

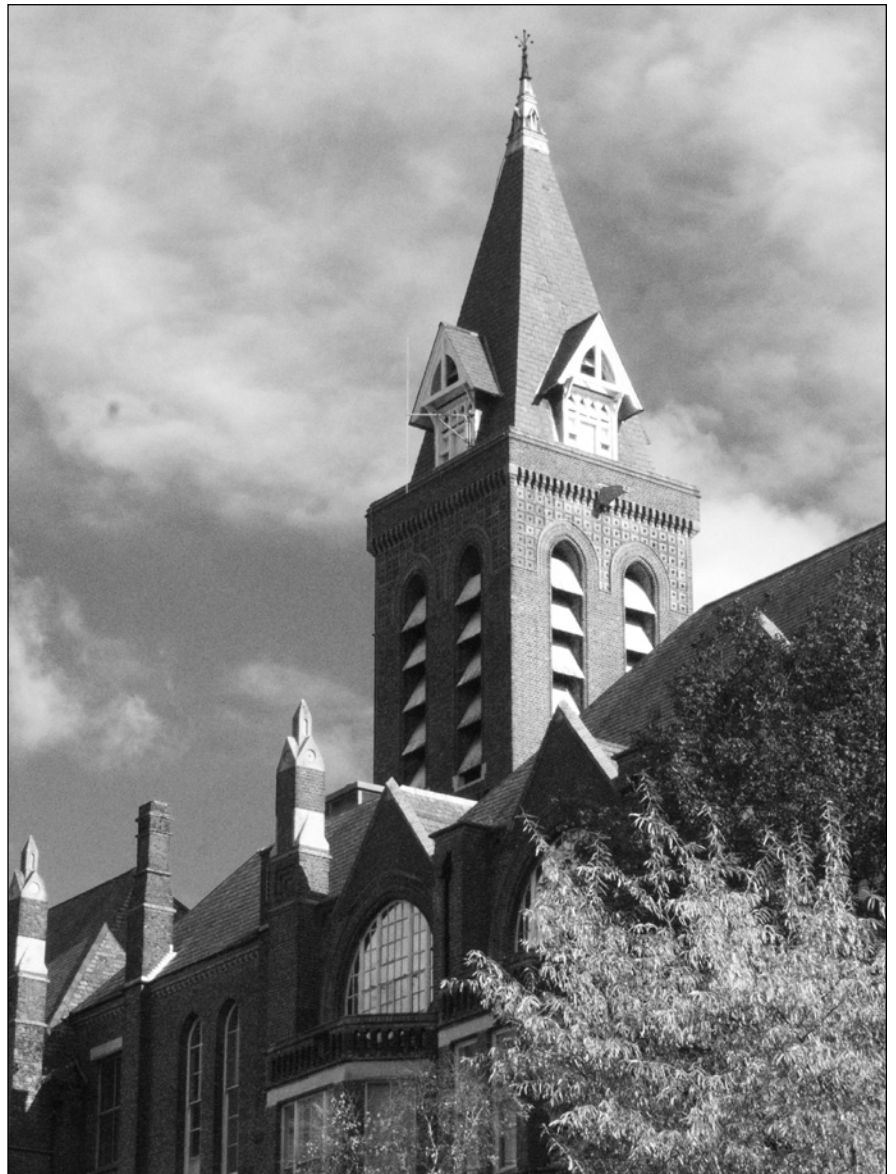
Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 7 No 4 Winter 2017-18
£5.25

Healthcare at the workhouse

The story of a complex
workhouse hospital building
on a difficult site, and how it
is now under threat



IAHS bid to list historic pub ● Old combines with new in the draft London Plan ● Power to the people as Islington supplies electricity again ● Planning proposals omit heritage ● The Fenian outrage ● More than selling fish – the story of a shop ● Britons called to arms at Spa Fields ● Mithras demystified ● 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



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Journal back issues and extra copies



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

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

Contribute to this journal: stories and pictures sought

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

A one-page article needs about 500 words, and the maximum 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 spring issue is 27 January.

Ever wondered...?

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

● See Letters, page 6

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

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

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Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 7 No 4 Winter 2017-18

Heritage should help not hinder housing

If developer Peabody Enterprises has its way, a 20-storey tower will rise on part of the former Holborn Union Infirmary in Archway, and an interesting piece of Victorian architecture will give way to new homes.

Peabody Enterprises, an arm of the social landlord of the same name, thinks it could provide 200 homes in existing buildings but another 100 with the demolition.

How are heritage buildings to be protected when there is such demand for new homes? While the Heritage Alliance has called on the government to look at using old buildings for social housing, converting them starts at a disadvantage as VAT is charged on this, while new build projects are zero-rated for this tax.

However, it is not a case of new versus old in the draft London Plan, which notes the capital's "unique character" is down to its "blend of old and new" buildings, and calls for "sensitive management of London's heritage assets". Let's hope the authorities' idea of what sensitive management looks like concurs with ours – and the government levels the VAT playing field to protect the what has been left to us.

Clocking back on ...

Union Chapel's fine clock has been restored to full working order, making it a public timepiece once again as well as a historic landmark. Congratulations to all those who made this possible.

... but not calling time

Society chair Andy Gardner has applied to have the Compton Arms registered as an asset of community value. It's not just the historic fabric that needs protection – sociable traditions should not be lost.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

IAHS journal indexed on EBSCO research database

This journal is about to become more widely available, including at every university in 50 countries. It to be listed by EBSCO, which provides databases of journals and articles to libraries of all kinds.

Help your growing history society

The society's profile has risen rapidly, with hundreds of people reading the journal and joining the Facebook page. So we'd love more people to get involved. There's a great variety of volunteer roles on offer.

To find out more, email the contacts or come and have a chat at our 13 December party at Union Chapel.

Events organiser

This would suit someone eager to use or develop organisational and administrative skills. The role involves working with guest speakers and making sure our public and committee meetings go smoothly.

● Contact Andy Gardner
andy@islingtonhistory.org.uk

Fairs and stalls assistants

The society promotes itself and sells books, maps, cards and journals at local festivals, history events and London Open House. We are looking for people who can assist in setting up/putting away and help out on our stall.

● Contact Catherine Brighty:
020 7833 1541, catherine.brighteyes@hotmail.co.uk

Journal contributors

We're looking for people to write articles, review films, exhibitions and publications, and help with proofreading.

● Contact Christy Lawrance
christy@islingtonhistory.org.uk

Council switches back to electricity generation



Power to the people: engine room at the electricity station in the 1900s

Islington Council has gone back to providing electricity – a feat it first achieved in 1896.

Its not-for-profit company Angelic Energy will offer low-cost gas and electricity.

Between 1896 and 1969, Islington ran an electricity station at 50 Eden Grove in Holloway. It was only the third station to supply power provided by a local authority.

The station was opened in March 1896 by the Vestry of St Mary Islington, a predecessor of the council.

According to the National Archives, the “electricity undertaking was authorised by an Electric Lighting Order of 1893 and commenced supply in 1896”.

The vestry appointed an electric lighting committee

and built the central electric lighting station at Eden Grove.

This generated electricity for lights in Islington's 120 miles of streets in place of gas lamps, as well as supplying it to homes in the borough.

The council intended to develop its service “by making uses of electricity familiar to all classes of community and providing a comprehensive

The Eden Grove building is locally listed: the brickwork spells out “The Vestry of St Mary Islington” and “Electric Lighting Station”



service of installation and maintenance which will place the many types of domestic electrical appliances within the reach of every ratepayer”.

To this end, in October 1936, the council opened a showroom and offices at 341-343 Holloway Road (now Sports Direct). After the war, it fitted new homes with electrical appliances and, by 1947, the electricity department had 70 staff.

In 1948, the supply of electricity was nationalised. Eventually, the station was seen as being uneconomical and was closed. It had been generating electricity to the national grid but only at peak demand times.

The building in Eden Grove is locally listed by the council

Signs of pre-nationalisation electricity generation survive in nearby manhole covers marked “Islington Borough Council Electricity Department” and “Vestry of Saint Mary Islington Electric Light”.

Housebuilding plans criticised for omitting heritage

Proposals to reform the planning system to increase the supply of new homes have come under fire for failing to take heritage into account.

The government intends to include its plans in a revised National Planning Policy Framework, due to be issued in spring 2018.

The Heritage Alliance said the Planning for the Right

Homes in the Right Places consultation paper omitted to mention heritage assets, although it took environmental matters into account. This presented a “danger” that councils might not consider heritage protection.

It also noted that the higher costs of works needed to make heritage assets viable should be recognised, especially as

VAT is chargeable on these works but not on new homes.

The alliance also feared that developers could argue it was not viable to retain historic buildings as they could make more from new build on the same site.

It also suggested that the government should look at how at-risk buildings could be adapted for social housing.

Archway square named for its Irish road builders

The new open space at Archway, which has replaced the gyratory system, has been named Navigator Square, in recognition of Archway's Irish community and the "navvies" who built its roads.

Regent's Wharf overhaul thrown out

Plans to redevelop the historic Regent's Wharf have been unanimously rejected by Islington councillors – although officers said consent should be given. Damage to heritage was one reason for rejection, along with loss of light, excessive massing and effects on local residents.

Traditional model shop to shut after over 60 years

308 Hobbies, which has been selling radio-controlled models from its Holloway Road shop since 1946, is to close. Owner Richard Harris, who took over the shop 17 years ago, is retiring. The shop will close in February.

City's oldest financial transaction found

The oldest financial document created in the City of London has been found on the site of the Roman Temple of Mithras. It is an IOU between two former slaves dated 8 January AD 57. The rebuilt temple is now open to the public.

● Mithras demystified, page 15

Union Chapel clock on time again

The Union Chapel's clock is telling the correct time again, after a major repair project – the mechanism (from 1952 when the clock was electrified) had stopped working. The clock was made by Thwaites & Reeds and installed in 1889.

Bid to secure Compton for the community



The Compton Arms: there has been a tavern on the site since the 16th century

The chair of the Islington Archaeology & History Society has put in a bid to help secure the Compton Arms for the community, just as the pub was put up for sale.

Andy Gardner has applied to Islington Council to have the Canonbury pub registered as

an asset of community value.

Registration would make it harder for developers to demolish the building or convert it into flats and easier for a community group to buy the pub.

There has been a tavern on the site since the 16th century.

The Compton Arms is one of the three Canonbury pubs that inspired George Orwell to describe his perfect pub, the Moon Under Water, for the Evening Standard in 1946. The other two are the Hen & Chickens and the Canonbury Tavern.

London Plan: 'managing' heritage and building homes

London's "unique character" is down to its "blend of old and new" buildings, according to the draft London Plan, issued recently by mayor Sadiq Khan.

"Ensuring the identification and sensitive management of London's heritage assets in tandem with the promotion of the highest standards of modern architecture" is essential to maintaining this character, the planning strategy for the capital states.

Addressing the capital's housing supply is the main focus of the plan, which increases the target for the number of new homes from 42,000 to 65,000 per year, half of them affordable. Limits on density will be removed.

Planning strategies should

show a "clear understanding of the heritage values of a site or area and its relationship with its surroundings" and authorities should work with heritage specialists and local people to ensure this.

The plan also states views of "strategically important landmarks" will be protected.

Another of its aims is that more than half of the capital will be green by 2050. Public areas should relate to the "local and historic context".

Preserving pubs

Councils are urged in the plan to recognise the heritage, economic and cultural value of pubs and protect them.

Since 2001, the number of pubs in London has fallen by

a quarter, from 4,835 to 3,615 in 2016. They are under threat from various angles, including redevelopment, rent and business rate rises and conflicts with residents.

The plan introduces the Agent of Change principle, so anyone building homes near pubs will have to take steps to prevent noise disturbance, instead of the pub footing the bill when complaints start.

The mayor's office noted pubs have given their names to tube stations and areas, such as Angel and Nag's Head.

● Comments on the draft London Plan need to be in by 5pm on Friday 2 March 2018. See www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning/london-plan/new-london-plan

Letters and your questions

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

Canonbury Tower Youth Club remembered

I was very interested to read the interview with Fred Pullen, describing his membership of the youth club at Canonbury Tower during the last war.

From late 1941-45, I lived with my grandparents at 5 Alwyne Villas, which was less than 100 yards from Canonbury Tower. I remember the club being there, although I was too young to join.

After the war, the club moved to a house on the north side of Alwyne Lane (Alwyne Lane ran from Alwyne Villas into Canonbury Road; half has now gone and the area is covered by Spriggs House, while the remainder is a cul de sac out of Alwyne Villas).

