum, free

*Saturday 23 April, 2pm and 3.30pm*

**Swept Under the Carpet?**  
Talk on domestic service in London  
Geffrye Museum, free

*Saturday 23-Sunday 24 April, 11am-5pm*

**The A to Z of London**  
Open weekend at London Transport Museum's depot celebrating the centenary of the Johnston font. £10.00/concs

*Wednesday 26 April, 1.15pm*  
**Silk Road: Why the Chinese Learned to Love the Horse**

Diana Driscoll  
British Museum, free

*Wednesday 27 April, 1.15pm*  
**English Treasures: Renaissance to Romantic**

Hilary Williams.  
British Museum, free

*Wednesday 27 April, 7.45pm*  
**A Greenspaces Walk**

Mike Gee  
Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

*Thursday 28 April, 1.15pm*  
**Introduction to the Enlightenment Gallery**

Janet Larkin  
British Museum, free

*Thursday 28 April, 2pm-3pm*  
**BFI Presents Films from the Archives**

Public record films screening.  
The National Archives, £6/concs

*Saturday 30 April, 1.15pm*  
**Love and Lust in Greek Myth**  
Carolyn Perry  
British Museum, free

*Wednesday 4 May, 6pm*  
**The Princess Alice Disaster**  
 Joan Lock  
 Museum of London  
 Docklands, £2. Docklands  
 History Group event

*Thursday 5 May, 1pm*  
**Medieval Music: the Lands of the Bell Tower**  
 Professor Christopher Page  
 St Sepulchre Without  
 Newgate, free, Gresham  
 College event

*Thursday 5 May, 7.30pm*  
**The Lancaster Canal**  
 Robert Philpotts  
 London Canal Museum,  
 £4/concs

*Friday 6 May, 1.15pm*  
**Magick land? Francis Towne and his Response to Rome**  
 Dr Jonny Yarker  
 British Museum, free

*Tuesday 10 May, 6.30pm*  
**Archaeological Investigations and Crossrail**  
 Jay Carver  
 Museum of London, London  
 & Middlesex Archaeological  
 Society, £2

*Tuesday 10 May, 8pm*  
**Hadrian's Wall: Life on Rome's Northern Frontier**  
 Matt Symonds  
 Hendon & District  
 Archaeological Society

*Wednesday 11 May, 2pm*  
**Births, Marriages and Deaths at Sea**  
 Paul Blake  
 Society of Genealogists,  
 £8.00/concs

*Wednesday, 11 May, 6pm*  
**The Five Catastrophes That Made London**  
 Dr Simon Thurley  
 Museum of London, free,  
 Gresham College event

*Wednesday 11 May, 7.30pm*  
**The Day Peace Broke Out**  
 Mike Brown  
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2



London Transport's Johnston font is celebrated at a special weekend at the LT Museum depot on 22-23 April

*Thursday 12 May, 2pm*  
**Understanding Civil Registration – a Registrar's View**  
 Antony Marr  
 Society of Genealogists, £8.00/  
 concs

*Thursday 12 May, 1.30pm*  
**Athens' Sicilian Adventure**  
 David Stuttard  
 British Museum, free, booking  
 essential

*Friday 13 May, 1pm*  
**Servants in London Households 1700-1800**  
 Geffrye Museum,  
 free

*Tuesday 17 May, 1pm*  
**The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Edward Jenner**  
 Professor Gareth Williams  
 Hunterian Museum, £4

*Tuesday 17 May, 6pm*  
**The Iraq War, 2003**  
 Professor Vernon Bogdanor  
 Museum of London, free,  
 Gresham College event

*Thursday 19 May, 2pm*  
**Cultural Heritage and War**  
 Sir Derek Plumbly  
 Gresham College, Barnard's  
 Inn Hall, free

*Thursday 19 May, 7.30pm*  
**An Accident in Cat's Meat Square**  
 Camden History Society

*Saturday 21 May, 10.30am*  
**Open Day – with Free Lectures**  
 Society of Genealogists, free,  
 booking essential

