

# Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 7 No 3 Autumn 2017



## Empire remembered

A green plaque for one of London's most famous venues

Pink Floyd's controversial children's choir ● The wartime youth club at Canonbury Tower ● A charity's 500-year history reflects social change ● Being evacuated in the Second World War ● A trip to the Postal Museum and Mail Rail ● Memorial to Islington's Boxing Day tragedy ● Policing same-sex desire ● Books and reviews ● Events and exhibitions ● Letters and your 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)



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## 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 autumn issue is 4 November.

## 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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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

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 7 No 3 Autumn 2017

## Protect heritage while listing is being decided

A hundred years ago, Holloway was a fashionable shopping area, with long parades of shops and grand department stores.

The centrepiece of one of these terraces was a magnificent two-faced Victorian clock, beneath an octagonal cupola and above decorative swag details. It survived for over 100 years.

Sadly, over recent years, the clock fell into disrepair. Panels were lost from the faces. Then it was taken down.

Around the same time, a developer deliberately destroyed a Jacobean ceiling to prevent a building from being listed.

This type of action is not new. When developers heard that the 1927 art deco Firestone factory was to be listed, they had bulldozers on site within days.

In Wales, buildings being considered for listing are given interim protection while their status is decided. There is a campaign to bring England's law into line with this, which we should support.

Such a move may help to highlight society's disapproval when heritage assets are lost – and even make people think before they remove landmarks like Holloway's clock.

For now, let's hope the terrace's owners realise how lost it looks without its centrepiece, and repair the clock and reinstate it in its rightful place.

### Going underground

It might seem strange that tickets to travel underground in cramped railway carriages are selling out – after all, many Londoners experience something similar every day.

Yet it is without doubt a thrill to travel along the dimly lit tunnels of Mail Rail on a railway line that was inaccessible to the public for so many decades.

*Christy Lawrance*  
Editor



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## In brief

Cut VAT on building repair, tax office told

VAT on the labour element of all housing renovation and repair should be cut to 5%, as is the case in the Isle of Man, the Heritage Alliance has said in response to the Office of Tax Simplification's review of VAT. It says the VAT regime is a major threat to heritage and the industries it supports, as it incentivises demolition. A rate of 20% VAT is charged on maintenance, compared with 0% on new buildings.

Views on the planning system wanted

The Town & Country Planning Association has set up a review to identify how the planning system can be made fairer and effective while providing more homes. The deadline for comments on the Raynsford Review of Planning is 31 October.

● [www.tcpa.org.uk/raynsford-review](http://www.tcpa.org.uk/raynsford-review)

Fewer council historic advice specialists

The number of local authority historic advice specialists has continued to fall, according to Historic England. At the same time, the number of planning application and listed building consent decisions has risen.

Rebuild cottages brick by brick, orders council

Three illegally demolished historic cottages must be rebuilt exactly as they used to be, Tower Hamlets Council has ordered. The 19th century cottages, in a conservation area on the Isle of Dogs, must be rebuilt within 18 months. They were demolished without planning consent in 2016.



A commemorative board dedicated to the casualties of a V2 bombing attack on Boxing Day 1944 has been placed near the gates to Paradise Park.

IAHS member Bill Patey campaigned for the memorial

## Memorial to Boxing Day tragedy at the gates to Paradise Park

in Liverpool Road. More than 340 people were casualties of this wartime attack, in which 73 people were killed and 86 seriously injured.

The board is very near the site of the former Prince of Wales pub which was destroyed.

The text on the board, most of which was written by Bill Patey, says: "The traumatic impact of this attack was felt by many survivors. Some families suffered significant losses of life or homes. One family living opposite the Prince of Wales public house lost seven children and another family celebrating an engagement lost five of its members."

Bill Patey is still researching and would like to hear from

people who have stories of family or friends affected by this tragedy. He can be contacted via our Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory](http://www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory)

He wrote an article about the attack and people affected by it in the December 2016 issue of this journal.



## Green plaque for music hall

The Finsbury Park Empire Theatre was due to be commemorated with an Islington's People's Plaque as the journal went to press.

The music hall and variety theatre was one of the most famous venues of its kind in London.

Designed by Frank Matcham for Moss Empires, it had 2,000 seats, cost £45,000 and opened in September 1910.

On opening night, the number of seats were "not equal to the demand for admission", the *The Stage* newspaper reported.

It added that the theatre had met so much "strenuous opposition ... it is a matter for astonishment that the scheme ever materialised at all".

*The Stage* described the interior as "admirable from every point of view". Even the ventilation was praised, with a the roof having a "modern

The Finsbury Park Empire when it opened in 1910



sliding panel" and being "perforated in an ingenious and decorative manner".

Many stars appeared at the Empire including Lillie Langtry, Harry Houdini, WC Fields, Laurel & Hardy, Max Miller and Tony Hancock. Sophie Tucker made her UK debut there in 1922.

In 1914, the theatre staged Britain's first all-women variety show, with Marie Lloyd topping the bill. The magic-trick illusion of sawing

a person in half was first shown in public there in 1921.

The theatre closed in 1960. It had been making a loss. Moss Empires offered to sell it to theatre trades unions but the price was too high.

It was then used as a rehearsal space and scenery store, and scenes from Cliff Richard musical *The Young Ones* were filmed there.

The building was demolished and Vaudeville Court built on the site.



Old station at Highbury could be reopened

The former Highbury & Islington station, over the road from the current one, could be reopened, according to a report in the Islington Gazette. The 1904 station served as an entrance to the Great Northern and City Railway, which is now the Northern City Line and runs from Finsbury Park to Moorgate.

Pie and mash shop on Chapel Market to close

The Manze pie and mash shop in Chapel Market is to close after 106 years in Chapel Market. It opened in 1911 and is expected to close by Christmas. It was run by the family until Lydia Manze died in 1985; she had worked in the shop for 60 years.

Petition calls for interim listing to end destruction

A petition asking the government to give interim protection to buildings proposed for listing has been set up after a developer destroyed a Jacobean ceiling to prevent the building being listed. The developer was legally entitled to destroy the elaborate, 400-year-old ceiling.

- Sign the petition at <http://tinyurl.com/ycwcbvfu>

Victorian Society issues list of buildings at risk

The Victorian Society has published its Top Ten Endangered Buildings 2017. It includes two chapels designed by Alfred Waterhouse, the architect behind the Natural History Museum, a factory that produced glass for the Big Ben clock faces and a seaside pavilion. The only London site is the New Tiger's Head, an unlisted 19th century pub on the borders of Greenwich and Lewisham.

## Revamp for Clerkenwell Square

One of the oldest open spaces in the borough is to get a revamp and a statue of Sylvia Pankhurst, under council proposals.

Clerkenwell Green could be closed to traffic and more trees planted. A bronze statue of Pankhurst, a key suffragette, is due to be installed by the end of next year to mark 100 years since women won the right to vote.

The square has a strong tradition of protest, going back to the middle ages. People have gathered there for May Day rallies since 1890.

The Tolpuddle Martyrs were greeted there on their return from Botany Bay, and the Chartists and several trade unions held meeting there.

In 1902, Vladimir Lenin moved the publication of



Some early road traffic on Clerkenwell Green in 1898; the building that is now the Marx Memorial Library is in the background

Iskra to the British Social Democratic Federation at 37a Clerkenwell Green, which is now home to the Marx Memorial Library

The square appears in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*,

as the place where Fagin and the Artful Dodger introduce Oliver to pickpocketing.

- The deadline for responses to the consultation is 30 October: [www.islington.gov.uk/clerkenwellgreen](http://www.islington.gov.uk/clerkenwellgreen)



The Holloway Road shopping parade no longer has its centrepiece Victorian clock (pictured in 2011, right)

A landmark clock in the centre of a terrace in Holloway Road has disappeared.

The clock, at 296 Holloway Road, dates back to the 1890s, when Holloway was a fashionable shopping area.

Recently, it had been allowed to fall into disrepair, with panels falling out of

its faces. The society has previously called for it to be restored.

IAHS chair Andrew Gardner, told the Islington Tribune: "It's a landmark piece of architecture. It's a balancing feature in the middle of the building and a lovely thing to keep."

The clock was reported to



still be working two years ago and to be structurally safe.

At the end of the 19th century, the building contained a branch of Sainsbury's.

# Letters and your questions

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

## Silver-topped 'SS Islington' baton from 1900

I recently purchased a small ebony and mushroom silver-topped baton from an antique shop in Rochester. It has on it a silver band with the initials "CEA" and, on the reverse, the inscription "Islington SS Anniversary 1900". It is about two feet long.

I have trying to find information about it and so far have come to a dead end.

I don't think it is linked to a ship as records I have looked at do not show one for that date or before. In addition, the SS normally comes in front of the name of a ship whereas this comes at the end (Islington SS).

I wonder therefore if it relates to some historic society based in Islington. Maybe social services/scientific society or perhaps an army outfit based in Islington?

I would appreciate it if you are able to advise me of any societies or groups operating in Islington at the turn of the century that it may refer to?

*Terry Thrussell*  
*ttacinfo@btinternet.com*

The inscription on the baton would suggest that it was given on a special occasion in 1900.

It is possible that this occasion was recorded in the local newspapers, especially the Islington Gazette. The Islington Local History Centre has the every issue of the paper since its inception 1856 on microfilm. You can book a seat and then search the microfilms for the year 1900, which I must admit can be a rather boring experience but does eventually bear results.



There is be a faint possibility that the local history centre have a file on the event.

*Michael Reading*

## A reserved occupation in a syphon factory

A family member's service records state that, after receiving a shotgun wound to the knee, he returned home and was transferred to Army Reserve class 1.

It said he was "not liable to be called up for military service as long as it is necessary for him to remain in civil employ as a syphon caster with British Syphon Co Ltd Barnsbury Street".

I wondered if any of your members might know anything about the company during the First World War, or have any suggestion for finding out more.

Making drinks syphons doesn't seem to be a good reason for being exempted from military service.

*Jean Fitzgerald*  
*jdfitz90@gmail.com*

The summer issue of this journal contained a letter about the British Syphon factory. A history of the firm was published in *Sussex Industrial History* in 2006, issue 36, pages 2-11. This can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/y9dpl7nt>

*Christy Lawrance*  
*Editor*



This ebony baton is inscribed "Islington SS Anniversary 1900". Was it created for a special occasion?

My understanding of your enquiry is that a member of your family was wounded in the First World War, and recovered but not sufficiently to be returned to active service and was subsequently transferred to the Army Reserve Class 1.

Many men were in the reserves for various reasons. They served in the rear areas, often guarding installations, convoys and prisoners of war.

It is possible your relative had special skills that could be better employed back at the British Syphon Co, where they had suspended their normal business and were engaged on war production. He would therefore not be returned to his military unit while he was working at the company.

