

newsletter

No 5

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JAN 1971

January—the Society's Social

The Society is holding its first social on Friday, 29th January from 7-11pm. (Members should ignore the misprint on the invitation card which says Monday 29th!) It is quite often impossible to meet other members informally and we hope that you will find this occasion a good opportunity.

St Pancras Church House in 1950
See page 2
(Photo: Arthur Dawson)

February's Meeting

An illustrated lecture entitled 'The History of the British Museum' will be given to the Society on Thursday, 25th February at 7.30pm, by Mr Edward Miller. It will be held at the Museum's Lecture Theatre by kind permission of the BM. Will members please be at the main entrance in Great Russell Street at 7.25pm as we are anxious that the lecture should start punctually at 7.30pm.



St Pancras Church House comes down

In July last year the St Pancras Parochial Church Council met for the first time in the new Church Hall in Lancing Street. Some months later the old Church House, on the north side of the same street, surrounded by rubbish and its future indicated by vandals, was demolished.

We are indebted to Mr Charles Lee, a member of the Society, and a churchwarden of St Pancras Church, for the following information about the old Church House.

Originally in Lancing Street the Church established the National Schools in 1837 on land leased from Lord Southampton - at that time the street was called Southampton Street. The school was built by Charles Frederick Inwood the second son of the architect of St Pancras Church.

The School premises were used for meetings by the Church but soon there was need for a larger building. At first it was decided to build a church house adjacent to the Church in Euston Road but in 1883 more of the site in Lancing Street was used instead. The architect of the building was William Teulon. Prior to this the ever-philanthropic Baroness Burdett-Coutts had opened a bazaar to raise money and over £1200 was forthcoming.

After the Second World War the premises gradually deteriorated through lack of funds to maintain them and in 1950 part of the main structure was condemned. However, in 1952 the Church House was reconstructed but in 1965 the LCC purchased the school site, now unused for education, and later on the GLC acquired the Church House for redevelopment. The compensation paid was used to build the new Church Hall.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

Members may like to put into their brand-new diaries that the AGM of the Society will be on 19th May. Details will be sent by post nearer the event together with nomination forms etc.

Saving old Buildings

Quite often good old buildings, whether listed or not, are demolished because an articulate group or body does not protest. Strictly speaking, this Society is not involved in preservationist campaigns because when our Constitution was drawn up it was felt that with several strong and thriving civic societies in the borough it would be pointless to duplicate their work. Some members have, in fact, urged the Society to make representations to preserve certain buildings but we are able only 'to act as an advisory body in matters concerning the preservation of landmarks and buildings of historical and antiquarian interest'.

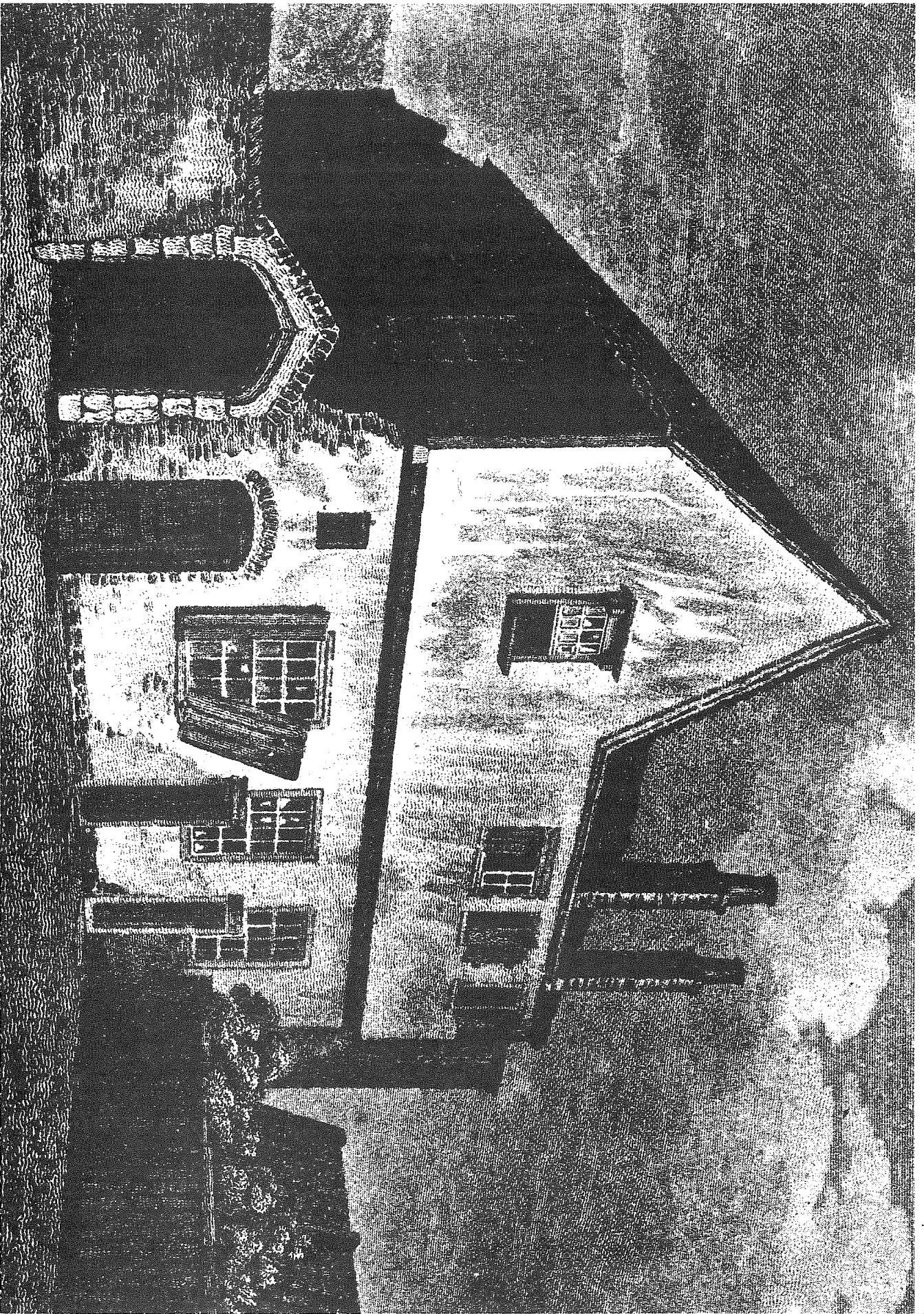
It is likely, however, that the majority of our members are anxious to keep old, attractive and useful buildings standing and many would not require even the word 'useful' to be applicable. What is important is that the variety of Camden's architecture be maintained and that planning does not necessarily mean tidying up, or making even more room for cars. The opposition of Camden's Planning Department to the proposals for Perrins Court and the Chalk Farm Tavern are therefore to be welcomed, although both matters are still to be resolved.

