

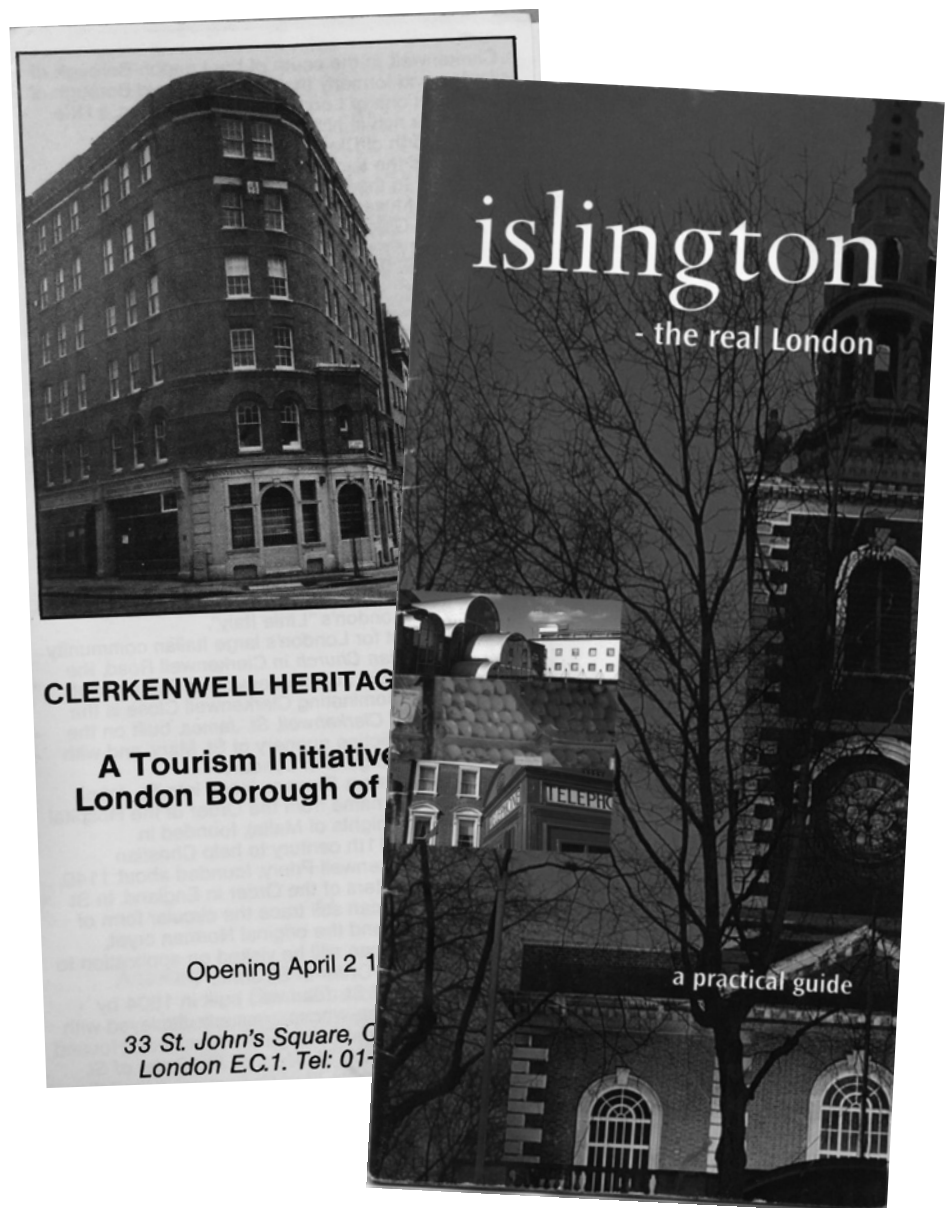
Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

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

Vol 8 No 4 Winter 2018-19
£5.25

Showing the way in heritage

The drive to get Islington's
heritage recognised and the
establishment of the
borough's official guides



Council sets out 15-year plan ● Heritage at risk highlighted ● Planning system 'chaotic' ● Making TV history programmes ●
The Copenhagen Tunnel ● Going by coach from King's Cross ● The emigrant type founder ● Darwin's 'idiots' and other animals
● Last orders at the Prince of Wales on Boxing Day 1944 ● 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 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.

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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Editor – and a new editor
 Christy Lawrance

From the next issue, the editor will be Jane Parker, who leads local history tours and runs the www.janeslondon.com website. She can be contacted on journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk

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Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society

Incorporating *Islington History Journal*

Vol 8 No 4 Winter 2018-19

A chance to have a say in our heritage's future

Islington Council has set out its 15-year plan for the borough (news, page 5).

Conflict can arise between preserving heritage and meeting social and economic needs, it notes, and appears to address this partly through “innovative” reuse of heritage. Warehouse conversion, anyone?

At the same time, a report by Town & Country Planning Association calls the planning system “chaotic”. It says people feel ignored or even dismissed and jargon excludes non-professionals.

Being involved in a consultation (or even a planning application) can be extremely frustrating. It can feel that whoever is running the exercise is just ticking the “we’ve consulted with the public” boxes.

However, the draft local plan still provides an opportunity to influence the council’s long-term approach to our heritage. If people don’t get involved, there is a risk the council may believe residents aren’t interested or think the draft local plan is just fine as it is.

So make your voice heard – to officers, local councillors and the local papers – to help preserve the heritage of the borough for both now and the future.

Boxing clever

As the Lost Trades of Islington exhibition opened, the journal received an email about a 19th century type founder from Clerkenwell, who set up shop in Australia (see letters, page 6, and The Emigrant Type Founder, page 12). Islington’s old industries may have a global reach.

Goodbye

This is my last issue of the journal. Many thanks to all of you who sent in articles, letters and photographs over the years, which made the journal what it is.

Christy Lawrance
Editor



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In brief

How Essex Road got its name

The society's volunteer researcher, Michael Reading, has written a history of Essex Road, looking particularly at why it was given this name after being called Lower Street for over 800 years. The booklet gives a brief history of Islington up to the mid 19th century, and discusses its perceived Tudor connections. It also reproduces some outspoken correspondence over the name change in the Islington Gazette.

- Copies of *Why Essex Road?* have been lodged at the Local History Centre.

Thousands of war memorials listed

More than 2,500 war memorials across the country have been listed in the past four years in a First World War centenary project run by Historic England. Tens of thousands of memorials were built, the majority paid for by money raised locally.

Publish all call-in decisions, says court

SAVE Britain's Heritage has won a landmark judgement that states the secretary of state must give reasons for call-in decisions – including where call-in was refused, such as the Paddington Cube. SAVE director Henrietta Billings said: "This is a major victory for openness and transparency."

Classic cars in drive to go green

Aston Martin will offer electric car conversions for its classic vehicles from next year. The conversions will be reversibles.

All news by Christy Lawrance

Register highlights heritage at risk

Cinema buildings, places of worship, former prison cells, public buildings and railings are among historic structures in Islington deemed at risk by Historic England.

Its 2018 Heritage at Risk Register – the 20th year of the register – includes landmarks such as the Finsbury Health Centre and the Holloway Odeon, although restoration works are planned for the latter.

The former Mecca Bingo in Essex Road, built as the Carlton Cinema in 1930, is also at risk, with damage to the faience tiles visible. The register notes that "proposals for reuse are currently being explored".

Cells in the former House of Detention in Sans Walk, built in 1845-47, have also been deemed at risk, with water ingress from the car park above and management issues because of multiple owners.

Sites that are still on the list although repairs have been carried out include the



At risk: cells at the House of Detention in Clerkenwell

Caledonian Clock Tower, Union Chapel and Finsbury Town Hall.

Also at risk, although in a "fair" condition, is the War Memorial Arch in Manor Gardens.

Around a dozen churches are at risk including St James in Clerkenwell, Our Most Holy Redeemer and its campanile in Exmouth Market, St Joseph's in Highgate Hill and Hope Church (former St Mary Magdalene) in Holloway Road

and St Mary's in Upper Street.

The register also covers conservation areas, and describes the condition of Holborn Union Infirmary conservation area as "very bad".

Areas in a poor condition include Chapel Market, Clerkenwell, Hat and Feathers, St Mary Magdalene, St John's Grove and Tollington Park. In a fair condition but deteriorating are Moorfields and St Luke's.

- <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/>

Were you at Greenham Common women's peace camp?

The women's peace camp at Greenham Common was the largest demonstration in modern history.

Women from all over the world braved weather and indignity to live together and protest peacefully and creatively against nuclear weapons being placed at RAF Greenham Common in Berkshire.

However, there is relatively little information about life on camp from the women. An oral

history project is looking for stories from women who were there between 1981 and 2000, as well as from people who had friends, family and colleagues at the camp.

The project will be looking at the truths behind the tabloids, the anecdotal detail and the political strategies.

The project's findings will be made available online and have a permanent home at The Women's Library at the London School of Economics.

- <http://greenhamwomeneverywhere.co.uk>



Union Chapel Sunday School to get funding from London mayor

The mayor of London has pledged £37,500 to the Sunday School Hall project at Union Chapel.

The project aims to open the space for community, arts and cultural activities.

The hall contains artefacts and documents collected since the chapel's foundation in 1799. These include information running from early nonconformists to the Union Chapel's life as a venue.

The project aims to create an archive of this material, and provide free activities in conservation and archive skills as well as training in public speaking.

Ally Pally theatre reopens

Alexandra Palace Theatre officially reopened on 1 December after being closed for more than 80 years. It began as a venue for variety and music hall, was an early cinema then used for storage and as a workshop space for the BBC.

Mammoth finds during road works

A woolly mammoth tusk, woolly rhino and mammoth bones, as well as medieval and Anglo-Saxon villages have been discovered during works to divert the A14 around Hungtingdon near Cambridge. Other items uncovered include an ornate 8th century comb made of deer antler, dozens of Roman brooches and a bone flute.

Purrfect at the post office for 150 years

The Postal Museum has been celebrating 150 years since cats were first employed as Post Office mousers in 1868. They had an allowance of one shilling a week, which was raised by 6d in 1873 as they did "their duty very efficiently". Pictured is Tibs, the most famous of the cats. Born in November 1950, he kept the Post Office headquarters mouse free for 14 years. He lived in the refreshment club and tipped the scales at 23lbs.



Council sets out long-term plan

Protection of the historic environment must be reconciled with the environmental, social and economic needs and people's aspirations, Islington Council has said in its draft local plan.

The council is seeking views on its draft plan, which sets out planning policies to steer development from 2020 to 2035.

While it recognises new homes and business premises are needed, this will not mean heritage will be "subject to a more laissez faire consent process".

The council says it wishes to increase "development capacity" while limiting adverse effects on heritage.

It adds it will preserve or "enhance" assets and their settings "in a manner appropriate to their significance".

The draft plan says all views must be protected, and that proposals to redevelop buildings that currently harm a protected view should

Islington Council has set out draft policies to cover the next 15 years



include "reasonable steps" to put this right and improve the view. The height and locations of tall buildings are restricted.

The plan recognises that Islington's historic environment is central to its character, attractiveness and success. It notes that the borough has around 4,500 listed buildings and numerous other heritage assets.

Innovative reuse of heritage assets, where "adverse impacts can be prevented or mitigated", is encouraged.

Any proposals that could harm the significance of an asset must be justified, and

substantial harm will be strongly resisted.

Archaeological remains should be retained in situ. Where this cannot be done, fieldwork should be carried out and remains investigated and findings published.

Consultation runs until 14 January. The draft Local Plan and accompanying documents can be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/y9rfcv6n> (scroll down).

● A drop-in session where you can ask questions about the plan is being held at Islington Town Hall at 6-8pm on Wednesday 9 January.

Public lacks faith in 'chaotic' planning system

The planning system is a "chaotic patchwork" of responsibilities and is "at best, conflicted and at worst profoundly confused".