*Wednesday 25 May, 7.45pm*  
**Germans who Fought with the British**

Helen Fry  
 Friern Barnet & District Local  
 History Society, £2

*Wednesday 1 June, 6pm*  
**For Sailor, Rigger and Sailmaker – Tools for the Rope and Canvas Working Trades**  
 Des Pawson  
 Museum of London  
 Docklands, £2. Docklands  
 History Group event

*Wednesday, 1 June, 6pm*  
**London's Great Fire and its Aftermath**  
 Dr Stephen Porter  
 Museum of London, free,  
 Gresham College event

*Thursday 2 June, 7.30pm*  
**Three Cheers for the Regent's Canal**  
 Lester Hillman  
 London Canal Museum,  
 £4/concs

*Tuesday 7 June, 1pm*  
**Inventing the Criminal: Sciences of Policing in Nineteenth-Century Europe**  
 Professor Jane Caplan  
 Museum of London, free,  
 Gresham College event

*Tuesday 7 June, 1pm*  
**Reframing Disability: Hidden Histories from the Royal College of Physicians**  
 Emma Shepley  
 Hunterian Museum, £4

*Wednesday 8 June, 7.30pm*  
**Searching for Victor Hember: the Battle of the Somme**  
 Hugh Garnsworthy  
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

*Thursday 16 June, 7.30pm*  
**Camden: the First 50 Years**  
 Tudor Allen  
 Camden History Society

*Friday 17 June, 1pm*  
**Servants in London Households 1800-1900**  
 Geffrye Museum, free

## Ongoing

Contact the organisations for dates, times and prices. Please note that these may change.

### Tours of Union Chapel

12.15pm, first Sunday of the month

A chance to appreciate the beauty, complex architecture and extent of Union Chapel's buildings, including areas rarely open to the public, a secret passage and a hidden garden. Group bookings also available.

£5, donation, book in advance on 020 7359 4019

### George Orwell's Islington

Various dates and times

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 essays and articles, and broadcast extensively. Contact Andrew Gardner on [walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk) or 020 7359 4019

### Roman Fort Gate Tours

Tour the remains of the western gate of London's Roman military fort, beneath the streets next to the museum.

Museum of London, £5

### Billingsgate Roman House and Baths

Various dates and times

Talk plus tour of the remains of the Billingsgate Roman House and Baths, discovered in 1848 under Lower Thames Street.

Museum of London, £5

### The Waddesdon Bequest

Gallery displaying nearly 300 medieval and Renaissance pieces, as well as 19th-century fakes, illustrating the development of the art market in the late 19th century. Free, British Museum

### London Metropolitan Archives: regular events

Events, including advice on research and meeting LMA professionals. Include:

- Family history starter
- Use LMA: getting started and using the catalogue
- Behind the scenes tour
- Handling documents at the LMA
- Deciphering old handwriting
- LGBTQ history club
- Film club
- A visit to conservation.

Contact the LMA for information, dates and times.

### Marx Memorial Library tours

Tuesdays and

Thursdays, 1pm

View a collection illustrating radical and working class history. This includes where

Lenin worked in exile in 1902-03, items from the Spanish Civil War, Soviet Union posters and artefacts from industrial disputes. The building's 15th century vaults can be visited. £5/£3 concs, book on [admin@mml.xyz](mailto:admin@mml.xyz) or 020 7253 1485

### British Museum: Around the World in 90 Minutes

Fridays, Saturdays and

Sundays, 11.30am and 2pm

Guided tour looking at the Rosetta Stone, the Lewis chessmen, the Parthenon sculptures and other items. British Museum, £12, booking required

### Behind the Scenes at the Museum Depot

Regular tours of the depot in Acton – check for times

Tours of London Transport Museum's depot. This holds over 370,000 items, including vehicles, buildings, signs, ceramic tiles, ticket machines and ephemera. £10/concs, book: 020 7565 7298, [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)

### Victoria and Albert Museum free tours

These include:

- Daily introductory tour
- Medieval and Renaissance galleries
- Theatre and performance
- Britain 1500-1900

See: [www.vam.ac.uk/whatson](http://www.vam.ac.uk/whatson)

First Thursday of the month, 2pm

### British Library Conservation Studio Tour

See techniques used in caring for collections.