Members, we hope, will not only notify their local civic societies but contact the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings at 55, Great Ormond Street, WC 1 (405 2646) if they suspect that a building, possibly listed, looks as though it is being run down to build up a case for demolition.

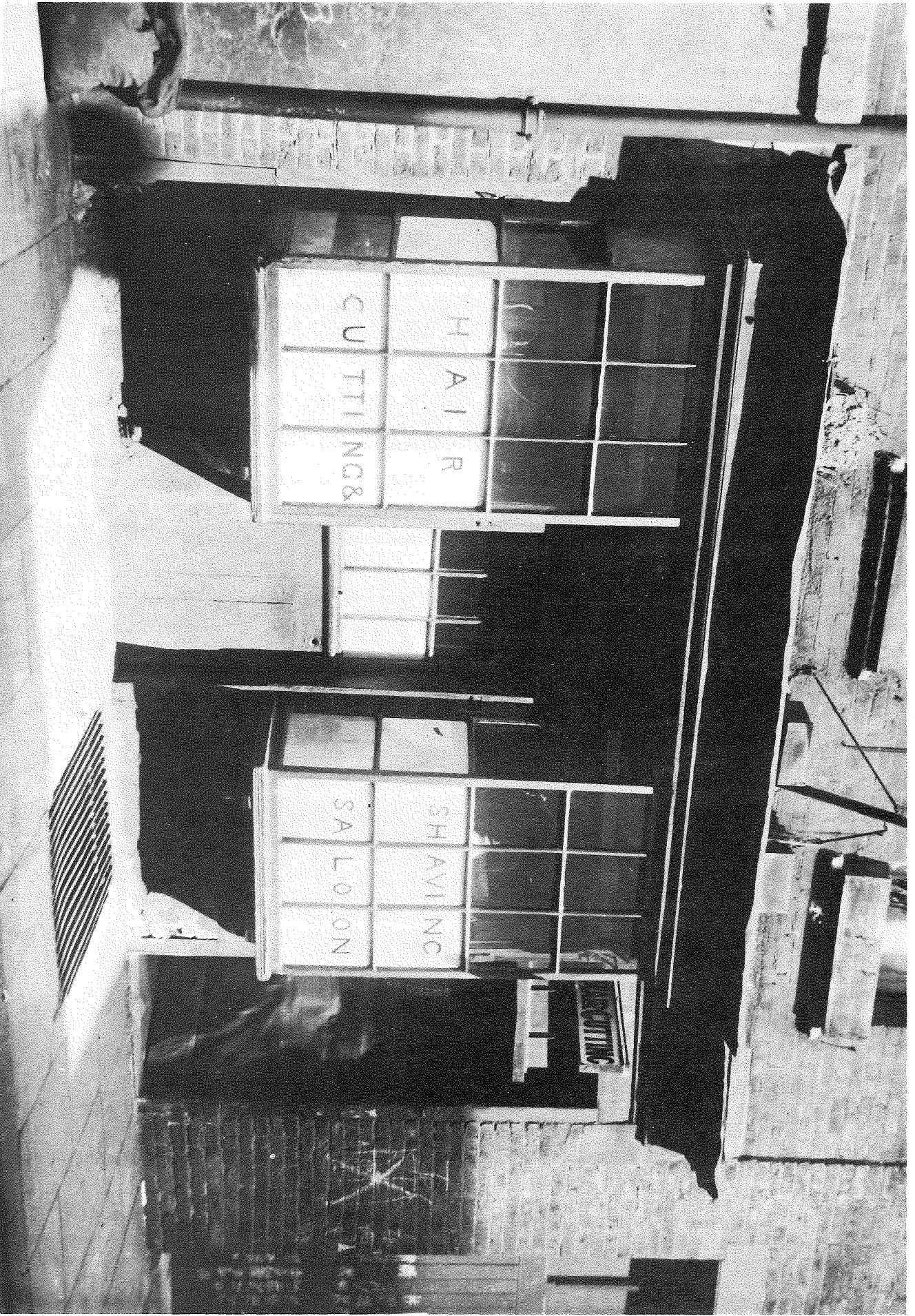
LOCAL SOCIETIES

The St Pancras Antiquarian Society are visiting three Hammersmith Churches on 16th January. On 30th January they will hold their Annual General Meeting followed by a visit to the Wellcome Foundation Medical Museum.

Details of membership and these events can be obtained from Mr E. G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, St Silas Place, NW 5.



REMAINS OF KING JOHN'S PALACE
Near Tottenham Court Road



An old shop in Eagle Street, Holborn

Camden School for Girls Centenary

A service will be held in Westminster Abbey on 15th January to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Camden School for Girls.

The 'centenary' is only partially accurate because Miss Frances Buss had founded the school, then the North London Collegiate School, as a private venture in 1850 in Camden Street. She also had in her control the Camden School in Prince of Wales Road. But it was in 1870 that the school was placed on a permanent public basis, the property being handed over to a Trust constituted for that purpose. Subscribers to the new building in Sandell Road included the Brewers Company and the Clothworkers Company.

A Notice printed in 1857 shows just how seriously schoolboy mischief was viewed in those days - 'CAUTION J. Osborn was this day committed to prison by the Magistrate at Clerkenwell for Throwing Stones and knocking off the caps of the Pupils of the North London Collegiate School. And all boys causing annoyance are hereby cautioned that the Magistrate is determined to punish with the utmost severity of the law the next offender brought before him.'

Heath Exhibition goes ahead

The Society's exhibition next year to celebrate the centenary of Hampstead Heath, is to go ahead. A grant has been promised by Camden Council to off-set the cost of the event which will be in April to coincide with the Camden Festival.

A small committee, administered by Coral Howells, has been set up. Members who feel that they might help in some way, especially those who can give time to invigilate, are invited to complete the enclosed form and return it to Mr Meadows.