A review for the Town & Country Planning Association, led by former housing, planning and local government minister Nick Raynsford, said the system was seen as failing to value and protect heritage assets, while heritage expertise in local government was being lost.

People no longer believed councils were able to protect the public interest, with the economic gain of landowners and developers taking precedence, said Planning

2000: Raynsford Review of Planning in England.

There was anger that decisions seemed to ignore community concerns regarding heritage and the environment, particularly over smaller schemes.

Local people felt their responses to consultations were not being taken seriously, and officers were dismissive.

Developers had power to exploit and dominate the process, and benefited from unequal legal rights. People suspected that complex language and procedures were used deliberately to exclude the them.

The review team were given numerous examples of poor-quality development. As one respondent put it, schemes were being "value engineered to the lowest common denominator. The result is shockingly poor design and dubious build quality."

A review team member described permitted development, where planning consent is not needed for some types of work, as "toxic".

Hugh Ellis, interim chief executive of the TCPA, said: "We have a choice. Do we want to build the slums of the future or create places that actually enhance people's lives?"

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

Ghost sign shows building's past as a hostel

I noticed a painted sign between the 2nd floor windows on 55 Colebrooke Row (pictured); the house is grade II listed and dates from c1755.

The sign reads "Hostel for women only 9d & 1/- per night, 4/6 & 6/- per week".

The Post Office London directory indicates that, from the time of the First World War up until the late 1960s, the premises were occupied by Bernard Lass & Sons – Ladies' Underclothing Mfrs. A photo from 1974 shows this name still visible on the entablature of the stuccoed porch, although the building looked empty and run down.

Can anyone throw some light on this hostel?

Roger Simmons
Via Facebook

I have found records of the following occupiers:

- 1880: Mr Joseph Colling, private resident
- 1899: St Nicholas' Home for Working Boys (Catholic), Rev Mark Vloemans, resident director
- 1905: David Levy, Lodging House
- 1910: David Levy, Lodging House.

I would suggest the price list for women only as "9d & 1/- per night, and 4/6 & 6/- per week" would apply to the establishment run by David Levy although, from our past enquiries, such places have usually been run by women.

The boys in the hostel run by the church may have stayed for free.

Michael Reading

Is this waterside place in Islington?

The picture below was posted online and is supposed to be in Islington but I'm not sure where it could be.

There are two spires on a church in background. The warehouse door has Betts Company written on it but I doubt it has any connection to Betts of Elthorne Road. There was a Betts in St John Street that was a supplier of brandy but the signs suggests a timber merchants. Is that the canal? Anyone got any ideas?

John Leo Walters
Via Facebook

That looks too big to be a canal and is home to a large number of swans. Also there are seagulls in the foreground – I wouldn't have thought they'd moved into London by then. And what are the people in the background leaning over the railings looking at? Are there animals eg cattle in there?

Sue Lamble

The church spires are unfamiliar but this could be before the Second World War and its bomb damage.

As a long shot, there is a



Swans, sheds and spires: do you recognise this place?



Hostel sign: a place to stay that cost up to 6/- (30p) a week

similarity to the Great Northern Railway Goods Depot off York Way in the King's Cross area. I also thought of the GNR cattle yard at the Cally, but there is no canal there.

Barry Page

All names rude and grand

As Michael Reading suggests, there are many "rude" names around the country (What's in a name?, spring 2018, page 16). I always had inappropriate thoughts whenever I walked down St Mary's Passage in Cambridge.

At the other extreme, there

are streets with inappropriately grand names. In particular, is it known how Vale Royal – a scruffy industrial estate off York Way – got its name?

Bev Rowe

By email

The Vale Royal estate originated as 11 acres in Islington conveyed in 1274-75 to Richard Hethersett, by Gervin, son of Peter the otter-hunter and Denise his wife.

Hethersett granted land and rent to the abbey of Vale Royal Cheshire – hence the name – in 1299, which included 12 acres held in Islington by the heirs of Ralph de Berners (where the name Barnsbury originates).

The abbey held the land at the dissolution, which was a pasture near St Pancras church on the east side of Longhedge lane (today York Way).

In the ensuing years, the land changed hands several times and, in 1806, the estate of 10 and a half acres, called Bellfields or Vale Royal, was owned by Samuel Brandon and formed the site of a pottery and a hartshorn factory. The name changed in the 19th century to Belle Isle.

The Ordnance Survey map for 1871 shows a tile and brick works, a soap works, cattle lairs and a bone mill there.

There is no evidence the area was ever occupied by housing.

Michael Reading

I feared that the answer might be "unknown" or some quirk of property development.

I do local history in

Camden New Town, mainly a prosopographic study of everyone recorded living in the area before 1901.

Unfortunately, the area has a very shallow history, being mainly fields until the 1850s, apart from the line of St Pancras Way. I often look longingly across York Way at the eastern fringe of Islington, which has a much richer history.

Bev Rowe

The old Florence pub

Does anybody have any information about the history of the Florence pub in Florence Street please? It is in a sorry state now.

Lindsay Topping

Via Facebook

It had a nightclub upstairs in the 1980s – Nightingales.

Eamonn Harvey

It was a Victorian boozer. The petrol station is the site of the Islington Vestry Hall, used as a town hall until the present one was built.

Barry Edwards

Florence Street was built around 1858 and trade directories show that there was a public house called the Florence Tavern since at least 1860.

Barry Page

Florence Nightingale was big news following her return from Crimea and her name appears in street names of around that time all over the country.

For the same reason, a lot of pubs that opened from 1806 were called Anchor or Crown when the latest big news was the Battle of Trafalgar.



The Florence: a traditional pub built around 1858 and now closed

I knew The Florence during its last years trading as a pub and, unlike most boozers in Upper Street, it was mostly frequented by locals.

Andy Gardner

Barnsbury type founder's Australian business

I have been researching the history of my great great grandfather, Henry James Thitchener (aka Titchener), who was born in Marylebone and set up a type foundry in Islington after having spent 15 years with V&J Figgins. His father was also a type founder and copperplate engraver.

Henry and his wife Rosina (née Hayward) were married in 1867 and lived at 53 Barnsbury Road sometime between then and 1876, when they emigrated.

He and Rosina, who was pregnant, as well as their four children, all born at Islington, emigrated to Melbourne and he set up one of the first type foundries in Australia.

There is a wealth of information about his life in Melbourne and Sydney, and about his company, the

Australian Type Foundry. However, very little is known about his life in Islington.

Would no 53 have been a single family home at that time or would several families have been living there? I'm wondering whether Henry's type foundry would have been at his home or elsewhere.

Having read about the Second World War bombing of the area that is now Barnsbury Park, I presume 53 Barnsbury Road would have been part of the wreckage. Would that be correct?

Are there any photographs of that area showing the type of buildings that 53 would have been? I would love to be able to see something that looks like what 53 might have looked like as I am making a commemorative quilt featuring elements of the Thitcheners' lives in both England and Australia.

If you can shed any further light on the Thitcheners' time in Islington, I would greatly appreciate it.

Also, would Barnsbury Road and Barnsbury Street have existed back in the 1870s? 53 Barnsbury Street has a small shop and residence on the corner, which would seem ideal for a small type foundry.

*Gillian Hamilton
Kurrajong, NSW Australia
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The building of Barnsbury Road and Barnsbury Street started around 1825 and 53 Barnsbury Road has gone.

Barnsbury Road was bomb damaged and Barnard Park is on the site of buildings that were destroyed. Buildings on the west side of the road were redeveloped into offices, public flats and the park. There are approximately 20 of the original houses at the north end.

The London Post Office Street Directory for 1869 shows a William Henry M'Millian, a pianoforte hammer coverer at 53 Barnsbury Road. At 53 Barnsbury Street (which still exists) was William Sharman Collins, a butcher.

Although new houses were still being built in Islington around the 1870s, with the ever-increasing population and the flight of more prosperous residents following the advent of the railways, multioccupancy was rising. Many parts of the borough contained homes built in the 18th century, which were classed as slums.

If you look up Barnsbury Road on Google Earth, you can see the east side of the street, which contains a complete line of the original buildings.

Michael Reading

I think the family lived on Barnsbury Road rather than Street, given the pianoforte hammer coverer living there.

In testimony given to a Victorian Royal Commission into Tariffs in 1882, Henry James Thitchener testified that friends of his wife's, who were in the piano trade, had mentioned bonuses were being given to new businesses setting up in Victoria in Australia. Perhaps they are one and the same.
*Gillian Hamilton
See The Emigrant Typefounder, page 12*

Write to us

- Contact the editor on journal@islingtonhistory.org.uk
- Post on www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory; letters printed will give Facebook usernames

Making history



From crafting stories like a Hollywood movie plot to working with magical or monstrous presenters, David Wilson tells of his time making history programmes

The rain cleared. David Starkey pulled on his immaculate green Hunter wellies and ventured down to the shore.

There, beneath the mighty cliffs at St Margaret's Bay near Dover, he strolled through the shallows along the shoreline, explaining the real meaning of the story of Canute and the waves – that the wild Viking overlord had been tamed by the Christian civility of the English elite.

Thirty seconds. One take. Perfect. Cut.

"I bet that Simon Schama's never walked on water," he said.

It was a very funny line at the time. History was the "new black" and the TV schedules were packed with history programmes, all of them fronted by academics of some sort.

There had always been presenters, and there had been telly-dons from the start, such as AJP Taylor. But this explosion was new, caused by the realisation that

well-honed narrative history could attract and keep audiences for much less money than dramas or more conventional documentaries.

For me, a TV director and history buff, it was a great boon. Between 2000 and 2016, when I more or less retired, I made some 34 history films, most of them with academic presenters, from Richard Holmes, Niall Ferguson and David Starkey to Dan Cruickshank and Michael Scott and Dan Jones.

Sticking a professor in front of a ruin is certainly a cheap way to generate airtime (or was, until the owners of the ruins got wise to the situation). But why a professor?

Behind the camera on top of a mountain opposite Delphi

Film is an intensely emotional medium. So, even when it is overtly factual, the aim will be to move the audience, because only then will they take in the information or ideas on offer

Why not just a good communicator, who are two a penny in TV-land? The answer is, of course, that they bring Authority.

In the absence of more expensive resources, an academic helps bring about the necessary suspension of disbelief that is vital to storytelling.

She's a professor, you think: she must know her stuff; I can believe this. That's why at the beginning of their TV careers, they are captioned with their academic status and why they get the writing credits at the end: "Written and presented by (say) Dr Michael Scott." (Later on, of course, once they are established, we leave the academic titles out. They have their own Authority now.)

However, they do not always write the script. That would be far too risky. One of the sources of the history boom was the intense concentration on narrative in factual parts of the BBC in the late 1990s.

It started in the business and science departments, which often had rather difficult material to put across. They looked to the principles of Hollywood screenwriting, as outlined in books like Robert McKee's *Story*, to grab

the audience and keep them with a compelling narrative.

It got to the point where, before embarking on a “landmark” series about human evolution, I was once one of five experienced BBC directors sitting down to watch and analyse *Mary Poppins*.

Academic historians don’t usually write like that. Worse, they revel in ambiguity and fine shades of grey, and they tend to like lists, all of which can kill a story stone dead. Smarter academics recognise this so most films are structured and written by the director, who then checks the result with the presenter.

More importantly, what drives narrative are not facts or analysis but emotion. Film is an intensely emotional medium by its very nature. So, even when it is overtly factual, the aim will always be to move the audience, because only then will they be able to take in the information or ideas on offer.

And that’s another reason why we have our lovely presenters. The best of them have a capacity to draw the audience in, just by their look or body language. They have a neediness, a desire for attention which is compelling, however cheery or bombastic they may be on screen.