The website at [www.1914-1918.net/reserve.htm](http://www.1914-1918.net/reserve.htm) will give you information on the various categories of army reserves in 1914-18.

Unfortunately, I have no information on what the British Syphon Company may have been producing for the war effort, but would venture that, from the products they



made commercially, it could be some form of military engineering product.

If you research the history of the company, you may find this was recorded.

*Michael Reading*

## A 19th century school photograph

I have a torn piece of a school photograph which includes my grandmother, born in Islington in 1877. Photo dating expert Jayne Shrimpton has assessed it as having been taken circa 1886-90.

The border of the picture may be the same as in other school photos, which could help me to identify the school or group of schools photographed. Does Islington's history centre or archive have school photos of this period that can be compared?

Gran is the child in the middle with the drooping eyelid, the result of mumps.

My family were at Elmore Street in the 1881 census and Gran's mother died at Albion Grove in Barnsbury in 1899. However, I cannot find where they were in 1891 and don't know what became of Gran's father.

Any help you can give me in identifying the school she attended would be greatly appreciated.

*Sonia Bennett Murray  
Biloxi, MS USA  
murraysonia407@gmail.com*

There are two schools very near Elmore Street – Ecclesbourne Primary School, which was open between 1886 and 2004, and Rotherfield Primary School, which opened in 1898. Both buildings still exist.

Ecclesbourne Road runs out of Elmore Street, and is a few minutes' walk away. Ecclesbourne Primary School closed in 2004 and I believe has been converted into flats. Rotherfield Street is about 10 minutes' walk away and is still in use as a primary school.

Both buildings are three storeys high and were built by the London Schools Board in a distinctive style. You can view them on Google Earth.

Albion Grove, which became Ripplevale Grove in 1921, would be a good 40 minutes' walk from Elmore Street. There is a school nearby, Thornhill Primary School in Thornhill Road. Again, this was built by the London Schools Board and is three storeys high. It opened in 1881 and is still in use.

The Islington Archaeology & History Society doesn't have

This school photograph has a distinctive edge. Can you identify it?

an archive, but Islington's Local History Centre, which the council runs, may have some pictures, and can help people who cannot visit easily.

The London Metropolitan Archives hold a collection of school photographs, some of which may go back to the late 19th century.

Details of both can be found at [www.islingtonhistory.org.uk/sources.html](http://www.islingtonhistory.org.uk/sources.html).

If you send the photograph to the London Metropolitan Archives, may I suggest you tell them which school you think it may be from and the years. They may be able to search for you – there may be a fee for this.

*Michael Reading*

### **Why is Cloudesley Road wider than nearby streets?**

I have a random question: is there any particular reason why Cloudesley Road in Barnsbury is so wide compared to the surrounding streets?

*Joe Kaz  
Via Facebook*

My father was born there. I am sure it was originally a drive path to the cattle yard in Barnsbury. Could that be the reason?

When you look at the map of the area you can see the pattern of the squares. Maybe the wide streets were part of the design to clear the tight



slum streets and create air spaces.  
*Tony Hellard  
Via Facebook*

I've done some looking up on my shelves at home, principally from Mary Cosh's History of Islington and her short An Historical Walk Through

Barnsbury, and I think both of your replies above look viable.

Mary writes of "improvements" in around 1859 to what had already become run down. The drovers' route you suggest certainly looks viable from the geography; and, at this time there was also great pressure on countering disease (then widely considered to be airborne) by air spaces.

Which of these was the greater motive? I can't say for the moment. Slaughter of livestock at Smithfield ceased soon after, though the dairies continued. I hope this helps for now – I'd love to give more.

*Andy Gardner  
Chair, IAHS  
Via Facebook*

I am inclined to agree with Tony Hellard's suggestion. Looking at the map, a pattern emerges in that the streets running from south to north streets are much longer as well as wider than the streets running west to east.

They south-north streets are Caledonian Road, Hemmingford Road, Barnsbury Road, Cloudesley Road (joining at Richmond Road), Liverpool Road and Upper Street.

All are main thoroughfares, following the development of Islington as it moved northwards during the early part of the 19th century. All of these streets had or have shops and other

commercial premises.

It may be that this arrangement was not planned, but came about more by accident.

*Michael Reading*

### **The grand house at Wedmore Gardens**

I live at a house in Wedmore Gardens. I've just stumbled across the Ordnance Survey map for 1869-80. This shows the railway and station at Upper Holloway as being in existence as well as buildings along Hampden Road, Cromwell Road (possibly named at one point as Ireton Road) and Rupert Road, which were demolished to form Whittington Park. Wedmore Street is shown, but at that point was named John Street.

Where Wedmore Gardens is now, the map shows what appears to be a large house, with gardens laid out. Is it possible to find out anything more about this house? And about when and how Wedmore Gardens came to be built – and Wedmore Street renamed?

That renaming has led, I would guess, to over 100 years of irritation with letters turning up in the wrong road and people getting lost.

Many thanks for any information.

*Humphrey Evans  
topwrite@hotmail.com*

The large house you refer to stood in Holloway Road and the 1868 street directory shows it standing between Hampden Road and the Hampstead Junction Tottenham Railway line.

The house was occupied by Frederick Fitz Henry Fisher and was named Wedmore House. As Wedmore Gardens, which was completed in 1883, is a comparatively short street, I would venture that it was built on the site of Wedmore House and its gardens. You

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That renaming has led, I would guess, to over 100 years of irritation with letters turning up in the wrong road and people getting lost

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may find some information on the Fisher family on the 1871 census.

The name Wedmore Street was approved in 1877. Before this, it was John Street, Upper Holloway, dating from 1829. In 1852, it was St John Street but changed in 1855 to just John Street.

Wedmore Street also contained Wedmore Mews, which ran behind a group of houses facing onto Holloway Road. Wedmore is a village four and a half miles south of Axbridge in Somerset.

The Islington vestry minutes for 1863 and again in 1868 show that Holloway Road was known as such, but the numbering was not completed until 1884-86.

*Michael Reading*

Thank you for taking the trouble to look up the existence of Wedmore House. It's quite refreshing to know what was there and even the name of the person who lived in it.

It almost instantly led to some more information.

I have been unable to trace Elizabeth Merryweather in the 1871 census. However, her father, Frederick FH Fisher, aged 47, whose income derived from property and foreign stock, was living at Wedmore House, Holloway Road, Islington with his wife Margaret, aged 28, sons William, aged 19, an undergraduate and Edmund, aged 16 "engaged in warehouse", and daughters,



John Street was a previous name for Wedmore Street

Margaret, aged 7, scholar and Ada, aged 1. Also living there were Emma Smith, domestic servant, Sarah Gibson, nursemaid and Marion Bullen, cook. This seems to be a story in its own right.  
*Humphrey Evans*

### **A church organ that left Highbury for the City**

I've been trying to find out about an organ in All Hallows church in London Wall in the City of London. It was built in the 19th century and originally installed in a private house in Highbury.

Following the death of a long-serving vicar of St Mary's church in Islington, Reverend Daniel Wilson, the organ was presented in his memory to the church in the late 1880s.

It remained in Islington until 1962 when it was transferred from Islington Parish Hall to All Hallows. (All Hallows had been severely damaged during the Second World War and repaired and reopened in 1962.)

I have been wondering where the parish hall was and whether it escaped damage when St Mary's was heavily destroyed in the Blitz.

At the back of the organ case at All Hallows is a plaque bearing the following inscription: "This organ was presented as a tribute to the memory of the Reverend Prebendary Daniel Wilson MA vicar of this parish from 1832 to 1886 by Edward R Morris Esq JP formerly of the Manor House, Highbury."

The 1881 census shows an Edward R Morris was living at 9 Warltersville Road. He was a gelatine manufacturer with a business in the City so one assumes he was quite well off.

The organ is mentioned in a book entitled *The Organs of the City of London* by Nicholas Plumley. He states that the organ "was probably originally made for the Manor House, 21 Leigh Road, Highbury".

Reverend Wilson's death was noted in the Islington

vestry minutes of July 1886. But I could find no mention in the minutes from around that time of any donation in his memory.

An organist friend spotted an advert in *The Times* newspaper of Wednesday 7 March 1888, which states: "ORGAN, by W Hill and Son, for SALE. In perfect condition. Six years old. Contains six stops in great, four in swell, one in pedal, and three couplers. Handsome oak case. May be seen at the Manor House, Leigh Road, Highbury-grove, N."

So it appears the All Hallows organ was still at the Manor House nearly two years after Reverend Wilson died. Presumably Morris was unable to sell the organ and decided to donate it to St Mary's instead.

In 1961-62 the organ was repaired and installed in All Hallows by organ builders Noel Mander & Sons. Its archive file for All Hallows contains a letter to Manders from the Central Council for the Care of Churches, 2 May 1961, stating that there is an organ available for All Hallows from "Islington Parish Church". Another document dated 16 February 1962 says the organ is located at "Islington Parish Church Hall".

There is an invoice to All Hallows, dated 5 July 1962 for the organ, purchased from "Bishop Wilson Memorial Hall, Islington".

It appears that St Mary's hall have been called "Islington Parish Church Hall" or "Bishop Wilson Memorial Hall".

There is a community centre at the rear of St Mary's vicarage. Would this be where the Bishop Wilson Hall was? Were "Bishop Wilson Memorial Hall" and the "Islington Parish Hall" one and the same?

*Eric Hearn*

*Member of the Friends of City Churches*

*erichearn1944@yahoo.co.uk*

### **Write to us**



- Email the editor at [journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk)
- Write to the editor c/o 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB
- Via [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory); posts printed will give Facebook usernames

The society won't trace family trees, but can help with, say, finding information on a family member's business or home. Letters and Facebook posts may be edited.



In 1888, the parish bought a plot of land from the Metropolitan Board of Works adjoining the north side of the churchyard, next to 302 Upper Street. In 1897, it built a new vicarage there, which is still in use today.

Reverend William Hagger Barlow – who succeeded Reverend Daniel Wilson – built the Bishop Wilson Memorial Hall in 1890 behind the vicarage to replace an old chapel in Gaskin Street which had been in use since 1860.

The condition of the hall had deteriorated by 1973 and it was decided to demolish and replace it. A games room was built in 1977 in the vicarage garden behind the hall. The old hall was replaced by St Mary's Neighbourhood Centre, which opened in 1979.

I would venture the "Islington Parish Hall" name came into popular use as the name of Bishop Wilson faded from memory. This is a guess, but things like this do happen.

I would suggest you contact St Mary's parish office and ask if you can examine their records. You could also ask whether a note could be placed in the parish magazine asking if anyone remembers the organ in the old hall.

The Islington Local History Centre has copies of the Islington Gazette on microfilm going back to 1856, which may mention the donation.

There may be members of St Mary's congregation who remember the old hall and the possible use of the organ before it was moved in 1962.