British Library, £10/concs

### Markfield Beam Engine and Museum Open Days

11am-5pm,

second Sunday of

the month, plus

bank holidays

Markfield Park,

N15, free, [www.mbeam.org](http://www.mbeam.org),

01707 873628

### Historic

#### Almshouse Tour

The Geffrye Museum's 18th-century almshouse offers a glimpse into the lives of London's poor and elderly in the 18th and 19th centuries. [info@geffrye-museum.org.uk](mailto:info@geffrye-museum.org.uk), 020 7739 9893

### Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association: walks

Guided walks led by the mayor of Islington's guides. [www.ciga.org.uk](http://www.ciga.org.uk).

### Treasures of the British Library

Exhibition of more than 200 of the world's most beautiful and influential books and documents, including hand-painted and early printed books, maps and literary, historical, scientific and musical works. Exhibits include Gutenberg's Bible of 1455, Leonardo da Vinci's notebook, Shakespeare's First Folio, Handel's Messiah and a 110cm diameter celestial globe. British Library, free



Hippocamp from the Waddesdon Bequest

## Exhibitions

Until Monday 28 March

### Bejewelled Treasures: the Al Thani Collection

This exhibition showcases the evolution and enduring influence of Indian jewellery from the Mughal Empire to the modern day. It highlights Indian traditions in design and craftsmanship, focusing on centuries-old techniques.

Until Friday 10 April

### The Crime Museum Uncovered

The exhibition of objects from the Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum – on public display for the first time – considers the changing nature of crime and detection over the past 140 years. Giving a voice to victims, perpetrators and police officers, it explores the impact of crime and confronts how society responds when lives are torn apart, while questioning the enduring fascination with this collection. Museum of London, £10/concs

Until Friday 15 April

### A Room from Damascus

In the 18th century, the main reception rooms in Syrian upper class houses began to be highly decorated with colourful painted wooden panelling. This display shows the panelling of an interior and its contents. Victoria and Albert Museum, free

Until Sunday 17 April

### Alice in Wonderland

This exhibition celebrates 150 years since the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. On show are Lewis Carroll's original manuscript with hand-drawn illustrations, alongside work by Sir John Tenniel, Mervyn Peake, Ralph Steadman, Leonard Weisgard, Arthur Rackham, Mabel Lucie Atwell, Helen Oxenbury, Salvador

Dali and others, as well as a silent 1903 film of the story and early memorabilia. British Library, free

*Until Friday 24 April 2016*

### **Lee Miller: a Woman's War**

This exhibition traces Lee Miller's vision of women and their lives before, during and after the Second World War in both Britain and Europe. Miller was one of only four female war photographers with US accreditation. Imperial War Museum, £10/concs

*Until Sunday 24 April 2016*

### **Philip Webb 1831-1915**

Philip Webb, friend and colleague of William Morris, was the most significant architect of the arts and crafts movement in England. Drawing on the V&A and RIBA's archives, this display brings together his architect and design projects. V&A, free

*Until Monday 27 April*

### **War in London**

Exhibition on the effects of conflicts on Londoners and their city, from the English Civil War to the Cold War, with maps, manuscripts, films



King William Street, looking towards the Monument. From the Cross and Tibbs photograph collection, on display at *War in London* at the London Metropolitan Archives

and photographs, including those taken by London police constables Arthur Cross and Fred Tibbs during the Second World War. London Metropolitan Archives, free

*Until Sunday 1 May*

### **A Stitch in Time: Home Sewing before 1900**

This display examines some of the tools used in domestic sewing, which could be highly decorative and reflected female status and accomplishment. V&A, free

*Until 15 May 2016*

### **Life and Sole: Footwear from the Islamic World**

Around 25 pairs of shoes, slippers, sandals, clogs and boots from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Central Asia and South Asia, dating from 1800, are being shown together for the first time. British Museum, free