Sometimes this gets out of control and presenters can become monsters – as all the world knows – but, without that psychological bent, there is no magic. This is not



A different person on and off screen: Jeremy Paxman paddling a coracle on the Severn at Ironbridge

something that can be taught, and the viewers can smell it when people try. But it’s vital.

So, as a director, you guard that vital flame. You make sure they don’t get cold or tired; you give them space. You allow them to sound off: as we said to Michael Scott when we stated working with him in *Delphi*: “You’re allowed one hissy fit.” (He had none.)

This is even more important when you are expecting your presenter to interact with the public. Now they are no longer just your mouthpiece: how they deal with the people they meet can make or break the film. And they have to make it work every time.

Sometimes this gets out of control and presenters can become monsters – as all the world knows – but, without that psychological bent, there is no magic

Often presenters develop a “character” who is very different from the off-screen person. Jeremy Paxman is actually rather shy, sometimes but he has a fearsome reputation as an interviewer.

His character in our *Rivers* series was unlike either; he was always courteous, even when chaffing people, with a good line in comic self-deprecation when, say, shearing sheep or paddling coracles.

Sometimes presenters and their characters can get confused, especially, when they’re on TV but not presenting, and I suspect that is why Starkey keeps getting into hot water.

When it works, the relationship between a director and a presenter can be exhilarating: you can trust them to give you what you need, they can trust you to keep the narrative show on the road and everyone can have a good time.

There’s nothing better than standing on a hilltop with a camera crew and a great presenter. When it doesn’t work, you just have to be professional about it. And still have a good time. ■



No hissy fits: David Wilson (right) with academic presenter Michael Scott in Istanbul to make *Delphi* for the BBC



The Copenhagen Tunnel

A trio of parallel railway tunnels carry the mainline railway tracks out of King's Cross station. Peter Darley tells the story of the Copenhagen tunnel and its environs

Copenhagen Tunnel started out as a single tunnel, running below Copenhagen Fields. Its first brick was laid on 27 March 1849 and it was completed over the next two years. It is 594 yards (543 metres) long. The original tunnel is now the middle bore.

The western bore was built in 1877 for up and down goods lines at a higher level. This enabled goods trains coming from the north to cross over passenger lines at the north end of the existing tunnel, and so get a clear run into the Goods Yard.



Tylor's water meter factory and testing works

From 1886, the eastern bore was built, which took fast and slow up trains. At that time, the middle bore took both slow and fast trains. The area above the tunnel was used for a rail line going to the Caledonian Road Coal and Goods Depot, which opened in March 1878.

The North London Railway (NLR) was built at the same time as the Great Northern Railway (GNR), forming the northern boundary of King's Cross Railway Lands.

The southern portal of Copenhagen Tunnel was a noted trainspotting location, offering the excitement of seeing, hearing, smelling and feeling powerful steam locomotives as they pounded up Holloway Bank.

The southern portal made an appearance in 1955 film

The Ladykillers, when members of the gang were wheeled by barrow to be tipped into passing empty wagons of a goods train.

The siding above this portal led to the Caledonian Goods and Coal Depot. Access to the Caledonian Goods and Coal Depot from King's Cross Goods Yard required a long viaduct passing behind the Goods & Mineral Signal Box and under the NLR bridge to a reversing siding beyond the south portals of Copenhagen Tunnel.

By the mid 1930s, many of the coal sidings in King's Cross Goods Yard had been moved to Caledonian Road; the depot closed in 1967.

The Ebonite tower was built by pioneering company, J Tylor & Sons, established in 1787, which was the first firm to produce water metering devices on a large scale. The Tylor factory was on a site at Belle Isle that the firm had acquired in 1870, which had formerly been home to tile kilns.

To test and calibrate meters, the company needed large quantities of water at known and constant pressures. This was achieved by setting three water tanks at different heights in a water tower some 150ft (46 metres) high. A large flue passed through an aperture in the three tanks, providing a draught for the boilers and ensuring the tanks did not freeze in winter.

Tylor's technology distinguished it from the firm's insalubrious neighbours at Belle Isle.

Belle Isle had long been notorious for its noxious industries, even before the arrival of the railway. A letter in The Times in 1855 described the "pestilential miasma" from the factories.

The nearby Metropolitan Cattle Market must have influenced the industry already attracted to the area by the canal and railway. Unsavoury businesses from tripe factories to horse slaughterers established themselves in the area, alongside breweries, tile kilns and chemical industries, adding to the gasworks (gas, tar, coke processing), coal depots, and open sewers.



Copenhagen Fields model railway layout: looking west over the Caledonian Goods and Coal Depot and the viaduct towards the Ebonite tower. For information on the model, see www.themodelrailwayclub.org/layouts/copenhagen-fields



Clockwise from left: north portal with Otaco factory and Caledonian clock tower by Käthe Strenitz, late 1960s; Flying Scotsman approaching the tunnel in 1968 on the 40th anniversary of its first non-stop run; construction of third tunnel; view from north portal showing the skew bridge and tracks after electrification, by Käthe Strenitz, c1978)



The tower was such a conspicuous landmark that it appeared on Luftwaffe maps and was used as an aid for bombing the nearby goods yard, as was discovered after the Second World War.

The tower was renamed by the plastics manufacturer that took over the works and used the tower as a boiler flue. It was demolished in June 1983.

Nearby were the GNR's stables at Blundell Street. There were 1,300 horses working at King's Cross station in 1900 and old stable buildings have survived until today (see *Housing Hundreds of Railway Horses*, summer 2017).

The northern portal of the tunnel is near Caledonian Road and the site of the Metropolitan Cattle Market, which opened in 1855 and was said to be the largest cattle market in the world. It held 6,600 bullocks and 36,000 sheep, and the lairs held 3000 cattle and 10,000 sheep.

A new road, Market Road, was run from Maiden Lane to Caledonian Road. It was connected by rail to the NLR and thence to the GNR, the Midland and Great Western Railway, linking with the main areas of livestock supply.

The market was paved with

granite and surrounded by handsome red railings. Surrounding it were related services, such as lairs, slaughterhouses, tripe dressers, cat's meat boilers, cat's gut spinners, bone boilers, glue makers and tallow smelters. There were public houses at each of the four corners.

In the centre was the 150ft (46 metre) tower, with market bells and an illuminated clock. Its base held banks, telegraph offices and the market superintendent's offices.

A tripe factory on Market Road was bought in the 1950s by Otto

Fischel, a Czech refugee, who turned it into Otaco Ltd, a factory that produced plastic injection mouldings. The factory became the base for his wife Käthe Strenitz, an artist fascinated with industrial London, who recorded the area on her drawing and painting excursions. ■

● See publications, page 22

Peter Darley is the founder and secretary of Camden Railway Heritage Trust

Looking towards Belle Isle in the snow from Copenhagen Tunnel



The emigrant type founder

Henry Thitchener took his family from Barnsbury and sailed to Australia in 1876 to seek his fortune in the printing industry, and eventually set up a business with a former Clerkenwell colleague. Gillian Hamilton tells his story

Henry James Thitchener (1841-1911) had the printing industry in his blood. Born in Marylebone in 1841, he was the son of Henry James Titchener, an engraver and copperplate master printer, and Mary Titchener.

His student days were followed by an engineering apprenticeship, which led to 15 years as a mechanic for the V&J Figgins type foundry on the corner of Farringdon Road and Ray Street in Clerkenwell.

In 1867, aged 26, he married Rosina Matilda Hayward, 20, at St Benet in Paul's Wharf in the City. They lived at 231 Upper Thames Street just a few doors up from the church.

The family moved to Islington, living and working at 53 Barnsbury Road, where Henry built his type founding business.

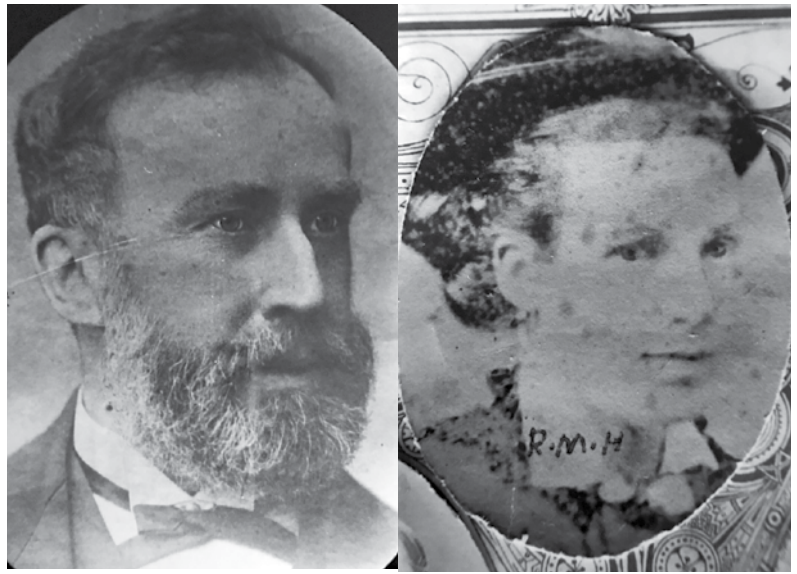
Their first child, Rosina Matilda (Rose), was born in Islington in January 1869, followed by Louisa Agnes (Louie) in July 1870, Henry Arthur (Harry) in June 1873 and Alfred Arthur in July 1875.

In early 1876, Rosina discovered she was pregnant again. Around the same time, Henry spotted the 600-page, cloth-bound *Australian Handbook*, published by Gordon and Gotch, at a bookseller in Bride Street.

He was interested to read that bonuses were being paid to new businesses in the colony as he had seen "so much printing material going out to Australia" while working at V&J Figgins.

Here was a great opportunity for him to succeed in a place where there was little if no competition. In Australia, he would be able to

Henry James Thitchener and his wife Rosina



produce printing type that could be sold more cheaply in the colony, rather than having to be ordered from America or England.

In addition, Islington had become overcrowded because the railway network in London had expanded. Moving to Australia provided an escape from the noise and pollution of the city.

It must have taken some persuading for Rosina to agree, because she would be travelling in the third trimester of her pregnancy and with four children.

Pregnant women had a difficult time at sea, with only basic medical help available. Death from complications was a very real concern.

Nevertheless, the Thitcheners bought passage aboard the newly built Blackwall fully rigged iron ship, the *Melbourne*, bringing with them £3,500 worth of type founding machinery and matrices of frequently used type.

They left the East India Docks on 10 June 1876 and arrived at Melbourne's Sandridge Railway Pier on 1 September after 77 days at sea.

The family settled at 3 Moray Street in Emerald Hill and Rosina gave birth to Alice a few weeks later. In February 1877, Alice died from a gastric infection and was buried in a public grave at Melbourne General Cemetery with another Moray Street baby.

A year later, Rosina was pregnant with her sixth child and, on 4 September, 1878, Agnes Florence arrived. Unable to recover from the birth, Rosina died, the victim of



The Thitcheners travelled on the *Melbourne* to Australia, taking £3,500 worth of type founding machinery with them

puerperal peritonitis following an infection of the placenta in the womb. She was buried in an unmarked grave at Melbourne General Cemetery.

Henry the married Irish woman Elizabeth Hallehen, aged 36, at St Mark's Church in Fitzroy in July 1879. Little is known of this second marriage except that an Eliza Thitchener died in October 1915 and was buried at Melbourne General Cemetery.

Henry managed to keep his business, the Victorian Type Foundry, going – but only just. As his business grew, he could not keep up with demand and, in 1878, applied for the bonus he thought he was owed.

At this time, he was supplying type for the Victorian Government, the South Australian Government and the Sydney Morning Herald, as well as Melbourne printers.

Examples of his type were of such high quality that they were displayed at the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1880-81.



Henry Thitchener with one of his type casting machines

After failing to get the bonus, Henry was called to testify before the Victorian Royal Commission on Tariffs in December 1882.