I joined the club aged about 15. It was then run by John Kirkwood, a former army officer. There were various activities, including table tennis, billiards and darts, and there was a room where one could play chess or other board games. Tea, soft drinks and cakes were provided.

I played for the club's football team and in the 1950-51 season we won the Northern Championship of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs. The club was affiliated to the National Association of Boys' Clubs and I attach a picture of the badge to which Mr Pullen referred. I also include a picture of the team (I am the grim-faced one on the far left of the front row).

In addition, two of my aunts lived at 13 Ripplevale Grove (called Hope Cottage) so were neighbours of Mr Pullen.
Michael Reading



Canonbury Tower Youth Club's football team – Michael Reading is on the far left of the front row; the club's badge

Homes in Balmoral Grove

I am trying to find out if there were residential buildings in Balmoral Grove, near the Caledonian Road, and also in Brewery Road in the early 1960s.

Alan Palmer
aw.palmer@btinternet.com

Brewery Road was an internal road within the Caledonian market, which ceased to be a market in early 1960s; the Market Estate was built on the western end of the market.

Zena Sullivan

The Ordnance Survey map for 1914 suggests that the buildings in Brewery Road were mainly industrial but there was a line of homes on the north side, which have now gone.

There was a fair amount of bomb damage in this area during the war and, apart from a small block of flats at the west end and the Robert Blair primary school on the south side, the street is completely industrial. I would

venture that the whole street had changed by the late 1970s.

Balmoral Grove (built 1870) which was almost completely residential, disappeared in 1979. It now contains a light industrial estate.
Michael Reading

The Fortune of War pub in Belle Isle

A London Metropolitan Archives archivist has sent me a drawing of York Way by Geoffrey Fletcher from his 1968 book Geoffrey Fletcher's London.

He referred to The Fortune of War, a pub that was so brilliantly described in James Greenwood's 1874 account of Belle Isle; the horse slaughterer next door to the pub appears to have provided much of its business.

The pub dates from an earlier era, having been painted by EH Dixon in a picture of Belle Isle looking west, which can be dated to about 1840.

The Fortune of War, at 184 York Way, was still there in 1975.

Somehow this hostelry, at the centre of such a notorious area since 1840 and perhaps earlier, should have more to tell us, and I would be grateful if anyone has more information.
Peter Darley
Darleyp@aol.com

I have checked the nearest dated street directory, which is for 1874. Belle Isle is the name of the terrace in which stood The Fortune of War. Belle Isle comprised Almina Road and Brandon Road, which runs into Blundell Street. Almina Road has gone, but Brandon Road still exists. This was all before York Road was numbered.

Belle Isle included:

- John Harrison & Co, horse slaughterers
 - Caleb James Hunt, tooth brush maker
 - The Fortune of War, Charles Ritson
 - John Church & Sons, Frankfort black manufacturers.
- Michael Reading*

Home for Friendless Young Women

My nan and her parents lived in Hackney and Holloway. Sadly, Nan was orphaned when she was 10 years old – her mother died while living in the notorious Campbell Road in 1890.

In the 1891 census, Nan is listed living at 459 and 461 Holloway Road, which according to the index on the Godfrey map of 1894 was a Home for Friendless Young Women.



The valuable and varied buildings of Holloway Road

I would be delighted to hear from any reader who can share any local history or insights into some buildings on Holloway Road.

I am an artist who draws architectural street elevations which I share online. Being a former conservation architect, I have a great love of old buildings, in particular ones that may fall below the radar but are no less valuable to the variety on our streets.

I have drawn several streets

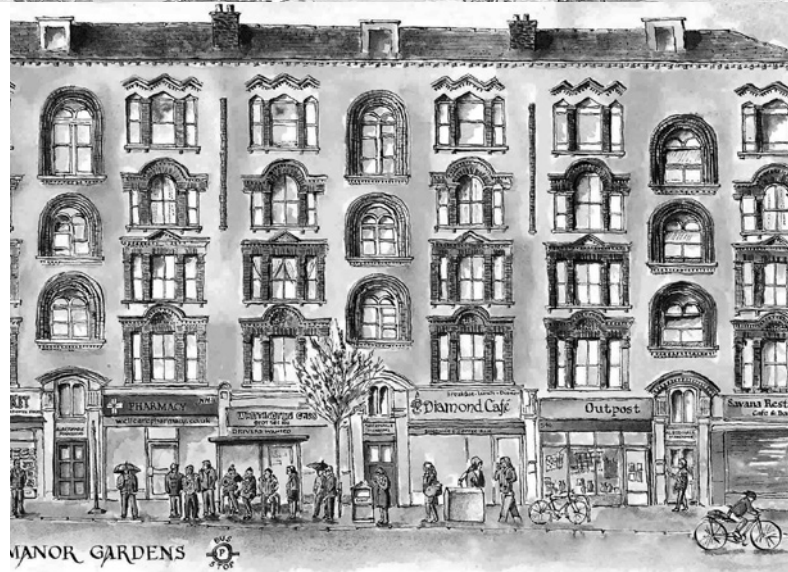
and buildings on Holloway Road which you can see at <http://drawingthestreet.co.uk/London-N7-Holloway-Road-Liverpool-Rd-to-Eden-Grove>

I am forming an archive of information about each building and adding insights from past and present residents, which are being recorded on my blog at <https://drawingthedetail.wordpress.com/2016/11/29/denmark-place-holloway-road>.

Ronnie Cruwys

[RonnieCruwys@](mailto:RonnieCruwys@drawingthestreet.co.uk)

drawingthestreet.co.uk



Does anyone know who ran this place or anything about it, please?

Sue Sandy

Via Facebook

This web page about the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institute in Holloway might lead to more: www.childrenshomes.org.uk/HollowayLFPRI.

Zena Sullivan

Nos 459 and 461 Holloway Road were occupied by the Home for Friendless Young Women, with Mrs Gunster as matron. No 463 was occupied by the Young Woman's Christian Cambridge Institute, Miss Clara Freeman, Secretary – a quite different establishment. I wonder if the ladies from both ever socialised?

The 1899 street directories shows nos 459 and 461 were occupied by the Young Woman's Christian Cambridge Institute and no 463 was occupied by a firm of printers. This may suggest that the Home for Friendless Young Women had closed,

probably through lack of funds. Life for "fallen women" was very hard in Victorian times.

The Local History Centre is the best place to start research. Michael Reading

An unusual death

My great grandfather lived in Witherington Road and sadly died rather young in the early 1920s. Family stories passed down suggest he fell down a lift shaft in London.

His death certificate says he was a club porter. I have discovered his grave but would love to know which club he worked at and probably died in. No doubt there would have been an inquest.

Could you offer any advice on how to find out the truth?

Gary Rook

grook58@gmail.com

Your grandfather's death would most certainly occasion an inquest. On the death certificate, column 1 should show the "date and place of death", while column 7 should give the "signature, description and residence of informant".

Assuming an inquest did take place, the name of the coroner, the area of his authority and the date of the inquest would appear in this column. With this information, you should be able to find in which archive the coroner's report was lodged.

I suggest you enter into Google the question: "Is a coroner's report a public document?" A selection of websites should come up, including that of the National Archives.

I note you live in Lincoln, so perhaps a visit to the county coroner's office may be worth trying to find out the procedure for obtaining a report.

Michael Reading

The real Tyndale of Islington

I'm trying to find some background on the potential connections between Islington and William Tyndale because of the name of the primary school as well as Tyndale Mansions, Tyndale Lane, Tyndale Terrace etc.

Roger Bloomer

By email

The name of William Tyndale in Islington is a complete misnomer. The "Tyndale" here refers to the terrace of 19 houses built in 1792 on land now occupied by the Islington town hall. It was named Tyndale Place, after the copyholder of the land, a west country gentleman, one Colonel Tyndale.

It consisted of large houses, set back from the road and screened from it by trees and a grass space. The long back gardens, extended to Tyndale Mews and beyond, were nursery gardens. When the east side of Upper Street was renumbered in 1876, and separate terrace names were abolished, Tyndale Place was excluded and retained its individuality.

Also in 1792, a livery stable and riding school were established where 1-32 Tyndale Mansions now stand. They were burnt down in 1796 but were rebuilt and used by the cavalry company of the Loyal Islington Volunteers.

The houses in Tyndale Place were all originally occupied as private residences

Education authorities were asked to review school names, particularly those using the name of a thoroughfare since this was thought to carry a “council school stigma”

but, after 1856, they began to be occupied by various trades and businesses. By 1915, only one was a residence and five were business premises, while all the others were empty. Tyndale Place was demolished in 1920.

In 1949, the Ministry of Education asked all London local education authorities to review the names of their schools, particularly those including the name of a thoroughfare since this was thought to carry a “council school stigma” – this definition was not enlarged upon!

Some schools in Islington were renamed while others just dropped thoroughfare names. Canonbury Road School became Canonbury School and Laycock Street School became Laycock School.

William Tyndale school was originally named Sebbon Street School; the Sebbon family were well known in 18th century Islington. The family were connected to the licensed trade, and Walter and James Sebbon were stewards at the parish church of St Mary.

There are no records showing who decided or where or when the decision was made to name the school William Tyndale and there is no reference in the school log book. It is probable that it was assumed the local Tyndale names referred to the translator of the Bible into English. However, the 16th century scholar had no connection with Islington whatsoever.

I attended Sebbon Street School from 1937-39 and 1941-45.

Michael Reading

Baring Street bootmaker

My mother-in-law was born and brought up at 21 Baring Street from 1924 until they were bombed out in 1942 during the Second World War.

The family name was Platt. My grandfather ran a shoemaker/bootmaker shop with the family living behind and above it.

The 1911 census shows the family there. Henry James and his wife had many children. All the women including my grandmother sewed; one aunt made costumes for artistes at the local music hall who would come to the house for fittings. I wondered whether this was the Britannia Music Hall. There was a pub opposite.

Any information would be greatly appreciated.

My mother-in-law had a neighbour and friend with the surname Torrence; the family may have moved to Tring.

Sharon Moxon
Via Facebook



“There was a pub opposite”: the Baring Arms on Baring Street

● Some historical pictures of Baring Street have been posted by Barry Page on our Facebook group. View them at www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

In 1905, 1910 and 1912, Henry Platt had a bootmaker business at 21 Baring Street. The directory for 1925 shows him listed as a bootmaker at no 23 and again in 1933 as boot and shoe repairer.

The directories for 1925 and 1933 show no 21 was occupied by a Mrs Gladys Roberts, a shopkeeper. The 1939 and 1940 directories show no 21 occupied by a Mrs White and no 23 occupied by Mr Frederick Hands; it was a laundry. As your family were living in Baring Street in the 1930-40s, these names may be familiar.

The seamstresses may have produced garments for artistes at Collins Music Hall or the Islington Empire (converted into a cinema in 1932). The Britannia Music Hall in Hoxton closed in 1900.

Baring Street was built in 1885. Elizabeth Harriet Sturt (who died in 1887) became Mrs Baring on marrying Thomas George Baring, 1st Earl of Northbrook, in 1848.

Baring Street was very badly damaged by bombing in the Second World War and very little of the original remains. There may be photographs in the London Metropolitan Archives.

Michael Reading

Did parts of the Red Baron's plane end up in Islington?

I am researching the shooting down of Manfred von Richthofen (the “Red Baron”) in 1918.

I am using a number of letters from old servicemen who were in touch with my father in the 1960s and 1970s, when he was researching this subject for a book. He was then working at the Imperial War Museum but sadly he never finished the work and has since passed on.

The soldiers were on active service and witnessed the specific combat and the crash.

One of the men refers to the remains of von Richthofen's plane being sent back to the UK to “Islington”. He was a member of a group responsible for recovering such items for inspection and research. I have been unable to trace any establishment in Islington that might have received the plane or had reason to.

I wonder if you knew of any such place and, if so, what part it played in the war effort.

Wendy Griffiths
wenderic@hotmail.co.uk

I can find no reference to the aircraft flown by Baron Manfred von Richthofen in Islington. I have checked the Air Accident Investigation Branch records for 1918 but nothing has been recorded.

Islington has always had some industry but of the light category. I do not think it was associated with the aircraft industry, other than perhaps making components, which would have been for the RAF.

You say that your late father

worked at the Imperial War Museum. I would have thought that they would have had some information on this.

The visual description of the event, while being of use and interest, is somewhat tenuous, so I have looked for an additional source.

I found a film on YouTube entitled *Rise of Flight: the Death of the Red Baron*, about von Richthofen's death. Made by the Historical Aviation Film Unit, the film shows a reconstruction of his last flight, which was part of an air display at Omaka Aerodrome in New Zealand.