*From Friday 20 May*

### **Designology**

The exhibition looks at how design in London's transport system has evolved, looking at publicity, architecture, technology, engineering, service operation and the urban environment. London Transport Museum, £17/concs, including museum admission for a year

*Until 22 May*

### **Hoards: the Hidden History of Ancient Britain**

This display focuses on hoarding in prehistoric and Roman Britain. Find out why ancient people put objects into the ground and why they did not retrieve them. British Museum, free

*Until 3 July 2016*

### **Under London**

Objects found at archaeological digs in London since the late

20th century have been photographed close to where they were found or in places associated with them. The images, by *National Geographic* photographer Simon Norfolk can be seen at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/magazine> – scroll down, click on the February issue, then click on London's Big Dig. Free, Museum of London

*Until 9 October 2016*

### **The Clangers, Bagpuss & Co**

This first major retrospective of Smallfilms will go behind the scenes of some of Oliver Postgate's and Peter Firmin's creations including Pogles' Wood, Noggin the Nog and Ivor the Engine. The exhibition brings together original puppets, archive footage, sets and storyboards, photos, scripts and filming equipment. V&A Museum of Childhood, free

*Until Monday 31 October*

### **Musical Wonders of India**

Decorated instruments, one in the shape of a peacock adorned with feathers, evoke India's musical traditions. This display is part of a digital project with Darbar Arts Culture Heritage, showing how these instruments would have been played. V&A Museum, free

*16 April-12 March 2017*

### **Undressed: a Brief History of Underwear**

This exhibition traces the role of underwear in decorating and manipulating the body from the 18th century to the present day, considering the practical, personal, sensory, sexual and fashionable. On display are corsets, crinolines, boxer shorts and lingerie alongside photographs and advertisements. Highlights include long cotton drawers worn by Queen Victoria's mother, an 1842 man's wedding day belt and gender-neutral pants. V&A, £12/concs



**'It's ours whatever they say': celebrating half a century of adventure play in Islington**

**Islington Museum**  
**Friday 20 May-Saturday 25 June 2016**  
**Admission free**

This exhibition looks at the history of the adventure playground movement in Islington.

Islington has 12 adventure playgrounds, which have been around for almost 50 years. The display will look at the heritage of local children

and their play spaces and why adventure playgrounds are important to them.

It will also look at the significant role of local action in the development of these sites – especially mothers in their fight for children's rights to play.

# Directory

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

To add or update information in our directly, email editor Christy Lawrance on [christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk)

## All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum

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

## Amateur Geological Society

25 Village Road, N3 1TL

## Amwell Society

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

## Ancestor Search

Guidance on where to look.

## The Angel Association

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

## Archives Hub

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

## Arsenal FC Museum

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

## Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics

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

## Bank of England Museum

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

## Barnet Museum and Local History Society

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

## BBC archive

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

## Benjamin Franklin House

Craven Street, WC2N 5NF, 020 7925 1405, [info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org](mailto:info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org)

## Bethlem Museum of the Mind

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

## Bexley Archaeological Group

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

## Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archive

230 Bishopsgate, EC2M, 020 7392 9270, [www.bishopsgate.org.uk](http://www.bishopsgate.org.uk)

## Bomb Sight

London map of WW2 bombs, [www.bombsight.org](http://www.bombsight.org)

## British Airways Heritage

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

## British Heritage TV

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

## British Library

96 Euston Rd, NW1, 0330 333 1144, [customer-Services@bl.uk](mailto:customer-Services@bl.uk)

## British Museum

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

## British Postal Museum and Archive

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

## British Vintage Wireless Society

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

## Brixton Windmill

020 7926 6056, [www.brixtonwindmill.org/](http://www.brixtonwindmill.org/)