*Michael Reading.*

### Why were the houses in Mildmay Park demolished?

I was interested in the article by Alan Ricketts about him growing up in Mildmay Park.

I spent a number of years there in the 1960s at number 18, where I had a flat.

It was a three-storey house,

St Mary's: the church was given an organ – possibly because the owner couldn't sell it



with of two flats on the ground floor – I had the one facing the street – and two flats on the upper floors. The owners, who were Polish, had the basement.

I visited there recently to find number 18 and possibly 16 and 20 had been demolished and a small block of flats put in their place.

Is there any way of finding out when they were demolished and why, as they seemed in good condition when I was there?

On the subject of disappearing places, my first job was at the British Watch Cases at the bottom of Pentonville Road, near King's Cross.

I also worked at the Initial Towel Supply Co which was in Goswell Road.

How could I find out when



Don't pinch the towels - the above metal label reads: "This cabinet & contents are the property of Initial Towel Supply Co, 290-300 Goswell Rd EC1, and are loaned to the user as custodian bailee"

they moved and where to. I know Initial's building has gone and has been replaced by a new build.

*George Goodwin*

The houses at 16-20 Mildmay Park were in a terrace on the east side, running from Mildmay Grove South to Balls Pond Road.

Apart from about 10 houses at the north end, the remaining line has been replaced by several blocks of flats in three different styles. I believe the small block named Hexam Lodge is where 16-20 stood and may have been built by the Islington Council. The two other blocks look like a private developments.

The whole line of these houses suffered bomb damage during the war, under the category "general blast damage, not structural".

To find out when the redevelopment took place, I suggest you approach Islington Council's planning office.

The Initial Towel Supply Co, founded in 1903, was acquired by Rentokil plc in 1996 and renamed Rentokil Initial, now part of the Rentokil

Initial Group, a FTSE 100 company. They still trade under separate names and you will find more about them at [www.initial.co.uk](http://www.initial.co.uk).

*Michael Reading*

### The goat group member of Hornsey Street

We are researching the early history of the British Goat Society from 1879. One of the first members was "Dickins Bros, 5 Hornsey Street, Holloway Road, N" in Herd Book 1 or alternatively "Dickens Bros, Hornsey Street, Holloway Road, N" in Herd Book 2.

We just wondered if anyone could tell us the correct spelling of the surname.

*Bob & Ros Featherstone*

I have looked up 5 Hornsey Street, Holloway, in the Post Office Street Directory for 1880, the nearest disc I have to 1879.

There is no one listed under the name of Dickins Bros in the street. That does not mean they were not there; they may not have paid for an entry in the directory.

May I suggest you access the 1881 census for Hornsey Street, which is available via several genealogy websites.

I list below the entries that are shown in Hornsey Street which may be of help.

South side.

- 1 James Meldrum
- 9 Henry Healy, cooper
- 11 James Brander
- 19 Mrs Koch
- 37 Miss Lily Greaves, day school
- 41 Richard Wooten
- 43 John O'Brian

North side

- 2 Robert Ward, builder
- 30 Charles Taylor Barlow
- 34 William Long
- 36 Fredk Wm Spooner, writer
- 38 Thomas Shortt

*Michael Reading*

# The wartime youth club at Canonbury Tower

Fred Pullen, now aged 91, talks to his daughter Janet Marsh about his time at the youth club at Canonbury Tower during the Second World War

Canonbury Tower was home to a youth club during the Second World War.

The youth club was managed by actor Bryan Bailey.

He was a conscientious objector and, because his objection was accepted, he was required to do voluntary work. He was assigned to run the club.

Fred Pullen, born in 1925, was a member of the club for two years before he was called up to serve in the Royal Navy. He first attended the club in 1940-41.

**Janet Marsh: How did you hear about the club?**

**Fred Pullen:** Two of my old school friends invited me along.

One was Horace "Parky" Parkinson, who lived with his parents in a cottage next to Thornhill Road School. His father was in the print. The other was

Dennis Owen, who lived with his widowed mother and older brother Bill across the road from my home in Ripplevale Grove.

**JM: When was the club open?**

**FP:** The club was open seven nights a week from after school until about 9pm.

During the war, young children were evacuated from London but teenagers would have stayed at home as they were working from the age of 14. The government expected teenagers to belong to these youth clubs to occupy their time as we weren't allowed to roam the streets.

Most of these clubs were sponsored by the government or the London County Council. I can't recall if we paid a subscription.

We did have a badge, though. It was round and brass, with a blue centre containing a picture of a white keystone surrounded by a white border with the four initials



Able Seaman Fred Pullen in 1943

of the association.

**JM: Can you recall the names of any other boys and girls who belonged to the club in your time?**

There were the Sainsbury sisters – Joan and Betty, Tom McElligott and his sister Joyce, Betty Batten, Iris Hillier and Lily Blake. Also cousins Reg and Jackie Gutteridge.

**JM: Which parts of the building were used by the club and what activities were on offer?**

The club had use of the whole building, although the door to the top of the tower was kept locked.

The large community hall, built just before the war, was given over to games and recreation. I also remember that Bryan held a service there on a Sunday.

We had a little tea room that the teenage girls managed. This was in the corner at the back of the main building adjoining the hall. There was always tea and cake available.

Bryan had one of the rooms in the tower for his office and another was used for amateur dramatics.

The whole club was well organised in that there was always something to do but you could also just sit and chat.

**JM: Was Bryan the only leader?**

He was the only adult but, if he needed assistance, he would use us.

For example, he said to me: "Let's have a Sunday ramble. You organise it." I said: "How do I do that?" and Bryan said: "Ring up and find out about Sunday train times from Baker Street." I didn't



The Canonbury Tower youth club's football team in the 1940s



like using the telephone but Bryan wasn't going to accept that you couldn't do it.

I know that on one ramble about 20 of us went on the Metropolitan Line out to Rickmansworth. I had planned that we would go to the furthest station then hike through the countryside to the next station on the way home.

The club also had a monthly newsletter which we helped to put together.

#### **JM: Tell me more about the newsletter**

Reggie Gutteridge organised all the content and Bryan Bailey was the editor.

I can't recall exactly what went into it – probably reports of the club's activities and stories from the members, especially those who were on active service.

The back page of the magazine was always the same. The top half of the page listed all the boys and girls who were away with the forces and the bottom half contained the obituaries of all the members who had died on active service.

Bryan typed up the content for each edition and ran off copies on the Roneo. I remember he'd bring all these papers in and a group of us would sit round a table and staple all the pages together.

It was while doing this that I came up with the idea: "Why don't we have a front cover?"

And Bryan said: "OK, what do you suggest?"

So I produced a linocut of the tower. I had learnt to do lino cutting at school in the art class so I copied

Fred Cullen's linocut of Canonbury Tower illustrated the cover of the youth club's magazine; below right: the image he may have used to create it, believed to date from 1887



the outline from a photograph onto the lino by making a transfer with greaseproof paper and then cutting it out. This was version one.

One day Bryan said to me: "There's a class being offered in Oxford Street on a Sunday afternoon on how to do advertising posters."

Thinking I was a bit artistic, he suggested I went along, which I did. At one of these classes I showed my linocut design to the lecturer who said: "I know what's wrong with this" – and promptly drew the cloud in the corner and the streaks across the sky. So I did a new linocut including these things and that was version two.

I did another linocut for the title, using characters from a newspaper and, when a new edition came out, would be inking the lino and printing the front covers.

#### **JM: When did you leave the club?**

When I got my call up papers in 1943. The boys were automatically directed to the forces when they turned 18 unless they were in a

reserved occupation. I don't remember any girls going into the ATS [Auxiliary Territorial Service] or the WRNS [Women's Royal Naval Service] but several joined the Women's Land Army.

After the war, Bryan Bailey left the club and returned to the stage. He was later appointed director of the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry.

He bought a secondhand Ford car for commuting from Canonbury and sadly became one of the first people to be killed in an accident on the M1. No other vehicle was involved. It made the front page of the Daily Mail, which is how we learned of the news. A great shock to us all.

#### **JM: Any final thoughts?**

For my generation, our time at the club was all about building confidence and helping us on to our future careers. I also made many good friends.

It was only two years of my life but those two years have stayed with me until this day. ■





# Pink Floyd's choir

Islington Green School pupils shot to fame after singing on a Pink Floyd single. Dennis Gardner describes how it happened

in the 1960s and was attended by local, predominately working class children. No great success was achieved educationally. Poor performance and examination results, plus chaotic pupil behaviour and – dare I say – low expectations eventually meant that, by the 1970s, it was on the brink of closure.

However, in 1975, as almost a last throw of the dice, Margaret Maden was appointed as head. Aged just 35, her remit was to turn the school's fortunes around. In her own words, it would be "effective, informal, but not sloppy".

Mindful of the disastrous, undisciplined examples of "progressive" education as typified by Risinghill and William Tyndale schools a few years earlier, she nevertheless recruited new staff, including several excellent heads of department, yet retained the ethos of providing an education that would offer the pupils more than the traditional, so-called "old fashioned" values prevalent before this time.

Initially, things worked. Within two or three years, results were improving, leading to a sizeable influx of middle class pupils to what was called a "thriving progressive school". How things could change.

As an Islington Green School parent at that time, I have to say that it wasn't at all bad, but there was always an undisciplined, slightly anarchic attitude prevalent among many pupils that went unchecked by certain overtolerant, idealistic members of staff.

Against this background then, it was both ironic and perhaps inevitable that the school's moment of fame – or infamy – was

connected with a song that was almost an anthem of the aforementioned anti-authoritarian, ideological attitudes so fashionable and extolled in left-wing educational circles at the time.

## An unconventional teacher

Alun Renshaw came to Islington Green School as head of music at the recommendation of Islington Council's educational music inspector, who thought he would be ideally suited to the school, several other schools having been unwilling to engage him in view of his unconventional and somewhat arrogant attitude.

His presence was felt quickly. He cultivated a sizeable following of pupils who were fascinated by his strong language, skintight jeans, chainsmoking in class and way of teaching music in a manner they had not experienced before.

This included taking his classes around the school stamping on the floor and beating on doors and walls in preparation for his composition Requiem for a Sinking Block of Flats. This was never performed, but rehearsals for



**P**ink Floyd were recently the subject of an exhibition – Their Mortal Remains – at the V&A. From the band's

beginnings, named after the Piedmont blues singers Pink Anderson and Floyd Council, the exhibition chronicled the progress of these talented musicians, with instruments, clothing, obviously non-stop music, pink pigs flying over Battersea power station and the graphic design for The Dark Side of the Moon. It culminated in a 360° film, with stunning sound to match, of an excerpt from their last concert, where they performed Comfortably Numb. The live images are supplemented by an animated brick wall, which disintegrates and rebuilds itself continuously.