NEW DATE FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

The first meeting of the archaeological group was cancelled at very short notice due to a power cut in the Swiss Cottage area. We apologise to those members we were not able to notify in time but the decision had to be made two hours before the meeting was due. Fortunately, Mr Roy Canham, of the London Museum, is able to talk instead to members on 21st January at 7.30 pm at Swiss Cottage Library. There will be a full discussion on the problems and procedures involved in rescue digs in the centre of London.

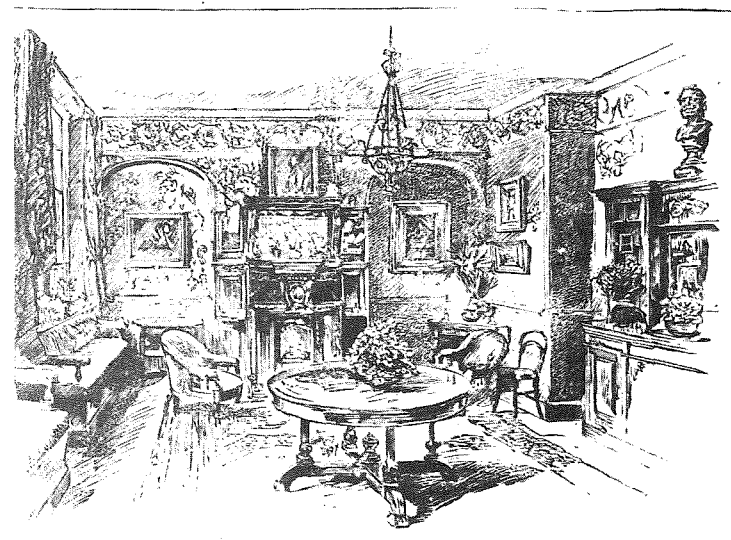
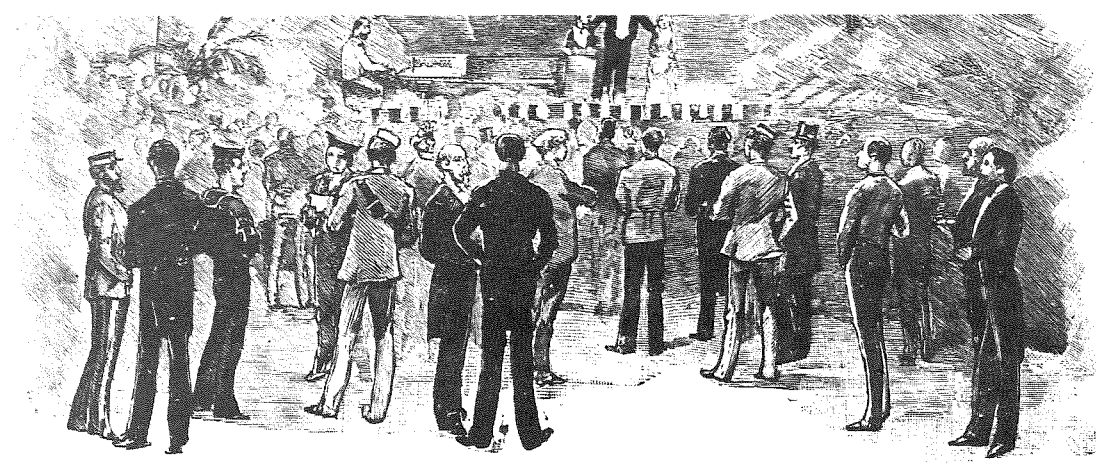
PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE NEWSLETTER

We are indebted to Mr C.W. Ikin, and others, for pointing out two errors in our captions to the photographs in the last Newsletter. The illustration marked Heath Street c1880 is, in fact, of Hampstead High Street, nearly opposite Flask Walk. The other photograph, of Heath Street with no date, had the date actually in the photograph - 17th June 1908. When the Northern Line was being built to Hampstead photographs were taken before excavation in case of claims for damage to foundations afterwards.

Members who would like to see particular illustrations in the Newsletter are invited to write to the Secretary of the Society.

STREET NAMES—A NEW UNDERTAKING

Quite by chance the Society discovered that Mrs Gillian Bebbington was working on a book which gives the derivation of each street name in a large part of north London, including Camden. Mrs Bebbington has now joined the Society and is helping our own Street Names group which has changed its name recently to the History of Camden Streets group. This group's work is now to be concentrated on the more historical aspects of Camden streets and will return to derivations just before the publication of Mrs Bebbington's book.



THE OFFICERS' ROOM

1889

THE PRINCE OF WALES DECLARING THE BUILDING OPEN

THE NEW HEAD QUARTERS OF THE TWENTIETH MIDDLESEX (ARTISTS') VOLUNTEERS

'The Place' in Duke's Road, W.C.1 is now the home of the Contemporary Ballet Trust. It was previously used as a Drill Hall and the above illustrations come from a picture on the wall of the Hall when the Ballet Company took over.

BEDFORD THEATRE ARTICLE

The Camden Journal, a magazine issued six times a year by the Director of Libraries and Arts, occasionally includes articles on local history. Many members may be interested to read Geoffrey Fletcher's article 'Cupid in the Gallery', a short history of the Bedford Theatre, Camden Town, which appears in the current issue. Copies are still available at some libraries and any member experiencing difficulty in securing a copy should contact the Secretary.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is now 339. This represents an increase of 19 since the last Newsletter.

OFFICERS

- CHAIRMAN: Cllr John Richardson
 SECRETARY: G.D. Gregory
 Swiss Cottage Library
 Avenue Road
 LONDON NW3 9AD
 ASST. SECRETARY: Mrs Coral Howells
 TREASURER: W.H. Meadows
 PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY: Ian Norrie
 ARCHIVIST: Mrs C.M. Gee

All correspondence to this Newsletter or the Society should be sent to Mr Gregory at the address above.

newsletter

No 6

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAR1971

Medicine in Hampstead – our March lecture

An illustrated lecture
by Dr. Philip Hopkins
25th March, 7.30 pm,
Swiss Cottage Library.