## Bruce Castle Museum

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

## Burgh House and Hampstead Museum

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

## Camden History Society

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

## Camden New Town History Group

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

## Camden Railway Heritage Trust

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

## Canonbury Society

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

## Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group

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

## Cinema Museum

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

## City of London Archaeological Society

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

## Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association

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

## Clockmakers' Museum

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

## Cross Bones Graveyard

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

## Crossness Pumping Station

020 8311 3711, [www.crossness.org.uk](http://www.crossness.org.uk)

## Docklands History Group

[info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk](mailto:info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk)

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

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

## DoCoMoMo UK

Modern movement heritage. [www.docomomo-uk.co.uk](http://www.docomomo-uk.co.uk)

## East London History Society

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

## Enfield Archaeological Society

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

## England's Places

Historic England archive photographs. [www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/archive-collections/englands-places](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/archive-collections/englands-places)

## Estorick Collection of Modern Italian Art

39a Canonbury Square, N1 2AN, 020 7704 9522, [info@www.estorickcollection.com](mailto:info@www.estorickcollection.com)

## Foundling Museum

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

## Freud Museum

20 Maresfield Gdns, NW3, 020 7435 2002, [www.freud.org.uk](http://www.freud.org.uk)

## Friends of Hackney Archives

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

## Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

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

## Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

## Friends of Friendless Churches

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

## Geffrye Museum

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

## Georgian Group

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

**Grant Museum of Zoology**  
020 3108 2052, [www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/zoology)

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

**Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)**  
14 Mount Rd, EN4 9RL, 020 8692 8512, [www.glias.org.uk](http://www.glias.org.uk)

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

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

**The Hackney Society**  
Round Chapel, 1d Glenarm Road, E5 0LY, 020 7175 1967, [info@hackneysociety.org](mailto:info@hackneysociety.org)

**Hendon and District Archaeology Society**  
020 8449 7076, [hadas.org.uk](http://hadas.org.uk)

**Heritage of London Trust**  
020 7730 9472, [www.heritageoflondon.com](http://www.heritageoflondon.com)

**Historic Hospital Admission Records Project**  
[www.hharp.org/](http://www.hharp.org/)

**Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution Archives**  
[archives@hlsi.net](mailto:archives@hlsi.net)

**Historical Association, Central London Branch**  
020 7323 1192, [www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk), [chrissie@ganjou.com](mailto:chrissie@ganjou.com)

**Historic Towns Forum**  
[www.historictownsforum.org](http://www.historictownsforum.org)

**History of Haringay**  
[www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay](http://www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay)

**Horniman Museum**  
100 London Rd, SE23, 020 8699 1872, [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk)



The British Airways Heritage collection includes photographs, uniforms, documents and memorabilia from the 1920s to today

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

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

**IanVisits**  
Blog with history and other events. [www.ianvisits.co.uk](http://www.ianvisits.co.uk)

**International Council on Monuments and Sites**  
[www.icomos-uk.org](http://www.icomos-uk.org)

**Imperial War Museum**  
Lambeth Road, SE1 6HZ, [www.iwm.org.uk](http://www.iwm.org.uk)

**Islington and Camden Cemetery**  
High Road, East Finchley, N2 9AG, 020 7527 8804, [www.islington.gov.uk/Environment/cemeteries](http://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](mailto:local.history@islington.gov.uk), [www.islington.gov.uk/heritage](http://www.islington.gov.uk/heritage)

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

**Islington's Lost Cinemas**  
[www.isingtonslostcinemas.com](http://www.isingtonslostcinemas.com)

**Islington Society**  
3P Leroy, 436 Essex Road London N1 3QP [info@islingtonociety.org.uk](mailto:info@islingtonociety.org.uk)

**Jewish Museum**  
[www.jewishmuseum.org.uk](http://www.jewishmuseum.org.uk)

**Joe Meek Society**  
[www.joemeeksociety.org](http://www.joemeeksociety.org)

**Dr Johnson's House**  
17 Gough Square, EC4, [www.drjohnsonshouse.org](http://www.drjohnsonshouse.org)

**Keats House**  
020 7332 3868, [keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

**Lewisham Local History Society**  
[www.lewishamhistory.org.uk](http://www.lewishamhistory.org.uk)

**Locating London's Past**  
[www.locatinglondon.org](http://www.locatinglondon.org)

**London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre Online Catalogue**  
<http://archive.museumoflondon.org.uk/laarc/catalogue/>

