

Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 7 No 1 Spring 2017



Popham Street's cottages

The story of the tenements off Essex Road

Library celebrates half a century ● Warning over creeping destruction of Islington's heritage ● Revamp for register of locally listed buildings ● Unexpected death in 19th century Islington ● Steam-powered engines and their role in London's water supply ● The lives of St Mary's Church in Upper Street ● 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



📘 www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory.org.uk

Contribute to this journal: stories and pictures sought

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

A one-page article needs about 500 words, and the maximum length is 1,000 words (please do not submit articles published elsewhere). We like pictures – please check we can use them without infringing anyone's copyright.

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

Deadline for the summer issue is 1 May.

Journal back issues and extra copies



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

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

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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Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 7 No 1 Spring 2017

A single decision has major consequences

It's good to see that Islington's locally listed buildings may finally be getting the attention they deserve (page 8).

The register of locally listed buildings, with information and pictures, could be a fantastic resource in addition to its role of offering a degree of protection against redevelopment. Many of its buildings are little known or tucked away in back streets and will become better known.

However, local and even national listing cannot guarantee a building is protected – even if it has survived for hundreds of years.

Islington has long been famous for its Georgian and Victorian terraces. Yet we hear that council officers are considering allowing changes to a listed 19th century terrace in Tufnell Park. This move could set a precedent, paving the way for changes to more listed buildings.

The *Journal* has heard the council used to be strict about changes to the terrace. Perhaps its approach has changed. Or a high staff turnover could mean local knowledge has been lost, or heavy workloads make heritage a low priority.

We hope that the council recognises just how destructive changing this one small terrace could be.

Furry companions

Little historical research has considered the role of animals as pets, but the Pets and Family Life in England and Wales project intends to change this (page 4).

Often considered a peripheral topic, the study of pets tells us a great deal about families, their hierarchies, relationships and emotional lives,

Some of you will have pictures of people with their pets. The project would like to hear from you.

Christy Lawrence
Editor



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In brief

Rare 1970s church escapes demolition

Plans to demolish St George's and All Saints church in Tufnell Park have been rejected. The church is one of only 37 churches built in the 1970s in England. Reasons for refusal included the "excessive height and massing and visual prominence" of a seven-storey block of flats within a replacement scheme, which would "fail to relate positively to its surroundings" and "adversely affect the setting" of the adjacent conservation area.

Cold water poured on fire station charity bid

Questions over charity Water Incorporated's plans to buy Clerkenwell Fire Station have been raised by Cllr Paul Convery. Writing to the local papers, he said the charity had no track record of activity. He added that London mayor Sadiq Khan had taken the building off the market because it could possibly be used to provide affordable homes.

Funds back church bats

Bats can feel safer in belfries after the Heritage Lottery Fund has given initial funding to the five-year, £3.8 million Bats in Churches project. This brings together wildlife, heritage and church organisations to save bats and protect churches.

Cheers! Pubs to reopen

The Sekforde Arms in Clerkenwell is to reopen this summer. The first 150 customers will be charged the same prices as in 1828 – the year it started trading. The Oxford Arms in Canonbury is to reopen as Halliford House, a decade after closing. It will have a restaurant and cocktail bar.

Library celebrates half a century



Building for books: Finsbury Library in St John Street

Finsbury Library is 50 years old this March.

The library was designed to be a "cultural hub", with an auditorium with a stage and

projector room, TV room, photography darkroom and roof garden as well as adults' and children's libraries and a "browsing corner".

An archive was created in the basement this year, which holds records dating back to the 15th century

● See page 16

Call for Holloway prison site to be kept for the community

Campaigners are demanding that the site of Holloway prison, which closed last year, is used for local benefit.

The government wants to sell the site. There are fears that the publicly owned land will be sold for luxury flats to fund new prisons.

Campaign group Reclaim Holloway is calling for the former visitors' centre to be

immediately opened for community use.

Holloway opened in 1852 as a mixed-sex prison, becoming women only in 1903. It was once the largest women's jail in Europe.

The council has drawn up a discussion paper on the future of the site. The closing date for comments is 10 April. More at <http://tinyurl.com/jsptcbj>.

Research projects seeks your family pet pictures

The Pets and Family Life in England and Wales project, launched this year, is looking for photographs of people with pets, past and present.

The project is the first large

historical study of the relationships between families and their companion animals in modern Britain.

● <https://pethistories.wordpress.com/>

Vanishing post box mystery

Our last issue covered the disappearance of a Victorian post box on Upper Holloway Station bridge.

A member of staff working on site reported handed it to a visitor for "safe keeping" in spring/summer last year, but had lost this person's details.

The Royal Mail wrote to the *Islington Gazette*: "I can confirm that this box was removed over two years ago ... it has been refurbished and our plan is to donate it to the Islington Historical Society [sic] to be put on display at the Islington Museum."

However, the society nor museum staff have been approached.

Regent's Wharf plans are 'oppressive' and threaten area's authenticity, say amenity and history groups

Plans for Regent's Wharf could "destroy for ever" the authenticity of its historic buildings if given the go-ahead.

In a joint letter to the council, the IAHS and the Islington Society said the proposed development on All Saints Street would be "oppressive and overbearing and not appropriate to its location".

In addition, the plans would be "detrimental to these historic buildings and destroy for ever their authenticity".

The conservation area would be damaged if historic buildings were lost.

The proposed scheme includes new construction in gaps between existing buildings, and a tower.

The societies pointed that

the canal is "rapidly becoming one long canyon of high rise homes too expensive for the vast majority of Islingtonians to afford either to rent or buy".

Canals not canyons

The development would cut light to both adjacent buildings and the canal.

Architect James Dunnett, who lives nearby and is committee member of the Islington Society, wrote to the council, saying that canals "cannot be allowed to turn into canyons".

The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society has made a comprehensive objection to the scheme.

It highlights Thorley's Cattle Food Mill buildings as "distinctive and relatively

unaltered industrial buildings", which are the conservation area's "star feature".

Distinctive original dormers and the roof structure are also under threat.

GLIAS said proposed buildings would do "much harm by their great height, aggressively sharp-edged design and excessively large plate glass windows. This is further emphasised by the proposed use of dark brick, contrary to the local idiom of pale yellow brick."

The proposals are an "affront" to the character of the conservation area, which is one London's best industrial conservation areas, it said.

"We do not see what benefits are presented that could justify the considerable harm done – the aim seems



Regent's Wharf: industrial buildings create character

mainly to generate an opportunity for commercial investment."

Other objectors include the Commercial Boat Operators' Association, the National Barge Travellers' Association London branch and local residents.

While the official deadline for comments has passed, it is still worth registering objections. The application number is P2016/4805/FUL.

Creeping destruction of Islington's heritage feared

Council planners appear to be relaxing their attitude towards protecting Islington's listed buildings.

An application has been made to build a large extension at a house in a grade II listed terrace at the east end of Tufnell Park Road. The *Journal* understands that council officers are minded to approve the application.

The terrace, built in the 1830s-40s, is largely intact, having had no major exterior alterations since Victorian times. Allowing such a structural change would set a worrying precedent, which could lead to further erosion of the borough's heritage.

Resident Jos Wheatley said the scheme could "open the way for major changes in the rest of the terrace and elsewhere.

"Creeping changes like this



Intact for over 200 years: the terrace at 9-21 Tufnell Park Road

get passed when they go unnoticed."

He described how council planners used to pay close attention to detail when changes were mooted. Downpipes fitted to his house 15 years ago had to be cast iron, not plastic, and painted black.

"My family has been lucky enough to live on the terrace since 2001. The privilege of having such a lovely house means we must maintain it according to the rules and forgo the value gain of building extensions, along with everyone else," he said.

"But now it seems these

values are being tested and we need to make new efforts to protect the best of the built environment in Islington."

He gained support of members of the Islington Archaeology & History Society at February's meeting.

The application itself appears hurried at first glance. The heritage statement gets the terrace's conservation area wrong; much of it appears to have been taken from heritage statement for a different property. In addition, the application form question "Is this an ecclesiastical building?" has been answered "don't know".

It's still worth doing your bit to protect Islington's heritage by registering objections even if the official deadline for comments has passed. The planning application number is P2016/4693/FUL.

Letters and your questions

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

Boxing Day tragedy

I was gripped by the article on the V2 in Mackenzie Road on Boxing Day in the winter issue. I remember it well.

We were having a party and playing Dead Man Arise. Although we lived some distance away at Lucerne Road in Highbury, the house vibrated and rattled as if there were an earthquake.

There was an enormous bang followed by a rumbling which faded, which I learned later was the sound of the rocket approaching after it exploded, as it was travelling faster than the speed of sound.

Everyone was shocked into silence and decided to go home immediately fearing what they might find when they returned.

It was a great achievement of the author to get the stories of so many who suffered loss on that dreadful evening.

I was always frightened of the V2s after that in a very different way from V1s and bombs that fell during air raids. The fact that V2s arrived without any warning was what was so unnerving.

I was at Highbury County School, which was blasted by a V1 one weekend, so we had to go to a building in Offord Road where our classroom was on the top floor with a large glass skylight.

Malcolm Stokes
malcolmstokes@blueyonder.co.uk

Holloway bird dealers

My grandfather's family lived at 106 Holloway Road for about 40 years; they were there in 1871 and 1911. It was possibly where the Shell garage is now. I also think they had a shop there; they are

listed in the censuses as bird dealers.

My questions are:

- Are there any old photos of the property or that stretch of the road?

- I presume they would have rented the house and shop, but several families lived there. Was it likely there were flats in the house? I am trying to get an idea of the conditions they lived in.

- Do you know what happened to the property and when was it demolished?

Sally Mountford
Familytree199@gmail.com

The society does not hold an archive of pictures or other records, so I'd recommend you start with Islington's local history centre and the London Metropolitan Archives.

London street directories show the following occupiers:

- 1869: Charles Seal, a bricklayer
- 1880: Thomas Seal, a bird dealer
- 1906: Mrs Clara Seal, a corn merchant
- 1912: William Mark Seal, a corn merchant

- 1921: Edwin Deeks, a corn merchant.

The property was multi-occupied, which would suggest residents were paying rent. However, given your family's long occupancy, they may have owned the building and let out rooms. I don't think they would have counted as flats.

As Islington's population grew to reach approximately 345,000 by the early 20th century, most houses in the borough were multi-occupied and the living conditions in many were dire. This state continued until well after the end of the First World War.

The Second World War Bomb Damage Map shows no 106 coloured light red, which means it was "seriously damaged but repairable at a cost".

The London Metropolitan Archives hold London street directories on microfilm up to the late 1990s, which may give you an idea of when it was demolished.

The nearby public house, the Horatia at no 100, was originally named the Lord Nelson and had that name back

in 1859. Horatia was the name of Lord Nelson's daughter.

Michael Reading

Lack and Chiltern tailors

In 1959, tailoring company Lack & Chiltern had a shop at 240 Upper Street, N1. Do you hold any record of this company and or its employees?

Anthony A Bonner
anthony_a_bonner@yahoo.com

My collection of street directory CDs go back only as far as 1940. In that year, 240 Upper Street was occupied by Percy Shapiro, ladies' underwear manufacturer.

The London Metropolitan Archives hold the street directories on microfilm after this date up to the 1990s; these will show the period when Lack & Chiltern occupied these premises.

I would imagine the company records would have been retained by the proprietors after the business closed for a certain period then disposed of. The building is now occupied by David Lloyd Fitness Studio.

Michael Reading

Lost shops of Rosoman Street

I am trying to find archive photographs of a parade of shops circa 1920-30 in Rosoman Street, Clerkenwell.

They were sited on what is now the Spa Fields park extension between Exmouth Market and Northampton Road. They curved around Rosoman Street into Northampton Road. Northampton Row would have backed on to them. I believe they were numbered 47-59.



Up to speed: a Chater-Lea advert from 1925

My great-grandfather had a boot repair shop at nos 53-55. I have an photo taken around 1928 of the shopfront of Webb's Repairs, with my grandfather as a young boy standing in front.

It would be fascinating if a wider view that included the shops on either side existed.

At the Islington Local History Centre, I found information in the Kelly's directory relating to the shops in the street in that period but have had no luck in finding photos. The London Metropolitan Archives have no photos of the shops either.

I was hoping a photo might have been taken during the Second World War due to bomb damage in the vicinity or before they were demolished (in the 1950s?).

I have found some aerial photos on the Britain from Above website, which are fascinating as I could pick out the row of shops at several angles from a distance from the 1930s to 1950s.