The Wall features prominently in this exhibition. Unbelievably, Another Brick In The Wall, released in 1979, was the band's only number one single – it topped the charts in the UK and around the world – and was complete with a choir of Islington kids on the soundtrack.

Islington Green School was built

Cane-wielding teacher in The Wall section of the exhibition



it drove the rest of the school to despair.

Meanwhile, just around the corner from the school were Britannia Studios, where many rock and pop recordings were made at the time.

Producer and recording engineer Nick Griffiths had a problem on his hands. Pink Floyd, on a US tour, were due back the following week to record a new album, *The Wall*. Bassist Roger Waters had written a song reflecting what he regarded as his own repressive, bullying education. Called *Another Brick in the Wall*, it needed a children's choir as the backing track.

It's said that, initially, drummer Nick Mason had approached his son's school, Highgate, about using their choir, but was rebuffed. It was now down to Griffiths to sort something out.

We were asked to sing like we were in the playground or over the Arsenal, a sort of chant

Time was not on his side. With the band due back soon, action was needed. He said: "I strolled down the road to the local comprehensive. It was like Bash Street School in the Beano."

He walked in and asked the first person he saw where the music department was.

Upon being directed, conveniently straight past Maden's office, he walked into a smoke-filled room where Renshaw was holding court with a few pupils.

Renshaw, not believing his luck, seized the moment, and the next morning took 23 highly excited pupils to the studios.

I've spoken to several of those who were present that day, all now aged around 50.

"We were asked to sing like we were in the playground or over the Arsenal, a sort of chant," said one.

However, Renshaw still had to inform Margaret Maden, who knew nothing of his actions. Understandably, and in view of what she was trying and starting to



Islington Green School: an undisciplined, slightly anarchic attitude prevailed among many pupils

achieve at the school, she was furious.

On reading Roger Waters' lyrics, her rage turned to incandescence.

*We don't need no education  
We don't need no thought control  
No dark sarcasm in the classroom  
Teachers leave them kids alone.*

She felt, understandably, that much of her good work was badly undermined by this. Renshaw was reprimanded, but in fairness to Maden, she defended any criticism of him, albeit somewhat diplomatically.

### Critical acclaim

The record was released to great critical acclaim, but public reaction to the lyrics was varied. Maden was criticised by certain sections of the press for allowing this to happen. She banned the pupils involved from interviews or public appearances such as on *Top of the*

An inflatable pig above the V&A at the exhibition's launch



Pops. They couldn't have appeared anyway, not being Equity members, and stage school pupils mimed in place of them on TV.

Some while afterwards, disillusioned and dissatisfied, Renshaw left to teach in Australia. He still lives in Sydney.

Margaret Maden left in 1983 to become the principal of Islington Sixth Form College.

After some years, Islington Green School closed and was demolished. A new school was built on the site.

The children on the recording had varied views on their time at the school.

"I don't think I learnt anywhere near as much as I could have done. If I'd been at a more disciplined school, then an awful lot more time would have been taken up with teaching and much less with crowd control," said one.

"It wasn't the perfect education but, when I saw what some of the teachers were achieving with some real hardnut kids, I felt encouraged to do the best I could," said another.

One recalled: "Do you remember when that copper came in on his horse to speak to us all in assembly? He tied the horse up outside the school and when he came back out we'd nicked the saddle and all the livery." ■

Dennis Gardner was an Islington Green School parent from 1977 to 1985



Children arriving in Devon

# Leaving home in wartime

Many London children were evacuated during the Second World War. Alan Ricketts tells of his time in the country and his return to Islington

I joined the Stoke Newington Central School at Easter 1939 because of my birth date, so missed the first term of the new intake.

As well as the usual subjects, we were taught woodwork, typing and shorthand. (I still have a few items which I made.) Chemistry was new to me, and I did not get on with the young teacher.

That autumn, my mother and I went to Folkestone for a week's holiday, but the war clouds were gathering. On the Thursday, my mother received a postcard from my sister to say that I was due to be evacuated on the Saturday 2 September.

Friday saw us on the way back to London, where the street lights were mostly out, and all the buses had anti-blast netting covering their windows. With a strange mixture of excitement and foreboding, we prepared for the morrow.

Being from town, my mother no idea that our bus ran only twice a week, and was lucky to get a lift from the milkman

My mother had experienced air raids by aircraft and Zeppelins in the First World War, and could not hide her concerns.

Next morning, at the appointed time, a stream of children, with a mixture of parents, converged on the school, carrying our cases or brown paper bundles as necessary.

There, we were marshalled into parties, suitably labelled. After tearful goodbyes, we were marched along to Dalston Junction Railway Station, where we boarded a waiting train.

We were soon on our way, crawling through the north-west London suburbs until, at last, the

Alan Ricketts' wartime identity card



Many children saw the countryside for the first time when they were evacuated

countryside was reached. For many, it was their first sight of green fields.

## Country life

I was allocated to a farm, along with another boy, Donald Moxon. We soon learnt our way around, and usually brought the cows in for milking and took them back after.

Our teacher was the chemistry man that I had not liked, but he taught us games including solo whist, snooker and table tennis. He also took us for long walks in the country and taught us about nature. We also had a sentry to warn if the headmaster's car was approaching.

That winter was extremely bad, and we were cut off for about 10





Evacuees were "suitably labelled" before boarding trains; Loraine Mansions in Widdenham Road, Holloway, was taken over by Islington Council to house people who had been bombed out

days. My mother came up to visit once and, being from town, had no idea that our bus ran only twice a week, and was lucky to get a lift from the milkman. That winter, I saw the aurora for the one and only time in my life.

This part of my life proved to be a time of enlightenment, with new experiences around every corner but, when the evacuation from Dunkirk happened, I decided that my place was back with my mother and sister.

On arrival back in London, I discovered that Islington Council had supplied an Anderson shelter which was in the garden. I obtained four tea chests which I arranged in an L shape around the door, and filled them with earth, I then wired it up with electricity, so that we could have an electric ring to make tea and electric light.

### Bombs and landmines

Come 7 September, and we stood in the garden and watched the massed bombers of the German air force preparing to bomb the docks. The Blitz followed, and one of a stick of bombs, later, fell on Mildmay Park – the library now occupies the space.

When the city was bombed and St Paul's was endangered, it was extremely bright with the fires – it

even illuminated where we lived.

One morning, I was in the house and thought how quiet it was, so I went to the front door and looked out to see, at the end of the road to my left, someone vigorously waving. I looked the other way, and saw a large land mine, covered by a parachute, standing on the pavement, which caused some alarm and despondency.

It was common, during an air raid, that Ford station wagons, with twin Lewis guns on the roof, would patrol the streets to attempt to shoot down flares. I think more chimneys suffered than flares.

Later, my mother got a job as manager/caretaker of some high-quality flats in Loraine Mansions in Widdenham Road, Holloway, which had been taken over by Islington Council to provide temporary accommodation for people who had been bombed out.

At this time, I joined the Royal

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I wired the Anderson shelter up with electricity, so that we could have an electric ring to make tea and electric light

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Fusiliers Cadet Battalion and became a full corporal. Our job, were we to be invaded, was to defend the Caledonian Market. In 1943, the War Office decided that all cadet NCOs should be incorporated into the Home Guard, and I managed to get transferred to the same battalion as my cousin Bert, and served the rest of the war as a motorcycle dispatch rider.

In 1944, the V1s – doodlebugs – came over and, in June of that year, the company I worked for caught a direct hit, with six killed. My wife to be, Daphne, was in the same shelter where her department had been moved to avoid constant up and down.

By then, we had moved to temporary accommodation at 26 Dalmeny Avenue, where we lived until 1949 when I married. After the V1s came the V2s which in some way was better because, if you heard them, you were alive, and if you didn't you were dead. ■



# A postal journey

The Postal Museum and its underground Mail Rail attraction opened in September.  
Mark Smulian reports



Look at the map and there appear to be 11 underground rail lines in London – but there is a 12th and it reopened in September after 14 years' disuse.

This is Mail Rail, the 6.5 mile line once known as the Post Office Railway and used to shift mail beneath London's streets on electric trains from Whitechapel to Paddington. It linked six sorting offices, including Mount Pleasant in Islington, with mainline stations from which post was moved around the country.

At its peak, Mail Rail had eight stations and ran for 22 hours each day, during which it carried four million letters.

It has reopened along with a new Postal Museum at Mount Pleasant and visitors can travel on part of the line, although on new trains as the originals were judged too uncomfortable, having not been designed for passengers.

The line runs 70 feet below ground level and was built in 1927 to handle mail in the days when almost everyone communicated with one another by post.

Telephones were then in their infancy and email lay 70 years in the future, so this was the heyday of the letter and parcel. Millions of items had to be moved around.

Even with the relatively light road traffic of the mid 1920s, an underground rail system was judged necessary to do this.

The line was built using the Greathead Shield system, in which the shield served as a temporary support structure while the tunnels were excavated, an approach the reduced loss of life associated earlier methods of tunnelling.

But, after 76 years' service, the use of mail was plummeting as electronic communication took its place and the smaller sorting offices with links to the line were no longer needed and the railway closed in 2003.

Although the line featured in the Hudson Hawk film starring Bruce Willis – with a platform transformed into the Vatican's private Underground Postal Railway – it remained largely forgotten.

The Post Office, though, kept the system mothballed rather than abandoned, which has allowed its resurrection this year.

Squeezing into the new rail cars – each can just about take two adults and two children – visitors



Clockwise from top left: stylish posters and magazines; Mail Rail carriage; tunnel; plaster cast stamp design; projection seen during Mail Rail ride; Sorted! area for children

travel for about 20 minutes with stops at former stations, where historic displays are projected onto the walls.

There is a descriptive voiceover during the journey, including from Ray Middlesworth, who was an apprentice on the line in the 1970s.

At one point, visitors can look down from the track into an abandoned tunnel below where old trains are kept. It was judged too costly to ever bring them to the surface.

Another notable feature is a 1927 locomotive which was put onto the line but proved to be too wide to navigate its bends.

Inside the new museum there is a display on an even earlier attempt at moving the post around underground, with experiments in 1863 at using pneumatic tubes.

A small cinema shows films







from the General Post Office's film unit, including *Night Mail*, with words by WH Auden and music from Benjamin Britten.

There is also a display of colourful, stylish posters and magazines from the 1950s and 1960s.

There are a lot of interactive attractions. One can send messages across a display area using an overhead pneumatic tube, and a machine enables visitors to make a stamp with their own head on it, complete with royal trimmings like a crown and tiara, which they can email to themselves. Curators thought this feature would be most likely to interest children, but it turned out adults have been the most enthusiastic users.

Visitors can try their hand at sorting post the old-fashioned way in a travelling post office – a carriage where they put mail into pigeonholes, which moves to mimic a train's movement.