"I cannot meet the demand. I may say I am the only one in the colonies making printing type by improved machinery," Henry testified.

"I expected a bonus to employ labour to build machinery under my own supervision and then I could have commanded the whole of the work in the colony.

"It states here [page 182 of the Australian Handbook] that bonuses were given to new

The former V&J Figgins print works on the corner of Farringdon Road and Ray Street, where Henry Thitchener worked



industries."

Henry went on to add that, had he not seen the advertisement in the book, he would have remained in London.

In a bid to get more secure income, Henry tried to sell the foundry, along with his services, to the Victorian Government Printing Office; this was followed by an approach to the South Australian Government Printer. Both turned him down.

In 1885, he moved to Sydney, going into partnership with John Davies, who had also worked for V&J Figgins. The Australian Type Founding Company was set up at 91A Clarence Street.

By 1897, Henry was living at "Edenia" in Newtown, where he had a small workshop. In 1899, the partnership was dissolved and the company was sold to Frederick Wimble, who had a printing ink business.

FT Wimble employed Henry's son Harry to manage the type foundry, where he remained for 33 years until his death in 1934.

The early 1900s were a time for Henry to enjoy retirement and family weddings. In 1902, Louie married Walter Shaw in February,

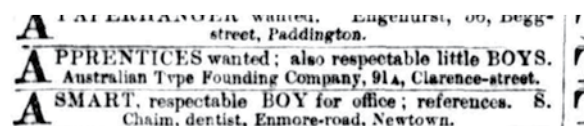
followed by Alfred and Catherine McIntyre in June, and Florence and Frederick Wagner in August. His two older children were already married: Rose to Alfred Hiscox in November 1895 and Harry to Sarah Collins in May 1898.

As the winter of 1911 set in, Henry became ill and died on 23 June from pneumonia, pleurisy and heart failure. He was buried at Sydney's Rookwood Cemetery, his name carved into the headstone with lead filling the grooves of the letters, a fitting acknowledgement of his type founding past.

Henry left his jewellery and clothing to Alfred, as well as the dining room and best bedroom furniture. The other furniture and household effects were left to his housekeeper, Mrs E Downes. The residue of his £1,172 5s 4d estate was divided into 20 parts. Harry and Alfred received eight parts each; Rosina, Louisa and Florence got one part each, as did his housekeeper.

Could Mrs Downes have been more than a housekeeper? Possibly, because in 1929, 18 years after Henry died, an Elizabeth Downes, aged 74, was buried in Rookwood Cemetery, in Henry's grave. Her personal details, however, are not included on the headstone. The Sands Directories for 1894-96 show an Elizabeth Downes living at Edenia shortly before Henry's time there. Whatever their relationship, Henry and Elizabeth have taken it to their grave. ■

● See Letters, page 6



Advertisement in the Sydney Morning Herald, 19 August 1885: "APPRENTICES wanted: also respectable little BOYS. Australian Type Founding Company, 91A, Clarence-Street"

Darwin's 'idiots' and other animals

Why were so-called 'idiots' of Victorian Britain important to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution? Simon Jarrett looks back at the work of Darwin and others that aimed to demonstrate close links between humans and animals

When Charles Darwin published *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* in 1859, he changed how humans viewed the world.

He demonstrated that animal and plant species had slowly evolved over millions of years by a process known as natural selection, through which they adapted to their environment to survive.

After Darwin published his theory of evolution, scientists turned to the animal kingdom to find out how conscious thought had evolved. This happened somewhere in the evolutionary journey between single-cell organisms and the higher primates but at what point, and how did it happen?

A new discipline of comparative psychology was formed, which sought answers to the consciousness question by studying animal minds, from the most complex mammals to the lowest insects. Comparisons with the minds of human children and adults would, it was thought, throw light on the subject.

This intellectual endeavour was bad news for a certain type of human: those designated as "idiots" at the time – broadly those we would say had learning disabilities today. As the "lowest" form of human mind, these people were compared, unfavourably, with non-human animals.

A broad consensus was formed that consciousness evolved from reflex before moving to instinct then, in higher forms of life, conscious, intentional action.

Reflex was the unthinking reaction of an organism to an



Different and similar: the text below this image from *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*, states: "With monkeys, the expression of slight pain, or of any painful emotion, such as grief, vexation, jealousy, &c, is not easily distinguished from that of moderate anger; and these states of mind readily and quickly pass into each other. Grief, however, with some species is certainly exhibited by weeping"

external stimulus like, the leg jerking upwards when the knee is tapped.

Instinct was a step up from reflex. Whole species "learned" reactions to stimuli, such as closing an eye when something came too close, which were acquired by future generations through adaptive evolution. Instinct, importantly, involved a small amount of conscious action.

Full conscious action arose when individuals learned to adapt their reactions to stimuli and situations they had not encountered.

So-called idiots, who were regarded as the most reflexive and instinctive and therefore least conscious of human beings, seemed an ideal object of study to demonstrate this theory.

Darwin himself had used the idiot to demonstrate evolutionary similarities between animals and humans in two books he wrote after *On the Origin of Species*: *The Descent of Man* (1871) and *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals* (1872).

In *Expression of the Emotions*, Darwin gave the examples of joy and high spirits to pleasurable feelings, which he saw as instinctive reactions found in many species.

"Idiots frequently laugh in a quite senseless manner," he wrote, and would "grin, chuckle or giggle" when food was placed in front of them or if they were caressed.

He argued that such reactions were nothing to do with "distinct ideas" but were instinctive expressions of pleasure.

His theory was that joy or pleasure in idiots was a physical reaction to an external stimulation, like laughing when being tickled.

Darwin pointed out that the apes that most resembled humans, such as gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans, were similar, and "utter a reiterated sound corresponding with our laughter when they are tickled, especially under the armpits". (We should surely take our hats off to whichever Victorian gentleman of science first decided to tickle an ape under the armpits.)

If they could identify an "unevolved" human with a combination of reflex, instinct and consciousness close to that of non-humans, this could be significant proof of the common ancestry of human and animal

In *The Descent of Man*, Darwin made further comparisons between idiots and animals when he claimed that the former were remarkably hairy, lacked speech, ascended stairs on all fours, climbed trees, smelled their food before eating it and made grimaces.

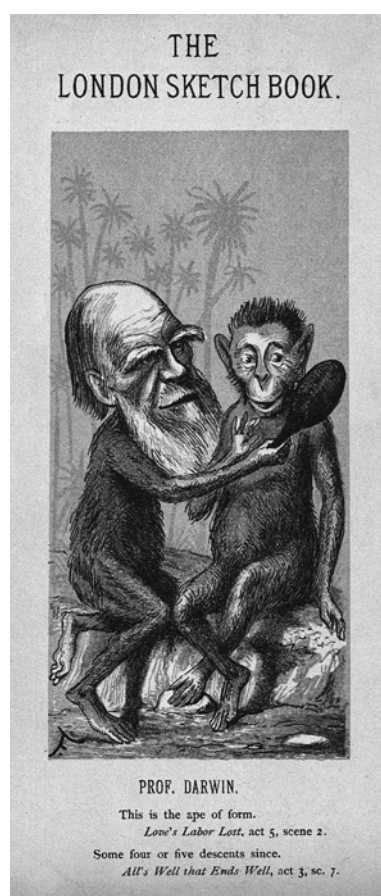
He compared idiots who were “continually gambolling about” with lambs, who “delight to frisk on any hillock”.

Darwin's disciple

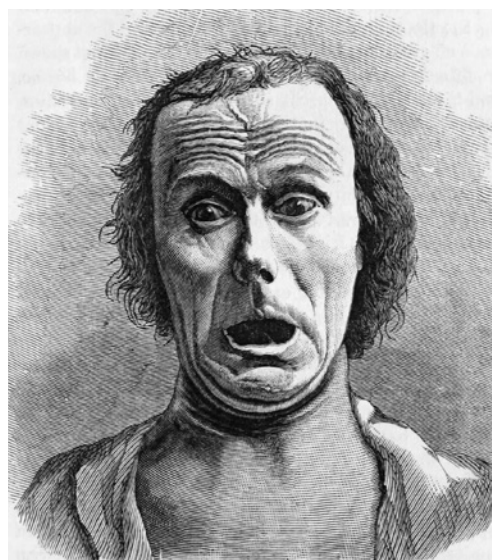
Towards the end of his life Darwin passed his uncompleted notes and manuscripts on instinct to a young protégé, George Romanes.

Romanes wrote two volumes regarded as foundation texts for the discipline of animal or comparative psychology – *Mental Evolution in Animals* (1883) and *Mental Evolution in Man* (1888).

Romanes, a passionate Darwinian, was also very keen to use idiots to prove the evolutionary theory of mind.



Look like: Charles Darwin holds a mirror up to another ape. Those satirising Darwin's ideas on evolution compared him to an ape to imply he was idiotic



Fear in a man and a cat, from *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals*: Darwin saw emotions as instinctive responses



He claimed to have observed “primary instincts at work in startling ways in idiots” and described them as “a class of persons ... of peculiar interest in relation to mental evolution, because in them we have a human mind arrested in its development as well as deflected in its growth ... supplying to the comparative psychologist very suggestive material to study”.

During visits to “idiot asylums”, he saw people carrying out “meaningless tricks of manner”, such as rocking, rhythmic movements and repeated gestures.

He claimed these were derived from instincts, which had once been necessary but had outlived their use, and compared them to similar actions in dogs, cats and horses. Dogs turn around several times before lying down in an instinctive echo of their ancestors who lived in long grass and needed to trample it down before sitting, he suggested.

Romanes and later comparative psychologists saw idiots as proof of the evolution of consciousness and that species were connected. Both of these involved closing the consciousness gap between humans and other animals.

If they could identify a type of “unevolved” human with a combination of reflex, instinct and consciousness close to that of non-humans, this could be

presented as significant proof of the common ancestry of human and animal.

It was at around this time that IQ and the idea of mental age became important in psychology. Chimps could perform at the level of a four-year-old child in experiments, demonstrating their human-like capacities and consciousness.

Psychologists now considered themselves able to demonstrate scientific proof of the comparative mental functioning of human infants, adult human idiots and higher-functioning animals – particularly primates – through aptitude tests.

To this day, textbooks talk about the low mental age of people with learning disabilities, and publications compare the intelligence, consciousness and emotions of animals and humans.

Lurking beneath this school of thought lies Darwin's quest to narrow the gap between the human and animal to support evolutionary theory. ■

This is an edited excerpt from *Good Animals, Bad Humans?* published by the Wellcome Collection at <https://wellcomecollection.org/articles/W4z18x4AACIAmwSs>

Simon Jarrett is a Wellcome Trust research fellow at Birkbeck, University of London

Showing the way

On the 30th anniversary of the Clerkenwell and Islington Guides' Association, John Finn looks back at the drive to get Islington's heritage recognised

Islington "is exciting, inventive, gritty and alive ... steeped in tradition, as modern as tomorrow ... it's not pretty, but it's fun and feisty and decidedly bohemian," US Travel and Leisure magazine advised travellers to the UK in 1990.

This enthusiasm for a part of London that would not have previously figured on its readers' itineraries is almost certainly the



Anthony Weaver believed Clerkenwell was so full of history that it would attract tourists

result of a project that had begun a few years before in Clerkenwell. In 2018, the legacy of that project, the Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association, celebrated its 30th anniversary.

On 2 April 1984, the Clerkenwell Heritage Centre opened its doors for the first time, offering daily tours of the area at 2.30pm for £2 a head. Located in the Pennybank Chambers at 33 St John's Square, initially it was the vision of Dr Anthony Weaver MA (Cantab), a teacher of English to foreign students. He had lived in Clerkenwell since 1980 and was a member of the congregation at St Etheldreda's in Ely Place.