Because of the postal strike we have been unable to distribute the programme of meetings for the year from March 1971. This is the first notice which members will have had, therefore, of Dr. Hopkins' lecture. It promises to be a most interesting one. Dr. Hopkins will talk about famous medical men of Hampstead, the history of the hospitals of the district and the era of the famous Hampstead Wells. The talk will be illustrated with a wealth of slides showing old and present day Hampstead.

Keats in Hampstead

As part of a number of events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the death of John Keats, the Society is fortunate to have a talk on Keats in Hampstead. It will be given by Christina Gee, Camden's Archivist, who is also the Curator of Keats House.

Mrs. Gee probably knows better than anyone details of this period in the life of Keats and her talk will be illustrated. This will be on 15th April at 7.30 pm at Swiss Cottage Library.

Members may also be interested to know that Camden Council has published a paperback of the poems that Keats wrote at Wentworth Place, and this can be obtained from any Camden library at 40p.

Camden Festival Events

Apart from our own Heath Exhibition there are several events in this year's Festival of interest to local historians. They are:

'The Future of the Past' an exhibition illustrating the development of legislation designed to protect our ancient monuments. Organised by the Central School of Art and Design and the Victorian Society. At the Central School, Southampton Row, WC 1. 26th April - 7th May.

'A Peak in Darien', a documentary programme on the life of John Keats devised by Joanne Richardson, at Keats House, Keats Grove, NW 3. 11th and 25th April.

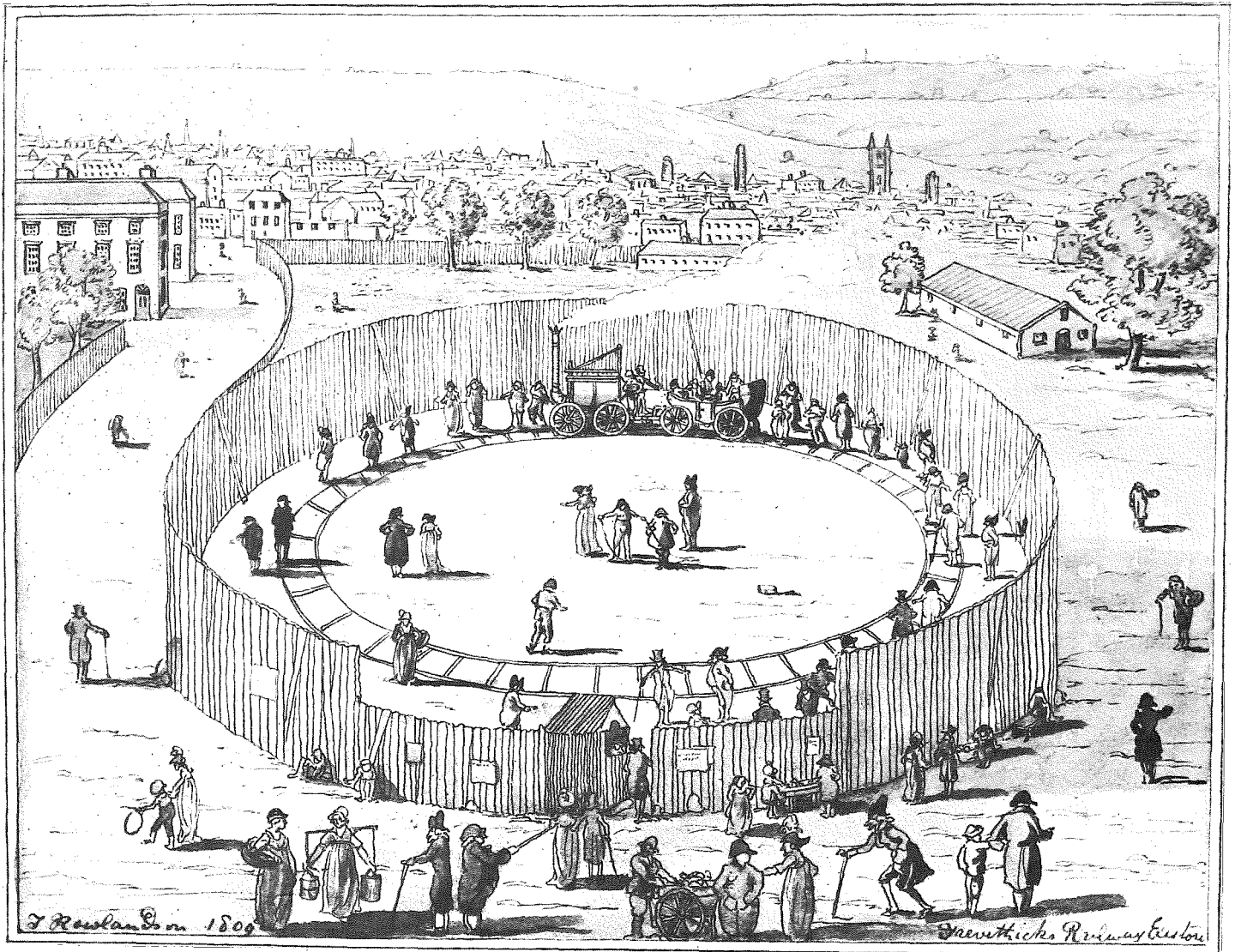
'They Made me a Present of Mornington Crescent' a history of Music Hall in Camden, at Unity Theatre, 16th April - 23rd May.

'Oh! Camden!' a documentary on Camden through the ages given by the Tufnell Theatre in association with the Acland Burghley Youth Centre, at Acland Burghley School, Burghley Road, NW 5. 23rd and 24th April.

A number of tours presented by See Britain. It includes visits to Highgate Cemetery, Hampstead Good Loos, Historic Hampstead Pubs, 101 Historic Bits of Hampstead, Murder Sites in Camden Town, Ghosts of Belsize Village and, for the really masochistic, the Good Sewer Tour.

The Holborn and Victorian Societies are holding tours of Bloomsbury, Holborn, Gray's Inn and Lincoln's Inn.

Details of all these are in the Festival Brochure, obtainable from any Camden Library



The Trevithick Railway

Mr. Charles Lee writes to remind us that it is 200 years since the birth of that celebrated engineer Richard Trevithick and that some of the engineering societies are marking this in April. In 1808 Trevithick constructed a circular, demonstration railway near Euston Square, which carried passengers at the rate of 12 or 15 mph round a curved track. The site of this railway is now occupied by University College. Our illustration, supposedly by Rowlandson, shows the engine, which was known as 'Catch me who can', being demonstrated.