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

**London Fire Brigade Museum**  
020 8555 1200, [www.london-fire.gov.uk/london-fire-brigade-museum.asp](http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/london-fire-brigade-museum.asp)

**London Lives 1690-1800**  
[www.londonlives.org](http://www.londonlives.org)

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

**London & Middlesex Archaeological Society**  
020 7814 5734, [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk)

**London Museums of Health and Medicine**  
[www.medicalmuseums.org](http://www.medicalmuseums.org)

**London Museum of Water & Steam**  
020 8568 4757, [www.waterandsteam.org.uk](http://www.waterandsteam.org.uk)

**London Socialist Historians**  
<http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com>

**London Society**  
<http://londonsociety.org.uk/>

**London Vintage Taxi Association**  
[www.lvta.co.uk](http://www.lvta.co.uk)

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

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

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

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

**Mausolea & Monuments Trust**

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

**Marx Memorial Library**

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

**The Model Railway Club**

4 Calshot St, N1 9DA  
020 7837 2542, [www.themodelrailwayclub.org](http://www.themodelrailwayclub.org)

**Museum of Brands**

111-117 Lancaster Road, W11  
1QT, 020 7908 0880, [info@museumofbrands.com](mailto:info@museumofbrands.com)

**Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture (MoDA)**

020 8411 4394, [www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/home](http://www.moda.mdx.ac.uk/home)

**Museum of London**

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

**Museum of London Archaeology**

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

**Museum of London Docklands**

020 7001 9844, [www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands)

**Museum of the Order of St John**

St John's Gate, EC1M 4DA,  
020 7324 4005, [www.museumstjohn.org.uk](http://www.museumstjohn.org.uk)

**Musical Museum**

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

**National Archives**

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

**National Churches Trust**

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

**National Piers Society**

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

**Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology**

020 7371 4445, [office@newcomen.com](mailto:office@newcomen.com)

**Newington Green Action Group**

020 7359 6027, [www.newingtongreen.org.uk](http://www.newingtongreen.org.uk)

**New River Action Group**

[mail@newriver.org.uk](mailto:mail@newriver.org.uk),  
020 8292 5987

**North London Railway Historical Society**

020 7837 2542, [www.nlrhs.org.uk](http://www.nlrhs.org.uk)

**Northview – 1930s estate**

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

**Ocean Liner Society**

[www.ocean-liner-society.com](http://www.ocean-liner-society.com)

**Pauper Lives in Georgian London and Manchester**

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

**Peckham Society**

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

**Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology**

[www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/museums/petrie)

**Prehistoric Society**

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

**Proceedings of the Old Bailey**

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

**Railway Correspondence and Travel Society**

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

**Rescue/British Archaeological Trust**

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

**Ragged School Museum**

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

**Royal Air Force Museum**

020 8205 2266, [www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london](http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/london)

**Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)**

66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD,  
[www.architecture.com](http://www.architecture.com)

**Science Museum**

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

**Sign Design Society**

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

**Sir John Soane's Museum**

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

**Smithfield Trust**

70 Cowcross St, EC1, 020  
7566 0041

**Society of Genealogists**

[www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk), 020 7251  
8799, booking: 020 7553 3290

**Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings**

37 Spital Sq, E1 6DY, 020 7377  
1644, [www.spab.org.uk](http://www.spab.org.uk)

**Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society**

79 Ashridge Cres, SE18 3EA

**The Streatham Society**

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

**Stuart Low Trust**

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

**Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society**

[info@rbhistory.org.uk](mailto:info@rbhistory.org.uk)

**Royal Archaeological Institute**

[admin@royalarchinst.org](mailto:admin@royalarchinst.org)

**Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre**

0345 337 3368, [rcn.library@rcn.org.uk](mailto:rcn.library@rcn.org.uk)