There are trains in pneumatic tubes to race, and a panel where you can control trains on their journey around the Mail Rail track.

There are also records of animal histories associated with the Post Office, particularly cats and horses.



The original Post Office museum opened in 1969 in the basement of the Post Office's former headquarters at King Edward Street in the City of London.

In 1998, it had to close when the Post Office sold the premises and smaller objects were moved to an archive at Mount Pleasant and larger ones removed to storage.

After suggestions that it could become a mushroom farm or be converted to a cycle superhighway were seen off, the railway has been incorporated into the reborn museum in Islington and running trains once more. ■

● [www.postalmuseum.org](http://www.postalmuseum.org)

Mark Smulian is a freelance journalist  
[www.marksmulian.co.uk](http://www.marksmulian.co.uk)

Above: 1930s deconstructed engine; clockwise from top left: mail carriage; try sorting mail in a moving railway carriage; a five-wheel Victorian postal cycle; the cinema; mail train; postal van; a projection onto a platform wall during the Mail Rail ride



# Centuries of charity

The Cloudesley charity has been in existence for 500 years. Cathy Ross tells its story and reflects on how it survived for so long

**T**his year, Islington charity Cloudesley starts to celebrate its 500<sup>th</sup> birthday. This is an impressive lifespan for any organisation, let alone an ancient charity founded before the Reformation.

Cloudesley's survival is doubly impressive given that it has done so as a relatively independent body without the umbrella support of a City of London livery company.

It has also survived without an institution to run: pre-Reformation charities that still exist tend to be those whose charitable mission is embedded in grammar schools or almshouses.

The Charity of Richard Cloudesley (to use its formal name) has never had such responsibilities. Although it has seen more than its fair share of debates over the centuries over how its funds should be spent, its basic operation has been relatively straightforward. The charity's trustees manage the bequest of Richard Cloudesley, whose will of 1517-18 left two "Stony Fields" to the parish of St Mary Islington. The rental income from this patch of land was and still is used by the trustees to help the people of Islington.

So how has Cloudesley managed to survive for 500 years? The anniversary provides a good opportunity to reflect on this question.

Having pieced together a history of the charity, I'd suggest two factors underpinned its remarkable ability to weather such turbulent episodes as the Reformation, the Civil War and regular outbreaks of argument in Islington.

The first is that the charity's main asset was land, not money.

Richard Cloudesley's "two closes of meadow or pasture commonly called Stony Fields" were just west of the Back Road, now Liverpool Road. Whatever the usefulness of the two fields in 1517, the location could not have been more advantageous in terms of Islington's future.

The land's value rose with the rise of cow keeping as a boom activity in Islington. Farmers grew wealthy on the profits of cattle, including the practice of subletting pasture to travelling drovers, keen to fatten animals travelling south to Smithfield Market. The Back Road was one of the main drovers' routes and the Stony Fields, despite the name, seem to have provided rich pasture.

From 1703 until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the two fields were let by the parish to several generations of the Pullin family, an Islington cow-keeping dynasty. The annual rent brought in £40 to the parish in

Richard Cloudesley, as imagined by Thomas Willement in 1828 in the east window of Holy Trinity Church

Holy Trinity Church, designed by Charles Barry and consecrated in 1829. The site in Cloudesley Square was given to the church by Cloudesley's trustees



1703, rising to £83 by the early 1800s when Samuel Pullin sold his lease to Samuel Rhodes, Islington's rival cow-keeping magnate.

By this time, the trustees and the vestry of St Mary Islington had begun to think more ambitiously about their land.

In January 1811, the vestry minutes recorded that "it will be very advantageous to the interests of the parish if the said lands were let upon lease for the purpose of building thereon, whereby a considerable income could be derived therefrom".

A private act of parliament, passed in June, enabled the parish to develop the land legally for housing. Construction did not start in earnest until around 1818 when the first parcels of land were





let on building leases to John Emmett and Richard Chapman.

Robert Oldershaw, the vestry clerk, explained this to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Charities in 1820: "The feoffees [trustees] have agreed with the above 2 persons that they may either build or let off the land to be built upon and that they [the trustees] will give leases to the person to whom the contractor let, reserving a rent upon every house which shall be so built, not exceeding 7 guineas or under 3 guineas ... A plan has been laid down for building houses upon the whole of the Stonefield Estate. Upon the part the two contractors have taken is to be built 114 houses and according to the plan it is proposed to build 136 more upon the other part ..."

By 1820, the process of transforming the two stony fields into the streets and terraced houses of the Stonefield or Cloudesley Estate was well under way. The borders of the oblong-shaped development were Cloudesley Road, Richmond Road, Liverpool Road and Cloudesley Place. Cloudesley Square stood in the middle. By the mid-1830s, the former fields held 231 houses and gardens plus a church and a small church school.

Financially, the parish did well from the development. All the properties bar the church paid it ground rents, via the charity as the freeholder, bringing in £600 annually. When the 75 separate leases were renewed between 1899 and 1916, the annual income rose to around £6,000.

The rising income from the ground rents was in marked contrast to the income of charities whose land assets were rural, which suffered when land values fell in the late 19th century.

However, urban land could generate expense as well as profit. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Cloudesley's asset began to turn into a liability as the fabric of the 1820s housing deteriorated and new legal responsibilities were placed on landowners.

In 1937, the trustees decided to sell most of its freeholds, which was done through a three-day



Cloudesley Terrace, Liverpool Road. This was the first section of Stonefield or Cloudesley Estate to be built in the early 1820s. The land and freehold interest in the houses remained in the charity's ownership until 1937

public auction held at Islington Town Hall in October 1937 plus private treaty sales to existing leaseholders. The sale made £90,000 for the charity, which was then invested in shares.

The charity held on to the land and freeholds in the southwest quadrant of the estate – the southern end of Cloudesley Road and Cloudesley Street – where it continues to be the main landowner, maintaining its links



with the original stony fields.

If land is one of Cloudesley's long-term success factors, the second is its connection to Islington's local government. The charity has always been managed by trustees, but was also embedded in the various bodies that managed local matters on behalf of the community.

Initially, this was the vestry of St Mary Islington; this was followed in 1899 by Islington Metropolitan

Borough Council and, eventually, the present day council.

Inevitably, it was drawn into wider debates about local matters, over what income should be spent on and whether Islington's residents were getting value for money from their decision makers, but these are surely factors in the charity's survival. Debates and disagreements around the fund, particularly in the 19th century, ensured that it moved with the times to reflect changes in both society's values and needs in Islington.

This article does not cover the other side of Cloudesley's story, which is what the income from the land was spent on – its charitable work in the borough. That side of Cloudesley's history can be found on the website, and in the booklet and small travelling exhibition produced by Cloudesley for its anniversary celebrations. The website also gives a glimpse into the charity's grant giving in Islington today. Despite being 500 years old, Cloudesley has never been more active and vigorous in the way it delivers its mission. ■

Dr Cathy Ross is author of a history of the charity that can be downloaded from Cloudesley's website at [www.cloudesley.org.uk](http://www.cloudesley.org.uk). A booklet is also available from the society: see page 22

# Policing same-sex desire

Fifty years ago, the 1967 Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexuality in private for men over 21. Roz Currie looks back at how the state and society viewed same-sex relationships

**S**imeon Solomon was born in 1840 to a respectable, well-off family. In 1858, he held his first exhibition at the Royal Academy, and was moving up in Pre-Raphaelite artistic circles.

Then, in 1873, he was imprisoned at the House of Detention in Clerkenwell for six weeks for “attempting to commit sodomy”.

Sexual behaviour has long been subject to policing, first from the church and later, as the 1533 Buggery Act came into effect, the state.

During the 19th century, same-sex desire led to men being arrested, pilloried, imprisoned, transported to Australia and even executed. However, homosexual subcultures persisted – men seeking other men for sex learnt where to find each other, including in the theatres, music halls and the streets and parks of London.

In 1861, the Offences Against the Person Act, which came in when Solomon was 21, removed the death penalty for homosexuality. However, in 1885 the law was amended to make any kind of sexual activity between men illegal.

It was this that led to Solomon's arrest, in a public urinal at Stratford Place Mews, off Oxford Street. He was abandoned by fellow artists and friends. His family had him admitted twice to private lunatic asylums but he was discharged “unimproved”.

In 1884, Solomon ended up in the St Giles Workhouse, Holborn, refusing to live with his family. By joining London's dispossessed and poverty-stricken masses, he could escape middle-class morality and the policing of his sexual life.

He produced work until the end



Self portrait of Simeon Solomon, who chose the workhouse over living with his disapproving family

of his life, but his life was blighted by alcoholism and he never exhibited again.

## A milestone?

The 1967 Sexual Offences Act decriminalised homosexuality in private for men over 21. This was seen as a great milestone by many. The 10 years before the act had seen more than 1,000 men imprisoned and misery, blackmail and suicide in the face of police persecution.

However, even after the act, gay men could not live openly. Lord Arran, a strong supporter and sponsor of the bill, suggested that “any form of public flaunting

Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell at Noel Road



would be utterly distasteful”.

In Islington – which in 1967 had the highest rate of households in the country without a stove, sink, bath or toilet at 77%, and a rate of multiple occupancy of one building at 59% – access to private space for private liaisons was just not available for most people.

Two Islington residents of the time, Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell, saw the act as irrelevant. Kenneth Williams, who lived nearby in Camden, recorded in his diary on the 23 July, four days before the law gained royal assent,

“Went up to see Joe Orton & Kenneth. They were v kind. We chatted about homosexuality and the effect the new clause would have. We agreed it would accomplish little.”

Halliwell and Orton had met at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in 1951. In 1959 they moved into a tiny second floor bedsit at 25 Noel Road in Islington. It was shortly after that they began their campaign of “guerrilla artwork”, defacing Islington's library books with collage. It was motivated by what they saw as “endless shelves of rubbish” in the borough's public libraries. They also took illustrations from library art books to wallpaper their bedsit.

Anonymously returning the altered books to library shelves, Halliwell and Orton would watch people's reactions when they pulled out a title with a defaced cover.

Over the next three years, the acquisition, addition of collage and return of the books became a daily task. The collage work became a source of shared, obsessional enjoyment and creativity, as well as a welcome respite from writing and paid work. The artwork increasingly reflected their differing personalities. Orton favoured the comedic and satirical while Halliwell was more thoughtful and measured.

In 1962, they spent four months in prison for stealing and damaging Islington public library books. When asked why he thought they had been given such harsh sentences, Orton replied: “Because we were queers.”

After release, their relationship



changed dramatically as success for Orton came quickly. In 1964, the BBC broadcast his radio play *The Ruffian on the Stair*, and his award-winning play *Entertaining Mr Sloane* enjoyed a popular run in London's West End. In 1966, Orton's play *Loot* received the Evening Standard Award for Best Play.