EXHIBITION OF CAMDEN DRAWINGS

An exhibition for members who like to see and collect drawings of Camden buildings opens on 20th March at the Rotunda Gallery, 116 Finchley Road, NW 3. Cliff Rowe, the artist, has concentrated entirely on 'working class areas', which makes a pleasant change from the well-trodden avenues. It will be interesting to see what Mr. Rowe defines as a working class area - some people are worried that these are fast disappearing apart from Council developments.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is now 354, an increase of 15 since the last Newsletter.

The Heath Exhibition

The Society's Exhibition to mark the 100 years since Hampstead Heath became public property opens on 9th April at the Rosslyn Hall, Rosslyn Hill, NW 3. The Exhibition, arranged in association with the Heath and Old Hampstead Society, is open Mondays to Fridays from noon to 8.00 pm, on Saturdays 10.00 am to 6.00 pm and Sundays 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm. The Exhibition lasts until 28th April.

At the time of going to press, many more stewards are needed for the Hampstead Heath Exhibition. If you can offer to come for one or more sessions, Mr. Meadows will be delighted to hear from you. Another form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

War-time in Camden

Dr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Richman are organising an unusual event during the Festival period although it is not in the official programme. They are working on the basis that during the last war there was a community spirit that no longer exists. Their plan is to recapture this atmosphere with a multiplicity of aids - speech and film, and are presenting two entirely different shows in the week 26th April - 1st May at the Venus Cinema, Bartholomew Road, NW 5. They are anxious to track down and record reminiscences of war-time in Camden and have asked the Society's help. Members who would like to do this, or know people who would, should telephone them on 452 3636.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM LECTURE

An amusing and well-illustrated lecture on the history of the British Museum was given to the Society by Mr. T. Miller on 25th February. The story was a classic one of Government meanness and indifference interspersed by financial support forced by circumstances.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION

The Archaeological Section of the Society got off to a remarkable start. About 40 members turned up for the first meeting and elected Miss Caroline Newberg to the difficult job of organising them. Miss Newberg has already presented exciting initial plans to the Society and these will be sent to members once we have all organised ourselves after the postal strike. Discussion at the meeting was led by Mr. Roy Canham of the London Museum.

The formation of this Group coincided with the very important conference in London of archaeologists. Speakers condemned the speed at which historic sites are being erased or covered before investigation. The conference, by all accounts, was an important turning point in archaeological affairs and provided an important boost to the preservation movement.

NEW LONDON MUSEUM

Members who missed the item in the press may be interested to know that the London Museum is to be rebuilt in the City. It will amalgamate the collections of the London Museum, Kensington and the Guildhall Museum. Although the City Corporation will carry through the construction, the planning has been done by a board of governors nominated by the Government, the GLC and the City. The development should be completed by 1974.

A St. Pancras Reservoir

This unusual photograph is of a reservoir in Camden Park Road opposite the Camden Road Presbyterian Church. The reservoir is now gone and Camelot House built on its site in the 'thirties. The Church is now used as a factory and warehouse. We are grateful to Mr. Webb of

25 Marquis Road for loaning us the photograph. According to Emily Cooke's Geographical Study of St. Pancras the water passed from the Highgate ponds, by gravity, through pipes to this reservoir and was available for use in the Caledonian Cattle Market close by.



LOCAL SOCIETIES

The St. Pancras Antiquarian Society is visiting Liverpool on 27th March, visiting two cathedrals, Speke Hall, Walker Art Gallery and the famous town hall. On 2nd April they will go to St. Paul's Cathedral for the City Guilds Annual Service. Details can be obtained from Mr. E.G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, St. Silas Place, NW 5, or from Miss Kerlogue, 722 9836.

The Holborn Society hold their Annual General Meeting on 30th March followed by a talk. Details from Miss Martin, 20 Rugby Chambers, 2 Rugby Street, WC 1. (405 7230).

OFFICERS

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newsletter

No 7

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JUN 1971

The June Meeting - Camden School for Girls

Miss Doris Burchell, whose book Miss Buss' Second School (Frances Mary Buss Foundation, £1.50) has just been published, will give a lecture on the history of the Camden School for Girls on Thursday 17th June at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm. She will also be commenting on pioneering work in the borough for the education of women. CHS council member, Coral Howells of Reading University, will take the chair.

To make it easier for members to meet and chat, coffee and biscuits will be served after the lecture.

The Research Groups

The History of Camden Streets Group will soon be completing, in manuscript, its first volume. This will cover the Hampstead Village area. Members are already at work researching other areas.

The Social History Group meets next on 28th June at 7 pm at Swiss Cottage Meetings Room, under the chairmanship of Leslie Newman.

The Archaeological Group will meet on the first Monday of each month at Swiss Cottage and it is hoped to have speakers at some of these meetings. In July it will be 'open' to the whole Society. It will comprise a talk by one of the team intimately concerned with 'Rescue' - an archaeological organisation - and a short discussion of Camden's group work and its relevance to 'Rescue'.

Archaeological Happenings

Some members will know that the Archaeological Section, under the leadership of Caroline Neuburg, was engaged on its first dig recently. A house in Well Walk was vacant between selling and re-occupation and permission was obtained to dig a trial trench in the back garden. Unfortunately the dig was called off after a depth of three feet as it was found that the natural level of the garden had been raised substantially at some period to raise it to the level of another garden. The group would have had to dig to about 10 feet to get to the natural level. Other digs are, however, planned shortly.

The Section will be holding a week-end course on November 6th/7th this year at a venue to be announced. Its theme will be the respective roles of local history and archaeology. Details will be given in the next Newsletter.

NEW ADDRESS FOR SECRETARY

Will members please note that Mr Gregory, the Society's Secretary, has moved to St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, NW 1 2AJ. The telephone number is 278 4444, extension 392.

SUBSCRIPTIONS OVERDUE

Every Society has the same problem - collecting overdue subscriptions from members who forget to send them. Our Treasurer would be grateful if these members could all take this reminder seriously and send him some money - preferably together with a bankers order and covenant form that they should have. Those members who have not received a renewal form are those who joined late in the last financial year and whose subscription carries them through the next financial year.