Vince Webb
Royal Wootton Bassett
webb.vincent@sky.com

You have already searched the two main sources for photographs of old Islington.

The local history centre has a small collection of photographs taken after bombing raids which may include the Rosoman Street area. I believe photographing bomb damage was not allowed other than by official photographers, possibly for reasons of morale.

The 1927 Post Office Street Directory lists 55 Rosoman Street as being occupied by Frank Webb, shoe repairer.

Cameras in the 1920-30s were mainly used to

Do you recognise this parade ground or person?

The winter journal published some photographs of men in a parade ground, probably taken during the First World War, which I hoped readers could identify.

This image shows the ground again, with a distinctive square domed building in the background.

One of the men is my father, Frederick Robert Stokes. I believe the picture was taken in Islington as this was where he was born and grew up. He was rejected for military service on medical grounds but I believe he served voluntarily locally.

The left rank is of men mainly in civilian clothes while those in the right rank are in various uniforms. My father and some others had Red Cross badges and there are rolled-up stretchers on the ground.



I do not know who the man receiving the medal was.

If anyone knows anything about these images, please get in touch.

Malcolm Stokes
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photograph family and friends; very few pictures of local streets were taken. Your grandfather would have been the subject of your photograph and the shop itself very secondary.

Michael Reading

Clerkenwell cycle company

I am researching motorcycle/bicycle company Chater Lea which in the early 20th century was based in the building that now houses our flat at 74-84 Banner Street.

The company was based in Clerkenwell for 38 years, 17 of them in Banner Street.

There is lots of written and visual material on its products. However, I cannot find any information on the social aspects of the company's presence in Clerkenwell – numbers of employees, role in

the local economy, positive and negative effects of its activities, that kind of thing.

In addition, records refer to a "nine-storey building" at 74-84 Banner Street, whereas the current building (which has a date over the door of 1911) has only five floors. It was converted into flats in 1996 and the top floor, where half of our flat is, was added at that time. I would like to locate plans or photos of the original building. Are there archives of local newspapers of the time, for example?

Carl Gardner

The Islington Local History Centre may hold information on Chater Lea, especially if the firm made local news. It also has copies on microfilm of the *Islington Gazette* and the *North London Press* and other papers serving the old borough of Finsbury.

The Post Office Street Directories of 1899-1910 show no occupant at 74-84 Banner Street. The 1921 edition shows

Chater Lea there. The 1930 directory has an entry for Chater Lea with the note "Now removed to Letchworth".

As for information on the company's social aspects, this, would be very limited, only coming to light if reported in the newspapers. There was no requirement for the company to record this information, other than the number of staff, which would be part of its financial records. It may have taken these to Letchworth or, if they had served their purpose, destroyed them.

There may be some old photographs of Banner Street in the extensive collection at the London Metropolitan Archives. The Islington Local History Centre has a more modest collection.

Plans for the original building may be held by Islington Council's planning department; I would suggest you phone them before visiting to see whether any exist and are available for you to see.
Michael Reading

Write to us

- Contact the editor on christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk or via 6 Northview, Tufnell Park Road, N7 0QB
- Post on www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

Going local

A survey of Islington's locally listed buildings is being carried out. Nicole Crockett and Katie Russell describe this major project

The register of locally listed buildings in Islington is being revamped, with the help of volunteers.

Locally listed buildings are considered important for their architecture, history or distinctive appearance. They are distinct from those on the statutory list held by Historic England, which are of national or international importance and graded 1, II or II*.

Buildings on the local list in Islington include terraced housing, shops, pubs, public buildings, halls and many others. Together with buildings on the statutory list, they help to give the borough its vibrant and distinctive character.

There are 1,200 items on the local list, covering 2,000 buildings in total; this is more than twice as many as there are the neighbouring boroughs of Hackney and Camden.

Local authorities are responsible for documenting locally listed buildings and protecting them from development that significantly alters or undermines their significance.

While these buildings do not have the legal protection afforded to those on the national list buildings, their locally listed status should be considered when redevelopment is proposed and if they could be affected by a planning application.

Updating the list

Local authorities need up to date information about the condition and historic significance of locally listed buildings, and the huge number of designated buildings in Islington make this a daunting task.

To bring the list up to date, a community heritage project – Our Eyes on Islington – was set up. It is run by the Building Exploratory charity, with Islington Council and Historic England. The Building Exploratory, which is

Be at One cocktail bar, formerly the Albion, at 33 Caledonian Road, by Islington artist Lindsay Topping

based in Clerkenwell, helps people to gain a better understanding of the buildings and spaces around them.

Our Eyes on Islington is making an important contribution to the knowledge the council holds on its heritage assets.

The Building Exploratory has recruited a committed team of volunteers, the majority of them Islington residents, to survey and photograph all 1,200 items on Islington's local list.

The two-year project started in October 2016, and will result in a new local list, which will be adopted by Islington Council and made available to the public on a bespoke website.

The volunteers

The project wanted to get local residents involved in documenting and conserving the borough's heritage.

We sought to recruit 30-35 volunteers to take part and assumed this might prove to be a struggle.

We were surprised and delighted by the incredible response to our requests for volunteers for the project. More than 100 initial enquiries led to 50 fully trained volunteers, who are now undertaking fieldwork.

They range widely in age, professional background, experience and motivation for taking part.



The well-crafted gatehouse of Islington's first electricity generating works in Eden Grove, Holloway



Each volunteer is allocated sites to review. They begin by visiting and photographing the buildings. This is followed by desk and archive research, drawing on historic maps, trade directories, old photographs and other records. Once they have done this, volunteers write a statement describing each of their buildings, and outlining their significance and historic value.

As with any complex project, Our Eyes on Islington has not been without its challenges. These have included addressing variations in knowledge and in IT and writing skills, and differences in styles of communication and levels of confidence.

The successes has far outweighed these. The project has been a fantastic learning process. Feedback has shown how much the volunteers have learned and their profound awareness of the buildings around them.



Simmons Bar, 2 Caledonian Road, by Lindsay Topping

There have also been some wonderful, unexpected outcomes. One example is the watercolour paintings of buildings by local resident Lindsay Topping, reproduced here.

The buildings

There are numerous buildings of many types on the local list. Below are four examples.



Myddleton Hall (also known as Myddelton Hall), Almeida Street

Dating from 1891, this four-storey Italianate building named after Sir Hugh Myddelton, the engineer behind the New River, originally housed a music hall with capacity for 600.

From 1892 to 1914, it was used for performances, lectures, meetings and other events. The distinctive design includes a unique composition of buildings and makes a significant contribution to the street.

Although the building was converted into flats and a restaurant in the early 2000s, it serves as a reminder of the area's performance history.

Volunteers catch up in the Shaftesbury Tavern on Hornsey Road – naturally, a locally listed hostelry

Former Electric Lighting Station gatehouse, 60 Eden Grove

This building is a landmark to the electrification of late Victorian London. It was home to Islington's first electricity generating works when local generation was under municipal control. Only the gatehouse remains.

It is a significant landmark in the rapid industrial and technological development of Islington in the late 19th century as well as an attractive, well-crafted building.

Simmons Bar, 2 Caledonian Road

This four-storey building was built around 1850 as part of the terrace of shops on the east side of Caledonian Road. It still retains a timber stall riser, tiled pilasters and original corbels.

The current owners have gone to some trouble to preserve it and the tenant, Simmons Bar, has been

encouraged to leave the shopfront in its original condition as far as possible.

Be at One cocktail bar, formerly the Albion, 33 Caledonian Road

The Albion has been a public house since it was built around 1851, and occupies a prominent position on the corner of Caledonian Road and Balfe Street. It has outstanding arched top windows at the first floor and heavy cornicing above.

During the 1980s and 1990s, it was the Malt and Hops, then the Ruby Lounge. It has been the Be at One since about 2013. However, it is still spoken of as the Albion.

List launch

We anticipate the project will conclude in September this year with a public exhibition and the launch of the local list website.

The data gathered will be added to Historic England's records, so will become part of a national database of information about the historic built environment. ●

■ If you are interested in getting involved in the project, email: mail@buildingexploratory.org.uk

Nicole Crockett is the director and Katie Russell is the project coordinator at the Building Exploratory

Myddleton Hall: a reminder of Islington's performance history





The Popham Street cottages

In the late 19th century, an estate known as the cottages was built off Essex Road. John Rawlings grew up there

One side of Popham Street, off Essex Road, once held a series of blocks of flats called Edinburgh, Cornwall, Queens and Albany Cottages. They were built in 1889.

The cottages were described by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner in his *Buildings of England* series as being “fortress-like with turrets, where the interior courtyards had open staircases and galleries”.

My father lived there from 1913 and I spent my first 21 years there until 1968. The four-storey buildings contained about 300 flats and were privately owned. When first built, they were classed as good artisans’ dwellings, but years of neglect and war damage had turned them into virtual slums by the 1950s.

Beginning of the cottages.

In 1874, the medical officer for Islington reported that the 25 courts and buildings, consisting of artisans’ cottages and workshops between Greenman Street and Britannia Row, were insanitary.

The five-acre area was submitted to the Metropolitan Board of Works under the Artisans’ and

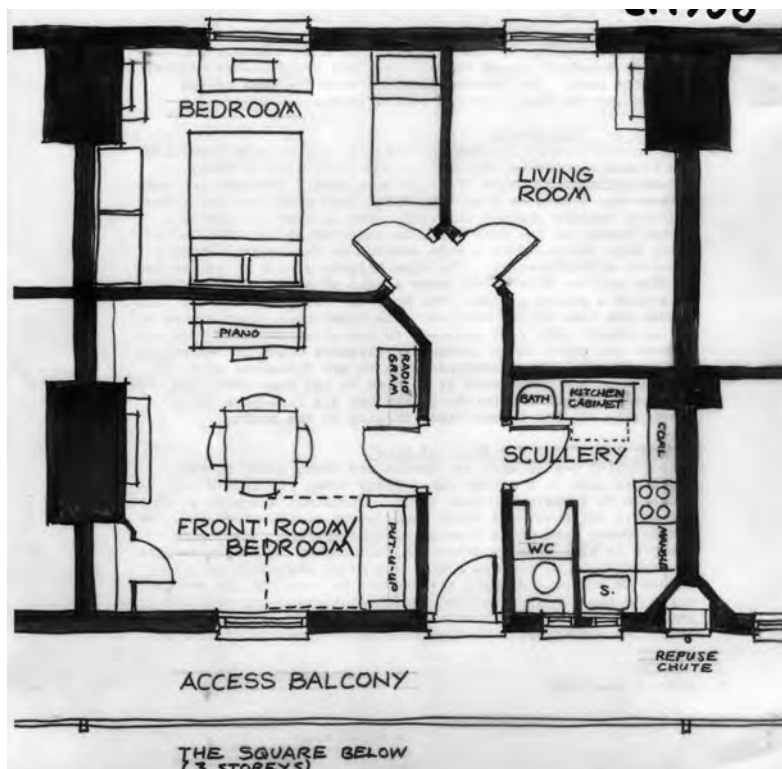
Labourers’ Dwelling Act 1875 for clearance from 1878 onwards.

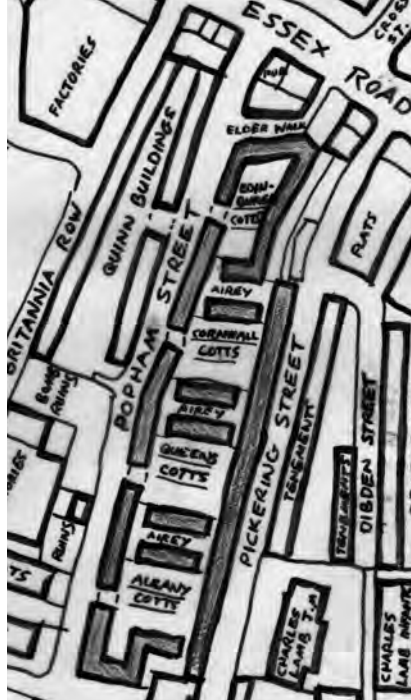
Altogether, 1,796 people were displaced; twice as many were rehoused on the same site, including in the blocks of cottages built for 2,000 tenants.

The four groups of flats had big,

four-sided central courtyards or squares. Separating each square from the next were narrow canyons called “aireys” (see picture). These aireys allowed only a little light and air into the bedroom windows facing each other across a 25ft gap. It was

Plan of 83 Cornwall Cottages: note the put-u-up bed, radiogram and piano in the front room/bedroom; in the kitchen are a cabinet and sink, as well as areas for the bath, coal and mangles – in the corner is access to the refuse chute





Map showing the Cottages, with Essex Road at the top; airey between Cornwall and Queens Cottages; top balcony of Cornwall, both images c1968

possible to walk between the squares through these aireys.