Little is known about the couple's life together but Orton was very open about his sexual exploits. He went "cottaging" in public toilets in Highbury Fields, Holloway Road, and South End Green, Hampstead. Nevertheless, he recognised his almost marital bond with Halliwell.

Halliwell became increasingly jealous as Orton's success put a terrible strain on their relationship. On 9 August 1967, Halliwell bludgeoned Orton to death with several hammer blows to the head and then took his own life with an overdose of barbiturate pills.

### Civil rights

Following 1967 the fight for rights grew, prompted in part by the inequality of the act but also the changing cultural landscape, following the fights for civil rights in the US and student rights in London and Paris.

Gay men were refusing to be hidden, reacting against middle-class respectability.

On 27 November 1970, the Gay Liberation Front organised Britain's first ever gay rights protest in Highbury Fields following an arrest for cottaging. Its manifesto demanded equality under the law,



Former Islington mayor Bob Crossman and consort Martin McCloghry. He was Britain's first openly gay mayor and his appointment was met with outrage and disapproval, even from within his own party

the end to discrimination and the right for gay people "to hold hands and kiss in public".

One local campaigner for LGBT rights was Robert "Bob" Crossman, who fought against injustice and discrimination. He was member of many organisations, including London Lesbian & Gay Switchboard, Gay Men Fighting Aids and the National Aids Helpline, and was a founder member of the Gay Labour Group in 1974.

Crossman moved to Islington in



Joe Orton, Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Halliwell on holiday in Morocco: the agreed the 1967 Sexual Offences Act would "accomplish little"

Same-sex desire led to men being arrested, pilloried, imprisoned, transported to Australia and even executed

1979 and three years later was elected as a local councillor. In 1986-87, he served as mayor of Islington, becoming Britain's first openly gay mayor. His appointment was met with widespread disapproval and outrage, from even within his own party.

His partner, Martin McCloghry, accompanied him to events and, although officially the deputy mayor consort, was mockingly referred to by elements of the right-wing press as the "mayoress".

The 1980s saw the emergence of the Aids epidemic. The government was slow to react to this mystery illness, while the press response was unsympathetic and sensationalist, labelling Aids the "gay plague". Calls were made for Crossman to resign when he ripped up a banner that read "Gays equals Aids equals death" at a protest in Haringey in 1987.

In 1988 the infamous section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 was introduced, banning the "intentional promotion of homosexuality". Police continued to raid gay venues and convictions for indecency, sodomy and soliciting peaked in 1989 at 3,065.

Nevertheless, from the late 1980s onwards, Islington became a cool place for radical queers with club nights, bars and community groups. By the late 1990s, the lesbian and gay movement had come of age' and intense lobbying led to significant changes in the law during the 2000s, including an equal age of consent, gay marriage and adoption rights.

In 2017, thousands of men received posthumous pardons for convictions relating to consensual sex with other men. ■

Up Against It: Islington 1967 is on at Islington Museum until 21 October. Admission free. Roz Currie is joint curator of the exhibition with Mark Aston

# Publications and bookshop

This issue, we look at how a charity's story reflects 500 years of social change, admire some modern architecture in the City, visit a church in Clerkenwell and ponder the saga of Smithfield

## Cloudesley: 500 years in Islington - 1517-2017

Dr Cathy Ross

£3. Available from the IAHS

This booklet looks at the 500-year history of the Cloudesley charity.

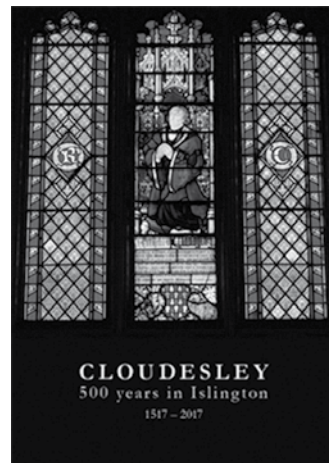
As well as a history of a charity covering several centuries, this booklet is a thought-provoking reflection on the changing role of charity in society in general.

Five centuries ago, a Tudor yeoman, Richard Cloudesley, gave a plot of land to the parish of St Mary Islington with the wish that the land should be used to generate income for various purposes. Six "honest and discreet men" were to oversee the bequest.

This should have been a story of calm continuity, with the donor's wishes being carried out down the centuries. However, Richard Cloudesley's original intentions have produced a dynamic story of change fuelled by debate, disputes and discussion.

Cloudesley's legacy has been entangled with wider questions about how Islington should manage its own affairs and how communal assets of land and money should be put to good use.

In many ways, Cloudesley's legacy has provided an invaluable focus for debating such matters to the benefit of both Islington and the charity itself. The charity has arguably survived over the past 500



years precisely because it has adapted to changing values as Islington itself evolved.

The story of Cloudesley has never been told in full before now.

● See Centuries of charity, page 18

## Smithfield: Past, Present and Future

Alec Forshaw

£18.95 + £2.80 p&p, 304pp, Robert Hale, 2015. Available from the IAHS

This third edition is a concise, readable account of the history of the Smithfield area from the medieval period to today.

It examines the history of the markets, St Bartholomew's Hospital, religious houses, trades and leisure.

It also considers the area's future, including the building of a Crossrail interchange and the use of the market buildings.

The meat market building, which opened in 1868, is one of the greatest surviving commercial buildings of Victorian London.

The book also describes struggles over the some of these buildings' future between those who wanted them conserved and put back into use, and those who wanted most of them demolished and office blocks built.

Forshaw – who was deeply involved in the campaign to save the building – provides an insider's view of the planning inquiries.

## 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.

## A History of the Church of Saint James Clerkenwell

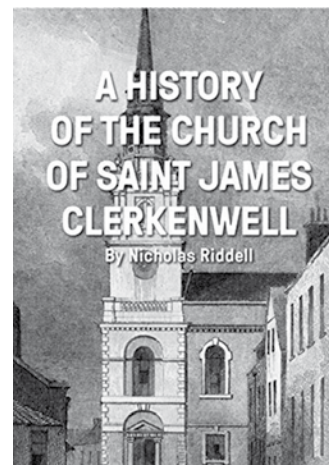
Nicholas Riddell (author), Tara Smith (editor), Andrew Illman (illustrator)

£10 from St James Clerkenwell and Islington Museum, £18 from Amazon; 224pp

This is the story of Saint James Clerkenwell from its beginning in the 12th century as the church of the nunnery of St Mary. It is also the history of the parish and how Clerkenwell changed from a country parish into a fashionable suburb then into an industrialised, densely populated inner-city area.

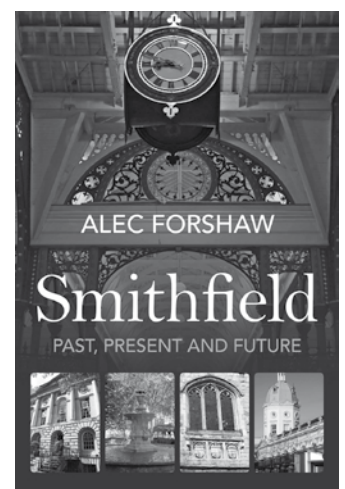
Celebrated parishioners include Mad Madge, the Duchess of Newcastle and Thomas Britton the musical coal man.

In the 19th century, the



church itself was the focus of controversy for its notorious clerical elections and the public pillorying of its vicar and vestry for the condition of slum properties in the parish.

The 21st century has seen the revival of the church as a thriving centre of Christianity.



For large orders and to collect books in person, call 020 7833 1541





## Buy from the society store

The society stocks books, postcards, maps of Islington and beyond and more – some are listed here. Call Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541 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
Brussels Art Nouveau: Architecture & Design	Alec Forshaw, author, and Alan Ainsworth, photographs			
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
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
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
The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s	Petra Laidlaw	9.99	2.80	11.79
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
Northern Wastes: Scandal of the Uncompleted Northern Line	Jim Blake and Jonathan James	9.95	1.50	11.45.
Prefab Homes	Elisabeth Blanchet	7.95	1.50	9.45
Smithfield: Past, Present and Future	Alec Forshaw	18.95	2.80	21.75
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

## Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

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

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

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

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





# What's on

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

*Tuesday 10 October, 1.15pm*

## **Chinese Money**

British Museum, free

*Tuesday 10 October, 1pm*

## **London's First Voices**

Dr Roger Tomlin  
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 11 October, 1pm*

## **The Guitar in Tudor London**

St Sepulchre's, Holborn  
Viaduct, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 11 October, 6pm*

## **The History of Pain**

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 11 October, 8pm*

## **A History of Street Photography in London through the Collections at Bishopsgate Institute**

Hornsey Historical Society, £2

*Thursday 12 October, 1.30pm*

## **Curator's Introduction to Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia**

British Museum, free, booking essential

*Friday 13 October, 10am-4pm*

## **Archives Make Us Richer**

Day of workshops and talks  
London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Friday 13 October, 6pm*

## **Scythians Late**

British Museum, free

*Friday 13 October, 7pm*

## **Who Were the Scythians?**

Deaf-led British Sign Language tour.  
British Museum, free

*Saturday 14 October, 10am*

## **LGBTQ film day**

British Museum, free, booking essential

*Saturday 14 October, 1.15pm*

## **Ivories and Tulips: Arts of Islamic Medieval Spain and Ottoman Turkey**

British Museum, free

*Tuesday 17 October, 1.15pm*

## **Conservation and mounting of prints**

British Museum, free

*Wednesday 18 October, 11am*

## **In Search of ... South Hoxton**

Walk starting at Old Street station.