A Highgate Regiment

Only once before 1940, in modern times, has England been faced with the real threat of invasion, and this was during the wars with Napoleon. With 'Boney' across the channel, the entire country prepared for the worst, and Highgate, not to be outdone, provided her own means of defence.

The Volunteers were first raised in 1803, consisting of 300 men, commanded by a field officer, with a regulated complement of captains, subalterns and non-commissioned ranks. Clothing and other expenses were paid by the inhabitants, while the Colours were presented by the Countess of Mansfield. The corps was reviewed by George III in 1805 at Harrow Weald, and subsequently at Finchley Common by the Duke of Cambridge. The place of muster was generally the Grove, from where they would go to exercise on Highgate Common. With the end of Napoleon's threats to invade the corps was disbanded, probably around 1813, but as late as 1842, nine members of the original corps were known to still be living in Highgate.

It was not until 1859 that the question of a Volunteer Corps was again raised, when a meeting was held for the formation of a Rifle Corps, later entitled the 14th Middlesex (Highgate) Volunteer Rifle Corps. The first drill was held on 1st July 1859 with 41 members and by February had been formed into two companies, membership having increased to over a hundred. By 1879 it numbered 180 men and a new headquarters was built at Northfield Hall. The corps was eventually merged into a larger battalion, becoming the 'Highgate Detachment, of F. and G. companies, 3rd Middlesex Rifle Volunteers'.

Richard Franklin

(Mr Franklin would like to hear from other members regarding the future of this corps beyond its amalgamation.)

LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Holborn Society has planned a visit for its members to the new St Pancras Library and Shaw Theatre. They will first of all see the library and then attend a performance of the National Youth Theatre's first production, Shaw's "The Devil's Disciple".

Mr Ikin's Hampstead Heath

Part of the Greater London Council's contribution to the celebration of the Hampstead Heath centenary is the issue of a booklet written by Mr C.W. Ikin, a member of this Society. (Hampstead Heath Centenary 1871-1971 GLC 50p).

The publication is a very well-designed one, with good maps, layout and illustrations. The maps show very plainly the gradual development of the Heath and there is a significant table of additions to the Heath since the first acquisition in 1871, adding weight to the suggestion that Witanhurst should be included as well. The enlargement of the Heath has been a gradual process as Mr Ikin points out, and is the result of a great many people rejecting the argument that because you already have a large open space you don't need to spend public money to make it larger. We take for granted the size of the Heath, but the first acquisition in 1871 was for less than half the present area. Since that time 28 acquisitions have been made - a tribute to the unrelenting generations of Heath expansionists.

Mr Ikin's book is good, entertaining reading and a must for every local history collection. There is also a map with suggested walks by Ralph Wade.

THE FIGHTING CLERGYMAN

Several recent newspaper accounts of vandalism in churches and particularly one report of a clergyman inviting the vandals to meet him in the gym, remind us of the strong-arm tactics of Father Ryan of St Aloysius Church in 1888. As the print from the Heal Collection shows, he succeeded in overcoming three ruffians caught in the act of breaking open the church safe. Two of the intruders managed to elude him after a desperate struggle but the third, having escaped once from the powerful priest's grasp, leaving half his jacket behind, was recaptured and eventually brought to trial, as were his accomplices.

THE STRUGGLE IN

THE SANCTUARY.

FATHER RYAN'S GRIP

IN THE SACRISTY: DISTURBED



THE GROWING DARING OF LONDON BURGLARS

is exemplified by the sacrilegious occurrence in a Roman Catholic church near Coventry, in which the altar was broken through and the fingers may lead to the arrest of the whole band of thieves. This burglary was brought before the Clerkenwell Magistrate on Thursday, the Twenty-seventh of September. One George Jones, twenty-seven, a wood-cutter, giving no address, was charged, at Oldenwall Police Court, with breaking into and carrying off St. Aloysius Church, Clarendon-square, St. Pancras, and with stealing therein two silver crosses, value £2, the property of Michael Ryan, clerk in holy orders.

The prosecutor, a courageous and estimable Roman Catholic clergyman, residing at 48, Clarendon-square, Somers Town, stated that he had just heard some noise in his church, and had hastened to the church, and found the door of the sacristy open. He opened the door of the small inner sacristy, and there saw the prisoner and three

LONDON'S REIGN OF TERROR: BURGLARS FIND THEIR MASTER IN FATHER RYAN AT ST. ALOYSIUS' CHURCH. IN ST. PANCRAS PARISH.

The Annual Meeting

The Society's first Annual Meeting was held on 17th May at the Royal College of Physicians. In the formal part of the meeting the previous Council and officers were re-elected together with Christopher Wade as Publications Secretary.

Discussion took place on the possible use of Lauderdale House as a Camden Archives Centre and Museum. Not many of the members who spoke were happy that the bulk of Camden's archives should be stored in such a relatively inaccessible place; members seemed to be against centralisation of archive material whatever building was chosen. Against this it was pointed out that administratively the present dispersment of material was not a happy situation.

This is a debate which will continue for some time and the Borough's final decision will have a significant influence on the future development of the Society. The Council would welcome further viewpoints in writing from members on this matter - would they please write to the Secretary of the Society.

The second part of the Annual Meeting was a talk by Mr L. M. Payne, Librarian of the Royal College who gave an entertaining and well-illustrated history of the College. Members were then shown over what is regarded as one of the best modern buildings in London. The Library is one of its particular attractions. The basic collection there was given, in the 17th century, by the Marquis of Dorchester, who was lord of the Canteloves manor in St Pancras, and who lived in Highgate Village in Dorchester House, a large residence where the Grove now stands.

DERIVATION OF KENTISH TOWN AND KENWOOD

The old standard history books on St Pancras give a variety of derivations for Kentish Town and Kenwood. They range from the possession of Canteloves manor by the Cantelupe family after the Norman Conquest and their name gradually being corrupted, a dean of St Pauls called Kentwode in 1434, to Ken-tish being originally Ken-ditch (the Fleet), or Kenwood being originally Caen Wood from the Norman.

A member has just brought to our attention a short piece in the London Topographical Record Vol 22, by F.W. Draper in which he proposes that the derivation is much simpler than all the foregoing. He says that Kent or Cant was a stream-name in England before it gave its name to the county. The Cantii or Cantware were in fact not men of Kent, but men of the Kent. The early spellings of Kentish Town includes Cantisseton c1235 and Mr Draper suggests that as the stream springs in Ken Wood and meanders through Kentish Town, this is the obvious derivation.