**Thames Discovery Programme**

Mortimer Wheeler Hse, 46  
Eagle Wharf Rd, N1, 020 7410  
2207, [thamesdiscovery.org](http://thamesdiscovery.org)

**Theatres Trust**

020 7836 8591, [www.theatretrust.org.uk](http://www.theatretrust.org.uk)

**Theatres Trust**

22 Charing Cross Road,  
WC2H 0QL, 020 7836 8591,  
[www.theatretrust.org.uk](http://www.theatretrust.org.uk)

**Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society**

<http://tilesoc.org.uk>

**Transport Trust**

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

**Twentieth Century Society**

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

**Union Chapel and Friends of the Union Chapel**

Compton Avenue, N1 2XD,  
[www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html](http://www.unionchapel.org.uk/pages/friends.html)

**Victoria & Albert Museum**

Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020 7907  
7073, [www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)

**V&A Museum of Childhood**

Cambridge Heath Road, E2  
9PA, 020 8983 5200, [www.museumofchildhood.org.uk](http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk)

**Victorian Society**

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

**Wallpaper History Society**

[wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk](http://wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk)

**Walthamstow Historical Society**

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

**Wellcome Collection**

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

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

49 City Rd, EC1, [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk/museum.htm)

**William Morris Gallery**

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

**Wilmington Square Society**

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

## Events

Wednesday 20  
April, 7.30pm,  
Islington Town  
Hall

### Drama workshop with Anna Scher

Anna Scher

Anna Scher MBE  
will be running a  
drama workshop  
– come and watch  
or, better still, join in.

The Anna Scher Theatre in Islington started as a drama club in 1968. Improvisation is at the core of its teaching, combining a community spirit with excellence and professionalism. It has produced household names for generations including Kathy Burke, Phil Daniels, Pauline Quirke, Linda Robson and Susan Tully.

Anna, who is an associate of RADA, has served on juries at BAFTA, Sony and the Royal Television Society.

She last addressed the IAHS around 10 years ago, and we're delighted to be welcoming her again.



Wednesday 18 May, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

### Agincourt at the Islington borders, Whitsun 1416

Lester Hillman, academic adviser, Islington Archaeology & History Society

Following the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, there was pressure to negotiate peace with France. King Sigismund of Hungary, a future Holy Roman Emperor, came to England as a sort of peace broker.

His stay in England with a huge retinue in the summer of 1416 featured high drama, international diplomacy, ceremony, pageantry and great feasting.

Echoes of Agincourt can still be detected along Islington's borders, from Moorgate's archery heritage to Dick Whittington's stone on Highgate Hill.

### Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society will be held at on Wednesday 15 June at 6.30pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

Wednesday 15 June, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

### Moves at Islington Local History Centre

Mark Aston, Local History Manager, Islington Council

Mark will be updating us on the progress of works at the Local History Centre, and will be describing the material held in its archives and the heritage services it offers.

Works to Finsbury Library include a new archive store for the Local History Centre, which means many items now in storage should be available from September.

The Local History Centre holds a wide range of resources about the history of the borough, including maps, photographs, census records, electoral rolls, newspapers and periodicals, trade directories, advertisements, workhouse records and other archive material.

It also holds special collections, including on Sadler's Wells Theatre, the Royal Agricultural Hall, Joe Orton and several local businesses.

The collections are available for research on family history, local history and many other subjects.

Wednesday 29 June, 7.30pm,  
Islington Town Hall

### Brutalist Islington

James Dunnett, Islington architect and past chair of DoCoMoMo UK. This event is held jointly with the Islington Society.

A photo-tour of various buildings built between 1955 and 1975 in Islington, with a talk about them and their architects.



The Islington Archaeology & History Society meets 10 times a year, usually at 7.30pm 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](http://www.islingtonhistory.org.uk)

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

## Back page picture

Recognise anyone here at the Martin Luther King adventure playground in the early 1970s? An exhibition on local adventure playgrounds starts at Islington Museum in May