An enthusiast of the local history, he organised ad hoc tours of the area for friends and others. The idea occurred to him that Clerkenwell was so full of history that it should and would attract tourists.

He had persuaded Islington Council to support the centre's start

up, which he claimed was London's first. The council was attracted to the idea of an "experiment in tourism" that would "promote and develop Clerkenwell's tourist potential to benefit the residents, business people and employees of the area".

Described by one of the first members as "energetic and forceful", Weaver was dubbed by the local newspapers as "Mr Clerkenwell". At first, the project met scepticism – a later headline mockingly referred to "Costa del Islington".

However, there had been moves from different quarters, including the government, to encourage tourism away from the capital's familiar sites. Prince Charles, Kenneth Baker and other ministers were given tours of Clerkenwell to highlight the idea of urban tourism.

The year after the centre opened, a group of Blue Badge and City guides joined a Clerkenwell study day promoted by Weaver, in



A Shakespeare tour was run in 1987, with actor Peter Stenson who portrayed John of Gaunt and master of the revels Sir Edmund Tilney. It started at St John's Gate and ended at the Barbican in time for the Royal Shakespeare Company performance



"Meet Islington's first official tourist guides," said the Islington Gazette, as the first guides graduated from City University

an area with which most of them were unfamiliar. Weaver, who had been leading the daily tours by himself, saw these intrepid explorers as a potential team.

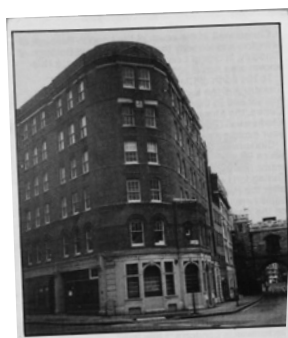
He persuaded City University to run a 12-week, one-term guiding course, taught by himself. It began in the autumn of 1985, and ended with the first group of locally qualified guides. In 1987, the new guides organised themselves into an association.

By this time, Weaver had become director of the Clerkenwell Heritage Centre, and had recruited a deputy, a marketing/publicity officer and part-time clerical help. The new guides volunteered at the desk or led tours and, on occasion, even provided the catering at promotional events. The fees from the tours helped to finance the operation.

Weaver's active promotion of the centre attracted the attention of the London tourism chiefs and, as a result, they installed London's first experimental 24-hour tourist information service at the centre's premises in St John's Square. Local news photos from that time show something of a cross between Ceefax and a cash machine.

A self-guided walk was devised, with a leaflet and directional markers set into pavements (most of which are still in situ) and small signboards attached to lamp-posts.





CLERKENWELL HERITAGE CENTRE

A Tourism Initiative in the London Borough of Islington

Opening April 2 1984

33 St John's Square, Clerkenwell, London EC1. Tel: 01-250 1039

Discovering Clerkenwell London's hidden village



Clerkenwell Close

- The site of monasteries of Benedictines, Knights of Malta and Carthusians
- The home of radical movements vital in British working-class history
- The centre of the watch-making and printing industries
- 'Little Italy'—the spiritual home of London's Italian community
- The scene of modern urban regeneration and flourishing craft industries...

A year after the Clerkenwell initiative began, the Islington Gazette reported that the council was now looking at "ways of promoting the whole of Islington as a tourist centre".

Weaver and his team were energetically presenting not only the idea of guided tours of the district but also raising the profile of the area to everyone.

Local business was a target and a spin-off venture involving local companies and shops was launched. It was ahead of its time and was what today would be called a business improvement district.

In addition, the centre had hoped to restore a derelict house in St James's Walk as a Georgian museum, and held candlelit receptions with period music to promote the scheme. However, all this needed money and people, and not only was the council unwilling to fund any expansion but also it was beginning to express concern about the finances of the existing operation.

Eventually they withdrew their grant and, in January 1992, Weaver was forced to close the centre down. He has said that his saddest memory of that time was to have to watch the entire contents of the Clerkenwell Heritage Centre being consigned to a skip.

At the same time, though, the council put some effort into a borough-wide Discover Islington promotion, which was provided with shopfront premises in

Duncan Street. As result of this expansion, the guides' association added "Islington" to its name. It added regular walks outside Clerkenwell, for example in Highbury and in Barnsbury devised by the late Kathleen Frenchman, a guide who many IAHS members will remember.

In 2000, the Duncan Street shop, too, was closed and

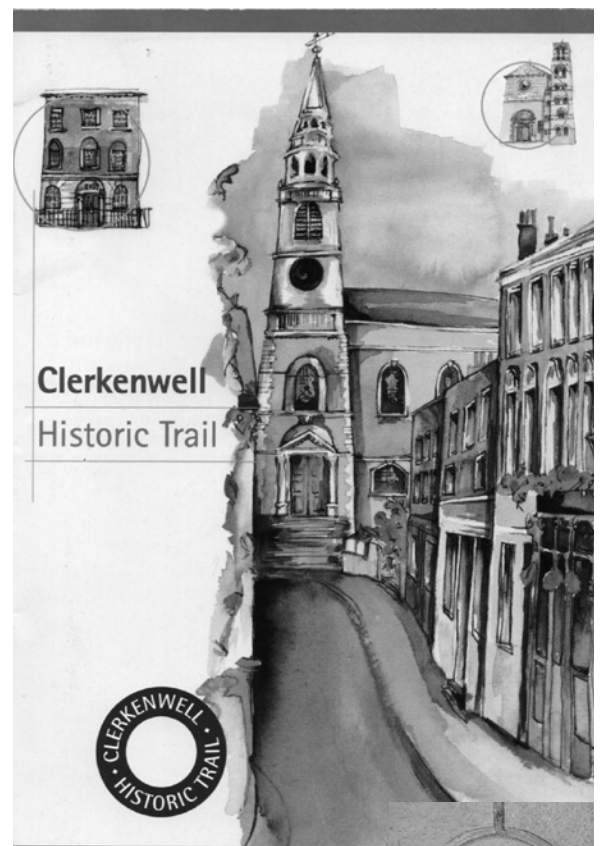
the tourism strategy wound down. Subsequently, the council's efforts were concentrated on local heritage initiatives, like the museum and the local history centre.

Meanwhile the Clerkenwell and Islington Guides survived this and guide training continued at the City University then, after 2009, at the University of Westminster. Students continue to be surprised by the depth, scope and variety of history to be uncovered in the borough.

From its early days, the association gained the patronage of the marquess of Northampton,, along with the master of



Watch your step: the mayor of Islington and the master of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks perch precariously on edge of the Clerks' Well at its reopening ceremony. Islington Guides have exclusive access for guided tours



Leaflets, lamp-post signs, pavement markers and a 24-hour tourist information machine showed visitors the sights – and how well connected Islington was



Charterhouse, MP for Islington South and Finsbury Chris (now Lord) Smith and the mayor of Islington. Upon qualification, guides receive their badges from the mayor.

In recent years, the guides have devised walks on Islington's connections with the First World War, the Spanish Civil War and LBGT+ themes for Islington Museum, the Angel Business Improvement District, the Cloudeley Charity and others. We also guide at St John's Gate, Charterhouse and, from time to time, at Canonbury Tower.

There are now 150 or so of us – not all actively guiding of course – but deeply interested in Clerkenwell and Islington and proud to promote this history to the world. ■

• <https://islingtonguidedwalks.com>

John Finn is a former chair of Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association, and director of the tour guiding course at the University of Westminster. His family lived in Finsbury from at least 1790 until 2004

Last orders at the Prince of Wales

On Boxing Day 1944, a V2 bomb destroyed part of Mackenzie Road and killed 74 people, at least 35 of whom were in the Prince of Wales pub. Bill Patey describes how some spent their final evening

Nine twenty at night. It had been another very cold day and now a proper peasouper fog enveloped Mackenzie Road. From Crown Mansions on the corner with Liverpool Road, past Paradise Passage, the parade of shops was shrouded in darkness.

There was a fish and poultry shop, a general provisions store, an oilmonger, a baker's, an undertaker, a butcher's, a draper's, another undertaker, a boot repair shop and then a Charrington's pub, the Prince of Wales.

Thin shafts of light were just visible each time the pub door opened; the blackout had been replaced in September 1944 by "dim out" regulations, and lighting equal to moonlight was allowed.

The Wellington pub, some 50 yards away on the corner of Lough Road, had seen brisk business the

day before but had sold out of beer and was closed.

The Prince of Wales was packed, so much so that the cellar was being used as an overflow bar. It been closed the previous day as George (Wally) and Agatha Streeter, who had managed the pub since 1939, had spent Christmas Day with family in their home town of Hastings. They were intending to call "time" soon as they had not yet had dinner.

They survived the bomb attack and, as they lost their home and all their possessions that night, they returned to Hastings. Agatha died in 1980 and George in 1981, both at St Leonards-on-Sea in Sussex.

As well as plenty of locals enjoying a festive drink, there was an engagement party in full swing for 22-year-old Frank Hopwood junior and 19-year-old Emily (Emy) Neighbour.

He was in the Marines and had travelled from Scotland in his uniform but had changed into civvies for the special get together. Emy had changed out of her Women's Land Army uniform and was wearing a green hand-knitted pullover and dark skirt. She had chased her mother around the kitchen table for a goodbye kiss before going to the party; she was hoping her mum would join them later.

The party hosts, the Hopwoods from Rhodes Street, were well known in the area as they ran a furniture removal business and the local rag sorting shop. Frank senior

Following campaigning by Bill Patey, a commemorative board dedicated to the casualties of the bombing attack was placed near the gates of Paradise Park in 2017



was there with his wife Maud, plus George the twin brother of Frank junior, their sister Joyce with the gingery hair, and many friends including Florence Ayling and Lulu Reynolds.

Several of their in-laws from the Peacock and Tower families were also there including the eldest, 72-year old Louisa Tower. Standing to one side was a disappointed Alfred Syrett who had previously said that he had "a thing" for Emy and expected "to end up with her one day".

Over in one corner, enjoying the festivities were Mackenzie Road trio Edith Macbeth, Hilda Osborne, with her long, dark hair, and Maggy Marson. Her husband, Ernest Francis Marson, a metal polisher, was injured in the blast



Greengrocer Henry Jepps, an ARP warden, said the air raid sirens had been sounding less and less and he thought the end of the war was in sight

but survived. Near to them were Wallace Sidney and his wife Emily, a nurse, who was wearing a black astrakhan coat and white silk scarf. Mabel Paris, Ellen Whitley and Edward Weston were close by.

Stood in their usual places at the bar were William Newell, who worked with glass bottles, carpenter Stanley Cowper in his herringbone overcoat and coalman Albert Bussey from Chillingworth Road. Through the wide space in his front and upper teeth, Albert was telling the off-duty watchman, Henry Barnes, that he had come from The Flying Horse pub as it had sold out of beer.

As he spoke, Albert fiddled with his keys as though he was about to leave (he was so badly burnt in the attack that he was identified by these keys). His wife Charlotte worked behind the bar. That night, nobody knew who took her purse from behind the counter when she went downstairs to find more ginger wine to go in a whiskey mac for Mary Arscott. Like many other women in the pub, Mary wore a simple black frock; several others wore green. Most of the men were sober in colour of attire if not in alcohol content.

The Betts family were gathered nearer the bar: George and May Betts had just arrived back from visiting two of their evacuated children in Cornwall. They were tired from travelling all day but changed their mind about going straight home and had popped in



The pub's managers, Wally and Agatha Streeter, pictured with their grandchildren: photo courtesy of Neil Streeter, who is in his grandfather's arms

for one quick drink with their daughter Florence. Their son George had just gone to the toilet outside, which backed on to Eggers Dairy Yard. This call of nature saved his life even though he spent three months in hospital recovering from his injuries.