CAMDEN PRINTS TO BE SOLD

During October 1971 the Borough Council will publish a volume of twelve reproductions from prints in the Local History Collection of the Libraries & Arts Department. The prints will be reproduced in monochrome by the collotype process which allows infinite variation of tone where fidelity to the original is important. Each print will measure 10" x 13".

The twelve views are dated between 1733 and 1875 and represent

Hampstead, two Prospects
St Giles Church Holborn
Lincolns Inn
St Pancras (old) Church
North End Hampstead
Ely House
Hogarth's March of the Guards
London University
Kenwood
Montague House
St Pancras Station

2,000 copies will be printed and at £1.00 per set there is likely to be considerable demand for these reproductions.

On publication copies will be on sale only from Camden Libraries and Keats House.

Pre-publication orders, which must be accompanied by payment, will be accepted on an order form obtainable soon from any Camden Library.

newsletter

No 8

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

AUG 1971

Grant for Photographing Camden

At the Society's request Camden Council has made available a sum of £250 in this financial year so that we might initiate the scheme for systematically photographing Camden. A number of members have recently told us that they are interested in doing this work and more volunteers would be welcome.

The suggestion is that we photograph each street thoroughly, beginning with those areas most likely to disappear, produce a standard contact print which in turn will be attached to a standard filing card. These prints will be given to the Borough for public use.

NEWS FROM THE RESEARCH GROUPS

Social History

This Group will meet next on Tuesday, 7th September, at 7pm at Swiss Cottage Library. Viv Morris will be talking about Education in Camden.

Street History

The Hampstead Village section has almost completed its work. Christopher Wade has finished most of the transcript for the proposed booklet on Hampstead Streets.

REPRINT OF HIGHGATE BOOK

Members may be interested to know that an early book on Highgate, called 'The History and Antiquities of Highgate' by Frederick Prickett, has been republished by S.R. Publishers, price £2. It was originally published in 1842 and as far as detail is concerned, is fairly lightweight.

Anniversaries 1971

What with the celebrations for Hampstead Heath and John Keats this year, a number of lesser anniversaries have been overlooked.

The Wesleyan Chapel in Prince of Wales Road is a hundred years old, but there is no-one left to celebrate this. The building is still there, but is owned by Drama Centre.

Miss Burdett-Coutts, at the peak of her philanthropic energy, was made a Baroness.

Ironically, just as Lismore Circus is now impenetrable and being redeveloped, it was in 1871 that it was first laid out as an open space. There used also to be a railway station there.

150 years ago, Camden Road was first being formed, the Albany Street Barracks were being built, and there was a fatal duel at the Chalk Farm Tavern in Chalk Farm Road. This pub is now called the Pub Lotus. This Tavern was a well-known centre for settling private arguments.

ST. PANCRAS ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

On Thursday, 9th September, this Society will be touring Southampton. There will be a talk on the history of the Port, and probably a tour of the QE2 liner.

On Saturday, 18th September, the Society will go to Blenheim Palace.

Enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary of the Society, Mr E. G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, St Silas Place, N.W. 5. (or by telephone to Miss Kerlogue 722 9836).

An early 'Post Office Tower'

For the rich, weary traveller of the 1970's an armchair view of the metropolis can be gained from the luxury of a revolving restaurant hundreds of feet in the air. In the 1830's, however, despite the lack of advanced technical know-how, the Victorians had their own solution to the problem in the Colosseum, which once dominated the site of what is now known as Cambridge Gate.

This imposing, but incongruous piece of architecture, with its Doric portico and its dome 26 feet in diameter, of which 75 feet was entirely of glass, was designed by the eminent architect, Decimus Burton. Its purpose was to exhibit a huge panoramic illustration of London, a task undertaken by a Mr Horner, who, taking his life in his hands, suspended himself precariously from the scaffolding several feet above the cross of St Pauls.

Although the project was initiated in 1824, the building was not opened to the public until 1830, and even by this time was still incomplete. The organisers of the event were, however, undaunted, as can be gathered by their enthusiastic eulogies recorded in a commemorative Account of the opening. The panoramic picture and the Colosseum itself were considered works "of such novelty, magnitude and singularity, that

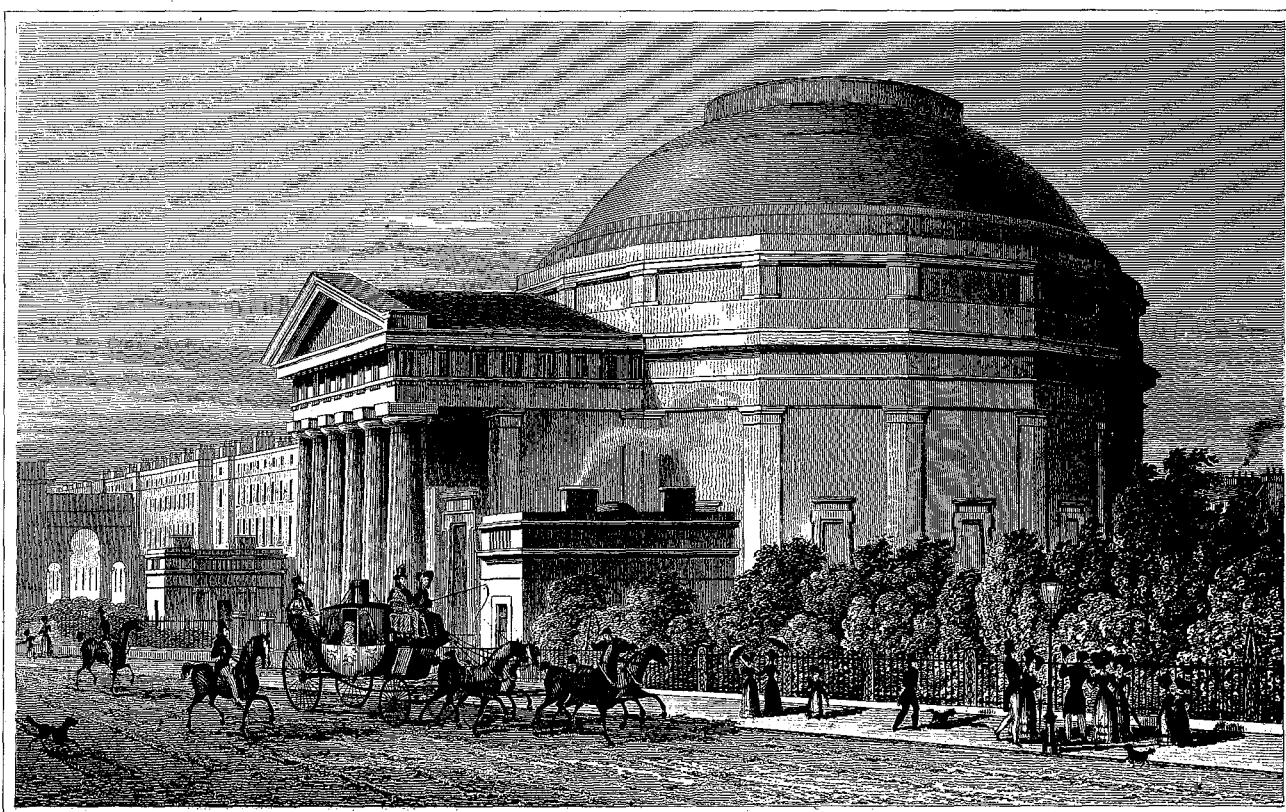
they seem almost to defy the powers of description, and to baffle all attempts at being represented through the medium of language."