The long main building facing the street came straight up from the pavement. Four arched, two-storey high openings led into each square. These originally had lockable iron gates and each entrance was always known as the gate. The actual gates had gone by the time I was born.

There were two basic dwelling types – a two room and a three room flat. Each had a small scullery from which a WC cubicle was partitioned off and there was an iron kitchen range. The bedrooms had fireplaces. Each square had four refuse chutes.

In 1897, Charles Booth, in his *Survey of London*, described Popham Street as “a dark narrow street flanked on either side by buildings”, marked dark blue lined with black on his map (dark blue indicated “very poor, casual. Chronic want” and black “lowest class. Vicious, semi-criminal”).

“On the NW side are the ‘cottages,’ Edinburgh, Cornwall & Albany, which are high buildings and flush with the pavement, outwardly like a prison, fronting inwards on a court in the centre of which is a very much fenced in plot of flowers with a gas lamp in the centre, itself protected with wire netting to keep the glass from breakage. All round the floors run open passages. Mostly tenanted by labourers not of the lowest class,

earning 25/- to 30/- per week.”

The flats had been designed to accommodate around 1,400 people at a high density of around 500 per acre but were severely overcrowded so the density was far higher than this.

Nevertheless, they were in great demand. They had secure entrance gates, gas lighting, mains water, WCs and sinks, and refuse chutes. In the centre of each courtyard was a garden. All the flats were accessible from open balconies, served by open staircases.

When my father moved into Cornwall Cottages as a baby in 1913, the cottages were still relatively new and well maintained. By 1922, his two-bedroom flat at no 57 was home to eight other people – his parents and six siblings aged from two to 23 years, which was not an unusual number to be living in one flat in those days.

Rules at the entrance

- All gambling will be reported to the police
- Hawking prohibited
- All games will be stopped by the superintendent
- Tenants only allowed within the gates
- Disorderly conduct will be stopped by the superintendent
- Wilful destruction prosecuted.
- Broken windows mended at tenants' expense
- Landings and staircases to be cleaned by tenants



When I was born in 83 Cornwall Cottages in 1947, the flats were turning into slums, notorious for poverty, squalor, violence and crime. In the early 1950s, some ground floor flats were enlarged and improved; electricity came to the unmodernised flats only in the late 1950s. The cottages were eventually demolished in the 1970s ■

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John Rawlings

Unexpected death in 19th century Islington

Radical Finsbury politician, editor and physician Thomas Wakley held many inquests into deaths as coroner, and used his position to promote reform

Sudden and unexpected death during the early Victorian period took many forms. These included: accidental death from falls, scalding, burning and explosion; self-destruction from poison, razor, pistol and hanging; natural death from heart failure, cholera, tuberculosis and malnutrition; and, of course, murder from stabbing, shooting, poisoning and beating. Then, as now, it fell to the coroner and his jury to investigate and, to the best of their abilities, determine the cause of death.

Radical politician, editor and physician Thomas Wakley was elected member of parliament for Finsbury in 1835. Having founded the *Lancet* in 1823 as a vehicle for promoting medical reform, it was perhaps inevitable that he should seek a national platform from whence to campaign.

By 1839, when the coronership for West Middlesex became vacant, Wakley was a national figure. Although he had unsuccessfully contested the office previously, he was encouraged by well-wishers to launch a second attempt. This time he was successful.

As coroner, his daily exposure to life and death, as experienced by Londoners of all classes and stations, furnished him to campaign with unquestionable authority from both the back benches of the House of Commons, as well as through the columns of the *Lancet*.

During more than two decades of coronership (1839-62), Wakley held over 25,000 inquests, of which,

perhaps, some 5,000, were held in pubs and institutions in Islington. He investigated sudden and unexpected death in all its many guises, calling on medical expertise to establish cause, and using his position to promote reform.

A glimpse into the often squalid and shocking realm of sudden and unexpected deaths in the borough, as seen daily by Thomas Wakley, may be gleaned from the following edited and abridged reports.

May 1839: death from lightning (in bed)

Thomas Wakley held an inquest at the Harrow Public House, Compton Street, Clerkenwell, on the death of James Lee. His widow said that at 11pm, the deceased, with herself and two children, retired to bed, at which time there was a dreadful lightning storm.

They all slept in the same bed in the top room of an outhouse in the garden of number 20 Lower Northampton Street. At about 11.30pm, the deceased suddenly exclaimed "my eyes are on fire!",



Smallpox hospital, King's Cross: a vaccine from here was suspected of being contaminated, leading to a child's death



Inquests were often held at public houses, including the King's Head in Upper Street

jumped out of bed and immediately collapsed. There was a strong smell of sulphur in the room. He then lost the ability to speak, closed his eyes, became insensible and later died.

October 1840: death from poisoning

A boy, nine years of age, the son of respectable people living in Victoria Place in Elder Walk, Islington, had been confined to his room by his mother for misbehaving.

Later, when his mother visited him, she found him unconscious. She immediately sent for a doctor, who, discovering that he was suffering the effects of poison, applied a stomach pump and other remedies, but to no avail.

The boy, it later emerged, had drunk a pint of strong gin. Wakley was informed and the subsequent inquest returned a verdict of accidental death.

December 1842: wilful murder

Wakley held an inquest at the King's Head in Upper Street into the death of a newborn male infant whose body had been found abandoned in a brick field at the back of the Upper Road (now Upper Street).

The postmortem examination revealed a severe bruise on the child's right temple, and a corresponding injury on his brain.

The umbilical cord was torn, and it was evident the mother had not received medical assistance. A surgeon confirmed that the child had been born alive.

Wakley observed that it was quite clear the child had been alive, or the bruise on the temple would not have resulted in blood on the brain. After deliberation, the jury returned a verdict of “wilful murder against some person or persons unknown”.

January 1844: death from starvation

An inquest was held at the Golden Lion, Islington, into the death of Maria Dillaway and her baby. The jury, having been sworn in, proceeded to view the bodies.

They were conducted through broken fences to a one-room shed, measuring 12 by 5.5 feet wide crudely constructed from wood, bricks, and mud. In this hovel, lay the bodies of the mother and child. They were in an advanced stage of decomposition and presented all the appearances of having been starved to death. The father and four children lived and slept in the same room, unable to afford the cost of burial.

The jury expressed horror that such a scene could exist in any civilised country. A verdict was returned, followed by the coroner and jury members subscribing to a collection for the benefit of the husband and children.

Although the mother earned 8d day (about 3p today) per day, her husband was unable to find work.

The parish said they could only receive relief if they moved into the workhouse, which would have split the family up. Determined to stay together, they struggled on, existing on the mother's earnings and the charity of friends; the parish gave them no help whatsoever.

Thus began a period of slow starvation that lasted upwards of a year. The crunch came when Maria Dillaway fell pregnant. She delivered presumably early, as her husband was out at the time, and was assisted solely by her young children, one of whom ran to a friend for help.



The friend was so concerned by the condition of the mother and newborn child that she went immediately for a doctor. The friend and doctor returned about a quarter of an hour later to find both mother and baby dead.

The inquest determined that the cause of death was excessive blood loss during childbirth. However Dr Hicks, the physician who attended, stated: “he had no doubt that she had died from scarcity of food and want of proper attendance in her weak state ... the weakness caused by her scanty way of living had produced a haemorrhage, of which she died.” Thomas Wakley endorsed his conclusion.

Wakley described the parish regulations as “a cruel system,” and said: “Comforts! God bless me! Had she sufficient food? Had she any of the common necessities of life? Had she even food of the coarsest description enough to sustain life?”

September 1849: death from suffocation

Wakley held an inquest at the Caledonian Arms, Caledonian Road, Islington, into the death of Thomas Perkins, aged 32, a miner employed in the construction of the Copenhagen Tunnel of the Great Northern Railway.

From the evidence of witnesses,

Thomas Wakley, about 1835-40 (engraving by WH Engleton): as a coroner, he described parish regulations as “a cruel system”

it was ascertained that he had been working in a shaft when some five tons of clay gave way, completely burying the unfortunate man.

He was immediately dug from the clay but to no avail, and was pronounced dead at the scene. No blame was attributed to any party, and the jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

October 1849: death from vaccination

An inquiry was opened at the Vineyard House, Vineyard Walk, Clerkenwell, on Rosina Elizabeth Peicher, aged four months.

A few days earlier, Mr Sweetnam, a surgeon of St John Street, had ordered some vaccine from the Smallpox Hospital in King's Cross.

The child was brought to Mr Sweetnam's surgery for vaccination. He punctured the child's right arm with a new lancet then applied the vaccine.

The child was taken home, where she soon became very ill. She was immediately returned to Sweetnam, who treated her. Unfortunately her condition worsened, and she died eight days later.

A postmortem examination ordered by Wakley revealed the child's organs to be healthy. The jury concluded that the vaccine supplied by the hospital had been contaminated, prompting the coroner to adjourn the hearing pending an explanation from the hospital authorities.

Although Thomas Wakley's inquests determined the cause of death in most instances, a residue of cases defeated both learned medical opinion and the most advanced laboratory analysis available. His legacy, as a coroner, can be found in the social and public health reforms he instigated and promoted, arising directly from his searching inquiries into the causes of sudden death. ■

Clive Wakley is a distant relative of Thomas Wakley. His Wakley's Casebook series of reports are available in Islington's Local History Centre and from www.wakleyfamilyhistory.uk



Steaming ahead

The steam-powered engines that played such a major role in London's water supply can be seen working today, says Chris Great

The Grand Junction Waterworks played a key role in the development of London's water supply. Its steam-powered engines can be seen working at the London Museum of Water and Steam today.

The 19th century was a period of industrialisation and London's population expanded from one million inhabitants in 1800 to some six million in 1900. The dramatic growth in urbanisation was made possible only by the development of supplies of clean drinking water and sewers.

London was fortunate to be amply supplied by springs, wells and rivers in the early days but nature required increasing amounts of help from engineers to deliver its bounty.

By the early 1800s, eight independent, competing water companies were supplying untreated river and canal water to London.

One of these was the Grand Junction Canal Company, which had built the canal from Braunston in the Midlands to Paddington and Brentford, bypassing the Thames. The company had a surplus of water at the end of the canal and set up the Grand Junction Waterworks Company at Paddington in 1811 to sell intermittently pumped supplies of untreated canal water to the header tanks of wealthy consumers

The London Museum of Water and Steam has working steam engines as well as a waterwheel and a narrow gauge railway

in Holland Park and Mayfair.

The early pipes were mainly made of elm but, by 1808, cast iron had been adopted. Installation throughout London by the water companies must have created enormous chaos, like the activities of cable companies today.

Sewage and S bends

A significant lifestyle development was the introduction of the flushing water closet. Hooper introduced the S bend trap in 1800, and sales took off like those for flat screen televisions. If your neighbour had one, you wanted a better one.

London was soon awash with sewage. An 1815 act permitted sewage to flow into rivers, setting the scene for the cholera outbreaks of 1831, 1848 and 1853, which accounted for some 30,000 deaths.

There link between cholera and water pollution was not known. Cholera was thought to be an airborne disease and it was not until Dr John Snow's study of an outbreak in Soho in 1846 that the connection was made.

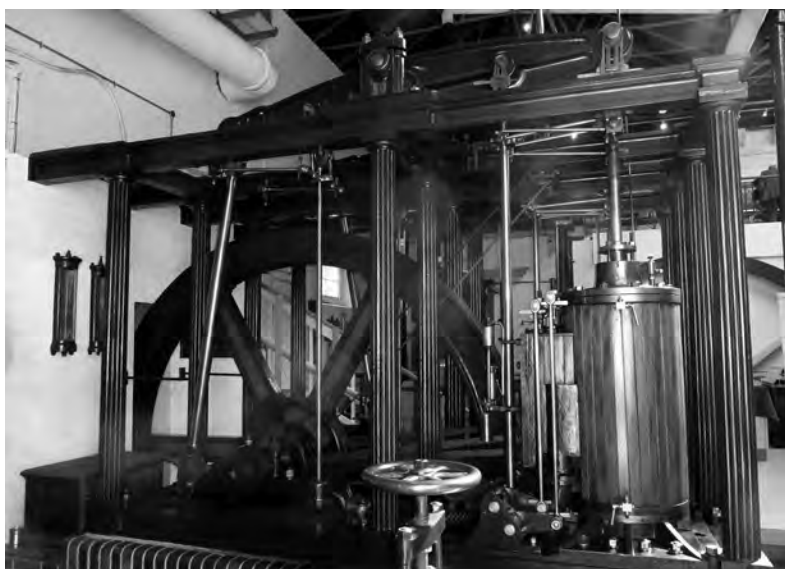
Finally, the government intervened. The Metropolis Water Act of 1852 stated that no water should be taken from the Thames below the tidal limit at Teddington, reservoirs had to be covered, presumably limiting the number of dead sheep in the water supply, and sand filtration in filter beds was introduced.