Downstairs in the busy cellar room, Charles Burchnall was full of hope for the new year, saying the Jerrys seemed to have knocked off for the Christmas festivities. His neighbour in St George's Road, greengrocer Henry Jepps, an ARP warden, confirmed that the air raid sirens had been sounding less and less in recent weeks and he thought

the end of the war was in sight. William Doy was being ribbed by Henry Rowlands and John Ramsay as to whether he wore his grey suit at work on the railway and when on the roof fire-watching. Martin Flack fingered his unopened £6 wage packet and decided he had enough change for one last drink.

Nearly all the customers were locals who knew one another by name or by sight. Families lived in the same home for many years in nearby streets such as Chalfont Road, Stock Orchard Road, Eden Grove and Hollingsworth Street. If they moved at all, they tended to move only a street or two away.

Even though the locals kept a keen eye and an ear out and knew much of their neighbours' business, there were still plenty of secrets that would remain so. Nobody knew who among them in the pub that night had served two days in jail for bigamy, who was a

Like many other women in the pub, Mary wore a simple black frock. Most of the men were sober in colour of attire if not in alcohol content



Aerial view from the north-west, taken in April 1945, showing the damage caused by the bomb. Clearance work is still in progress

deserter with a conviction for receiving stolen goods nor whose husband had a First World War leg wound after a loaded revolver was "accidentally" fired by his senior officer when he refused to obey an order. These were matters long buried in the past.

It was now 9.23pm. The Prince of Wales was noisy inside. Outside, the fog continued to swirl like a shroud wrapped around a body. Nobody heard the explosion, as V2 bombs travelled faster than sound. "Time" had been called. ■

This account is compiled from a range of sources in the Islington Local History Centre, the 1939 register and other genealogy records, and memories recorded on social media. Tragedy on Boxing Day was published in the winter 2016-17 issue of this journal

Going by coach from King's Cross

King's Cross played a central role in the development of travel by coach. Alan Osborne tells the stories of its stations and the routes they served

Back in Victorian times, long-distance travel was mainly by train and, with a dense network of lines, it was possible to get to most places.

After the horse, road transport was initially confined to the early motor charabanc, but developments with the internal combustion engine saw more powerful vehicles introduced.

By the late 1920s, these were sufficiently reliable and fast to permit longer journeys. Coach travel then came into being. In London, a temporary coach station was opened in Lupus Street in Pimlico on 1 April 1928 but soon became too congested and overcrowded.

On 10 March 1932, the art deco Victoria Coach Station opened, from whence railway-associated road transport companies ran coaches to all parts. These included the Eastern National Omnibus Co Ltd to Clacton-on-Sea and Westcliff-on-Sea services; the latter ran via Islington, Dalston, Walthamstow and Wanstead through to Hadleigh, Leigh, Westcliff and Southend-on-Sea.

All seats had to be booked in advance, either by telephone to Victoria or at local travel agents. For Islington residents, this would have been at Bensons of 70 Upper Street (opposite Islington Green), now occupied by the Ladybird Bar.

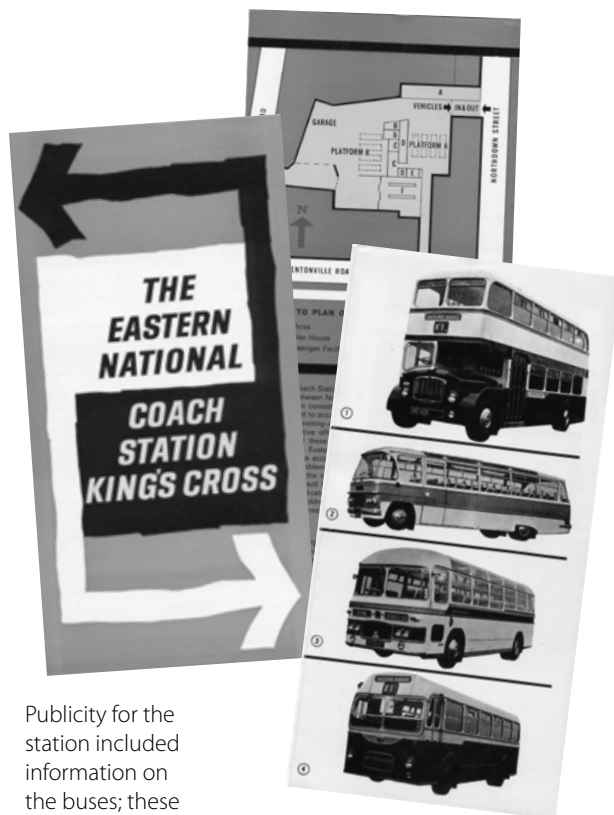
The smaller independent operators serving the towns and villages in East Anglia used an alternative terminal. The new undercover station on Euston Road – Belgrave House – also opened in 1932, and was owned by Motor Coach Stations Ltd. Due to wartime restrictions it closed in

1940 and, although it reopened in February 1946; the lease expired in September 1947.

Belgrave House still stands, opposite King's Cross Station. The premises are now occupied by Access Storage Systems and a McDonalds. Bricked-up coach entrances are clearly visible in the renamed Belgrove Street.

The closure of Belgrave House necessitated an overnight move to Judd Street, to a site on the corner of Cromer Street. This was very temporary, with a cinder floor and a prefabricated booking office and waiting room. Two Eastern National services ran from Judd Street, the B to Halstead and the 322 to Braintree, with Grey-Green coaches running further afield to Felixstowe and Great Yarmouth.

Today, the site is home to part of the King's Cross estate. Bramber House occupies part of the area. Most of the site is now the Judd Street open space, from where it is



Publicity for the station included information on the buses; these included the "coach/air" service and a route to Devon

possible to imagine the size of the former station.

PSV Operators Ltd took over from Motor Coach Stations and a search began for a permanent home in the area.

This was eventually found in Pentonville Road between Northdown Street (entrance) and Killick Street (exit). An administration block in the shape of an L stood at the corner of Pentonville Road and Northdown Street. Judd Street closed on 31 December 1953 and the new station became operational the next day on 1 January. It was officially opened by minister of transport Alan Lennox-Boyd on 5 July.

Although the station was quite busy in the morning and early evening, there was little activity during the day. Later, the owners wished to develop the site. The station closed on 31 October 1965 and an office block was built there.

After Judd Street closed, Eastern National moved to its own small, purpose-built terminal at Euston Square. However, following the



Typical of the vehicles used on the 400 to Southend (pay driver) is this 70-seat Bristol VR double deck being admired at the Showbus rally

decision to rebuild Euston Railway Station (the famous Doric Arch was demolished in 1962), the terminal's days were numbered.

It was decided to convert the former Tillings Transport (BTC) garage which had been acquired from local coach operator Pat Hearn of King's Cross in June 1951.

Although there was an entrance in Omega Place from Caledonian Road, this was very narrow so vehicles arrived and departed via Northdown Street. A pedestrian entrance was opened at 242 Pentonville Road, next to the Poor School drama training centre.

The new Eastern National King's Cross Coach Station opened in May 1963 and included a waiting room, toilets, luggage lockers and vending machines. Its two departure platforms could accommodate double deck vehicles. In addition to the services moved from Euston Square, coach and air services to Southend Airport and pick-ups for extended coach tours were catered for.

The former Westcliff-on-Sea coach service D from Victoria Coach Station to Southend, which had been taken over by Eastern National and was later renumbered X10, also used the station. It was later changed to provide the half-hourly, limited-stop service 400 with all tickets issued on the double deck coaches. Its route was via Islington, Dalston, Leyton, Gants Hill, Newbury Park, Romford, Basildon, Pitsea and Westcliff.



The premises were renamed the National Coach Station in 1973 and became the Britannia Airways terminal from October 1976 when it acquired the lease. From Sunday 10 October 1976, on arrival at King's Cross, the 400 set down passengers in York Way where the vehicle took layover. Departure was then from the bus stop outside 260 Pentonville Road.

Reminders

So what of the area today?

The pedestrian entrance next to the Poor School is still there, although now locked and full of dustbins. If you walk down Omega Place from Caledonian Road, on the left is the entrance to the former Tillings garage, shuttered but still unchanged, the garage is now the base of a film

Double deck bus as used on the X10 from King's Cross to Southend at the Cobham bus rally.

production company, Mascioni Association International, while the former waiting room is now occupied by Big Sky Studios. The vehicle entrance/exit in Northdown Street is now the site of Northdown House.

Another coach route to Southend started in Kentish Town, from a terminal at 32-34 Leighton Road NW5, quite close to Kentish Town station. This partly limited-stop service was provided by the City Motor Omnibus Co Ltd (later City Coach Company) from 1929. The return fare was 5/- (25p), 6/- (30p) on Sundays. It was curtailed at Wood Green from Southend from 1 October 1947 and coaches ran every 15 minutes.

City was acquired by Westcliff-on-Sea then by Eastern National, which allocated service number 251 to the route. This continued to run (latterly by Thamesway) as far as Walthamstow until 6 May 2000 and I was on the last journey. Many of the older generation, me included, have fond memories of City and the 251.

I hope this article has stirred some memories and has shown the role King's Cross played the development of coach travel. ■

Alan Osborne is the founder of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group, which publishes a monthly illustrated magazine Essex Bus News (www.essexbus.org.uk)

This former Eastern National Bristol MW saloon bus with 45 seats would have worked on the route to Southend at peak holiday times. It has since gone back to work in Yorkshire



Publications and bookshop

This issue, we look at a train tunnel, glassworks archaeology, Islington's Jewish community, a 500-year-old charity, and life in prefab homes, then stroll around Caledonian Park and make some models

The King's Cross Story: 200 Years of History in the Railway Lands

Peter Darley

£20, History Press, 218pp, 2018

This 216 page book by Peter Darley, secretary of the Camden Railway Heritage Trust, covers the 200 years of history of the Railway Lands in extremely well-researched detail.

It is full of prints, maps, archive material as well as old (and new) photographs of the area. Special mention must be made of the sketch on the cover by Käthe Strenitz, to whom this book is dedicated.

The 16 chapters, all profusely illustrated, start with A Sunday Stroll up Maiden Lane, visiting a medieval coaching inn and continuing up to Copenhagen Fields.

Then comes the history of the Great Northern Railway, the company and its structure. Such was the need for such well-organised transport that

early travellers such as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert used King's Cross to embark for Scotland.

The main passenger station was designed by Lewis Cubitt and the chapter on this gives details of its structures, including the arrival and departure sheds.

One interesting structure in the area is the German Gymnasium (Die Turnhalle), the first purpose-built public gymnasium in the country. Ernest Ravenstein, a director of it, organised the National Olympic Games in London in 1866, a regional precursor of the Olympic Games we all know today.

The King's Cross area is one



of the most significant places of railway heritage, and the Camden Railway Heritage Trust promotes the preservation of its social and industrial history.

This excellent book will surely appeal to the railway enthusiast, the local historian, and the general reader – it is a must for your bookshelf as the most definitive of the area and its history.

Peter Fuller

● See The Copenhagen Tunnel, page 10

Cloudesley: 500 Years in Islington – 1517-2017

Dr Cathy Ross

£3. Available from the IAHS

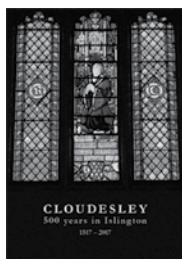
This 500-year history of the Cloudesley charity also provides a thought-provoking reflection on the changing role of charity in society in general.

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 over the centuries. However, the original intentions generated a dynamic story of change fuelled by disputes and debate.

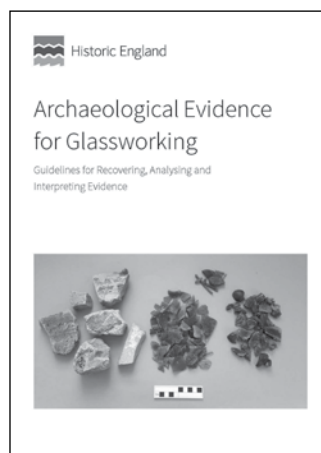
The legacy has been intertwined with questions over how communal assets of land and money should be put to good use.