Von Richthofen was a First World War German fighter ace with 80 kills who flew a Jasta 11 Fokker Dr 1 Tri Plane, painted red, hence his nickname.

He took off on the morning of 21 April 1918 with five other aircraft and flew over Allied lines near Cambrai. They were engaged by Sopwith Camel aircraft, flown by the Royal Air Force. A Captain Arthur Roy Brown engaged von Richthofen's aircraft, which seemed to have been hit and made a sudden, rather bad landing.

When the people on the ground reached the aircraft, they found the pilot dead. Before dying, he had turned off the switches to the fuel supply.

He was identified as von Richthofen and was given a military funeral with six RAF officers carrying his coffin and a guard of honour and firing party provided by the Australian army over whose area the action had taken place. Captain Brown was credited with this kill.

On examination of von Richthofen's body, it was discovered that he had been killed by a single bullet.

During the engagement in the air, Australian troops on the ground had joined in, using small arms rifle and light machine gun fire, which may have struck von Richthofen.



Were parts of Baron von Richthofen's plane taken to Islington? Manfred von Richthofen (in the cockpit) of his Rotes Flugzeug (Red Aircraft). His brother Lothar is seated. Photographed 23 April 1917

The film commentary said the plane was broken up by people present for souvenirs.

It might be worth contacting the Australian army records office, which should be able to identify the regiment and who was in this sector; the regiment's daily war diary would almost certainly have recorded this incident. An approach to the Australian High Commission in London should be able to help you.
Michael Reading

Tower blocks could obscure Hawksmoor church

The American Declaration of Independence is seen as a representation of American's glorious history. It was printed using the caslon font, created by William Caslon who is buried in the grounds of St Luke's Church on Old Street.

Designed by Hawksmoor with an obelisk spire, St Luke's as well as its gardens can be

seen from Old Street station, Whitecross Street and Central Street. Established views are under threat.

If Islington Council's project to redevelop the Finsbury Leisure Centre goes ahead, the view of the obelisk and the gardens' trees will be obscured from several streets.

A tower block over 27m high with 120+ homes is proposed. While there will be some social housing, many will go on the market at high prices.

When we see St Luke's Church and gardens, we see a representation of our own glorious history. So yes to building homes for local people and yes to preserving our history, but no to burying our past under the weight of tower blocks serving speculators.

For more information, go to Bit.Ly/CouncilRethink.

Ian Sykes

Marianna Johnson
iangsykes@gmail.com

Do you know remarkable women of Highgate?

In 1918, the Representation of the People Act gave women over 30 the vote, and in 1928 this was extended to all women over 21. In 2018, parliament will have a woman as Black Rod, the first in 650 years.

The volunteers team in the archives at the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, which is open to the public, think that 2018 is the perfect time to add to our knowledge and holdings about "Remarkable Women in Highgate".

This work will focus on the past 100 years or so until the present. An illustrated talk in June 2018 and a display are planned.

Although Highgate encompasses a very small area of Islington, we're making Archway the southern boundary of our research area.

I'm sure readers know women friends, family members and others living in Highgate now and in the past, who have made their mark in the area and further afield.

They could be political activists, independent working women, refugees, educationalists, women in modern media and arts and literature – the list is endless.

The archives team would love to hear from you with any memories, stories or photos so that the contribution of these women can be recognised and preserved.

Sue Cohen
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Write to us



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

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

The Fenian outrage



The first bombing in Britain by a politically motivated nationalist body took place 150 years ago in Clerkenwell. Mark Aston recounts the event

On 12 December 1867, political demonstrations were banned in London by prime minister Benjamin Disraeli. The intention was to halt weekly meetings and marches being held to support the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), also known as the Fenians – an Irish nationalist organisation intent on establishing an independent democratic republic in Ireland.

Disraeli had feared the ban might be challenged but an event the next day turned public opinion very much in his favour.

On the same day as Disraeli's directive, IRB members attempted to rescue a high-ranking colleague, Colonel Ricard O'Sullivan Burke, and a subordinate member, Joseph Casey, from the Middlesex House of Detention in Clerkenwell where they were awaiting trial.

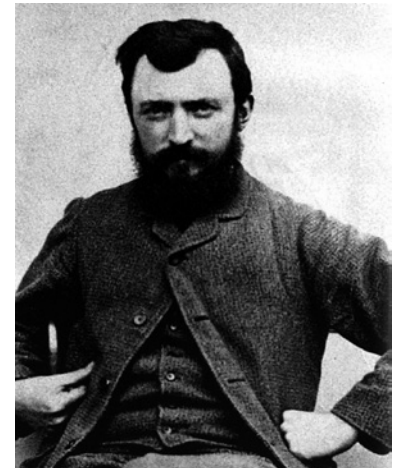
Burke, a 29-year-old engineer and former soldier, had an important role in the IRB and his freedom was integral to its success. He was wanted for his part in the rescue of colleagues in Manchester that year, when a police sergeant was shot dead. In November, he was arrested in Woburn Place in London and charged with treason.

On the first attempt, the plan was unsuccessful. The bomb, designed to blow a hole in the

prison wall in Corporation Lane (now Row) when the prisoners were exercising in an adjacent yard, failed to detonate. A second attempt was made the following day, 13 December, using a large barrel of gunpowder.

Meanwhile, the police and prison authorities had received intelligence that a breakout was imminent and confined the prisoners to their cells. At around 3.45pm, and unaware that Burke

Rare photograph showing damaged houses in Corporation Lane (now Row), December 1867; Ricard O'Sullivan Burke; pictorial report from the Illustrated Police News



would not be at the rescue point, the IRB team placed the barrel of gunpowder against the prison wall and lit the fuse – it was reported that a patrolling policeman gave them a light to ignite it.

The explosion's execution was seriously misjudged – too much powder was used. It demolished a 60ft (18m) section of wall and, worse, severely damaged a number of tenement houses in Corporation Row. Buildings in nearby Rosoman Street and Woodbridge Street were also affected.

Six people were killed and six later deaths were attributed to the blast. In addition, a number of people were seriously injured, with estimates ranging from around 30 to more than 120.

The event became known in the media as the "Fenian outrage", the "Clerkenwell atrocity" and the "Clerkenwell explosion". It became a major political story, and had a dramatic effect on British working-class opinion.

Karl Marx, then living in London, observed: "The London masses, who have shown great sympathy towards Ireland, will be made wild and driven into the arms of a reactionary government. One cannot expect the London proletarians to allow themselves to be blown up in honour of Fenian emissaries."

Charles Bradlaugh, a radical, condemned the incident in his newspaper *The National Reformer* as an act "calculated to destroy all sympathy, and to evoke the opposition of all classes". The *Times* of 14 December was forthright: "A crime of unexampled

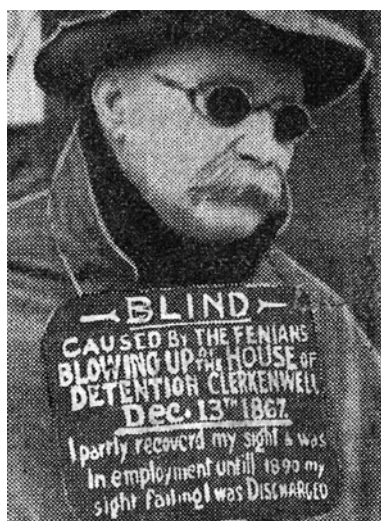


atrocities Till yesterday we could not have believed that there lived amongst us men capable of planning such a deed."

The explosion further soured British and Irish relations and led to more oppressive government decrees, including the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Britain, as was already the case in Ireland. Security was quickly introduced; thousands of special constables were recruited and a secret service established to tackle the Fenian threat.

Three days after the event, the Clerkenwell Explosion Relief Fund was set up to support victims and those distressed and displaced; it is believed to be the first financial appeal of its kind in the country.

Among those killed were husband and wife Humphrey (67) and Martha Evans (65), and seven-year-old Minnie Abbott of 5 Corporation Row, whose house stood opposite where the explosion took place. Several of her family members were seriously injured and they and other



residents and workers received compensation for injury and loss.

The relief committee chair was Rev Robert Maguire, vicar of St James' parish church; its secretary was Robert Paget, clerk to Clerkenwell Vestry. The first person to donate money was the marquis of Northampton who contributed £100; the prince of Wales gave £50. Within two weeks, nearly £3,000 had been collected; over £9,000 had been given out by the time the fund closed in 1888.



Appeal documents include information on donors, claims and claimants' lives as well as the minutes of meetings held to organise relief. These are held at Islington's Local History Centre.

The task of hunting down and arresting the suspects soon yielded results and six IRB members and supporters were tried at the Old Bailey in April 1868: Nicholas English; William and Timothy Desmond; John O'Keefe; Anne Justice; and Michael Barrett – the last accused of detonating the explosive. The prosecution's main witness was Patrick Mullaney, an IRB member turned informer – it was he who alleged that Barrett had caused the blast. Mullaney was rewarded with safe passage to Australia and a new identity.

Barrett, aged 27, protested his innocence, with some witnesses testifying that he was in Glasgow on 13 December. However, he was found guilty of murder on 27 April.

Upon being asked if he had anything to say before sentencing, he gave an emotional speech, concluding: "I love my country and if it is murderous to love Ireland dearer than I love my life, then it is true, I am a murderer. If my life were 10 times dearer than it is and if I could by any means redress the wrongs of that persecuted land by the sacrifice of my life, I would willingly and gladly do so."

The Daily Telegraph reported that Barrett had "delivered a most remarkable speech, criticising with great acuteness the evidence", saying he had been condemned on insufficient grounds and eloquently asserting his innocence.

Barrett was sentenced to death by hanging, while the other five

Suspects being examined at Bow Street Police Court (Illustrated London News, 4 January 1868)

Arthur Abbot was blinded in the blast aged five years. Fifty years on, he relied on public charity for an income (Evening News, 14 December 1937); execution of Michael Barrett (Illustrated Police News, 30 May 1868)



defendants were acquitted due to lack of evidence. Enquiries into his claim to have been in Scotland at the time were insufficient to open a case for appeal, and Barrett was hanged by executioner William Calcraft on the morning of Tuesday 26 May 1868 outside Newgate Prison.

Barrett's hanging was the last public execution in Britain; the practice was ended three days later by the Capital Punishment Amendment Act 1868.

The day after Barrett's sentencing, Burke's trial for treason began at the Old Bailey. He was found guilty and sentenced to 15 years' in prison. While in jail, he became ill; he was paroled in 1871 and returned to Ireland. Two years later, he moved to the US where he became the superintendent of sewers in Chicago; he died there in 1922. Burke visited Ireland for the funeral of Fenian O'Donovan Rossa in 1915, where he met Padraic Pearse who became a major figure in the Dublin Uprising the following year.

In April 1868, the IRB's supreme council condemned the bombing as "dreadful and deplorable". Despite this, the IRB returned to bombing attacks in Britain in 1881.

The Clerkenwell explosion was Britain's first explosion caused by a nationalist organisation, resulted in the last public execution in the country and also detonated a devastating method of making political statements. ■

● Fenian Outrage: the Clerkenwell Explosion of 1867 is on at Finsbury Library until 27 January. Free

Mark Aston is local history manager at Islington Local History Centre and Museum

Keeping shop

The story of a fishmonger's shop covers postwar entrepreneurship, the Thornhill estate and state protection for fish and chips, says Janet Marsh



Fishy business: the painting of the shop on display in the Albion pub was not accurate and had a high price of £10 – but the Pullens still bought it

In 1945, master fishmonger Harold “Tiny” Pullen was keen to set up his own business. He had been working for his half-brother Charlie Orton at Bowyers of 50 Caledonian Road.

Tiny was aware that a former fish and chip shop at 24 Thornhill Road had been lying empty since the outbreak of the war and thought this would be ideal. After he established the existing tenant was keen to relinquish the premises, it was arranged with the Thornhill Estate for the tenancy to be transferred.

At the same time, Tiny took on the tenancy of 22 Thornhill Road, which had been a grocer's shop, thinking he could reopen it as a grocery; however, it had sitting tenants who could not be evicted.

Tiny received the rental income and later used part of this premises

to store fish boxes and potatoes.

When the war ended, Tiny Pullen applied to a Mr Bennett at Billingsgate for a licence to trade. This achieved, Tiny wasted no time in getting the business going.

As the shop had previously sold fish and chips, his licence was for the sale of wet and dry fish ie – fresh and fried. Tiny had not intended to sell fish and chips but, as the licence included an allowance for cooking fat (beef dripping), he decided to keep the option and fried fish and chips on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The fish frying range, with its art deco vitrolite back plate, was coal fired but Tiny often used old crates as fuel as this was cheaper.