Hitherto, most of London's sewage found its way to the Thames, where it was supposed to continue out to sea. Unfortunately, the tide had a tendency to turn, with the result that a great slug of sewage rocked its way back and forth in the Thames beneath the windows of the Palace of Westminster and the tender nostrils of the MPs, creating the Great Stink of 1858.

This closed parliament and led to the appointment of Sir Joseph Bazalgette as chief engineer to the Metropolitan Board of Works, charged with constructing 83 miles of sewers, running west to east, to the north and south of the Thames, discharging at Becton and Crossness. There, the offending

A woman drops her tea-cup in horror on seeing what Thames water contains: the caption reads: 'Monster soup commonly called Thames water, being a correct representation of that precious stuff doled out to us!!!'; drawing by William Heath





The rotary engine collection and the Cornish engines can regularly be seen in steam

material was pumped into tankers, which discharged it into the North Sea, presumably providing nutrients for sea life and stimulating our nascent fast food industry of fish and chips.

Moving upriver

The operation at Paddington ran until 1820, by which time the deterioration in the water quality caused the government to instruct the Grand Junction Waterworks Company to close the works and move them to Chelsea, where they could pump the limpid waters of the Thames.

This was not a good long-term solution, perhaps in part because the water intake at Chelsea was opposite the Ranelagh sewer outlet.

In response to further government pressure, the company moved upriver to Kew Bridge, where it supplied Thames water to a large area of West London.

The new waterworks were opened in 1837. A beam engine from Maudslay Sons & Field was commissioned and the two Boulton & Watt engines from Chelsea were moved there. This provided a capacity of 10 million gallons in 24 hours by 1840 but demand continued to increase.

A forceful engineer, Thomas Wicksteed, was recruited from the East London Company with a brief to double the output. Wicksteed had studied the more efficient, higher capacity Cornish engines and commissioned the giant 90

inch (cylinder diameter) beam engine in 1846, which added a further six million gallons.

The even larger 100 inch was added in 1871, with a capacity of 7.5 million gallons, enabling Kew to deliver over 20 million gallons a day by the end of the century. Fifteen coal-fired boilers, burning 24/7, provided the steam, with 100 employees working on site.

In response to regulation, sand filter beds were brought into use in 1845 and, in 1855, the intake was moved upstream to Hampton, where a new pumping station, reservoir and cast iron main fed the Kew filter beds.

A new life for the engines

With the establishment of the Metropolitan Water Board in 1904, the water industry was nationalised. Pumping technology advanced but steam still dominated until 1944, when electric pumps took over. By this time, the Boulton & Watt engines had worked non stop for 124 years, an unthinkable life span by today's standards.

The board sagely mothballed the steam engines and, in 1974, Thames Water, which had taken over, was approached by a group of steam enthusiasts who had just completed the restoration of the Boulton & Watt engine at Crofton on the Kennett & Avon canal. It was agreed that they would set up the Kew Bridge Engines Trust, restore the remaining beam engines at Kew and open a museum of water

supply to the public, featuring the working pumping engines.

By 2012, with four of the original beam engines restored and working and a collection of four more recent water pumping engines also operational, it was becoming clear to the trustees that, without substantial financial support, the museum could not survive.

A bid secured £1.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. A further £500,000 was raised from Thames Water, Hounslow Council and other generous donors.

It was relaunched as the London Museum of Water and Steam in 2013, with a new Waterworks Gallery telling the story of London's water supply, new interactive displays for children and much historical video material, which made the museum less dependent on the weekend running of the engines.

Over 20 million gallons of water a day was delivered. Fifteen coal-fired boilers, burning 24/7, provided the steam, and 100 people worked on site

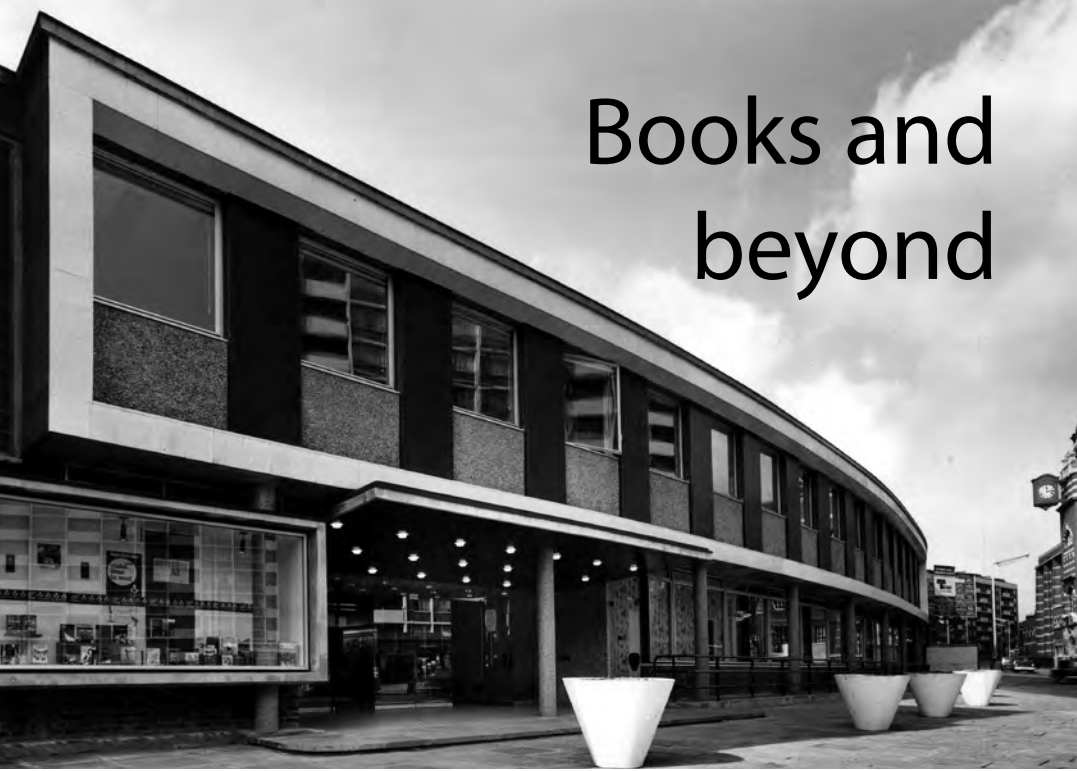
Local outreach activities were increased, especially education programmes for schools. The previously elderly, steam enthusiast visitor base has been joined by a growing family audience.

Visitor numbers have risen from 10,000 to 20,000 a year and the four full-time staff, aided by a committed board of trustees and a core of up to 100 volunteers, are able to generate just enough income to cover running costs, including £60,000 a year for fuel to run the engines.

The rotary engine collection is in steam every weekend and the Cornish engines are in steam on the last weekend of every month and on three holiday weekends. A highlight for children and adult alike is a trip around the site on the narrow gauge steam locomotive. ■

Chris Great is a volunteer at the London Museum of Water and Steam

Books and beyond



Finsbury Library, opened 50 years ago, marked a departure from traditional library design and function, says Mark Aston

Finsbury Library was designed to be more than a place to borrow books. The building, opened on St John Street in 1967, was to be a cultural hub, with facilities for numerous activities.

As well as adults' and children's book libraries, and a music and reference section, the ground floor contained an auditorium with a stage and projector room, and a TV room. On the first floor were a student library and reading room, and there was a roof garden. The basement held a darkroom for photography and a storage area that could hold 220,000 books.

It built on a radical history. Its predecessor, the Clerkenwell Free Library, opened in 1890 in Skinner Street, became the first British library that allowed the public to take books off its shelves, rather than having to request them. Under the leadership of its first librarian James Duff Brown, it was also the first to include a children's library and the first to host exhibitions. It was later renamed Finsbury Central Library.

The new borough library was integral to the development of Finsbury Estate. This was approved by Finsbury Borough Council in

1962, when the acquisition of the Skinner Estate was authorised. Work began two years later and was completed in 1968; it was officially opened by the Rt Hon Richard Marsh MP, the Minister of Power, on 11 March 1967.

Clerkenwell Free Library (below) was the first library to let people take books off shelves, rather than request them



Designed by architects Emberton, Franck & Tardrew and built by Tersons for just over £2.5 million, the Finsbury Estate was the last of the major housing developments started by Finsbury Council. It was among the taller and more costly local authority housing projects of its time. The library cost £225,000.

Small Victorian streets, houses and commercial buildings were swept away, including the old late 19th century Victorian library, to be replaced by 451 homes, a 25-storey tower, an underground car park and the new Finsbury Borough Library.

Berlin-born architect Carl Ludwig Franck (1904-85) was given responsibility for the library design. His plans were more ambitious than those for the average library. The convex front to St John Street was likened to the nearby Finsbury Health Centre, built in 1938, with colourful glass mosaics decorating the library's exterior. The spacious adult lending section featured a shallow, top-lit, barrel vaulted ceiling.

After the metropolitan boroughs of Finsbury and Islington merged to become the London Borough of Islington in 1965, Central Library in Fieldway Crescent near Highbury Fields became the library service's main office. However, the Finsbury Library redevelopment was planned before the 1965 merger as a cultural hub and library headquarters for the former Finsbury Borough, and the end product was a building more befitting a central library.

An adapting, cultural hub

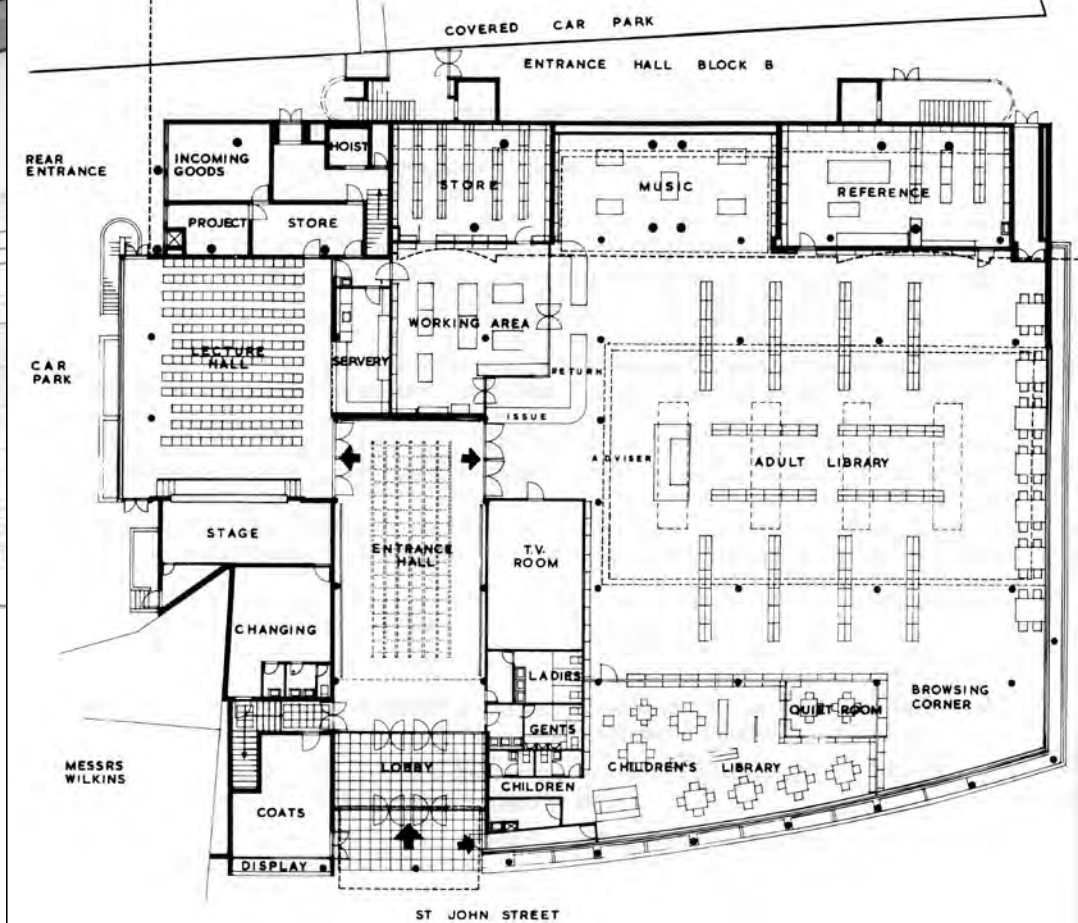
Finsbury Library has adapted well to the demands of the late 20th and early 21st centuries. With several redesigns and additions to accommodate its changing roles, it remains the cultural hub first imagined 50 years ago.