Buy from the IAHS

The society sells books and maps at IAHS and other events and events and by post

If you want to order from us (including bulk orders), collect books in person or have any other queries, contact Catherine Brighty on 020 7833 1541, catherine.brighteyes@hotmail.co.uk or write to her at 8 Wynyatt Street, London EC1V 7HU



Glassworking is part of Clerkenwell's industrial heritage, and this guidance looks at how to approach, investigate and interpret glassworking sites.

Surviving glassworking remains are likely to be regionally or nationally important as archaeological evidence of glassworking is relatively rare

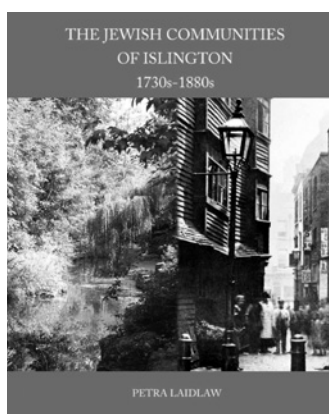
This guide describes how glass was made and shaped as well as the main types of glass how they differ.

It describes and illustrates the most common types of glassworking evidence and advises on how to investigate a potential glassworking site, from preparation and planning to fieldwork and post-excavation analysis.

Common methods of shaping glass and identifying processes that can be used to identify which processes were used as well as materials that might be mistaken as evidence of glassworking are included.

A chronological overview highlights the different types of glass used and products made by period. A table summarises raw materials, processes, products and the state of current knowledge by period.

At the end is advice on where to go for further help, a reference list and a glossary.



The Jewish Communities of Islington, 1730s-1880s

Petra Laidlaw

£9.99 + £2.80 p&p, Islington

Archaeology & History Society, 2013

Islington was home to a significant Jewish population 200 years ago, and remained so until the middle of the 20th century.

However, as London expanded and earlier inhabitants drifted outwards,

the Jewish presence in this area was largely forgotten.

This book draws on extensive research to bring back to life the communities that lived here between the 1730s and the eve of mass immigration in the 1880s.

This volume traces a cross section of characters, their religious life, their occupations and their contact with the rest of the community.

Former residents include many of the great and the good of Jewish society, numerous ordinary people whose lives are more obscure, and a few rogues.

Two appendices set out some of the factual background and statistics underlying the narrative. The book is fully sourced and indexed, with 37 prints and photographs.

What the Victorians Threw Away

Tom Licence

£4.50, 108pp, Oxbow Books, 2015

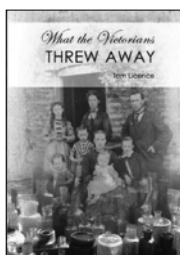
Available from the IAHS

This entertaining illustrated book shows just 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.

An old tin can tell us about advertising, chores or foreign imports, and a bottle what people were drinking. We can find out



about soaps, face creams and perfumes. Containers show when a famous brand emerged or whether a new product was successful.

Tom Licence, who has spent a lot of time digging up rubbish dumps, shows how discarded household items contribute to the story of how our not too distant ancestors built a throwaway society.



Caledonian Park and its Surroundings

Sylvia Tunstall, Patsy Ainger and Robyn Lyons

£5.00 + 75p p&p, Islington Society.

Available from the IAHS

This area reflects Victorian energy and ambition and is full of architectural, historical and social interest.

This booklet takes you on a mile-long walk within the boundaries of the huge cattle market that once occupied the site centred around the clock tower, and takes in many historic buildings.

Prefab Homes

Elisabeth Blanchet

£7.95 + £1.50 p&p, Shire, 2014.

Available from the IAHS

After the Second World War, more than 156,000 temporary prefabs were built to tackle the housing shortage.

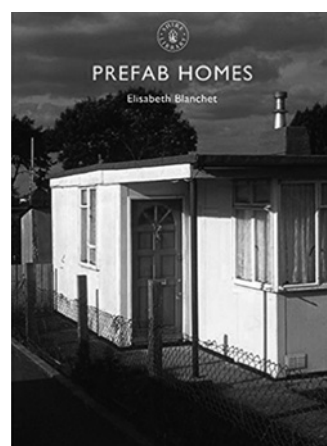
Nicknamed "palaces for the people", and with kitchens, bathrooms and heating systems, they proved popular and, instead of being demolished as intended, they

were defended by residents who campaigned to keep their homes and communities.

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

Through the memories of residents, she also describes the communities who were pleased to live in these homes.

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



Historical maps and postcards

Alan Godfrey

£2.50 each + 50p p&p

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

The society stocks historical and old Ordnance Survey maps of Islington and other areas of London, including Camden, Hackney, the City and the East End.

The maps cover areas including Clerkenwell, King's Cross, the Angel, Highbury &

Islington, Upper Holloway, Finsbury Square and Circus, Finsbury Park and Stroud Green, and Hornsey.

Call 020 7833 1541 to check what we have in stock before ordering.



A Dysfunctional Hampstead Childhood 1886-1911

Phyllis Allen

Floud Brigden

£10.95, Camden

Hlstory Society,

2018

Phyllis Allen

Floud, born

in 1886,

looks back over her childhood and recounts in detail and with a critical eye the customs and lifestyle of the upper middle classes.



Paper London. Build Your Own Metropolis in 20 Models

Kell Black

£10.99, The Ivy Press, 32pp 2015,

This book of 20 models to make includes The Shard Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, Tate Modern and the Gherkin. A guide and map show where the originals are.



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

Wednesday 9 January, 1pm
Festival of Britain 1951
Webinar, National Archives, free

Wednesday 9 January, 7.30pm
More Music Hall and Vaudeville on Film
Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Tuesday 8 January, 6.30pm
From the Romans to the Saxons: Archaeological Fieldwork at the Site of St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square
London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Wednesday 9 January, 2pm
What's New at the Findmypast Website
Society of Genealogists, free

Wednesday 9 January, 6pm
Unravelling Dreams: Silkworms and Their Many Travails in the Atlantic World, c1530-1830
Animal History Group, free, <https://animalhistorygroup.wordpress.com>

Thursday 10 January, 1.30pm
Curator's Introduction to I am Ashurbanipal: King of the World, king of Assyria
British Museum, free, booking essential

Thursday 10 January, 3pm
Kindertransport: Curator's Talk
Jewish Museum, free

Thursday 10 January, 6pm
Lost Trades of Islington
Talk by curator Julie Melrose, Finsbury Library, free. Book at <http://tinyurl.com/ycmoh5qh>

Friday 11 January, 1.15pm
19th-Century Royal Naval Collecting and the British Museum
British Museum, free

Friday 11 January, 6.30pm
Royal Library of Ashurbanipal: the World's First Library
British Museum, £5, booking essential

Saturday 12 January, 1.15pm
Assyria and Persepolis: Kingship and Power in Stone
British Museum, free

Tuesday 15 January, 11.30am
The Anglo Saxons
Relaxed gallery talk, British Museum, free

Wednesday 16 January, 1.15pm
Colonial Currencies
British Museum, free

Wednesday 16 January, 2pm
Guidelines and Standards – How to Avoid Mistakes in Genealogy
Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Thursday 17 January, 1.30pm
An Archaeologist's Wife and her Jewellery: a Window into 19th Century "Assyriamania"
British Museum, free, booking essential

Thursday 17 January, 7.30pm
The Changing Face of Fitzrovia: 300 Years of an Urban Village
Camden History Society, £1

Sunday 20 January, 2pm
Survivor Talk: John Dobai
Holocaust survivor John

Dobai in conversation with his daughter, Sarah Dobai.
Jewish Museum, free

Friday 18 January, 1pm
An Introduction to Roman Coins of England and Wales
British Museum, £30, booking essential

Friday 18 January, 1.15pm
Sarangbang: a Korean Scholar's Room
British Museum, free

Saturday 19 January, 10.30am
Understanding Religion Through Objects
British Museum, study day, £25, booking essential

Saturday 19 January, 1.15pm
Echoes of Egypt in Homer
British Museum, free

Tuesday 22 January, 11.30am
The Vikings
British Museum, relaxed storytelling, free

Tuesday 22 January, 6pm
Introducing 19th-Century Paupers' Letters
Webinar, National Archives, free

Thursday 24 January, 1pm
BAME Seafarers in the First World War
National Archives, free

Thursday 24 January, 1.30pm
The Rediscovery of Assyria
British Museum, free, booking essential

24 January, 6.30pm,
Holocaust Memorial Day Event
Talks by Kindertransport survivors Ann and Bob Kirk

and survivor of the genocide of the Tutsi in Rwanda Eric Murangwa. With BSL interpretation.
Jewish Museum, free

Friday 25 January, 1.15pm
Collecting Histories: the Great Stupa at Amaravati and Mr Robertson's Monument
British Museum, free

25 January, 6.30pm
Echoes of Holloway Prison: Film Double Bill at Islington Museum
Screening of two very different films: Within these Walls: a Journey Through The Inside Spaces of HMP Holloway; and Echoes of Holloway Prison. Followed by Q&A session with film director Rob Munday and curator Roz Currie. Islington Museum, free. Not suitable for under 18s. Book at <http://echoesofhollowayprison.com> or on 020 7527 2837

Friday 25 January, 6.30pm
Film: Letters from Baghdad
British Museum, £5, booking essential

Saturday 26 January, 1.15pm
The Greeks in Southern Italy
British Museum, free

Tuesday 29 January, 1.15pm
History and the Ancient Egyptians
British Museum, free

Wednesday 30 January, 1pm
50 Years of Lunar Exploration
Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 30 January, 1.15pm
Witnesses: Émigré Medallists in Britain
 British Museum, free

Wednesday 30 January, 6pm
Architecture, Images and Image-Making under the Stuarts
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 31 January, 1.30pm
The Fall of Assyria
 British Museum, free, booking essential

Friday 1 February, 1.15pm
The Library of Ashurbanipal
 British Museum, free

Saturday 2 February, 1.15pm
Thinking Differently: the Roots of Jainism, Buddhism and Sikhism
 British Museum, free

Saturday 2 February, 3pm
The Future of Museum Architecture in Africa
 British Museum, free, booking essential

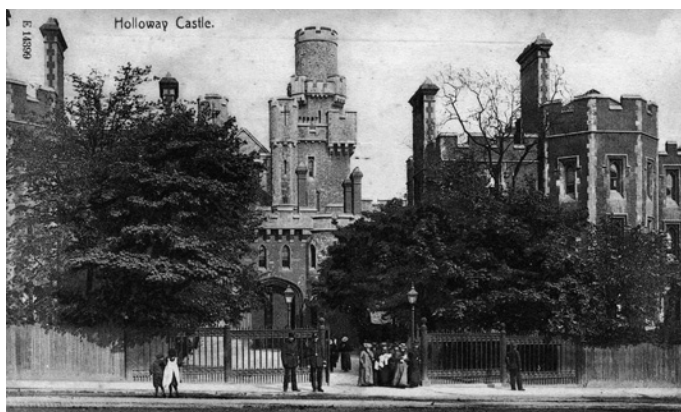
Saturday 2 February, 3.45pm
Access event: I am Ashurbanipal
 Audio tour and handling session. British Museum, £14

Tuesday 5 February, 1.15pm
The Life of a Maya King Written in Stone
 British Museum, free

Wednesday 6 February, 1.15pm
Royal Ritual at Yaxchilan
 British Museum, free

Wednesday 6 February, 6pm
Gresham's World: Global Traffic, Trade and the Metamorphosis of England
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 7 February, 6pm
Bubbles, Manias and Market Failures: The Unintended Consequences of Regulatory Responses
 Gresham College, free