A new shopfront was put in by carpenter/shopfitter Ted White, which included a “half and half” window – the glass could be raised or removed to display the fish slab openly to passers-by. The white tiles on the slab were replaced with new terracotta ones.

Creating a tempting fishmonger's display was an art at which Tiny was an expert. The slab would be

In the 1970s: nos 24 and 22 are next to Thornhill Productions at no 20 – the original brick facade of no 24 can be seen

spread with ice, and fish, prawns, shellfish and dressed crabs arranged upon this, decorated with sprigs of parsley and whole and cut lemons. A bunch of parsley was included with any customer's parcel of fish for free and could be used for making parsley sauce.

Smoked haddock and bloaters (smoked herring) were Tiny's specialities but, at first, he had no smokehouse. Curing was done by filleting the fish, soaking it in oak barrels filled with salt water then hanging it up to dry in smoke above smouldering wood chips or sawdust. Cured fish was hung on a washing line in the back yard covered with a clean cloth to dry naturally. He was unhappy about this compromise. His former landlord, Bill Sears, swiftly came to the rescue and built Tiny a proper smokehouse in the back yard using the supports of an old chimney.

Kippers were bought in by the box from Billingsgate.

Every inch of this relatively compact shop was fully used.

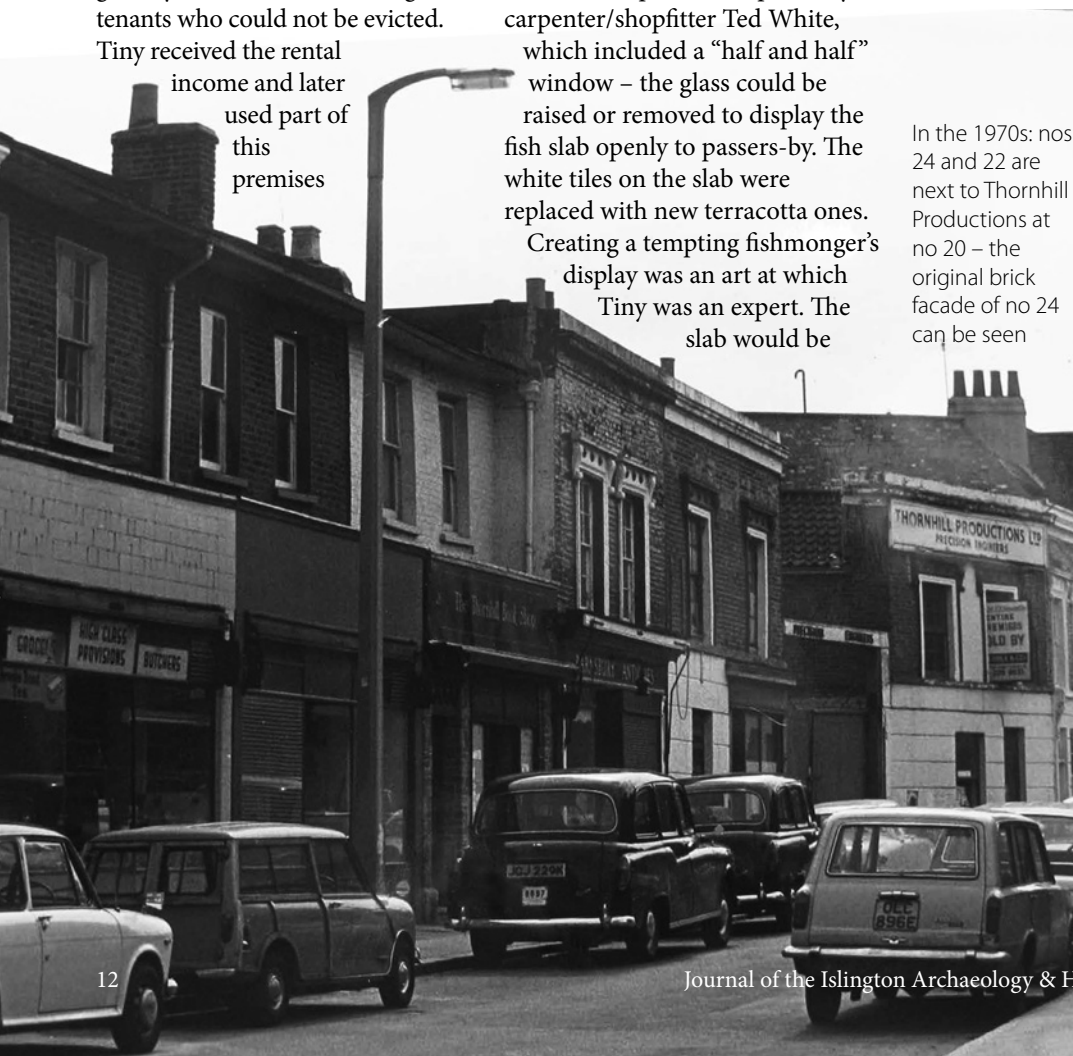
On the wall by the slab were the weighing scales and till and under the counter were sheets of paper for wrapping fish. There were also pint measures for shellfish.

The fridge against the opposite wall stored fresh fish; fish was also kept overnight in ice boxes under the stairwell.

The right hand counter was for serving wet fish. Customers wanting fish and chips queued up at the counter opposite the door.

Fish was prepared for the smokehouse in the open back yard. Wet fish were filleted and crabs dressed on the bench by the door to the staircase.

The supply of fish was good while meat remained on the ration



until 1954. Fish and chips had been a government-protected “institution” during the war.

Tiny would select fish to buy each day. A typical use of his five-box licence allocation would have been whiting, herring, cod, haddock and skate. Whiting and cod flaps were sold mainly to feed cats.

He also stocked frying oils, vinegars, breadcrumbs and stuffing mix. When tinned pet food became available, Tiny sold that.

Pullen’s was open from 8am until 6pm six days a week, staying open until at least 9pm on frying days.

In the first year, business was brisk and, with so much footfall, the floor started to move in an alarming manner. Tiny feared the floor might give way into the empty cellar, so decided to fill this in.

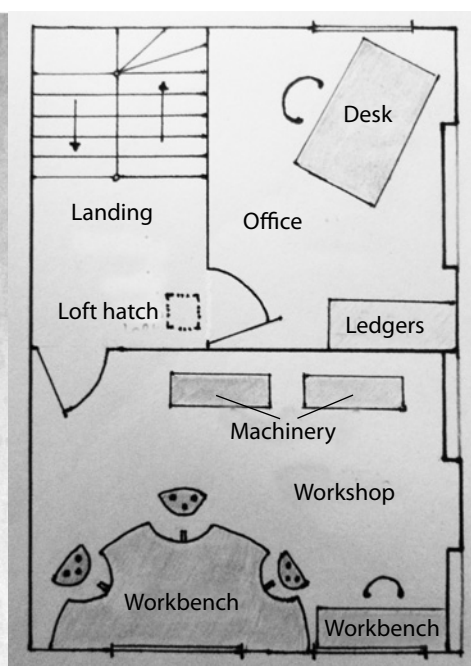
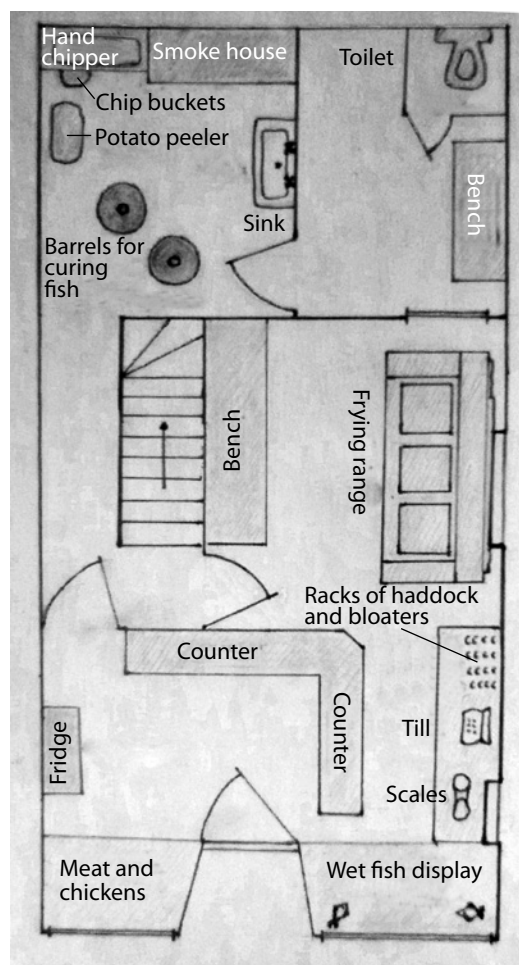
The cellar floor included a hatch to the sewer, and access to this had to be retained. Brick walls were built around the sewer cover so it could be reached via the hatch in the shop floor. The rest of the cellar was backfilled with rubble and covered in concrete, and new flooring was laid.

Just along the road was the Albion pub, where a local artist displayed his paintings for sale. One day, a customer told Tiny that there was an oil painting of his fish shop in the pub, so Tiny and his wife Lillie went to look at it. It was not accurate and they were shocked to see “they wanted 10 pounds for it!” Nevertheless, they bought it.

In 1947, Tiny’s son Fred used the first floor parlour above the shop to establish himself in the jewellery trade as a gem setter. The workshop needed power so Fred cut a hatch in the ceiling above the first floor landing so cables for lighting and power could be run there. When he entered the loft space, he was intrigued to see that the first floor ceiling joists and the apex roof timbers were constructed with quarter segments of tree trunks with bark still attached.

Fred set up his workbench next to the windows, the lower parts of which were painted over. The small square room at the rear, overlooking the yard, became his office.

Then, in 1955, Captain Noel



Sales and scales: the ground and first floors layouts in 1946

Thornhill died. The Labour government had introduced high death duties so the Thornhill Estate needed to raise funds to pay them. The executors offered every tenant on the estate a 40-year lease for £700, regardless of property size. When this still failed to raise enough, all tenants were offered the freehold for a further £300.

At this point, Tiny was a tenant of three properties: his home at 15 Ripplevale Grove as well as 22 and 24 Thornhill Road. The chance to acquire the freeholds was a once in a lifetime opportunity but where to find £3,000 to buy all three? How he managed it we do not know but somehow he did.

When meat came off the ration, demand for fish declined, so Tiny started to sell eggs, pork, sausages and poultry from his farm supplier in Essex. Tiny’s knife skills, honed over so many years as a fishmonger, were easily adaptable to butchery.

By 1962, Tiny was 65 years old and very sick so he decided to sell up. First, he sold his home and moved to Arnos Grove from where

he continued to commute to the shop for a while. He then sold 22 Thornhill Road, still with sitting tenants, to a transport contractor who had premises and a yard along the road. The last premises to be sold was the fish shop. A property developer, who must have heard that Tiny was in bad health, made him an offer. This was agreed and the new owner kindly allowed Tiny to stay on rent free until the business had been wound down.

Tiny Pullen later underwent major surgery. He eventually made a good recovery and continued working as a fishmonger part time for various shops in Southgate, Whetstone and Cockfosters until his death in 1981 aged 78 years. ■

Thornhill Road, no 24 is around the corner, beyond the Albion pub

Janet Marsh is Tiny Pullen’s grand daughter



Photographs: Islington Local History Centre; other images: Janet Marsh

Britons to arms!

Lester Hillman looks at the Spa Fields Riots, the social and economic conditions that gave rise to them and their aftermath

The bicentenary of the Spa Fields Riots, which took place on 2 December 1816, was marked by several events and an exhibition at Islington Museum.

There was much instability leading up to the riots. Prime minister Spencer Perceval was assassinated in 1812. The Battle of Waterloo in 1815 and the end of the Napoleonic wars saw widespread unemployment and public unrest. Harvests failed, and 1816 became known as the “year without a summer” after a volcanic eruption in April in the East Indies affected the climate, pushing down average global temperatures and caused major food shortages across the northern hemisphere.

Amid these upheavals were social movements for greater equality. The Spenceans – followers of Thomas Spence (1750-1814), a radical and advocate of the common ownership of land – sought major reforms in land ownership and the ending of class distinction.

On Monday 2 December 1816, some 20,000 people were said to have gathered at Spa Fields.

Among them were navvies working on the Regent’s Canal who were camping out at Paddington – funding difficulties had halted works including those at the Islington Tunnel.

At the later trial of a riot leader, John Watson, Barbara Smeed, landlady of the Brazen Head Public House in Upper Lisson Street, Paddington, gave evidence of meetings with navvies, of “treating with beer” and “putting up of bills”.