London Metropolitan Archives, £10, booking essential

*Wednesday 18 October, 6pm*

## **Women and the London Stage 1665-1668**

Talk with tour of exhibition  
London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Thursday 19 October, 7.30pm*

## **The London Diary of Anthony Heap 1931-1945**

Camden History Society

*Friday 20 October, 1.15pm*

## **Making, Selling and Collecting: an Introduction to the Print Trade**

British Museum, free

*Friday 20 October, 6.30pm*

## **Lost and Found: 20 years of Treasure Discoveries in England, Northern Ireland and Wales**

British Museum, £5

*Saturday 21 October, 1.15pm*

## **Egypt Under the Darliest Pharaohs**

British Museum, free

*Wednesday 25 October, 1.15pm*

## **Ancient Egyptian Gods, Goddesses and Sacred Animals**

British Museum, free

*Wednesday 25 October, 2pm*

## **Understanding Rural Migration in Late Nineteenth-Century England: Taking Parish Research to a New Level**

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

*Thursday 26 October, 7.30pm*

## **Industries Along the Regent's Canal from Bethnal Green to Limehouse**

East London History Society

*Wednesday 25 October, 7.45pm*

## **The Victorians**

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

*Thursday 26 October, 1.30pm*

## **Mouth of Kemet: Ancient Egyptian Language and Script in their African Setting**

British Museum, free, booking essential

*Thursday 26 October, 6pm*

## **How to Spot a Roman Emperor**

Professor Mary Beard  
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Friday 27 October, 1.15pm*

## **The Individual and the Image: Money and portraiture**

British Museum, free

*Friday 27 October, 6.30pm*

## **Barry Cunliffe on Steppe Nomads of Eurasia**

British Museum, £5, booking essential

*Saturday 28 October, 1.15pm*

## **Cut Stones: Pietre Dure Treasures in the Waddesdon Bequest**

British Museum, free

*Tuesday 31 October, 6pm*

## **Jane Austen: Patriotism and Prejudice**

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 1 November, 6pm*

## **Martin Luther and his Crusade Against the Pope**

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 1 November.*

## **Blockade Running in the American Civil War with Special Reference to London-Built Ships**

Docklands History Group, £2

*Thursday 2 November, 1.30pm*

## **Scythian and Related Goldwork: New Research and Discoveries**

British Museum, free, booking essential

*Friday 3 November, 1.30pm*

## **Vikings and the Rus'**

British Museum, free, booking essential

*Saturday 4 November, 2.30pm*

## **The Art of Scythian Warfare**

British Museum, £5, booking essential

*Wednesday 8 November, 2pm*  
**Essex in London**  
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

*Wednesday 8 November, 8pm*  
**Music Hall on Film**  
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

*Wednesday 8 November, 6pm*  
**Lenin and the Russian Revolution**  
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Friday 10 November, 6.30pm*  
**Just who were the Scythians?**  
**Ancient Accounts from Herodotus to Sima Qian**  
 British Museum, £5, booking essential

*Saturday 11 November, 10.30am*  
**Gold of the Steppes**  
 Study day. British Museum, £28, booking essential

*Tuesday 14 November, 1.15pm*  
**Scythian and Related Goldwork up Close**  
 British Museum, free

*Tuesday 14 November, 6.30pm*  
**Fulham Palace Revealed – Residence of the Elite**  
 London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

*Tuesday 14 November, 8pm*  
**The Battle of Barnet Project**  
 Hendon & District Archaeological Society, £2

*Wednesday 15 November, 1pm*  
**Buying, Selling and Owning Guitars in Elizabethan England**  
 St Sepulchre's, Holborn Viaduct, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 15 November, 2pm*  
**Counting the People: Census Returns Online (L)**  
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

*Thursday 16 November, 4pm*  
**Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia**  
 Audio tour and handling session for blind and partially sighted people. British Museum, £13

## Memorial paving stone event: Charles Train

**Friday, 8 December, Islington Green, time tbc**

Free, all welcome. Event organised by Islington Local History Centre

This event will take place 100 years to the day that Islington-born Charles Train (1890-1965) won his Victoria Cross.

He is the third Islington-born recipient of the medal to be commemorated with a memorial paving stone on Islington Green.

Charles Train was the only British-born soldier from his regiment to have been awarded the VC during the First World War. He was 27 years old, and a non-



King George V investing Sergeant Charles William Train with the Victoria Cross in 1918

commissioned officer in the 2/14th (County of London) Battalion, the London Regiment (London Scottish).

He was born at 58 Chatterton Road, Finsbury Park, on 21 September 1890. He joined the London

Scottish in 1909 and, following the outbreak of the First World War, arrived in France in September 1914.

He won his VC at Ein Kerem, near Jerusalem, in Ottoman-controlled Palestine on 8 December 1917.

*Thursday 16 November, 7.30pm*  
**The Tunnel Through Time**  
 Camden History Society

*Monday 20 November, 1pm*  
**China: New Nation, New Art, 1911-1932**  
 Museum of London, free Gresham College event

*Wednesday 22 November, 6pm*  
**A Global History of Sexual Violence**  
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

*Wednesday 22 November, 7.45pm*  
**Behind Closed Doors: the Life of a Prison Officer**  
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

*Thursday 23 November, 6pm*  
**The Music of the clock, c1300-c1600**  
 British Museum, free, booking essential

*Friday 24 November, 11am*  
**Taking Stock: the Third LMA Disability History Conference**  
 London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Tuesday 28 November, 2pm*  
**The Clerkenwell Outrage**  
 London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Tuesday 28 November, 2pm*  
**Black Tudors – the Untold Story**  
 London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Wednesday 29 November, 2pm*  
**Googling for Family History & Photos**  
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

*Saturday 2 December*  
**Talking Back!**  
 LGBTQ+ history and archives conference. London Metropolitan Archives, £10-£15, booking essential

*Saturday 2 December, 1.15pm*  
**Scythian Archers: Law and Order in Ancient Athens**  
 British Museum, free

*Saturday 2 December, 2pm*  
**Russian Ark**  
 Film. British Museum, £3, booking essential

*Saturday 2 December, 5pm*  
**Animals in Scythian Culture**  
 Deaf-led British Sign Language tour. British Museum, free

*Monday 4 December, 2pm*  
**Elizabeth Garrett Anderson**  
 London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Tuesday 5 December, 6pm*  
**NOW That's What I Call Carols: 1582!**  
 Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, free, reservations required

*Wednesday 6 December, 2pm*  
**Royal College of Surgeons Talk: Theatrical Side of Operations**  
 London Metropolitan Archives, free, booking essential

*Wednesday 6 December, 6pm*  
**House, Shop and Wardrobe in London's Merchant Community**  
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free



**D**unkirk covers the evacuation of the British troops trapped on the beach by the German army during the Second World War.

The Germans had moved through the lightly defended Ardennes to take the Low Countries. The French, Belgium and British armies were unable to prevent them advancing to the coast, effectively cutting off the Allied troops.

This major defeat could have resulted in Britain's surrender and the collapse of the Allied resistance. Churchill ordered the evacuation of 45,000 troops to have a core army to protect Britain.

## Dunkirk: this is war – it's not glorious

Director Christopher Nolan provides little background. What grabs your attention is the grinding hardship and the chaos and bloodiness of the evacuation, with the reflections of participants.

The story is told from three perspectives: two soldiers trying to escape; a civilian captain who sails for Dunkirk with his son and a friend to bring back soldiers; and an RAF pilot who tries to protect the men and the ships while running out of fuel. Their stories gradually merge.

Heroism abounds alongside misery; it is wet and the soldiers are terrified and quarrel. This is war – it is not glorious.

There are strong performances from Mark Rylance as the quietly courageous captain determined to bring back some soldiers; Kenneth Branagh does what he does best – portraying the grizzled naval lord who will ensure Churchill gets some men back to protect Britain. Cillian Murphy's traumatised soldier tears

at your heart as does Thomas Hardy as the brave RAF flier juggling his fuel. Harry Styles provide a strong performance as a soldier (may he have a second career?).

Christopher Nolan's excellent direction brings you into the centre of the action – you really felt you were in a sinking boat (particularly if you see it in 3D).

There is not a lot of dialogue – it would have worked as a silent film. While some people have said this made the film a bit tedious, I thought it enhanced its quality.

We know how it all ends. Hitler reduced his army's advance, enabling nearly 340,000 men to be evacuated; thousands, however, were taken prisoner or died on the beach. A massive arsenal of tanks, artillery, ships and aircraft were lost. History might all have been different had the Ardennes been more strongly defended and Hitler pressed on. Not a victory but definitely a miracle. ■

Margaret Lally

## The Royal Mews: the working horses of the monarchy

**M**onarchs have always needed horses and coaches, whether for a Tudor royal's progress or for a monarch's public ceremonial role or to take high-profile people such as state visitors to Buckingham Palace.

The master of the horse, an office dating from the 14th century, was seen as vital, being responsible for everything from royal travel to acquiring warhorses. The role still exists. Since 1854, the Royal Mews is run by the crown equerry.

The Royal Mews is not just for show. It's a working environment which trains and exercises more than 30 horses as well as those who look after them.

The horses' day starts at 6am when the stables are mucked out and the horses brushed, fed and exercised – learning to pull a



carriage, getting used to traffic and so on. At noon, they are properly groomed and inspected. Their day ends at 4.30pm.

Harnesses, uniforms and carriages need constant attention to keep them in tip-top

condition. There is a blacksmith's forge, a carriage restorers' workshop, and a harness room that houses the gold state coach's harness dating from 1792 and the 1831 harness made for the coronation of William IV.

Six magnificent coaches and carriages are on display, including the coronation gold state coach. They are used at more than 50 events each year. The mews also has seven limousines, and over 100 people and their families live above them. ■

Elizabeth Hawksley  
www.elizabethhawksley.com  
www.royalcollection.org.uk





## Exhibitions

*Until Sunday 15 October*

### **Desire Love Identity: Exploring LGBTQ Histories**

This display provides glimpses into LGBTQ experience through time and around the world. The earliest object dates from around 9000BC.

As well as famous figures such as poetess Sappho and Roman emperor Hadrian, the display explores less familiar themes and stories, and includes and contemporary works and campaign badges.

British Museum, free

*Until 29 October*

### **The Lost City of London at Paternoster Square**

Photos of postwar excavations display Roman remains unearthed during the Blitz.

View rarely seen excavation photographs of the sites that were uncovered, including the Temple of Mithras and the remains of the Roman fort and the City wall.

Paternoster Square, near St Paul's Cathedral, EC4M 7DY, free

*Until Saturday 21 October*

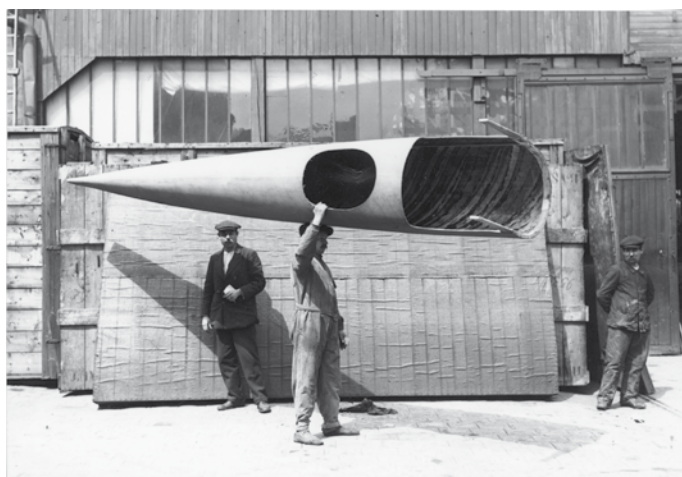
### **Up Against It: Islington 1967**

This exhibition explores the impact of the Sexual Offences Act (1967) passed on 27 July that year, and the 50th anniversary of the deaths of the borough's most (in)famous gay couple, Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell.

Through people's stories, this exhibition seeks to reflect the experience of men who could not declare their love freely and the difference the 1967 act made to them.