See two films about Holloway Prison, and view the interiors and hear the stories of those who were held and worked there. Free, Islington Museum, 25 January at 6.30pm

Thursday 7 February, 7.30pm
The Campaigns to save Kenwood
 Camden History Society, £1

Friday 8 February, 10.30am
How to use Pauper Letters
 Workshop, National Archives, free

Tuesday 12 February, 8pm
Prehistory in London – some Problems, Progress and Potential
 Hendon & District Archaeological Society, £1

Wednesday 13 February 2pm
Washday Blues, Charwomen and Washerwomen
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 13 February, 7.30pm
The History of the Regent's Canal
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 14 February, 2pm
London and the Spanish Flu
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 20 February, 6.30pm
Domesday in the Public Record
 National Archives, £8-£10

Monday 25 February, 6pm
Taking London to the World: Robert Paul Shows his Native City in Motion
 Britain's pioneer filmmaker, born 150 years ago in

Liverpool Road, vividly portrayed life in "the imperial metropolis" at the end of the 19th century, conscious of its historic appeal and modernity of which he was a part.
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 27 February, 2pm
Finding Fred: the Story of the City of London's Police Blitz
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 6 March, 1pm
How Astronomy Changed our View of the Cosmos from Gresham to the 21st Century
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Wednesday 6 March, 2pm
Finding London Burials Online
 Society of Genealogists, £8/£6.40

Wednesday 6 March, 6pm
Film: Old Rotherhithe
 Docklands History Group, £2

Wednesday 6 March, 6pm
Lost Dogs in 18th and 19th Century London
 Animal History Group, Strand Building, King's College, free, <https://animalhistorygroup.wordpress.com>

Thursday 7 March, 1pm
The Cemetery in the Age of Pericles
 Gresham College, free

Monday 11 March, 1pm
Gresham's Bequest to Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn
 Gresham College, free

Tuesday 12 March. 6.30pm
Knole Revealed: Archaeology and Discovery 2011-2018
 London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Tuesday 12 March, 8pm
Lost and Found: Rediscovery of Roman London
 Hendon & District Archaeological Society, £1

Wednesday 13 March, 7.30pm
The Man with the Postbag is Swearing in the Passage: Dickens and the Postal Service
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Thursday 14 March, 6pm
How to be a Puritan Atheist
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Tuesday 19 March, 1pm
Loyalty and Dissent: South Asia and the First World War
 Webinar, National Archives, free

Wednesday 20 March, 6pm
Art and Power in the English Aristocratic House
 Museum of London, Gresham College event, free

Thursday 21 March, 7.30pm
Suffrage, Settlements and Song
 Camden History Society, £1

Wednesday 3 April, 6pm
Riverine/Riverside Archaeology and Finds
 Docklands History Group, £2

Tuesday 9 April. 6.30pm
Headstone Manor, a Moated House in Harrow, Middlesex
 London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, £2

Wednesday 10 April, 7.30pm
Brief History of Finsbury Park and Stroud Green
 Hornsey Historical Society, £2

Ongoing

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

Close to the Bone

Hands-on workshops involving some of the museum's 20,000 human skeletal remains from archaeological excavations. These sessions will look at the funerary rites, beliefs and myriad burial practices in London 2,000 years ago. Museum of London Docklands, £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

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

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
 - A visit to conservation.
- Various dates and times

Clerkenwell and Islington Guides Association: Walks

Guided walks led by the mayor of Islington's guides. <https://islingtonguidedwalks.com/>

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

Normally on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11.30am and 2pm
Tour include the Rosetta Stone, the Lewis chessmen, the Parthenon sculptures and more. £12, booking required

First Thursday in the month, 2pm

British Library Conservation Studio Tour

See techniques used in caring for collections. British Library, £10/concs

Exhibitions

Until Sunday 6 January

Votes for Women

Emmeline Pankhurst's hunger strike medal and other items from the museum's vast suffragette collection are on show in this display. Museum of London, free

Until Sunday 6 January

Beyond Timbuktu: Preserving the Manuscripts of Djenné, Mali

Djenné is famous for its architecture. This display reveals this centre of Islamic learning on the banks of the Niger Delta. Contemporary photographs of the city are interspersed with archival religious and secular texts. British Library, free

Until Sunday 13 January

Poster Girls

Over 150 posters and original artworks shine a spotlight on women who changed how Londoners viewed their city, including work by well-known designers such as Mabel Lucie Attwell, Laura Knight, Enid Marx and Zandra Rhodes. There are posters about the Motor Show, the Oxford and Cambridge boat race, the summer sales and days out. A spectrum of styles and mediums include modernist, figurative, flat colour, patterns, abstract, collage and oil. London Transport Museum, £17.50/concs, includes a year's entry to the museum

Until Tuesday 15 January

Raids, Rations and Rifles: Islington During the First World War

This exhibition remembers those who served on the front line and explores everyday life in the borough, which could be a frightening experience.

Soldiers from local battalions fought on the Western Front, at Gallipoli and in Palestine. Five Islington soldiers were

awarded the Victoria Cross. Local women also served abroad and some never returned. Islington featured in the first and the last enemy air raids on London. Islington Museum, free

Until Friday 18 January

Lost Trades of Islington

This exhibition draws on the memories of those who worked in trades and industries that are no longer common or exist in Islington.

During much of the 20th century, numerous, varied factories throughout the borough employed many people. The work was often highly skilled and labour intensive. People worked as coach builders in City Road Basin, at bandages and surgical equipment manufacturers in Essex Road, in a sweet and chocolate factory on Stroud Green Road, in Beale's Restaurant on Holloway Road and as a barometer restorer in Clerkenwell. Islington Local History Centre, free

Until Sunday 20 January

I Object. Ian Hislop's Search for Dissent

Ian Hislop, of Private Eye and Have I Got News For You, has picked items to explore dissent, subversion and satire. Objects run from graffiti on a Babylonian brick to a banknote with hidden rude words and satirical Turkish shadow puppets to a "pussy" hat worn on a women's march. This history in 100(ish) objects shows people have always challenged and undermined orthodox views. British Museum, £12/concs

Until Sunday, 27 January

Censored! Stage, Screen, Society at 50

This display marks 50 years since the Theatres Act abolished state censorship of the British stage. Exploring theatre, film and music, it



Lift the winter gloom with some bright colours and bold designs on show at Poster Girls at the London Transport Museum until 13 January

examines the regulation of theatre in the 17th century to censorship today. Victoria & Albert Museum, free

Until Friday 1 February

Disease X

Many epidemics have struck London, from the Black Death to Spanish Flu. Disease X questions how we might learn from the past successes, such as the eradication of smallpox and cholera. Museum of London, free

Until Sunday 10 February

Remembering the Kindertransport: 80 Years On

This exhibition covers the Kindertransport rescue, when the British government in 1938-39 allowed 10,000 Jewish and other "non-Aryan" children from occupied Europe to come to Britain, and tells stories of rupture, loss and regret. Six of those rescued tell their stories on film; also on display are items they brought with them. Jewish Museum, £7.50

Until Sunday 17 February

Heath Robinson's Home Life

This exhibition shows original artwork that satirises modernist architecture and art deco design, including cartoons from How to Live in

a Flat, as well as photographs of Heath Robinson's house at the Ideal Home Exhibition, complete with moving figures and contraptions. Also on show is a set of nursery china. Heath Robinson Museum, £6

Until Tuesday 19 February

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War

This exhibition gives an unrivalled depiction of life in Anglo-Saxon times. On show are the Lindisfarne Gospels, Beowulf and Bede's Ecclesiastical History, alongside finds from Sutton Hoo and the Staffordshire Hoard. The Domesday Book shows the landscape while Codex Amiatinus, a giant bible taken to Italy in 716, is back in England after 1300 years. British Library, £16

Until Sunday 24 February

I am Ashurbanipal: King of the World, King of Assyria

Discover the world of ancient Assyria through the life and legacy of its last great ruler, King Ashurbanipal. In the 7th century BC, he ruled a vast, diverse empire from the eastern Mediterranean to western Iran. The exhibition highlights work to protect Iraqi cultural heritage. British Museum, £17/concs

Until Sunday 3 March

Living with Buildings

Islington's Finsbury Health Centre, pictured in bright contrast to the gloomy slums behind it, is on display at this exhibition, along with work by Rachel Whiteread, Ernő Goldfinger and others. The displays examine how buildings affect physical and mental health, and influence self-esteem and ideas about society. Wellcome Museum, free

Until Sunday 17 March

Cats on the Page

Cats from 16th century witch familiars to modern children's stories are on show here. Included are former Islington resident Edward Lear's doodles of his cat Foss from 1879, Lewis Carroll's copy of Through the Looking-Glass (1893), TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats and childhood favourites including Orlando and Mog, as well as sound recordings. British Library, free

Until Sunday 17 March

Dorothy Bohm

This shows highlights from Dorothy Bohm's vast collection of photographs of children, taken over 75 years from around the world. She escaped Nazi Germany for Britain in 1939 and helped establish the Photographers' Gallery. V&A Museum of Childhood, free

Until Wednesday 10 April

Child Health in London

This display looks at dangers to the health of London's children and how they were tackled. Themes include child mortality, children's hospitals, developments in treatment, school health services, child psychiatry, the NHS and public health measures. It also looks at how attitudes affected how patients were classified, diagnosed and treated. London Metropolitan Archives, free

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 Square, 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

<https://islingtonguidedwalks.com>

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. Main site closed; events/tours still on

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



This Chickering Ampico piano is one of the numerous self-playing instruments on show at the Musical Museum, alongside early 'jukeboxes' containing pipes, a Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ, pipe organs and violin playing machines and orchestrions

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

**Medieval Pottery Research
Group**
www.medievalpottery.org.uk

Migration Museum
www.migrationmuseum.org/

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

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

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

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

**Museum of London
Archaeology**
020 7410 2200, www.museum
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

Tuesday 1 January 2019, meet 11am, Highbury and Islington station



New year walk: George Orwell's Islington

Led by Andy Gardner and Oonagh Gay

George Orwell was at his most prolific during his time in Islington.

He was living at 27b Canonbury Square when *Animal Farm* was published. During his time in Islington, he worked on drafts of *Nineteen Eighty-Four*, published

numerous essays and articles, and broadcast extensively.

The tour takes in locations that inspired Orwell, including shops he used and the three pubs he combined to describe the perfect pub – the Moon Under Water – in the London Evening Standard. It'll probably be too cold to sit under the pub garden chestnut tree, though.

Proceeds to Margins, pay what you can, suggested donation £5. Contact walks@islingtonhistory.org.uk for information.

2019 events

We're still finalising our meetings for 2019. Details will be on our website and Facebook page. So put the following in your diary.

- Wednesday 20 February (we're hoping for something on Post Office cats)
- Wednesday 20 March
- Wednesday 17 April
- Wednesday 15 May
- Wednesday 19 June (also the date of our AGM)

Keep up to date with our Facebook page



Find out about our events, ask a question, post a photo or talk local history at the... IAHS Facebook group, which has more than 800 members.

● www.facebook.com/groups/islingtonhistory

Wednesday 16 January, 7.30pm, Islington Town Hall

Islington Museum

The speaker will be a member of staff



Islington is full of history, and we are fortunate to have a free museum dedicated to this. On permanent display are items about local and social history. There are displays about leisure, home life, industries, healthcare, food,

fashion, childhood – as well as radical politics.

The museum hosts exhibitions and events, and puts on items from the council's own archives as well as items on loan.

The museum, owned and run by Islington Council is at 245 St John Street, below Finsbury Library and is fully accessible.

Clockwise from above: opening night of an exhibition about Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell, who lived in Islington; a 1930s kitchen; cart used for door-to-door milk delivery from about 1914 until 1947



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

Cigar room 14, Atkins Cigar factory, York Road (now Dingley Road), Finsbury See Lost Trades of Islington, events, page 27