For example, Islington Cyberskills Centre was set up in the building in 1999 and opened to the public in May that year, becoming the Islington Computer Skills Centre in 2001.

The library's first major



Architect Carl Ludwig Franck points to the library plan, which includes a browsing corner a hall with a stage



reorganisation took place in January 2003. Part of the refurbishment at this time was the creation of the Local History Centre. This combined the local history collections held at Central and Finsbury libraries to form a borough-wide reference collection. In the same year, the adult lending library was rearranged and a few new enquiry desks installed to provide a more engaging environment.

In May 2008, Islington Museum became another major addition to services offered at Finsbury Library. With a £1 million Heritage Lottery Fund grant, the museum was moved from Islington Town Hall to a purpose-built space beneath the library.

Here, visitors can explore Islington's past through themed galleries and view free exhibitions, attend talks and other events or take part a lively learning programmes. It offers a programme of children's activities throughout the year and is a popular venue for school visits.

In January 2014, new flooring was laid and machines the public could use to borrow and return books were installed. In October, the following year, more refurbishment was carried out so staff from the former Old Street Area Housing Office could move in to the former archive store on the first floor.

Since November 2014, Finsbury Library has been home to the Ben Kinsella Trust. Ben Kinsella was just 16 years old when he was

fatally stabbed in Islington in 2008. Founded the same year, the trust has been responsible for many changes and achievements in the battle against knife crime.

Records back to 15th century

Earlier this year, an archive storage facility in the building's basement was created so the centre's collection could be held in one place. The Local History Centre holds over 125,000 items relating

Below and opposite: the library when it opened in 1967

to the history of the borough, with its earliest record dating back to the 15th century.

It is hoped that the building and its services remain a cultural hub and community focal point for the next 50 years, keeping true the vision conceived half a century earlier by Finsbury Borough Council. ■

Mark Aston is heritage manager at Islington Council



Islington Council

The lives of St Mary's

St Mary's Church has taken several forms over the centuries and is being refurbished again, says Frank Hopkins

St Mary's Church dates back 1,000 years. A stone found in the crypt in the 1930s has been dated to early Norman times at around 1100. Its parish registers go back to 1557.

Halfway between the Angel and Highbury Corner, the church is at one of London's busiest locations.

The early church was rebuilt in 1483. Six bells, among the oldest in London, were installed in the new tower; two more were added later to make St Mary's peal of eight.

Each bell has a brief inscription. That on the fifth treble bell, for example, reads:



St Mary's in 1843, when the early church was rebuilt; it dates back to 1100

Whilst thus we join in cheerful sound

May love and loyalty abound.

The church was rebuilt again in 1754; the coat of arms of the then monarch, George II, hangs on the north wall of the nave.

John Wesley and his brother Charles, who was a curate at St Mary's, preached at the church in the 1730s. However, the churchwardens took offence at his message of salvation through a

personal faith in Christ. They insisted that Charles Wesley show that he had a licence from the bishop to preach in the diocese, which he did not possess. The Wesleys were denied further access to the pulpit by the vestry.

Most of present church was built in the 1950s after the nave and chancel were destroyed during the London Blitz. The tower and spire survived the bombing and remain famous landmarks.

The church was redesigned by architects Seely and Paget, who created an ambitious design which attempted to create a space suitable for a "renaissance of evangelical worship". The main worship space is vast, with a volume of over 5,000m³, and features deep, clear windows that allow in an unusually high amount of natural light. The east and west ends have murals by Brian Thomas. Construction was carried out by local builders Dove Brothers.

The original brass eagle lectern, baptismal font and royal coat of arms all survived the bombing and can still be seen.

Restoration

St Mary's church is listed grade II and is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register.

The interior has not been decorated since then and the

The church was badly damaged in the 1940 London Blitz; the replacement church has large windows to allow in plenty of natural light



portico and steeple need repair. The roof, which had solar panels fitted to its south-facing side in 2011, also requires repair.

Churchwarden Anthea Nicholson says: "We really need to address the problem that we have with the building. It's a beautiful structure and it's heartbreaking to find puddles of water when the rain gets in."

The Heart of Islington is a major project launched in 2016 to restore and open up St Mary's Church buildings and its surrounding public gardens, and make them more welcoming.

Investigations and professional advice from an architect and structural engineers have been commissioned. Initial work has been undertaken with the brass eagle lectern restored and the sound system replaced. The steeple is being repaired and work on the roof is due to start in March.

Garden

The churchyard was enlarged in 1793 but, with the rapid growth of Islington, became full and was closed for burials in 1853. It was laid out as a public garden of one and a half acres in 1885, and is now maintained by Islington Council.

The garden now needs fresh ideas, for example around tree management and replanting. A steering group to look at this has been formed with representatives from St Mary's and the council's Greenspace Service.

Islington Council has commissioned a topographical survey of the gardens, which will be followed by a design brief. Tenders will then be invited for a landscape architecture contract and the public

The brass eagle lectern was restored, which including removing years of polish



The church is an Upper Street landmark; the steeple is being repaired



consulted on the plans.

Richard Cloudesley's tomb in the garden on the south side of the church has already been restored. This year marks the 500th anniversary of his generous legacy; the charity that bears his name gives grants to Anglican churches in Islington and to address poverty and ill health in the borough.

Community

St Mary's has always been active in community work.

The neighbourhood centre, designed by Tom Hornsby, opened 40 years ago and offers community services focused

upon a youth club and a preschool. Works to this building, including a new roof covering, internal works such as redecoration, double glazing and drainage improvements, will be

completed under the Heart of Islington project.

St Mary's primary school dates back to 1710. Teaching first took place in a room over the church porch. The present school building in Fowler Road opened in 1966.

An Access for All project, which ran for five years from 2004, redeveloped the neighbourhood centre and the crypt. This provided access

to the crypt by a lift and increased community services, including craft, sports and dance activities.

A free Soul in the City Festival has been held at St Mary's each year since 1911 and is attended by thousands of people.

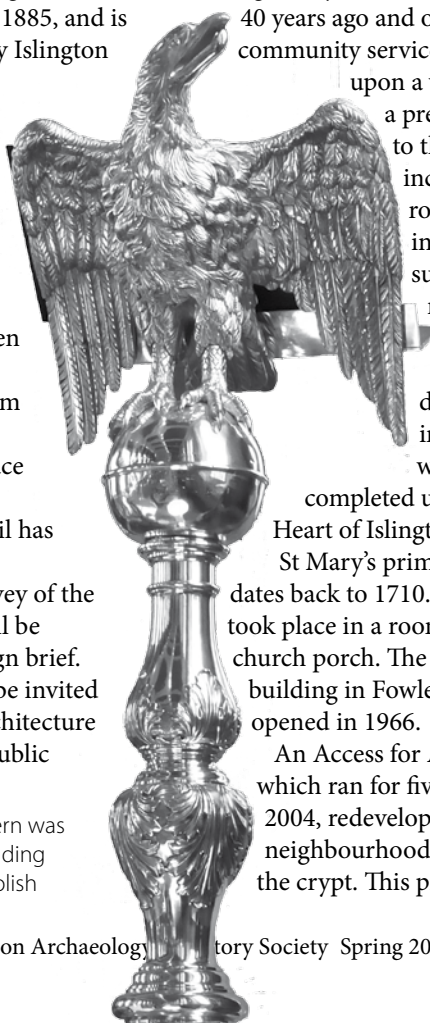
Funding the Heart of Islington

The cost of the Heart of Islington project is around £1.8 million.

There is funding from part of the contribution from the developers of Islington Square at the former Royal Mail building for environmental and community benefits under section 106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. There have also been grants and donations.

St Mary's vicar, Reverend Simon Harvey, says: "The way that local people have responded to the vision is tremendous. We're getting donations from church members and Richard Cloudesley's Charity, and we're hoping for substantial donations from local businesses, residents and other partners."

• More information about the Heart of Islington Project can be found at www.stmaryislington.org



Publications and bookshop

This issue, we admire England's glorious cathedrals, are not too shocked by the Lady Chatterley trial, read some horse history, dig below Ironmonger Row and discover the trouble with women

England's Cathedrals

Simon Jenkins

£30, Little, Brown, 341pp, £30

Seventeen years after his successful *England's Thousand Best Churches*, Simon Jenkins has produced its companion volume *England's Cathedrals*.

With a highly subjective eye, Jenkins has traversed the country to consider all 42 English Anglican diocesan cathedrals, plus Westminster Abbey and a selection of Roman Catholic cathedrals.

His introduction is wide ranging, giving a historical perspective of the development of the English cathedral from its Anglo-Saxon origins in the sixth century to the present day.

We are taken through the complete rebuilding of the original Saxon structures by the Normans in the 12th century and the rise, at the

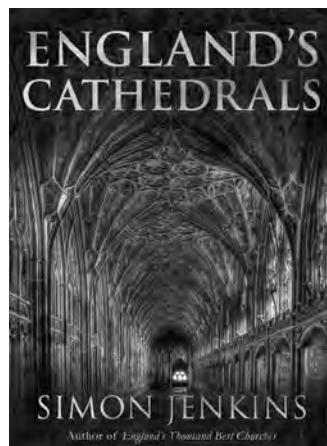
"gothic dawn", of the pointed arch and subsequent development of the early English, decorated and perpendicular styles.

Radical change and iconoclasm arrives with the break from Rome at the Reformation, with further destruction accompanying the Civil War and Commonwealth.

Long neglect and decline followed through the 18th and early 19th centuries, checked only by Victorian recovery and revival.

In this gallop through the centuries Jenkins manages, albeit with a broad brush, to "reflect the vicissitudes of history" – he imparts a real sense of evolving change, of fabric altered and extended over different periods and in a wide range of styles.

The chapters on individual cathedrals, which naturally



form the heart of the book, take the form of a perambulation around and through the buildings with the author acting as a stimulating, informative and entertaining guide.

However, descriptions are fairly spare and, as Jenkins freely admits, adopt a distinctly secular stance. The fabric is largely referenced in terms of art and architecture – the stained glass, sculpture,

monuments and memorials and of chantries, vaults and lancets.

There are excellent supplementary photographs by the late Paul Barker, and a glossary of ecclesiastical terms. A basic plan of each building, possibly cross-referenced to the text, would have been an extremely welcome addition. Another small caveat is the rather unnecessary awarding, reluctantly one senses, of starred ratings to each building; Jenkins' own favourites, the "three graces" as he calls them, are Ely, Lincoln and Wells.

England's cathedrals remain glorious and uplifting a millennium after they were built, and *English Cathedrals* shows this well. Jenkins has not only captured these sentiments but also authored a beautifully designed and produced book.

Roger Simmons is a retired architect. He was conservation manager for the Churches Conservation Trust

The Trial of Lady Chatterley's Lover

Sybille Bedford

£5.99, Daunt Books, 2016, 80pp

Philip Larkin famously said sexual intercourse began "between the end of the 'Chatterley' ban and the Beatles' first LP" in his poem *Annus Mirabilis*.

The prosecution of Penguin Books in 1959-60 under the Obscene Publications Act for issuing DH Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* was as explosive as anything the Profumo scandal would wreak a few years later.

Sybille Bedford was there at the time, initially writing it up for *Esquire*. Her account has



now been republished in a beautifully presented volume by Daunt Books, the publishing arm of the wonderful booksellers.

With wit not often found in legal reports, she reported on the tally, not so shocking today, of 13 sex scenes and 66 swear words.

If that tally seems pale, the trial had deeper consequences, in particular on censorship, but also social mores and attitudes on what should be censored, and for whom.

Famously, the prosecution put it in its opening statement that this was not a book "you would wish your wife or servants to read". Fleet Street, declining to take an "establishment" view, seized upon this eagerly. It implied that the book may be available – but only to the

right class of male.