Trial reports record that on 9 November 1816, up to 500 pike heads had been ordered from 26 Hart Street in Covent Garden. Affixed to staves, they would make

for a ready arsenal. However, some degree of infiltration and false testimony cannot be ruled out.

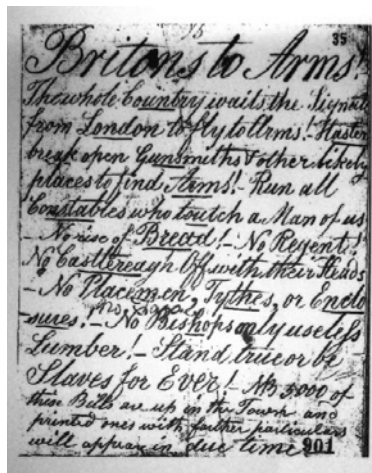
The build-up to the riot certainly included a previous gathering at Spa Fields. On Friday 15 November, some 10,000 people gathered to hear Henry “Orator” Hunt, a pioneer of working-class radicalism. There was news of meeting with Lord Sidmouth (the former prime minister Henry Addington) and of petitioning the prince regent.

A cartoon of Hunt, addressing the crowd from Merlin’s Cave public house next to Spa Fields, was published on 1 March 1817. It was the work of George Cruikshank, who later lived in nearby Amwell Street.

The shop of gunsmith WA Beckwith at 58 Skinner Street was ransacked in the December riot. Mr Platt, a customer in the shop, was injured, shot in near farcical circumstances.

The jury in the June 1817 trial of John Watson senior returned a “not guilty” verdict. The cases against other riot defendants were dropped and they were discharged.

This bill states:
“Britons to Arms!
The whole Country
awaits the Signal
from London to fly
to Arms! Hasten
break open Gunsmiths & other likely
places to find Arms! Run all
Constables who touch a Man of us
No rise of Bread! No Regent!
No Castlereagh. Off with their Heads
No Placemen, Tythes, or Enclo-
sures! No Bishops only useless
Lumber! Stand true or be
Slaves for Ever! 5000 of
these Bills are up in the Town and
printed ones with further particulars
will appear in due time”



John Cashman, also caught up in the December riot, was not so fortunate. He was executed outside the gun shop on 12 March 1817. The scene was observed and noted by a neighbour from 41 Skinner Street, William Godwin, a prolific diarist and the father of Mary Shelley. The following year, Shelley published her book *Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus* anonymously, with a dedication to Godwin.

Some 20,000 people were said to have gathered at Spa Fields

Cashman’s may have been the last public execution to take place at the scene of the crime. Public executions continued but took place outside the Old Bailey at the end of Skinner Street.

The last of these occurred just over 50 years later on 26 May 1868, as the area was being transformed with the works for the Holborn Viaduct and a new Smithfield market. A crowd of 2,000 saw Michael Barrett hanged in connection with the Fenian bomb at Clerkenwell House of Detention 13 December 1867 (see page 10).

Creating work

The Regency grievances were not ignored. As a means of relieving unemployment, major infrastructure works were started, including the Regent’s Canal eastwards from Camden Town. An exchequer loan was secured (and eventually repaid) and further share capital raised. On the birthday of the prince regent on 12 August 1817, works started again at the Islington Tunnel.

Completed three years later, the waterway included a basin at City Road, offering nothing less than an inland port for the City of London. On 1 August 1820, Islington was at the centre of the canal’s inauguration, with a grand flotilla set off from today’s York Way via City Road Basin to the Thames. ■

Lester Hillman is academic adviser to the IAHS

Mithras demystified

With the opening of the Roman Temple of Mithras, the Museum of London Archaeology has produced 10 essential facts on Mithras and Mithraism

The Roman Temple of Mithras has been reconstructed and restored to its original level, seven metres below current ground level.

The London Mithraeum Bloomberg SPACE has opened at Bloomberg's new European headquarters. The immersive reconstruction uses lights, haze and sound to bring the temple's remains to life, and to evoke the rituals and activities that took place within its cave-like walls.

So, who is Mithras? And what is Mithraism? Staff at the Museum of London Archaeology have produced a list of 10 facts.

1. Mithras was a Roman deity

He first appears in Rome in the first century AD, represented as a young man, wearing a soft cap that is sometimes called a Phrygian cap (Phrygia is an area now associated with eastern Turkey and Persia).

Roman Mithraism borrows imagery associated with an earlier Persian god Mitra, but they are not the same. However, Mithras is sometimes equated with sun god Sol.

2. He is typically depicted slaying a bull in a cave

Mithras is often shown killing a bull within a cave surrounded by other figures and animals; this scene is known as a tauroctony and is often interpreted as representing an act of creation and fertility.

It is thought that mithraic temples were intended to evoke a cave and were often built partly sunken into the ground and without windows.

3. Mithraism is thought to help explain aspects of the cosmos

Imagery associated with the



Scene of Mithras slaying a bull

temples suggest that the cult may have provided initiates with some special knowledge of their place in the universe. It certainly gave members a network and strong bond with other members of the cult.

4. Mithraism was an all-male cult

Mithraism was often associated with the military and was popular with merchants and civil servants who travelled across the empire.

5. Including this one, only four temples to Mithras have been discovered in Britain

This is the only one to have been discovered in London to date but there are three other known temples to Mithras in Britain. Two of them are on Hadrian's Wall and one is in Wales.

6. There were mithraea across the Roman Empire

Several hundred mithraea have been discovered so far in Europe, the Middle East and North Africa and it is almost certain that more will be found.

7. There is no written record of what a Mithraism ritual involved

However, we can piece together fragmentary evidence to give us a good idea.

Scraps of graffiti, wall paintings, images found on pottery and inscriptions have all helped paint a picture of this mysterious cult. Archaeological excavation goes deeper and suggests initiation ceremonies and ritual feasts took place. Excavation has also alluded to the use of dramatic lighting, incense and (small) animal sacrifice.

8. We know there were different grades within the cult of Mithras

The sounds in London Mithraeum include a series of chants or "hails" to the different grades within the cult. These Latin words are taken from graffiti scratched into the wall of a mithraeum beneath the church of Santa Prisca in Rome.

We can tell more about this hierarchy from a mithraeum excavated in Italy where a mosaic pavement in the central nave was divided into seven grades, each with its own symbols and associated planets and gods.

9. This temple was built almost 200 years after London was founded

The temple was situated in the grounds of a large house quite near the centre of London, and on the eastern banks of the Walbrook river. We know that it was built in AD 240 to 250 based on coin dates. This is quite late in Roman London's history, nearly 200 years after Londinium was founded. It was in use as a mithraeum for 80 years before being repurposed.

10. The builder of this temple remains a mystery

We don't know for sure who built it, but an inscription on one of the key sculptures from the temple, the tauroctony or bull slaying scene, says that an army veteran called Ulpius Silvanus "fulfilled his vow", perhaps by building the London temple. ■

To find out more and book your viewing, head to www.londonmithraeum.com. Advance booking required.

Healthy history

Kate Calvert tells the story of a complex workhouse hospital building, and explains how it is now under threat



Differences of opinion over health provision are nothing new. Neither are blazing rows about architectural design. The Holborn Union Infirmary, at the bottom of Archway Road and Highgate Hill, is evidence of both.

Upper Holloway was the site of a number of institutional buildings, chosen for ease of access and the cleaner air on the slopes above London. Examples included the Alexandra Orphanage and the Islington Workhouse, both demolished in the mid 20th century. The Holborn Union Infirmary, however, survived.

The building was one of the first workhouse hospitals, paid for out of public funds after the Metropolitan Poor Law Act of 1867 allowed them to be erected in London. Built in 1879 for the Holborn and Finsbury Union, it was designed by specialist hospital architect Henry Saxon Snell (1830-1904), who was also responsible for the grade II listed St Charles' Hospital, built as the St Marylebone Infirmary, and the rather splendid Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal.

Snell, elected a fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1871 and a member of the Architectural Association in 1850, was a specialist in Poor Law buildings and a pioneer member of the Sanitary Institute, now the Royal Society of Health.

He also wrote extensively on hospital design, including *Charitable and Parochial Establishments* (1881) and was co-author with a doctor on *Hospital Construction and Management* (1883).

Under Snell's guidance, the guardians of the Holborn Union would have expected the hospital to feature the then relatively new "Nightingale" style wards – long rooms designed to improve sanitary conditions and reduce the spread of disease. These had long rows of beds on either side, pairs of opposing windows to allow a through draught, and bathrooms at the end of each ward on the other side of cross-ventilated lobbies.

But another authority was involved – the Local Government Board. This was responsible for local environmental services and the functions of the Poor Law

Holborn Union Infirmary from Archway Road: a landmark in a "muddled junction"

Board from 1871. It seems they weren't having any of these new-fangled designs and demanded instead the double-width pavilion wards usually provided for older or healthy workhouse inmates. There appears to have been an almighty row as neither side won; the result was a hospital with half the wards in one style and half in the other.

But Snell it seems was still determined to do his best for patients. Among other ingenious features, such as a mini ground floor tramway to serve the lifts, he ensured that even those in the pavilion wards would benefit from the sought-after ventilation with a system installed by Messrs Potter & Sons of 298 Oxford Street.

Snell's design featured water heated in pipes that ran around central fireplaces and through skirting behind all the beds. Cut into the skirting were ventilation panels so the hot air around the pipes would rise around each patient's head and waft away "emanations" believed to be problematic.

This feature was singled out by Pevsner (Cherry and Pevsner, 1998), which said the pavilion wards "have an unusual lay-out with beds along hollow, ventilated partitions at r angles to the windows".

Snell was more than a technician – he did a good design job on a complicated, sloping, triangular site.

As Pevsner noted: "One of the most striking workhouse infirmaries and a landmark of this muddled junction. It is a large hospital on a narrow site, hence the towering brick wings made bolder by tall water towers and windows



As it was: the hospital when vehicles were pulled by horses



Southern buildings – where a tower block is proposed – and facade of the southern wing; the northern end, viewed from Highgate Hill, with decoration around windows; bay windows and gardens

rising into high dormers.”

There is a large main building of four storeys plus basement on either side of a central tower. This housed areas including a kitchen, a buttery, a larder, offices, day rooms and stores, together with pavilion style wards. At either end of the main building, separate, narrow wings that housed the cross-ventilated Nightingale wards projected towards Archway Road.

A front range facing Archway Road contained the administration department and a doctor’s residence as well as porters’ quarters and receiving wards. This follows the



style and proportions of the main building with gabled dormers.

To the north of the site were buildings that held, for example, the laundry and coach house. Some of these were demolished to make way for the modern pale brick structure on Highgate Hill.

From 1870, workhouses were designed to accommodate female and male inmates in separate blocks. Indeed, the plan for the Holborn Union Infirmary shows the building split into two

symmetrical halves, one for men and the other for women.

However, the symmetry was not total as the slope meant there was additional space to the south of the site. It is thought the south wing was built with an extra element or extended soon after construction with a three-storey extension to the south. This was accommodation for nurses, who at the time were expected to live on site.

While built in the relatively cheap material of brick, the building was enlivened by decoration, particularly around the windows. In the main range, those facing Archway Road are set back within vertical recessed bays under a pointed arch with oculi and terminate in gabled full dormers.

The rear elevation, which faces Highgate Hill, features five bays of four storeys either side of the central tower, with balustrades to three storeys and the fourth storey flush with the main range.

Further decoration is in the form of the roof line, which is hipped and covered in Welsh slate, articulated with towers with large brick finials, and stone detailing either side of the central tower.

There have been additions, largely lifts and fire escapes, with the main change being the removal of the open walkways that once connected the main range with the two wings. A four-storey veranda was added to the southern side of the north wing some time after 1920; it was used for patients with tuberculosis and has since been glazed.

Facing Highgate Hill was once a large ornamental garden with serpentine paths, while on Archway Road was a formal courtyard; both were converted for parking. However, the distinctive original boundary wall and railings, mirroring those at the Marylebone



Infirmary, survive to most of the site; only a small part was lost, it seems during the Second World War.

The hospital became part of the NHS. In 1998, it was bought by University College London with Middlesex University and used as a campus. Then, in 2014, the site was sold to developer Peabody Enterprises, which, according to its architects, wants to demolish most of the site, retaining only some facades, build new blocks on the gardens and, in place of the nurses’ home, a 20-storey tower.