Stories featured include those of Oscar Wilde, imprisoned at Holloway and Pentonville prisons, and record producer Joe Meek whose life ended in tragic circumstances.

Public library book covers defaced by Orton and



The near-ubiquitous plywood: workman carrying a complete Deperdussin monocoque fuselage, Deperdussin factory, Paris, about 1912. From *Plywood: Material of the Modern World* at the V&A

Halliwell and Halliwell's *World of Cats* screen are on display.

Islington Museum, free

● See Policing same-sex desire, page 20

*Until Sunday 12 November*

### **Plywood: Material of the Modern World**

Light, strong, affordable and versatile, plywood has helped to create the modern world.

More than 120 objects are on display in this exhibition to explore its impact and history from the 1850s. Plywood was used in the fastest and highest-flying aeroplane of the Second World War, a tube to house an experimental elevated railway in 1867, numerous toys and the downloadable, self-assembly WikiHouse.

V&A, free

*Until 6 December 2017*

### **Life on the London Stage**

This exhibition uncovers the professional and personal lives actors and actresses since the days of Elizabeth I.

It tells stories about London's performers, from those who achieved great success to those who endured poverty and hardship.

Those covered by in the exhibition include Marie Lloyd, who alarmed the Victorian authorities with her

music hall routines, as well as Kenneth Williams, Dame Ellen Terry and Eliza (Madam) Vestris, Nell Gwyn, and Sir Laurence Olivier.

Programmes and playbills recall the huge numbers of performers who are largely forgotten today.

London Metropolitan Archives, free

*Until Sunday, 7 January 2018*

### **Designing the V&A**

Through original drawings and photographs, this display highlights the artists, designers and engineers who created the V&A, charting the building from the 1850s to today, culminating with the opening of the Exhibition Road Quarter.

V&A free

*Until 14 January 2018*

### **Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia**

This exhibition explores the story of the Scythians – nomadic tribes and formidable warriors, who flourished between 900 and 200BC.

For centuries all trace of their culture was lost – buried beneath ice.

Discoveries of ancient tombs have revealed Scythian treasures. Preserved in permafrost were clothes and fabrics, food and weapons, gold jewellery and mummified

warriors and horses.

British Museum, £16.50/concs

*Until 21 January 2018*

### **Searching for Ghosts**

This looks at home life in east London, from a tower block in Hackney that was blown up in 1991 to the red brick of the Boundary Estate in Tower Hamlets, built in 1898.

V&A Museum of Childhood, free

*1 December–24 February 2018*

### **Islington on Canvas: Art from the Archives**

Islington Local History Centre and Museum hold a wide range of artworks produced during the 19th and 20th centuries by artists in the borough, capturing the changing landscape of the area and its districts, streets and buildings.

Included are works by Walter Richard Sickert and his third wife, Thérèse Lessore. Sickert was a great inspiration to artist and writer Geoffrey Fletcher, whose work is also featured.

Islington Museum, free

*4 December to 27 January 2018*

### **Fenian Outrage: 150th Anniversary of the Clerkenwell Explosion**

On 13 December 1867, an attempt was made by members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (or Fenians) to break two of its members out of the Middlesex House of Detention in Clerkenwell by blowing a hole in the prison's outer northern wall in Corporation Lane (now Row).

The rescue mission failed and resulted in the deaths of several nearby residents; many others were injured. A number of suspects were arrested for causing the explosion, one of whom was found guilty and went on to become the last person in Britain to be hanged in public. Finsbury Library, free

# Directory

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

To add or update information, email [journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk](mailto:journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk)

## All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum

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

## Amateur Geological Society

25 Village Road, N3 1TL

## Amwell Society

7 Lloyd Square, WC1X 9BA, [info@amwell.org.uk](mailto:info@amwell.org.uk)

## Ancestor Search

Guidance on where to look. [www.searchforancestors.com](http://www.searchforancestors.com)

## Ancient Yew Group

[www.ancient-yew.org/](http://www.ancient-yew.org/)

## 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

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

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

## Bethlem Museum of the Mind

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, 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 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

[secretary@crht1837.org](mailto:secretary@crht1837.org)

## Canonbury Society

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

## Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group

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

## Charterhouse Museum

[www.thecharterhouse.org](http://www.thecharterhouse.org), 203 818 8873

## 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/the-clockmakers-museum-library](http://www.clockmakers.org/the-clockmakers-museum-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)

## Design Museum

<http://designmuseum.org>

## 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:mail@eastlondonhistory.org.uk)

## Enfield Archaeological Society

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

## England's Places

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

## Federation of Family History Societies

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

## 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

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), 020 8368 8314. 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)**  
36 Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, Herts, WD5 0DA,  
[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**  
020 7175 1967, [info@hackneysociety.org](mailto:info@hackneysociety.org)

**Heath Robinson Museum**  
020 8866 8420, [welcome@heathrobinsonmuseum.org](mailto:welcome@heathrobinsonmuseum.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)

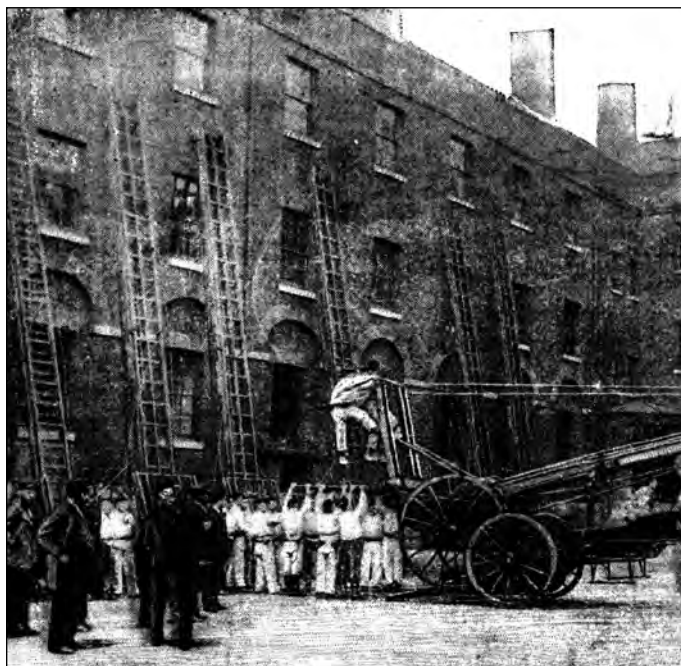
**Historical Association, Central London Branch**  
[www.history.org.uk](http://www.history.org.uk), 020 7323 1192, [chrissie@ganjou.com](mailto:chrissie@ganjou.com),

**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**  
020 8699 1872, [www.horniman.ac.uk](http://www.horniman.ac.uk)

**Hornsey Historical Society**  
Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL,  
[secretary@hornseyhistorical.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hornseyhistorical.org.uk), 020 8348 8429



To find out about the history of London's fire brigade, visit its museum – and come to our talk in November (see page 31)

**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,  
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. Visit by appointment. To make an appointment or enquire about archives, email [local.history@islington.gov.uk](mailto:local.history@islington.gov.uk) or call 020 7527 7988. [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/heritage](http://www.islington.gov.uk/heritage)

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

**Islington Society**  
Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA,  
[info@isingtonsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@isingtonsociety.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)

**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**  
[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:ask.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://londonociety.org.uk/>

**London Topographical Society**  
[www.londontopsoc.org](http://www.londontopsoc.org)

**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)

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

**Mausolea & Monuments Trust**  
[www.mmtrust.org.uk](http://www.mmtrust.org.uk)

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

**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)

**The Postal Museum**  
020 7239 2570, [info@postalheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@postalheritage.org.uk)

**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)

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

**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, [info@smithfieldtrust.org.uk](mailto:info@smithfieldtrust.org.uk)

**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)

**Streets with a Story: the Book of Islington**  
A-Z of streets, buildings and  
open spaces in Islington.  
[tinyurl.com/islington-streets](http://tinyurl.com/islington-streets)

**Stuart Low Trust**  
[www.slt.org.uk](http://www.slt.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)

**Tiles and Architectural Ceramics Society**  
<http://tilesoc.org.uk>

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

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

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

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

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

**V&A Museum of Childhood**  
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)

**Women's Library Collection**  
[tinyurl.com/womens-library](http://tinyurl.com/womens-library)

# Events

Wednesday 25 October, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

## The Bolsheviks in Exile in London

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

This year is the centenary of the October Revolution in Russia, when the Bolsheviks, led by Lenin, stormed the Winter Palace in Petrograd and installed a Soviet government.

To commemorate this, Dr Thomas Lorman will give a talk on the Bolsheviks who visited and lived in Islington before the revolution, and discuss why they chose to come to London and the inspiration they drew from their time here



Seventeen issues of Iskra (Spark), the political newspaper of Russian socialist emigrant were put together in what is now the Marx Memorial Library in Clerkenwell Green

Saturday 4 November, 11am until around 12.30pm  
Meet at Moorgate tube station.  
Cost £7, free for those aged 14 and under. No need to book

## Islington 1667 – After the Great Fire

Walk led by Lester Hillman, society academic adviser and accredited local guide.

Islington was a front line responder to the Great Fire. The walk will uncover the area's multiple roles of in receiving refugees, recovery and reconstruction, as well as law and order.

Popular ballads, work by institutions such as the New River Company, charity appeals and more indicate that, in a chaotic and fearful period, Clerkenwell stepped up to the plate.

The walk will also cover postwar rebuilding after the Blitz.

Saturday 25 November, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

## The History of the London Fire Brigade

Paul Hobbs, Islington borough commander, London Fire Brigade

Paul Hobbs will be talking the anniversary of the King's Cross fire, the Clerkenwell fire station building and fire safety.

The fire at King's Cross St Pancras tube station started on 18 November 1987 at around 7.30pm. It began on a wooden escalator serving the Piccadilly line, and killed 31 people and injured 100. A public inquiry was highly critical of London Underground's attitude toward fire safety.

Last year, London's fire service celebrated its centenary. Previously, fires in London had been tackled by fire brigades run by insurance companies. Although 10 fire insurance companies united to set up the London Fire Engine Establishment in 1833, the LFEE became far too small to deal with rapidly growing London so the Metropolitan Fire Brigade was set up as a public service in 1866.

Clerkenwell was home to one of the UK's first fire stations, which was opened in 1872. The building, which is grade II listed, was expanded as the brigade's needs changed; works that took place in 1912-17 gave it its distinctive front elevation on to Rosebery Avenue. It was closed in January 2014.



Fire engines and an ambulance at the King's Cross fire

Keep up to date with our Facebook page



Find out about society activities and talk to others interested in local history at our Facebook group, which has over 500 members.

● [www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory](https://www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory)

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

Here's a view from the Mail Rail tunnels towards the new trains that carry passengers along the historic railway, which once transported four million letters a day. See *A Postal Journey*, page 16