Bedford's account is a refreshing read, and a reminder of the exchanges in court, summarised in a lively way that will give most readers all they need to know, unless they are carrying out a full research study. Even there, her account would be well worth including.

This was by no means the only scandal of its time, and Profumo and Stephen Ward would soon follow.

However, it was the Chatterley trial that would push the law into accepting the book's position in the latter 20th century.

Andrew Gardner

LAMAS Transactions Vol 66 2015

Available from the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society,
www.lamas.org.uk

The cover is a reminder that 2016 was the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, and the volume contains articles around this theme.

Other chapters cover fieldwork at Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, the priory of the Crossed Friars and the London Stone.

A chapter on excavations at the site of One New Change, Cheapside, includes a watercolour and an engraving showing houses and shops in Cheapside during the Tudor period in fascinating detail.

Archaeological investigations of Islington's Ironmonger Row Baths between 2009 and 2011 merit a chapter written by Peter Boyer, which I will look at in more detail here.

Signs of medieval brickearth

quarry pits were found here and increased activity during the 14th century is evident from the quantity of various pottery types of high quality, both British and from the continent. This suggests conspicuous consumption by a wealthy community, which I think may be linked to the nearby St John's and Holywell priories.

In 1527, about 10 acres of land that included the site was bequeathed to the Ironmongers' Company.

Later finds up to and including the 19th century include buckles, small ivory artefacts, glass beads and buttons. Over 700 cattle bones were also found, as were many fish bones. Woodcock bones suggest a thickly wooded area was nearby.

Investigations showed "there was continuous activity on the site from the Middle Ages until the 1930s."

The chapter gives some background: "John Stow,

writing c1600 about Moorfields, stated that most of this former area of marshy wasteland was now enclosed as gardens 'wherein are built many fair summer-houses ... with towers, turrets and chimney tops' ... and described these buildings as 'Banqueting Houses', implying they were mainly used for the purposes of entertainment and were not intended as permanent residences.

"In 1629 there were complaints (possibly by 'aristocratic residents') about the establishment of a brewery and a blacksmith's forge here."

The finds suggest that the area's prosperity declined from about the middle of the 17th century.

This chapter runs to 66 pages and, while scholarly, is clear and well written. It is an in-depth report, packed with lists of found artefacts and is definitely more than a general survey. For instance, there are tabular lists of the pottery,



cattle and fish bones found during the excavations.

There are 27 illustrations, including site plans, line drawings of found artefacts and colour photos of medieval wells, a drain, floor tile, cattle bones, glass beads and other small finds.

Transactions also provides illustrated summaries of the lectures given at the latest archaeology and local history conferences, plus a book reviews.

Rose Collison

The Age of the Horse: an Equine Journey through Human History

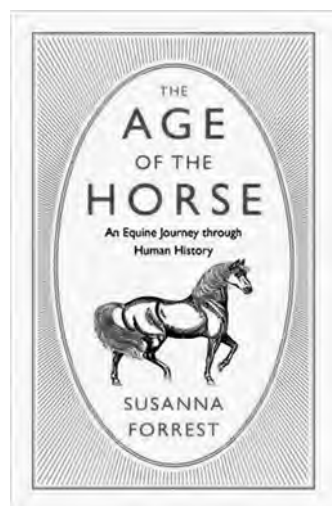
Susanna Forrest

£20, Atlantic Books, 2016, hardback, 432pp

The history of mankind and the history of the horse have nearly always been intertwined. A poem entitled *The Horse* by Ronald Duncan read out each year at the Horse of the Year Show states: "All our history is his industry."

Susanna Forrest's clever, erudite book is a fitting acknowledgement to the contribution the horse has made and is continuing to make to humankind, its uses and abuses.

The book's structure is based thematically on how humans have viewed the horse. Each theme is wide ranging, with the exception of Domestication, which describes the earliest known



archaeological evidence of horses becoming domesticated. This was the Botai culture, which lay east of the Urals during the Copper Age. These people lived off horses, existing alongside rather than hunting them.

The first two themes are Evolution and Domestication. Later themes give perceptive insights

through a wide-ranging and informative history racing through epochs of time and distance, with the writer bringing her own personal experience of the present travelling these same paths.

For example, under the final theme, War, there is much to tell about the experience of horses in during conflict throughout the centuries. The author then describes the role of horses in Arlington Cemetery and very movingly the rehabilitation of traumatised and injured military personnel through interaction with horses.

The theme Meat includes a harrowing observation of an American auction house, showing what can happen to even the best cared for animals at the end of their lives.

In London, we are aware of mechanised transport taking us around the city and

delivering our goods and services. Within Hay is Biofuel, the author paints a vivid picture of London at the beginning of the 20th century through a life of one individual human portraying the hardworking horses of the metropolis with a supporting cast of other horses and their contribution beyond.

Enmeshed with the lives of these animals are the lives of the people who were so dependent on them in so many different ways.

The book is well illustrated with an extensive bibliography. I would have liked to see cross-referencing of the illustrations to the text where appropriate. This minor quibble aside, this is a far-reaching book for anyone who even has a passing interest in horses and their place in the world.

Elizabeth Lawrance

Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line

Tom Harper, ed

£40rrp, British Library, 2016, 256pp

This lavishly illustrated, full-colour volume captures national and international interest, while giving plenty of space to London.

The editor draws on various areas of expertise in the fields and applications of mapping: War and Cartography is countered by Mapping the Peace. Maps and Money contrasts depression with prosperity, one illustration showing women's home-made underwear created during postwar austerity from silk 1940s escape maps.



A particular draw for me were Everyday Maps: Public Maps in 20th-Century Britain and Movement: Mapping Mobility to Mobile Mapping, including Gill MacDonald's 1942 Time and Tide world

map, showing the signatories to the Atlantic Charter.

It was the study of maps, in particular finding out how and why one turned into another, that first attracted me to history.

My fascination with the evolution of Harry Beck's map of the London Underground is addressed, as the book moves from transport to mapping the surface from outer space.

The price may seem high but for the quality and quantity of material is reasonable.

Published to accompany a recent British Library exhibition, it also gives an insight into these displays.

Andrew Gardner

London Perceived

VS Pritchett

£10.99, Daunt Books, 2016,

hardback, 192pp



These essays, first published in 1962, portray aspects of London life that some people will remember fondly – milkmen, bobbies, shopkeepers – while giving that nostalgia a feeling of reality.

London was not an Ealing comedy, far from it, but there was much to have known and loved. There is much in this exquisite writing to show the later generations as well as tourists or students who have been here but not stepped back. It is all related first hand and in the first person.

With references to former residents – Christopher Wren, Samuel Pepys and Charles Dickens – Pritchett walks streets from past ages with their stories, some streets now long gone.

“For myself, the London of the little houses, whether they are in Harley Street or Chelsea, Islington or Kensington, and the millions of little chimneys, is the true London,” he writes.

Part of Daunt Books' republishing of classics, *London Perceived* is beautifully produced. Pritchett, an award-winning writer and a former editor of *New Statesman*, spent 80 years of his 97 living in London.

Andrew Gardner

The Trouble With Women

Jacky Fleming

£9.99, Square Peg, 2016

This book of witty cartoons and sharp writing show how attitudes have affected what is recorded – or rather omitted – about women in history.

The range of facial expressions, often drawn with an economical line, and the body language are marvellous.

Historic “factual” statements are parodied; women are fit only for “undemanding domestic work ... and coal mining”, held back by small brains and “big frocks”. Men

are geniuses, sporting “genius hair” and “expertise” and “thinker” beard styles.

Then the books shocks, showing the systematic and sometimes aggressive exclusion of women from education, societies and public life.

Most inspiring are the stories within. Artist Marianne North paints around the world “without a chaperone”. Nan Aspinwall rides her horse out of a lift at New York's city hall. Emmy Noether is described by Einstein as a “creative mathematical genius”, while the Marquise de Châtelet, reclines



Giving the needle: Darwin shows that men are better at everything

gracefully while doing complex long division in her head.

A very accessible introduction to women's place in history.

Christy Lawrance

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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
Other items				
Old Ordnance Survey maps		2.50	0.75	3.25
Mugs: Union Chapel and Caledonian Park		6.00	2.80	8.80

The Parish Boundary Markers of St Mary Islington: a Photographic List of Extant Parish Boundary Markers and Their Positions

Peter Fuller and Caroline Fuller

Available from Islington Local History Centre, 2016, 23pp

Peter and Caroline Fuller have spent over 10 years researching the parish boundary markers, plates and stones on the boundaries of St Mary Islington.

These markers were placed by the Vestry of St Mary Islington and adjacent parishes to show their boundaries.

Many of them were are fixed to buildings; others are fixed to posts or are stones.

The folder of photographs of these markers, some still existing and some lost through redevelopment, has been placed in the Islington Local History Centre.



An unusual double boundary marker at 36 Newington Green (north side) for St Mary Islington and Stoke Newington

Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters

£5 (was £7.99) + £1.50 p&p

Page 10 of this issue describes the cottages, a group of tenements.

Only Bricks and Mortar tells a story tale of growing up and working class life from the 1930s through the Second World War to the 1970s here.



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

Thursday 16 March, 2pm
Lies, Damned Lies and Family History

Society of Genealogists,
£8.00/£6.40

Saturday 18 March, 1.15pm
Women and Cameos: from Ancient Rome to Catherine the Great

British Museum, free

Wednesday 22 March, 1.15pm
The Parthenon Sculptures

British Museum, free

Wednesday 22 March, 2pm
How to Die Like a Victorian

Society of Genealogists,
£8.00/£6.40

Wednesday 22 March, 7.45pm
East Barnet – 100 Years of History

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Thursday 23 March, 6pm
The Rise and Fall of Sourdough: 6,000 Years of Bread

Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, free

Thursday 23 March, 1.15pm
Women's History: Insights from African Art

British Museum, free

Friday 24 March, 1.15pm
A Woman's Life in Ancient Etruria

British Museum, free

Friday 24 March, 6.30pm
Unresolved Histories: Whose American Dream?

British Museum, £5, booking required

Saturday 25 March, 1.15pm
Maya Queens and Other Mexican Women

British Museum, free

Saturday 25 March, 1.30pm
The American Dream: Pop to the Present

British Museum, free curator's introduction, booking required

Tuesday 28 March, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm
Behind-the-Scenes Tour: Stone, Wall Paintings And Mosaics Conservation

British Museum, free

Tuesday 28 March, 1.15pm
British Baroque

British Museum, free

Wednesday 29 March, 1.15pm
Baskets, Masks and Cloaks: Conserving Pacific Northwest Coast Objects

British Museum, free

Wednesday 29 March, 2pm
Tracing Ancestors Through Local History Records

Society of Genealogists,
£8.00/£6.40

Thursday 30 March, 1.15pm
Miracle of Traditional Japanese Woodblock Printmaking

British Museum, free

Thursday 30 March, 4pm
A Woman's War: WAACS, WRNS and Women's Work

Free webinar, National Archives

Thursday 30 March, 1.30pm
Understanding Roman Inscriptions

British Museum, free, booking required

Friday 31 March, 1.15pm
The Female Sphere in Korea

British Museum, free

Friday 31 March, 6.30pm
Glamorous Brides: East End Weddings Between the Wars

Museum of London, £15, booking required

Tuesday 4 April, 6pm
What Really Happened in Y2K?