The architects have said that close to 200 homes could be provided in the existing structures while demolition would add only 100 more, at the cost of damaging a site and its wider area, and losing what is clearly a unique building. ■



Left: Original main entrance on Archway Road; decoration, particularly around the windows, enlivened the buildings; right: ground floor to north of main entrance

Sources

British History Online (1985) Islington: public service. In: A History of the County of Middlesex: Volume 8, Islington and Stoke Newington Parishes. www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/middx/vol8/pp82-88
Cherry P, Pevsner N (1998) Buildings of England: London 4: North. Yale University Press
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Publications and bookshop

This issue, we trace 500 years of an Islington charity's history, admire rare trees in Archway, consider smallpox in Camden, appreciate different types of architecture then have a cocktail

Cloudesley: 500 years in Islington – 1517-2017

Dr Cathy Ross

£3. Available from the IAHS

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

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

Five centuries ago, a Tudor yeoman, Richard Cloudesley, gave a plot of land to the parish of St Mary Islington

with the wish that the land should be used to generate income for various purposes. Six "honest and discreet men" were to oversee the bequest.

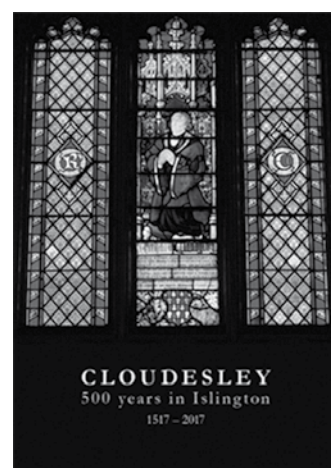
This should have been a story of calm continuity, with the donor's wishes being carried out down the centuries. However, Richard Cloudesley's original intentions have produced a dynamic story of change fuelled by debate, disputes and discussion.

Cloudesley's legacy has been

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

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

The story of Cloudesley



has never been told in full before now.

Camden History Review 41

£5.95 + £3 p&p, Camden History Society

The Camden History Society's annual review is always a fount of local history knowledge. This year's issue is mainly about the 1880s outbreak of smallpox in Hampstead and St Pancras and how it was dealt with.

The article focuses on the response of the authorities and residents, as well as the establishment of a tent hospital on part of St Pancras Cemetery at Finchley. It contains details of how the outbreak was handled, the people involved (who were for and against such hospitals, which would devalue their properties) and has pictures, prints, maps and watercolours to accompany the article.

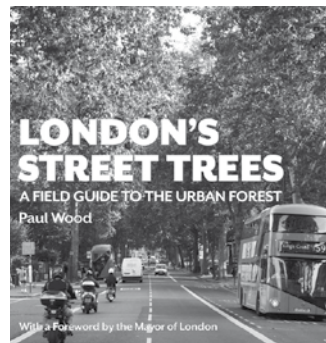
Another article is on the Kaiser's spies in Camden – though small in number they did exist and MI5 arrested 31 genuine spies.

There were also local

victims of gossip in the penny paper of 1849 called Paul Pry – and though the value of rags such as Paul Pry is small, it offers an amusing jaunt through the streets of Camden in the 1840s and the ordinary men and women leading less than exemplary lives that were featured within its pages.

This review has many other articles of interest and, as always, is full of local historical details.

Peter Fuller



London's Street Trees: a Field Guide to the Urban Forest

Paul Wood, foreword by London mayor Sadiq Khan

£12.99, Safe Haven Books, 2017, 208pp

Islington is home to some unusual and rare flowering fruit trees, thanks to a tree officer who worked for the council some 30-40 years ago.

The histories of these and other London trees are detailed in this book, alongside walking trails in Islington and other boroughs.

The capital's streets are home to hundreds of tree species.

The magnificently green

streets of London are in no way a monoculture, from Islington's fruit trees to giant redwoods in Edgware and the capital's first olive tree in Hackney.

Every London borough is different. As well as plane trees dating back to the 19th century are new species including Australian silver wattle and bottlebrush trees.

Magdala Avenue in Archway is home to at least six rare trees, including a Chinese lacebark elm, the Yunnan crab apple, also from China, a Turkish hazel and a and Norway maple.

Author Paul Wood is keen to trace the mystery tree officer and can be contacted through his blog.

● <https://thetreetree.com/>

More books, maps and an order form overleaf

20th Century Buildings in Islington

Alec Forshaw

£14.99, *Islington Society*, available from the IAHS

Islington is better known for Georgian and Victorian than 20th century architecture, and fewer than 50 of its listed buildings are 20th century.

However, the majority of Islington's residents live in 20th century buildings, many of them built by the council.

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

Modern buildings such as



the old drapers' store on Seven Sisters Road are highlighted, along with the fluted columns of Holloway Road's Marks & Spencer and the stepped parapet of the Adventist church.

Also described are rare surviving features such as the neon diver on the walls of the former Hornsey Road baths.

1960s Southern Region Steam in Colour

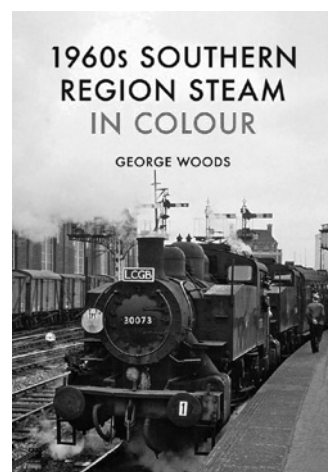
George Woods

£14.99, *Amberley Publishing*, 2017, 96pp

This book takes a nostalgic look back at the final years of steam in the southern region.

Steam gradually disappeared from the capital's railways during the 1960s. By 1966, with a few exceptions, only the south-western lines from Waterloo saw mainline steam in any quantity. Despite being in the middle of an all-electric system, it survived until July 1967.

George Woods sets out to show the highs and the lows of that period, with pictures taken at Waterloo, Weymouth,



Salisbury, the Isle of Wight and beyond.

Also featured are enthusiast specials that ran during this period, and the army locos that ran on the Longmoor Military Railway.

What the Victorians Threw Away

Tom Licence

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

This illustrated book shows how much detail on people's lives can be uncovered by going through their rubbish.

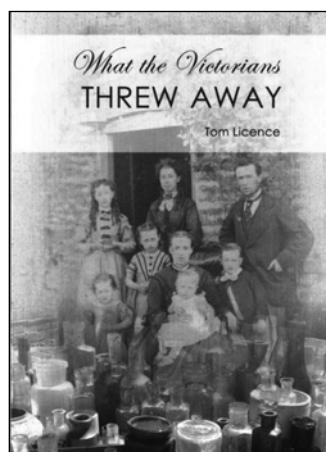
Rubbish tips act as archives of everyday life, showing how people stocked their kitchen, medicine and bathroom cupboards. A tin can tell us about advertising or foreign imports. Containers for foods and drinks show when a brand

emerged or whether a new product was successful.

Discarded household items add to the story of how our not too distant ancestors built a throwaway society on the foundations of packaging and mass consumption. This research also illustrates how modern throwaway habits were formed.

The book has three main case studies – a labourer's cottage in Kent, a post office in Shropshire and a rectory in Norfolk.

● Tom Licence's database of found objects is at www.whatthevictorians threwaway.com



[whatthevictorians threwaway.com](http://www.whatthevictorians threwaway.com)

Over the Hills and Far Away: the Life of Beatrix Potter

Matthew Dennison

£8.99, paperback, 2017; £20, hardback, 2016, *Head of Zeus*

How Beatrix

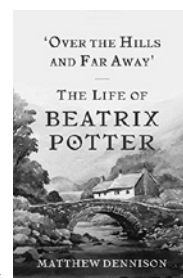
Potter became one of the world's bestselling children's authors is just one part of her life.

Unable to work in mycology after being rejected by the scientific community for being an amateur and a woman, she turned to storytelling.

She was a successful businesswoman; she had 15 farms in the Lake District, which were left to the National Trust.

Rather than being a traditional biography, this book draws on Potter's "tales" to explore her life and character, and who inspired the animals in her books.

The book includes photographs, references to more information and, of course, Potter's illustrations.



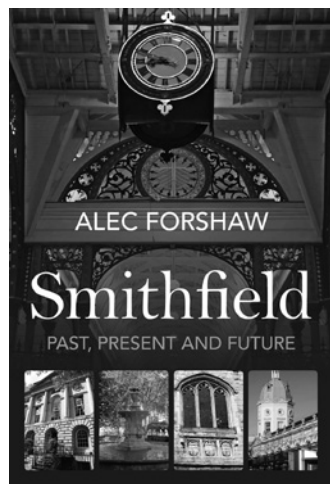
Smithfield: Past, Present and Future

Alec Forshaw

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

This third edition is a concise, readable account of the history of the Smithfield area from the medieval period to today. It examines the history of the area's markets, St Bartholomew's Hospital, religious houses, trades and leisure.

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



the market buildings.

The meat market building,

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

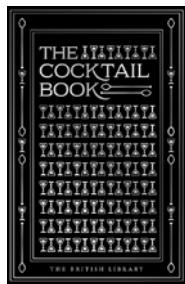
The book also describes struggles over the fate of these buildings' future between those who wanted them conserved and put back into use, and those who wanted most of them demolished and office blocks built.

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

The Cocktail Book

£5 (usual price £8.99), 80pp, British Library, 2017

First published in 1900, this is the earliest book on the art of the cocktail. For 30 years, including during prohibition, it was a



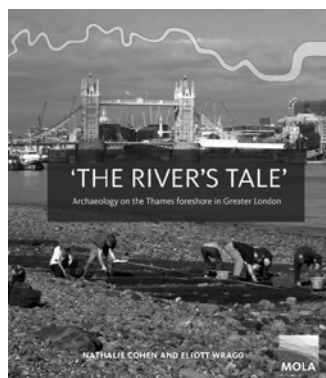
staple of well-stocked bars. This collection allows a modern audience to discover early cocktails, with recipes for the whisky sour, mint julep and Manhattan, as well as classic cocktails and their more experimental variations.

The River's Tale

Nathalie Cohen and Elliott Wragg with Jon Cotton and Gustav Milne £15, 116pp, Museum of London Archaeology, 2017

Thousands of years of history of the Thames and the people living along it are explored in the first book by the Thames Discovery Programme community archaeology project.

It covers 10 years of investigations, examining evidence from prehistory to recent times. Included are lost palaces at Greenwich, naval ships, including Napoleonic era warships, and the oldest structure found in London – a 6,000-year-old construction



made of timber piles, believed to be a platform or jetty.

Published ahead of the Thames Discovery Programme's 10th anniversary, this is the first book on the river's archaeology since the Ivor Noël Hume's Treasure in the Thames in 1956.

Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

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

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

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

We stock the following maps: Clerkenwell, King's Cross and The Angel: 1871, 1894, 1914 Dalston: 1913 Highbury & Islington: 1874, 1894, 1914, Upper Holloway: 1869, 1894, 1914

Pentonville and The Angel: 1871 (detail below)

Finsbury Square and Circus: 1873

Finsbury Park and Stroud Green: 1894, 1912

Bethnal Green and Bow: 1870, 1894, 1914

Euston and Regent's Park: 1894, 1913

Gospel Oak: 1894, 1912

Hackney: 1870, 1893, 1913

Highgate: 1869, 1894, 1913

Holborn and The City: 1895 Holborn, The Strand & The City: 1873, 1914

Hornsey: 1894, 1912

King's Cross and St Pancras: 1871, 1893

Kentish Town and Camden: 1870, 1913

Lower Clapton: 1913, 1894, 1868

Muswell Hill: 1894

Stoke Newington: 1868, 1894, 1914

Shoreditch: 1872, 1914

Stamford Hill 1868, 1894

Stepney and Limehouse: 1914

The West End: 1870, 1894, 1914 Whitechapel, Spitalfields and the Bank: 1873, 1913, 1894



19th and 20th Century Roman Catholic Churches

Historic England, 2017, free from <http://tinyurl.com/ybwaec4k>

For over 200 years after the Act of Uniformity (1559), outward observance of the Roman Catholic faith was illegal in England. The building of public places of worship did not resume until the end of the 18th century, gathering pace after Catholic Emancipation in 1829 and the restoration of the hierarchy in 1850.

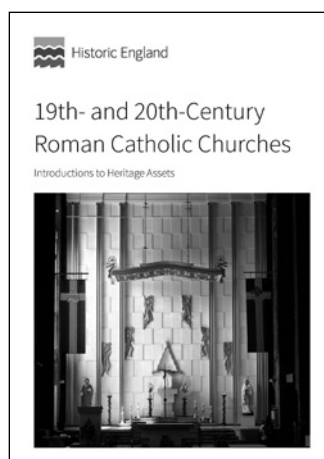
The 20th century saw rapid expansion. This is therefore a relatively modern building

stock, with approximately two thirds of more than 3,000 churches dating from the 20th century, and from the 1950s and 1960s in particular.