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Friday 7 April, 1.15pm
Three Greek Pot Painters

British Museum, free

Saturday 8 April, 1.15pm
Rome: City and Empire

British Museum, free

Tuesday 11 April, 1.15pm
Silk Road Traders: Sasanians

British Museum, free

Wednesday 5 April, 6pm
My Years on the River

Docklands History Group, £2

Tuesday 11 April, 6.30pm
Liquid Assets: Interpreting the Prehistoric Finds from the London Thames

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society with the Prehistoric Society, £2

Tuesday 11 April, 7pm
Symposium

Several talks. Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, 106 The Cut, SE1

Tuesday, 11 April, 8pm
Where Moses Stood

Hendon & District Archaeological Society

Wednesday 12 April, 1.15pm
Flora and Fauna of Ancient Mexico

British Museum, free

Wednesday 12 April, 8pm
A Child's War: Growing Up in WW2

Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 13 April, 1.15pm
Myth of Osiris in Egypt

British Museum, free

Saturday 15 April, 1.15pm
Light, Lustre, Colour: European Enamels in the Waddesdon Bequest

British Museum, free

Tuesday 18 April, 1.15pm
Stories on Porcelain

British Museum, free

Wednesday 19 April, 1.15pm
Fifth-Century BC Athens in Five Objects

British Museum, free

Wednesday 19 April, 2pm
Getting the Most from SoG Data Online

Society of Genealogists, free, booking essential

Thursday 20 April 2017, 1.30pm
Sutton Hoo Under the Microscope

British Museum, free, booking required

Thursday 20 April, 2pm
Electronic Family History

Society of Genealogists,
£8.00/£6.40

Thursday 20 April, 7.30pm
Eleanor Palmer, 16th Century Benefactress

Camden History Society, £1

Thursday 20 April, 7.30pm
Bloody British History: East End

East London History Society

Friday 21 April, 1.15pm
Westminster Palace: the Heart of Power

British Museum, free

Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 April, 11am-5pm
Secrets of the Underground
 London Transport Museum's depot, £12/£10

Tuesday 25 April, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm

Behind-the-Scenes Tours: Scientific Research

British Museum, free

Tuesday 25 April, 1.15pm
Making Prints: a View from the 'Floating World'

British Museum, free

Tuesday 25 April, 6pm
King George VI
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 26 April, 2pm
Getting the Most from the Library Catalogue

Society of Genealogists, free, booking essential

Wednesday 26 April, 7.45pm
Hunting of Hepzibah: a Family History With a Twist
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Thursday 27 April, 1pm
The Gospel of Apartheid
 Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, free

Thursday 27 April, 1.15pm
Shared Designs: Early Currency Leagues in the Greek World
 British Museum, free

Thursday 27 April, 1.30pm
Curator's Introduction to The American Dream: Pop to the Present
 British Museum, free curator's introduction, booking required

What really happened in Y2K? Find out on Tuesday 4 April at a Gresham College event at the Museum of London

Friday 28 April, 1.15pm
Ancient Cultures of North America

British Museum, free

Friday 28 April, 6.30pm
New Discoveries at Must Farm: Bronze Age Britain's Pompeii

British Museum, £5, booking required

Saturday 29 April, 1.15pm
An Architectural Walk Around the British Museum
 British Museum, free

Saturday 29 April, 2pm
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Ancient Mesopotamia
 British Museum, £5, booking required

Wednesday 3 May, 6pm
Forgotten Parish of Denton
 Docklands History Group, £2

Thursday 4 May, 1pm
Singers in the Making of Europe
 St Sepulchre-Without-Newgate, Gresham College event, free

Monday 8 May, 5.30pm
Duplicates and Copies in Chinese Sculpture
 British Museum, free, booking required



Tuesday 9 May, 6.30pm
Roman London's First Voices: the Writing Tablets from the Bloomberg Excavations

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Tuesday 9 May, 8pm
The Cheapside Hoard
 Hendon & District Archaeological Society, £2

Wednesday 10 May, 8pm
Aeronautical Happenings in London's Lea Valley
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 11 May, 1.30pm
Leaving on a Jet Plane: Artistic Exchange Between Britain and America in the 1960s
 British Museum, free, booking required

Saturday 13 May, 6pm
Annual Conference: Thames River Crossings
 Docklands History Group, £2

Saturday 13-Sunday 14 May
National Mills Weekend
 Annual weekend for visiting windmills and watermills, many of which are not usually open to the public.
www.nationalmillsweekend.co.uk/

Tuesday 16 May, 6pm
Queen Elizabeth II
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday May 18, 7.30pm
The Leper Hospitals of Medieval London
 Camden History Society, £1

Tuesday 23 May, 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 3pm
Behind-the-Scenes Tours: Ceramics, Glass and Metals Conservation
 British Museum, free

Wednesday 24 May, 2pm
Film and Sound Archives for Family Historians
 Society of Genealogists, £8.00/£6.40

Wednesday 24 May, 7.45pm
Holidays by Rail
 Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Thursday 25 May, 7.30pm
The Life and Death of a Burial Ground
 Archaeological investigations near Liverpool Street Station. East London History Society

Tuesday 30 May, 6pm
From Mr Pickwick to Tiny Tim – Charles Dickens and Medicine
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 7 June, 6pm
Fifty Years of Conservation Areas
 Simon Thurley, Desmond Fitzpatrick and the IAHS's Lester Hillman. Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 7 June, 6pm
Oars Oars, Sculls Sculls – the Thames Waterman in the 18th Century
 Docklands History Group, £2

Friday 9 June, 7pm
Exploring the American Dream: Pop to the Present
 Deaf-led BSL tour, British Museum, free

Ongoing

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

Close to the Bone

Workshop guided by forensic experts on using bones to research people.
Museum of London, £28, various dates

Charterhouse Museum

The Charterhouse has opened to the public for the first time since its foundation in 1348. The museum, created with the Museum of London, traces 600 years of history.
www.thecharterhouse.org, free

Tours of Union Chapel

12.15pm, first Sunday of the month
A chance to appreciate the beauty, complex architecture and extent of Union Chapel's buildings, including areas rarely open to the public, a secret passage and a hidden garden. Group bookings available.
£5 donation, book in advance on 020 7359 4019

George Orwell's Islington

Various dates and times
George Orwell was at his most prolific during his time in Islington. While he was living at 27b Canonbury Square, *Animal Farm* was published and he worked on drafts of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, published essays and articles, and broadcast extensively. Contact Andrew Gardner on walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk or 020 7359 4019

Roman Fort Gate Tours

Tour the remains of the western gate of London's Roman military fort, under the streets next to the museum.
Museum of London, £5

Docks After Dark

Tour of most haunted parts of the Museum of London Docklands, £25, various dates.

Gilbert Galleries

V&A gallery with over 500 items, including a 17th century Peruvian gold cup from a shipwreck, a Tudor pomander worn to ward off disease and a life-size silver swan, as well as items that belonged to Charles I, Louis XV, Catherine the Great and Napoleon.
Free, V&A

Religion, Myth and Superstition

Tour of objects including prehistoric stones, the London Stone, a Buddha statue and plague remedies. Various dates.
Museum of London, £12

The Waddesdon Bequest

Gallery displaying nearly 300 medieval and Renaissance items, plus 19th century fakes, illustrating the late 19th century art market's development.
British Museum, free

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum Open Days

11am-5pm, second Sunday of the month, plus bank holidays
Markfield Park, N15, free, www.mbeam.org, 01707 873628

Billingsgate Roman House and Baths

Various dates and times
Talk plus tour of the remains of the Billingsgate Roman House and Baths, discovered in 1848 under Lower Thames Street.
Museum of London, £5

London Metropolitan Archives: regular events

Research advice sessions, interest groups and meeting LMA professionals, including:

- Family history starter: using LMA's digital resources
- Use LMA: getting started
- Behind the scenes tour*
- Document handling at the LMA
- Deciphering old handwriting
- LGBTQ history club, film club, book club, textiles in the archives, photography group
- A visit to conservation.

Various dates and times

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association: walks

Guided walks led by the mayor of Islington's guides.
www.ciga.org.uk

Marx Memorial Library Tours

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1pm
See a collection illustrating radical and working class history. See where Lenin worked in 1902-03, Spanish Civil War items, Soviet Union posters and artefacts from industrial disputes. The 15th century vaults can be visited.
£5/£3 concs, book on admin@mml.xyz or 020 7253 1485

Treasures of the British Library

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

Victoria and Albert Museum free tours

These include:

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

See: www.vam.ac.uk/whatson

British Museum: Around the World in 90 Minutes

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11.30am and 2pm
Tour including the Rosetta Stone, the Lewis chessmen, the Parthenon sculptures and other items.
£12, booking required

First Thursday in the month, 2pm
British Library Conservation Studio Tour
See techniques used in caring for collections.
British Library, £10/concs

Exhibitions

Until Sunday 26 March

Working the Walbrook

The Walbrook is one of London's lost rivers, running from Finsbury Circus to Cannon Street station. The waterlogged earth of the valley preserved an exceptional collection of rare metal artefacts that give a glimpse into the working lives of Roman Londoners.
Museum of London, free

Until Sunday 26 March

The Brothers Robinson

This brings together the work of Tom, Charles and William Heath Robinson, all acclaimed illustrators. While each followed his own direction, their work often had common themes, such as fantasyland, children and the "far away".
Heath Robinson Museum, £6/concs

Until Sunday 26 March

Ephemeral Architecture

Display of prints, drawings and models from V&A and RIBA collections exploring ephemeral architecture from triumphal arches to exhibition pavilions and shelters for today's refugees.
V&A, free

Until Monday 17 April

Fire! Fire!

Interactive exhibition, using sounds, smells and sights to tell personal stories of the Great Fire of London in 1666 and how people coped with the destruction and its aftermath. On display are items that survived the fire, including fabric and burnt bricks.
Museum of London, £12/£10 off peak/concs

Until Sunday 2 April

Lockwood Kipling: Arts and Crafts in the Punjab and London

Lockwood Kipling (1837 – 1911) was an artist, teacher, curator and influential figure

in the arts and crafts movement and a campaigner for the preservation of Indian crafts, who played a significant role in shaping the V&A's foundation collection. V&A Museum, free

Until Sunday 23 April

Game Plan: Board Games Rediscovered

Exhibition of board games from around the world, including Cluedo, Trivial Pursuit and chess, as well as 18th and 19th century items such as the Game of the Goose. V&A Museum of Childhood, free

Until Friday 28 April

Beatrix Potter's London

A display to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Beatrix Potter, who grew up in London, showing the city's role in her career. Highlights include a drawing of a rabbit, thought to be Peter who inspired the story character, and sketches made on museum visits. V&A Museum, free

Russian Revolution: Hope, Tragedy, Myths

This exhibition looks at the Russian Revolution 100 years on. It examines the central characters, notably Lenin and Trotsky, alongside the tales of ordinary people living in extraordinary times. On display are rarely seen items, from a first edition of the Communist Manifesto to anti-



Set of 17th century, Chinese porcelain vases from a National Trust house: see them at the V&A Museum until 30 April

Bolshevik propaganda, as well as Lenin's application for a British Library reader pass. British Library, £13.50/concs

Until Sunday 30 April

Garnitures: Vase Sets from National Trust Houses

This display explores the history of the garniture – a set of vases unified by their design. The popularity of the garniture in 17th century Europe influenced interior design, global trade and pottery manufacture. This display showcases rare examples from 13 National Trust houses. V&A Museum, free

Until Sunday 7 May

Defacing the Past: Damnation and Desecration in Imperial Rome

This display presents coins and other objects that were defaced, either to condemn the memory of deceased Roman emperors or to undermine the power of living

ones. The display features coins, inscriptions, sculptures and papyri that show images and symbols of power being subverted in antiquity. It includes examples from Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece. British Museum, free

Until Monday 8 May

Perspectives of Destruction: Images of London, 1940-44

Exploration of how artists and photographers responded to the bombing of London. Museum of London, free

Until Saturday 13 May

Madhouse, My House?

Until the 1980s, many people with learning disabilities were forced to live in hospitals for "idiots", "imbeciles" and the "feeble minded". This explores life in an asylum through the lives of Mabel Cooper from Islington and Harvey Waterman from Hackney, who were detained under the 1913 Mental Deficiency Act. Free, Hackney Museum

Until Sunday 21 May

Making Nature

More than 100 objects from literature, film, taxidermy and photography are brought together to examine what humans think, feel and value about other species. It looks at the origins of natural history, fashions in museum displays from Victorian cabinets to staged dioramas, zoos and

their architecture, animals on film and how animals have been altered by humans. Wellcome Collection, free

Until Sunday 4 June

The Royal African

In 1748, west African prince William Ansah Sessarakoo was sent to England for an education but was sold into slavery in Barbados. Freed by the Royal African Company, he was brought to London. The display examines the political background to his visit and the Royal African Company. Museum of London Docklands, free

Until Sunday 18 June

The American Dream: Pop to the Present

This exhibition traces 60 years of a superpower. Starting with pop art in the 1960s, this shows how American artists responding to changing times by creating prints, which brought their work to a much wider and more diverse audience. British Museum, £16.50

Until Sunday 25 June

Electricity: the Spark of Life

This exhibition shows how electricity has captivated inventors, scientists and artists for centuries, and brings together over 100 objects from ancient spark-inducing amber and early electrostatic generators to radiographs, photographs, paintings, models and films. Wellcome Collection, free

Until Sunday 3 September

Tunnel: the Archaeology of Crossrail

See the most complete range of archaeological objects unearthed by Crossrail, alongside engineering. Items cover 8,000 years of human history from prehistory through to the Romans and the Great Plague. Museum of London



Possibly the inspiration for Peter Rabbit: on display at Beatrix Potter's London at the V&A Museum until 28 April

Directory

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

To add or update information, email journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk

All Hallows by the Tower Crypt Museum

020 7481 2928, www.ahbtt.org.uk/visit/crypt/

Amateur Geological Society

25 Village Road, N3 1TL

Amwell Society

7 Lloyd Square, London WC1X 9BA, info@amwell.org.uk

Ancestor Search

Guidance on where to look. www.searchforancestors.com

Ancient Yew Group

www.ancient-yew.org/

Archives Hub

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

Arsenal FC Museum

020 7619 5000, www.arsenal.com

Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics

www.asprom.org

Bank of England Museum

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

Barnet Museum and Local History Society

www.barnetmuseum.co.uk

BBC archive

www.bbc.co.uk/archive

Benjamin Franklin House

020 7925 1405, info@BenjaminFranklinHouse.org

Bethlem Museum of the Mind

020 3228 4227, www.bethlemheritage.org.uk

Bexley Archaeological Group

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

Bishopsgate Institute Library and Archive

230 Bishopsgate, 020 7392 9270, www.bishopsgate.org.uk

Bomb Sight

London map of WW2 bombs, www.bombsight.org

British Airways Heritage

www.britishairways.com/travel/museum-collection/public/en_gb

British Heritage TV

www.405-line.tv/

British Library

96 Euston Rd, NW1, 0330 333 1144, customer-services@bl.uk

British Museum

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

British Postal Museum and Archive

Reopening 2017, 020 7239 2570, info@postalheritage.org.uk

British Vintage Wireless Society

secretary@www.bvws.org.uk

Brixton Windmill

020 7926 6056, www.brixtonwindmill.org

Bruce Castle Museum

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

Burgh House and Hampstead Museum

New End Sq, NW3, 020 7431 0144, www.burghhouse.org.uk

Camden History Society

020 7586 4436, www.camdenhistorysociety.org

Camden New Town History Group

www.camdennewtown.info

Camden Railway Heritage Trust

secretary@crht1837.org

Canonbury Society

www.canonburysociety.org.uk

Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers Heritage Group

www.hevac-heritage.org/

Charterhouse Museum

www.thecharterhouse.org, 203 818 8873

Cinema Museum

www.cinemamuseum.org.uk/

City of London Archaeological Society

email@colas.org.uk

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association

07971 296731, info@ciga.org.uk

Clockmakers' Museum

www.clockmakers.org/the-clockmakers-museum-library

Cross Bones Graveyard

www.crossbones.org.uk

Crossness Pumping Station

020 8311 3711, www.crossness.org.uk

Design Museum

<http://designmuseum.org>

Docklands History Group

info@docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

Dictionary of Victorian London/Cat's Meat Shop

Encyclopaedia and blog, www.victorianlondon.org

DoCoMoMo UK

Modern movement heritage. www.docomomo-uk.co.uk

East London History Society

42 Campbell Rd, E3 4DT, mail @eastlondonhistory.org.uk

Enfield Archaeological Society

www.enfarchsoc.org

England's Places

Historic England photographs. www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/archive/archive-collections/englands-places

Federation of Family History Societies

www.ffhs.org.uk/

Foundling Museum

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

Freud Museum

20 Maresfield Gdns, NW3, 020 7435 2002, www.freud.org.uk

Friends of Hackney Archives

020 8356 8925, archives@hackney.gov.uk

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

www.friern-barnethistory.org.uk, 020 8368 8314. Photo archive: www.friern-barnet.com

Friends of the New River Head

c/o Amwell Society

Friends of Friendless Churches

www.friendsoffriendlesschurches.org.uk

Geffrye Museum

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

Georgian Group

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

Grant Museum of Zoology

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

Gresham College

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

Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society (GLIAS)

36 Gallows Hill Lane, Abbots Langley, Herts, WD5 0DA, www.glias.org.uk

Guildhall Library

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

Hackney Museum

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

The Hackney Society

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

Heath Robinson Museum

020 8866 8420, welcome@heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Hendon and District Archaeology Society

020 8449 7076, hadas.org.uk

Heritage of London Trust

020 7730 9472, www.heritageoflondon.com

Historic Hospital Admission Records Project

www.hharp.org/

Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution Archives

archives@hlsi.net

Historical Association, Central London Branch

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

Historic Towns Forum

www.historictownsforum.org

History of Haringay

www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay



Mathematics: the Winton Gallery designed by Zaha Hadid Architects recently opened at the Science Museum. It explores how it has helped build the world over the past four centuries

Horniman Museum

020 8699 1872, www.horniman.ac.uk

Hornsey Historical Society

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

Hunterian Museum

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

IanVisits

Blog with history and other events. www.ianvisits.co.uk

International Council on Monuments and Sites

www.icomos-uk.org

Imperial War Museum

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

Islington and Camden Cemetery

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

Islingtonfacesblog.com

Living history interviews. <http://islingtonfacesblog.com>

Islington Local History Centre

Finsbury Library, 245 St John St, EC1V 4NB. Visit by appointment. To make an appointment or enquire about archives, email local.history@islington.gov.uk

islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 7988. www.islington.gov.uk/heritage

Islington Museum

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

Islington's Lost Cinemas

www.isingtonslostcinemas.com

Islington Society

3P Leroy, 436 Essex Rd, N1 3QP, info@islingtonociety.org.uk

Jewish Museum

www.jewishmuseum.org.uk

Joe Meek Society

www.joemeeksociety.org

Dr Johnson's House

17 Gough Square, EC4, www.drjohnsonshouse.org

Keats House

020 7332 3868, keatshouse@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Lewisham Local History Society

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

London Fire Brigade Museum

www.london-fire.gov.uk/london-fire-brigade-museum.asp

London Lives 1690-1800

www.londonlives.org

London Metropolitan Archives

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

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

020 7814 5734, www.lamas.org.uk

London Museums of Health and Medicine

www.medicalmuseums.org

London Museum of Water & Steam

020 8568 4757, www.waterandsteam.org.uk

London Socialist Historians

<http://londonsocialisthistorians.blogspot.com>

London Society

<http://londonociety.org.uk/>

London Topographical Society

www.londontopsoc.org

London Vintage Taxi Association

www.lvta.co.uk

London Transport Museum

020 7379 6344, www.ltmuseum.co.uk

London Underground Railway Society

enquiries@lurs.org.uk

London Westminster & Middlesex Family History Society

www.lwmfhs.org.uk

Markfield Beam Engine and Museum
Markfield Park, N15, 01707
873628, info@mbeam.org

Mausolea & Monuments Trust
www.mmtrust.org.uk

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

The Model Railway Club
4 Calshot St, N1 9DA
020 7837 2542, www.
themodelrailwayclub.org

Museum of Brands
111-117 Lancaster Road, W11
1QT, 020 7908 0880, info@
museumofbrands.com

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

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

Museum of London Archaeology
020 7410 2200, www.museum
oflondon archaeology.org.uk

Museum of London Docklands
020 7001 9844, www.museum
oflondon.org.uk/docklands

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

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

National Archives
020 8876 3444, www.
nationalarchives.gov.uk

National Churches Trust
www.nationalchurchestrust.
org

National Piers Society
www.piers.org.uk

Newcomen Society for the History of Engineering and Technology
020 7371 4445, office@
newcomen.com

Newington Green Action Group
020 7359 6027, www.
newingtongreen.org.uk

New River Action Group
020 8292 5987, mail@
newriver.org.uk

North London Railway Historical Society
020 7837 2542, www.nlrhs.
org.uk

Northview – 1930s estate
www.northview.org.uk

Ocean Liner Society
www.ocean-liner-society.com

Pauper Lives in Georgian London and Manchester
http://research.ncl.ac.uk/
pauperlives

Peckham Society
www.peckhamsociety.org.uk

Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology
www. ucl.ac.uk/museums/
petrie

Prehistoric Society
www.prehistoricsociety.org

Proceedings of the Old Bailey
www.oldbaileyonline.org

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society
www.rcts.org.uk

Rescue/British Archaeological Trust
www.rescue-archaeology.org.
uk

Ragged School Museum
020 8980 6405, www.ragged
schoolmuseum.org.uk

Royal Air Force Museum
020 8205 2266, www.
rafmuseum.org.uk/london

Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
66 Portland Place, W1B 1AD,
www.architecture.com

St Marylebone Society
www.stmarylebonesociety.org

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

Sign Design Society
www.signdesignsociety.co.uk

Sir John Soane's Museum
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields,
WC2A 3BP, www.soane.org

Smithfield Trust
70 Cowcross St, EC1,
020 7566 0041, info@
smithfieldtrust.org.uk

Society of Genealogists
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

Southwark and Lambeth Archaeology Society
79 Ashridge Cres, SE18 3EA

The Streatham Society
www.streathamsociety.org.uk

Stuart Low Trust
www.slt.org.uk

Royal Archaeological Institute
admin@royalarchinst.org

Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre
0345 337 3368, rcn.library@
rcn.org.uk

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

Theatres Trust
020 7836 8591, www.
theatretrust.org.uk

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

Tottenham Civic Society
www.tottenhamcivicsociety.
org.uk

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

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

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

Victoria & Albert Museum
Cromwell Rd, SW7, 020 7907
7073, www.vam.ac.uk

V&A Museum of Childhood
020 8983 5200, www.
museumofchildhood.org.uk

Victorian Society
020 8994 1019, www.
victoriansociety.org.uk

Wallpaper History Society
wallpaperhistorysociety.org.uk

Walthamstow Historical Society
www.walthamstow
historicalsociety.org.uk/

Wellcome Collection
www.wellcomecollection.org

John Wesley's House and Museum of Methodism
49 City Rd, EC1, www.wesleys
chapel.org.uk/museum.htm

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

Women's Library Collection
tinyurl.com/womens-library

Events

Wednesday 15 March, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

The Swedenborg Society

Richard Lines, author of *A History of the Swedenborg Society* and former Swedenborg Society trustee



Emanuel Swedenborg (1688–1772) was a philosopher, astronomer, mathematician, parliamentary figure and theologian. He was a scientist and inventor; among his designs was a flying machine.

He later became involved in spiritual matters and wrote 18 theological works, including a book on the afterlife, *Heaven and Hell*.

He knew London well and died

at Cold Bath Fields, Clerkenwell, in March 1772.

Established in 1810, the Swedenborg Society translates and publishes his works. Richard Lines was its secretary from 2002 to 2014 and a trustee for nearly 20 years.

There is a former Swedenborg church and complex of buildings where Parkhurst Road and Camden Road meet in Holloway, which contains this beautiful, ornate tiled staircase – the Islington Arts Factory is now based there.



Wednesday 19 April, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

The Stuart Low Trust, past and present

Virginia Low, founder, Stuart Low Trust

The Stuart Low Trust was established in memory of Stuart Low, a young Islington man with a diagnosis of schizophrenia who took his life after failing to find the support he needed to cope.

The charity aims to counter the downward spiral of mental ill health and social isolation by providing a welcoming support and community in a non-judgmental place. It runs a variety of activities, most of which are free or low cost and held in the evening or at weekends.

Virginia Low will speak on the trust's work and history; the perspectives of volunteers and participants will also be discussed.



Arsenal football club stadium tour and museum visit

Thursday 6 April, 2.45pm

Members of the Islington Archaeology & History Society are invited to a tour of the Emirates Stadium followed by a visit to the Arsenal Museum.

The tour takes place during the school holidays, and IAHS members can bring up to two guests aged 16 and under.

If you are interested, contact IAHS committee member Samir Singh at ssingh@arsenal.co.uk. Places are free but limited.

Wednesday 17 May, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

'The sky was lurid with flame': Germany's First World War bomber offensive against London

Ian Castle, author and First World War expert

Ian Castle lectures at the National Army Museum and has written three books on the air attacks on Britain in the First World War. He was an adviser on *Attack of the Zeppelins*, which was shown on Channel 4 and internationally. He worked on the BBC's *Zeppelin Terror* and appeared in an episode of *Defenders of the Sky* shown on History Channel.

● www.iancastlezeppelin.co.uk/

Annual general meeting

The annual general meeting of the Islington Archaeology & History Society will be held at on Wednesday 21 June at 6.30pm, Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, London N1 2UD

This will be followed by a talk on Five Hundred Years of Richard Cloudesley's Charity. The charity addresses poverty and ill health and supports Islington's Anglican churches.

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

The Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Back page picture

The Clerkenwell Free Library and Michael Cliffe House in 1967: read how even libraries were radical in Islington on page 16