Although there are stylistic crossovers with Anglican and to a lesser extent nonconformist church design, Catholic churches have a distinct character, driven in large part by liturgical function. The building type has evolved over the years to meet changing needs.

This publication concerns public places of parish worship, not private or

institutional chapels, nor those attached to convents and monasteries.



Order form for books from the IAHS (photocopies acceptable)

Name

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.....
.....
Total cost	

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



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 Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s

Petra Laidlaw

£9.99 + £2.80 p&p, Islington

Archaeology & History Society

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

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



Bag a bargain

Two IAHS books are on sale.

53 Cross Street. Biography of a House

Mary Cosh and Martin King, with photographs by Pauline Lord.

Hardback, £9.95 (was £20) + £2.10 p&p

This book is a must for anyone interested in the history of home decor. It tells the story of how one house changed since 1785, illustrated with glorious colour photographs.



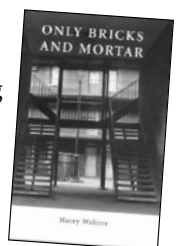
Only Bricks and Mortar

Harry Walters

£5 (was £7.99) +

£1.50 p&p

A tale of growing up and working class life from the 1930s through the Second World War to the 1970s in notorious council tenements in Popham Road, where *Cathy Come Home* was filmed.





Dogs, cats, cattle, mice, chickens – animals that are part of our daily lives take centre stage at the Museum of Ordinary Animals, an exhibition that celebrates the “boring beasts that have changed our world”.

Ordinary animals are a human creation. Domestication took them out of the wild to benefit people for transport, food and companionship. These animals rarely appear in natural history museum displays.

On display are objects from the worlds of archaeology, art, zoology and the history of science, which

Boring beasts that changed the world

are examined in their contexts of culture and environment. Exhibits include Egyptian cat mummies, what may be the world’s oldest veterinary text and a wall of 4,000 mice skeletons. There are a lot of bones on show in both the current and the permanent displays.

The domestication of cattle is traced back 10,500-9,000 years to the now extinct aurochs, which stood at over two metres tall with enormous horns (one is on show).

In contrast, chickens have been domesticated for about 4,000-6,000 years. Their cultural significance goes beyond being a source of food; they appear in the Chinese zodiac as well as in a sixth-century Papal decree, and were exploited in the Victorian entertainment of cock fighting. The taxidermy chicken on show lived out her old age at a free range rescue centre.

Ordinary Animals also questions human actions – it is explicit that culling badgers to control bovine



A wall of 4,000 mice skeletons; dog skulls show selective breeding; the ethically sourced taxidermy chicken

tuberculosis is against scientific advice and is carried out only because of the value humans place on cattle.

Also up for questioning is whether cats are genuinely domesticated. Compared with dogs, their genes differ far less from their wild ancestors, and there are fewer signs of humans selecting for certain traits, as a display of dog skulls shows. Their popularity is recognised – as one of the events accompanying the exhibition put it, “Cats Broke the Internet”. ■

● The Museum of Ordinary Animals runs at the Grant Museum of Zoology until 22 December, free



Christy Lawrance

A rigid view of the Russian Revolution

Much of the groundwork of the Russian revolution was laid in Clerkenwell on Lenin’s periodic visits to London.

The revolution’s centenary in 2017 has been marked in a rather low-profile way, not least since Vladimir Putin seemed unable to decide whether to commemorate or ignore it in Russia itself.

This film, made by the Hackney-based WORLDbytes citizen TV group and directed by Ceri Dingle, has a mission to convince viewers that the revolution was the 20th century’s most influential event, and that Lenin and his associates were full of good intentions that were later perverted into brutal authoritarianism by Stalin.

It argues that Russia in 1917 was a pressure cooker of social tensions about to blow – intensified by the First World War – and that Lenin did not engage in an elaborate

conspiracy to seize power but rather seized opportunities.

Reasonable cases can be made for these assertions; the problem is how they are made.

Archive footage makes brief appearances and there are some even briefer shots of revolutionary sites as they are now. The rest, though, is endless talking heads, largely the same half dozen, and they all agree with each other.

Talking Head 1 tells us Lenin and his associates acted from the best of motives and in the noblest of ways, Talking Head 2 agrees, and so it goes on.

Remarkably, no Russians are interviewed, which was explained as a consequence of the prohibitive expense of the crew going to Russia.

Fair enough, but there must be Russians in London with at least secondhand knowledge who could have given different perspectives. I



suspect the real reason was that different views were not wanted.

A few minutes on Google shows almost everyone who appears is associated with online magazine Spiked, the successor to Living Marxism, once the organ of the defunct Revolutionary Communist Party. Perhaps this explains the rigid uniformity of views presented.

I fear this film will find viewer only among those who have already made up their minds. ■

● View the trailer at bit.ly/2jn5RTi

Mark Smulian

Poster Girls: talent on the tube

The contribution to art on the London Underground by women artists has largely been overlooked, so, with the forthcoming of centenary of some women gaining the right to vote, the London Transport Museum is celebrating 100 years of poster art and design by women.

Frank Pick was responsible for commissioning artists to design London Transport posters during the 1920s and 1930s and this period coincided with the birth of commercial art and advertising and the emergence of graphic design.

The exhibition begins with the first poster designed by a woman, Ella Coates in 1910. It portrays a landscape with a few words of text, which was typical for the time, and promoted travelling to Kew



Gardens by tram.

The exhibition takes a broadly chronological approach, moving through the decades to contemporary times, revealing how each era influenced the artists' stylistic approach and highlighting the role played by London Transport in commissioning female talent.

Design reflects the social concerns of the day, such as the Motor Show at Olympia, Derby day, rugby at Twickenham, the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, and the

summer sales, as well as days out to the countryside, including to Epping Forest and the hop gardens of Kent.

All artists tell a story and evoke an atmosphere through their draughtsmanship and use of typography and colour while



The designs reflect the social concerns, such as the Motor Show, the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the summer sales and days out

promoting London Underground as an optimistic and forward thinking.

More than 150 posters and artworks are on display, and include work by Mabel Lucie Attwell, Laura Knight, Enid Marx and Zandra Rhodes. ■

● Poster Girls – a Century of Art and Design is on at the London Transport Museum until January 2019. £17.50/concs, includes a year's entry to the museum

Heather James is an artists
www.plantin.co.uk

London Transport Museum

Opera from courtly music to grand theatre

Through seven operas by seven composers as staging posts, we romp through 400 years of European musical history.

The seven operas are presented as tableaux vivants dealing with key events. We see: Mozart and the Enlightenment via The Marriage of Figaro; Verdi and 19th century national liberation movements via the slaves' chorus of Nabucco, right down to women's emancipation with Richard Strauss's Salome.

Gems include a cameo pendant of a castrato idol (Handel's Rinaldo), Shostakovich's manuscripts and desk and Aubrey Beardsley's illustrations for Salome. And plenty of clothes – this is the V&A – including Versace's gown for Salome, Mozart's concert jacket and Princess Eugenie's dress for the

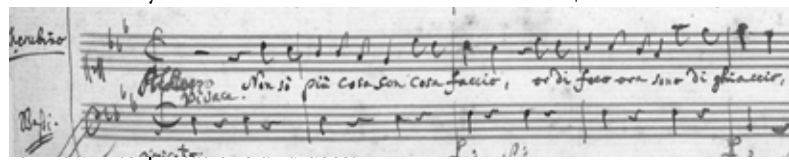


A Box at the Opera by Eva Gonzales; detail of part of Cherubino's Act I aria Non So Più Cosa Son by Mozart

first night of Tannhäuser.

You could call this show an opera taster. You won't learn much about the music (many greats go unmentioned) but you'll get a loose overview of opera's development from courtly musical drama (with the retelling

of Monteverdi's L'incoronazione di Poppea) to the high bourgeois taste of second empire Paris. In the Paris room are some good portraits, including by Degas. The all-conquering grand opera of this period, with its required ballet interval, is summed up in his scenes from Robert le Diable by Giacomo Meyerbeer.



The message is that with all this history behind us, we can now expect to enjoy music, song and performances that mean something to us and help explain the world. A tall order. With Stockhausen (Mittwoch aus Licht) and Philip Glass (Einstein on the Beach), a new order is hinted at, with big screens flickering around our heads.

Visitors are asked to comment on what issues we would like opera to tackle next. Opera is ours to order. ■

● Opera: Passion, Power and Politics on at the V&A until Sunday, 25 February. £19/concs

Richard Clarembaux is a retired conference interpreter

Musee d'Orsay/Bridgeman Images; British Library, London/UK Bridgeman Images

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

Friday, 22 December, 11:30am

Women at War

National Army Museum, free

Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 January, 10am-5pm

Closing Weekend

With Epiphany celebration on Saturday at 3.30pm.

Geffrye Museum, free

Tuesday 9 January, 1.15pm

The Oxus Treasure in Detail

British Museum, free

Tuesday 9 January, 6.30pm

Sheep Over London Bridge

London and Middlesex

Archaeological Society, £2

Tuesday 9 January, 8pm

The Anglo-Saxon Princely Burial at Prittlewell, Essex.

Hendon & District

Archaeological Society, £1

Wednesday 10 January, 8pm

The Influence of Effluence: Tottenham Sewage Works and the Markfield Beam Engine

Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 11 January, 1.30pm

Fabergé and the Goldmaking Tradition of Russia

British Museum, free, booking required

Saturday 13 January, 1.30pm

Curator's Introduction to Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia

British Museum, free, booking required

Sunday 14 January, 2pm

Film: Hermitage Revealed

British Museum, £3

Tuesday 16 January, 6pm

The eXcrement Factor: the Natural History of Dung

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 17 January, 1pm

The Guitar in the Age of Charles I

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

Wednesday 17 January, 6pm

London Merchants and Their Residences

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 18 January, 1pm

The Age of Tyrants: Sappho via Gounod's Opera

Gresham College, free

Thursday 18 January, 1.30pm

Worlds Beyond Nature and the Everyday

British Museum, free, booking required

Thursday 18 January, 6pm

Webinar: Riots and Rebellions, Murders and Militias: Exploring 19th Century Home Office Records

Free, National Archives

Thursday 18 January, 7.30pm

Iron Men: the 19th Century Engineer Henry Maudslay and his Circle

Camden History Society, £1

Thursday 18 January, 7.30pm

Ethnic Cleansing? The End of 'Little Germany' in Tower Hamlets

East London History Society

Friday 19 January, 1.30pm

The Animated Landscape: Elves, Ancestors and Other Spirits of Place

British Museum, free, booking required

Wednesday 24 January, 2pm

Discovering Discovery: Using the National Archives Website and Catalogue

Society of Genealogists, free

Wednesday 24 January, 7.45pm

Life Before Death: Stories from the Parish Churchyard

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2

Thursday 25 January, 7pm

Talk: A Room of One's Own

Historical and social context of Poster Girls exhibition. London Transport Museum, £12/concs

Saturday 27 January, 10.30am-1pm

DNA for Beginners

Society of Genealogists, £20/£16

Tuesday 30 January 2pm

The History of Public Information Films

National Archives, £6/concs

Tuesday 30 January 6pm

The Labour Party

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 31 January, 2pm

Tithes & Taxes

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 31 January, 6pm

The Fate of the October Revolution Under Stalin

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Saturday 3 February, 1.15pm

West African Traditional Religions

British Museum, free

Wednesday 7 February, 1pm

An Englishman (with a Guitar) Abroad

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

Wednesday 7 February, 6pm

The Cubitts and the River Thames

Docklands History Group, £2

Thursday 8 February, 2pm

Spanish Flu: the Global Pandemic

National Archives, free

Thursday 8 February, 7.30pm

Belsize Remembered

Camden History Society, £1

Thursday 8 February, 2pm

Forest Gate: the Development of a Victorian Suburb

East London History Society

Tuesday 13 February, 2pm

Burkers and Body Snatchers

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Tuesday 13 February, 6.15pm

Polycentric London

AGM. London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Wednesday 14 February, 8pm

Evacuees in World War II

Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 15 February, 2pm

Records of the Law Society Library

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Friday 16 February, 1.30pm

Vishnu's Chariot in London: the Story of a Processional Chariot From South India

British Museum, free, booking required

Monday 19 February, 1 pm

China: Art, War and Salvation, 1933-1949

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 20 February, 1.15pm

Introducing Buddhist Art

British Museum, free

Tuesday 20 February, 2pm

Utility Furniture and Fashion 1940s-1950s

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Friday 23 February, 1.15pm

Guanyin and the Madonna and Child: Cross-Cultural Comparisons

British Museum, free

Monday 26 February, 6pm

The 19th Century Craze for Stereoscopic Photography

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 27 February, 6pm

Standing Trial at the 19th Century Old Bailey

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Wednesday 28 February, 1.15pm

Temples and Festivals in Roman Britain

British Museum, free

Wednesday 28 February, 2pm

Adventures in Business Archives

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 28 February, 6 pm

Military Training in Violence, 1914 to the Present

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 28 February, 7.45pm

The History of Almshouses

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society, £2



The 19th century craze for stereoscopic photography is discussed at a Gresham College event on 26 February

Thursday 1 March, 2pm

Using the LDS (Mormon) FamilySearch Films at the Society

Society of Genealogists, free

Friday 2 March, 2pm

Down Below: London's Tunnel World

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Tuesday 6 March, 6pm

Nationalist Parties

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 7 March, 11am-3.30pm

London Tramways Document Display

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Wednesday 7 March, 12pm

I've Lost My Ancestor Before 1837. How Can I Find Him?

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 7 Mar, 2pm

Tracing a 16th and 17th Century English Family Tree

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 7 March, 6 pm

Palace, Park and Square: St James's and the Birth of the West End

Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 7 March, 6pm

The Lea Valley Electronic Secrets – the Story of the Post-Industrial Revolution and how the Region's Scientists and Engineers Changed our Modern World

Docklands History Group, £2

Thursday 8 March, 1pm

Slave Stories: Aesop and Walter Crane

Gresham College, free

Friday 9 March, 9.30am-4pm

Courage and Conviction in conversation Exploring the Tavistock and Portman Archives at LMA

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Friday 9 March. 7.15pm

Deaf-Led BSL Tour of Living with Gods: Peoples, Places and Worlds Beyond

British Museum, free

Tuesday 13 March, 1.15pm

Images of Intercession: the Virgin and Child

British Museum, free

Tuesday 13 March, 2pm

Taking Shelter in WWII

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Tuesday 13 March, 6pm

Architecture and the Edwardian Era

Gresham College, free

Tuesday 13 March. 6.30pm

Roman Occupation East of the Forum to the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, Excavations at 116-120 Fenchurch Street and 10-12/14 Fenchurch Avenue, City of London

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Wednesday 14 March, 10.30am-12.30pm

Wonderful Woolwich?

London Metropolitan Archives, free

Wednesday 14 March, 8pm

Architecture and Technology in London's Lea Valley – Did One Influence the Other?

Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 15 March, 1.30pm

Curator's Introduction to Living with Gods: Peoples, Places and Worlds Beyond

British Museum, free, booking required

Thursday 15 March, 2pm

Cries of London – London Street Traders, Pedlars and Early Images

Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Thursday 15 March. 7.30pm

The Streets of London. The Booth Notebooks East East London History Society

East London History Society

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 Friday 22 December

The Museum of Ordinary Animals

A look at the origins and influence of the animals we take for granted, such as cats, dogs, mice and cows.
Grant Museum of Zoology, free
● Review, page 22

Until Sunday 7 January 2018

Designing the V&A

Through original drawings and photographs, this display highlights the artists, designers and engineers who created the V&A, charting the building from the 1850s to today.
V&A, free

Until Sunday 14 January

Scythians: Warriors of Ancient Siberia

This exhibition explores the story of the Scythians – nomadic tribes and formidable warriors, who flourished between 900 and 200BC. For centuries, all trace of their culture was lost, buried beneath ice. Ancient tombs have revealed Scythian treasures, including clothes, fabrics, food and weapons, gold jewellery and mummified warriors and horses.
British Museum, £16.50/concs

Until Sunday 21 January

Searching for Ghosts

This looks at home life in east London, from a tower block that was blown up in 1991 to a red-brick estate built in 1898.
V&A Museum of Childhood, free

Until Sunday 21 January

The Asahi Shimbun Displays: on Violence and Beauty: Reflections on War

This examines the relationship between conflict and art in a focussed way, through four objects from 5,000 years ago to the present day.
British Museum, free

Until Saturday 27 January
Fenian Outrage: the Clerkenwell Explosion of 1867

In December 1867, Irish Republican Brotherhood members (Fenians) attempted to break two of its members out of the Middlesex House of Detention in Clerkenwell by blowing a hole in the prison's wall. The explosion killed and injured local residents, and had major political consequences. Finsbury Library, free

● The Fenian Outrage, page 10

Until Sunday 28 January
The Business of Prints

This exhibition shows what prints can tell us about the huge business of trading prints from around 1400 to 1850. It also reveals the complexities of the craftsmanship. On show are works by Dürer, Rembrandt and Goya. British Museum, free

Until Sunday 11 February
Conservatism, or The Long Reign of Pseudo-Georgian Architecture

This exhibition takes a wry look at 20th century neo-Georgian architecture as a genuine British vernacular through 50 drawings by Pablo Bronstein. Comments below some of the pictures are less than flattering about modern Georgian styles. The drawings are displayed alongside RIBA archive material, which puts the drawings into context over time, looking at social



The Angel, Islington by Geoffrey Fletcher, 1971; one of the artworks on show at Islington Museum

aspiration, urban fabric, identity and representation. RIBA, free

Until Saturday 24 February
Islington on Canvas: Art from the Archives

Islington Local History Centre and Museum hold a wide range of artworks produced during the 19th and 20th centuries by artists in the borough, capturing the changing landscape of the area and its districts, streets and buildings. Included are works by Walter Richard Sickert, Thérèse Lessore, Vera Skinner and Geoffrey Fletcher. Islington Museum, free

Until Sunday 25 February
Opera: Passion, Power and Politics

This spectacular and vivid journey covers 400 years of operatic and European history on a grand scale, from opera's

roots in Renaissance Italy to today. Working with opera specialists and theatre, lighting and sound designers, the V&A presents a theatrical experience.

V&A, £19/concs

● Review, page 23

Until Wednesday 28 February
Harry Potter: A History of Magic

This exhibition shows centuries-old British Library treasures, including its oldest item, the Chinese Oracle bones, alongside material from Harry Potter publisher Bloomsbury and JK Rowling's archives, as well as broomsticks, wands and crystal balls.

British Library, £16/concs

Until Sunday 11 March
Listen: 140 Years of Recorded Sound

This exhibition draws on the British Library's collection of over 6.5 million recordings of speech, music, wildlife and the environment, from the 1880s to the present day. Items explore the influence of technology and show key moments and figures in the history of recorded sound. A highlight is Delia Derbyshire manipulating sinetones and white noise in the early 1960s BBC Radiophonic Workshop. British Library, free

Until Sunday 18 March
The Currency of Communism

Communism holds that money is a social construct, but has used banknotes as propaganda. On display are posters as well as notes featuring designs glorifying workers, soldiers and mothers, and demonstrating the benefits of communism to citizens. British Museum, free

Until Sunday 8 April
Ayurvedic Man: Encounters with Indian medicine

This features Sanskrit, Persian and Tibetan manuscripts, paintings, erotic manuals and animal-shaped surgical tools, with items tracing the shift of medical knowledge across continents and cultures. It also covers the effect of British public health policies on Indian medicine, and tensions between empire and colony. Wellcome Museum, free

Until Sunday 8 April
Winnie-the-Pooh: Exploring a Classic

This exhibition on Winnie-the-Pooh, AA Milne and EH Shepard reveals the real people, relationships and inspirations behind the books and explores the interplay between text and illustration, shedding light on the collaboration between Milne and Shepard. As well as illustrations, manuscripts and photographs is a 1929 recording of Milne reading Winnie-the-Pooh. V&A, £8/concs

Until January 2019
Poster Girls

This exhibition shines a spotlight on 20th and 21st century female designers and their contribution to poster design over the past 100 years, with over 150 posters and original artworks on display. London Transport Museum, £17.50/concs, includes a year's entry to the museum

● Review, page 23



Collins Music Hall at Night by Vera Skinner, 1956

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, 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

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 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

www.ucl.ac.uk/culture/grant-museum-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
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
www.history.org.uk, 020 7323 1192, chrissie@ganjou.com,

Historic Towns Forum
www.historictownsforum.org

History of Haringay
www.haringayonline.com/group/historyofharingay

Horniman Museum
020 8699 1872, www.horniman.ac.uk

Hornsey Historical Society
Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL,
secretary@hornseyhistorical.org.uk, 020 8348 8429



The Geffrye Museum of the home: the main part of the museum and its period gardens will close on 7 January 2018 while works take place. It will still host events and arrange tours of the restored almshouses

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 Islington's archives, email local.history@islington.gov.uk or call 020 7527 7988. www.islington.gov.uk/heritage

Islington Museum
245 St John Street, EC1V 4NB, 10am-5pm, closed Wednesdays, Sundays and public holidays, 020 7527 2837, islington.museum@islington.gov.uk, www.islington.gov.uk/heritage

Islington's Lost Cinemas
www.isingtonslostcinemas.com

Islington Society
Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, N7 6PA,
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

Locating London's Past
www.locatinglondon.org

London Archaeological Archive
www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections/other-collection-databases-and-libraries/museum-london-archaeological-archive

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://london-socialist-historians.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

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

**Mausolea & Monuments
Trust**
www.mmtrust.org.uk

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
oflondonarchaeology.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**
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

The Postal Museum
020 7239 2570, info@
postalheritage.org.uk

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

**Streets with a Story: the
Book of Islington**
A-Z of streets, buildings and
open spaces. tinyurl.com/
islington-streets-story

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**
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

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

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

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

Events

Monday 1 January, 11am, meet at Highbury & Islington Station

New year walk: George Orwell's Islington

Walk led by Andy Gardner

Orwell was at his most productive while living in Canonbury Square, and this tour will introduce you to the places that influenced and inspired him.

This new year stroll is a great way to blow away the cobwebs after a late night and take your guests to.

The cost is a donation to the Margins night shelter at Union Chapel – £5 is suggested, but just pay what you can.



Wednesday 17 January, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

The landscape of Finsbury

James Dunnett MA, Dip Arch, RIBA

The “green city” concept – high-density urban living within a landscaped environment – was brought to life by the Metropolitan Borough of Finsbury between 1935 and 1965.

The area had almost no open space but a green city landscape was created, primarily under the guidance of architect Berthold Lubetkin then his associate Karl Ludwig Frank and Joseph Emberton.

Islington-based modern architecture expert James Dunnett believes the concept is neither understood nor valued today. With Finsbury the most densely populated area in the country and Islington having the least amount of open space per head of any London borough, he will argue that building on its open space – which is happening – is not the way to go

James Dunnett, a former chair of Docomomo UK, was one of the last architects to work for Ernő Goldfinger.

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Find out about our events, ask a question, post a photo or talk local history at the IAHS Facebook group, which has over 600 members.

● www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

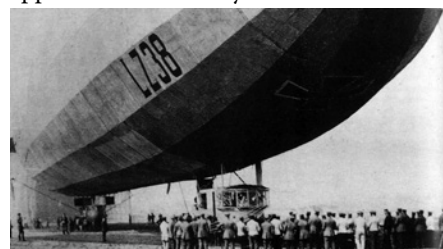
Wednesday 21 February, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

'The Germans are here!' 31 May 1915 – London's first Zeppelin raid

Ian Castle, author and First World War expert

Ten months into the Great War, the feared onslaught on London by Germany's much-vaunted fleet of airships – Zeppelins – had failed to materialise. There was sympathy for those caught up in air raids on East Anglia, Essex and the north east, but these were far away and easy for Londoners to ignore.

Then, shortly after 11pm on a quiet Monday night at the end of May 1915, all that changed. That night a Zeppelin raider appeared over the city – the war had come to London.



Ian Castle is the author of books on First World War air raids and is fascinated by the impact of early aerial warfare on civilians.

Wednesday 21 March, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

Doctor Who and me

Andrew Cartmel, former script editor and show runner, Dr Who

Andrew Cartmel was the script editor and show runner on Doctor Who from 1986 to 1989, overseeing 42 episodes. During this time, the seventh Doctor (played by Sylvester McCoy) was introduced, as was Ace (played by Sophie Aldred), one of the most influential companions – and the first to attack a Dalek with a baseball bat.

He formulated what was termed the “Cartmel masterplan”, establishing McCoy's Doctor as a master player of dangerous games, a weaver of cosmic strategies and a powerful enigma.



Sylvester McCoy and Sophie Aldred during the filming of Remembrance of the Daleks in 1988

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

Here's the boiler house at Islington's Eden Grove electric lighting station in the 1900s – the council has started supplying electricity again (page 4)