The Colosseum became a favourite place for exhibitions - in 1846 a panorama of Paris by moonlight drew in the crowds. Other attractions included grottoes, conservatories stocked with exotic flora, a model of a Swiss cottage set against ice-tipped mountains and a theatre in which Ellen Terry first studied the part of Juliet.

Several years later, the Colosseum was beginning to run into difficulties. The property changed hands in 1835 when "some alterations were made which did not elevate its character as a place of public amusement". At one point it seemed that the building would be taken down and replaced by houses, but it was eventually taken over by a new owner who renovated it.

Considering the amount of work involved in the construction of such a building it was extremely short-lived. By 1875, the Colosseum was no longer in existence. In fact, it had never achieved the success hoped for, beset with problems throughout its brief history. However, no account of this area of London would be complete without some mention of this Victorian folly.

(Contributed by Miss Beverley Monchar)



Drawn by Theo. H. Shepherd.

THE COLISEUM. REGENT'S PARK.

Hampstead Wells to Panama

On April 12th 1700 a small party of tired, saddened Scots set sail from the Gulf of Darien in Panama and watched as the flag of Spain was raised over the ruins of Fort St Andrew. Scotland's attempt to found a trading colony in the New World - almost her last act as an independent nation - had ended in disaster. Back home, a dispirited man received the news as a personal tragedy.

That man was William Paterson, and it is he who provides the link between the Darien disaster and our own Borough. He was born in Dumfriesshire in 1658, but most of his life was spent away from his native country; his lodgings in London were in Denmark Street, now in Camden, but then in the Parish of St Giles on the edge of Soho Fields. One of his main achievements was the founding of the Bank of England, but it is another of his ideas that connects him with the history of our Borough; the forming of the Hampstead Water Company. Incorporated in 1692, the Company dammed the streams flowing down from the Northern Heights to form reservoirs to supply the city with fresh water, piped right into London. The Company continued for two hundred years until it was incorporated into the New River Company, the water of which was used until recently at the Metropolitan Cattle Market. Later, Paterson offered his shares in the Company as part security for his part in the Company of Scotland, then planning the Darien expedition.

It is, perhaps, rather strange that Paterson's failure should be remembered, but that his Hampstead Water Company, which has helped build up our Borough, should be almost forgotten. It is rather sobering to think that the money raised by the construction of the ponds on Hampstead Heath, which give us hours of pleasure, should have sent several hundred Scots to their death in far away Panama.

Richard Franklin

DALEHAM GARDENS, NW3

Mr Jack Rees, of 13 Daleham Gardens, has written to ask if any member can explain the derivation of his street name.

Keats in St. Pancras

Early in February, 1820, John Keats had been to London and a sudden thaw coming on after very cold weather, had left off his thick coat. Returning to Hampstead on the top of the coach he caught a severe chill. Arriving at Wentworth Place (now Keats House), Hampstead, his friend Charles Armitage Brown, saw he was fevered and persuaded him to go to bed. Keats developed consumption and Brown nursed him until April when he seemed to recover.

In May, 1820, Brown let his house as he and Keats intended to go to Scotland for the summer as they had previously done in 1818. Keats, however, changed his mind at the last minute and saw Brown off at Gravesend. Keats then took lodgings at No. 2 Wesleyan Place, Kentish Town to be near his friend and publisher, Leigh Hunt. On 22nd June he had another haemorrhage and knew that his doctor's diagnosis was correct. He had about a year to live. His landlady told Leigh Hunt who, distressed at seeing his friend alone, insisted on moving him to his own house No. 13 Mortimer Terrace, where he remained for about seven weeks.

Keats's stay in Kentish Town was cut short because of a misunderstanding between Keats and Hunt over the inadvertent opening of one of Fanny Brawne's letters. Apparently a note from Fanny Brawne (Keats's fiancée) had arrived and the distracted Mrs Hunt had forgotten to give it to Keats. A servant girl who was leaving the Hunt's service the next day failed to deliver the note and it was eventually found opened several days later by Hunt's eldest son, Thornton. In his delicate state of health, this incident upset Keats so much that he left the house and walked towards Hampstead. He rested at the end of Well Walk and it was there that William Hone, the antiquary, records that he saw Keats resting on a seat at the end of Well Walk, 'sitting and sobbing his dying breath into a handkerchief, gleaning parting looks towards the quiet landscape he had delighted in'. He eventually arrived on the Brawne's doorstep at Wentworth Place and Mrs Brawne seeing his distressed condition took him in and she and Fanny nursed him until arrangements had been made for him to go to Italy for the winter. He died the following February, 150 years ago.

C. M. Gee

Book Review

After Miss Doris Burchell's recent lecture to the Society on the history of education for women in Camden, her extremely attractive book on the subject will be of special interest to members. (Miss Buss' Second School. Frances Mary Buss Foundation. £1.50. Book obtainable from school secretary.)

The book is designed to mark the centenary of the Camden School for Girls. Its focus is on the history of this particular school, from its beginnings in a private house at 46 Camden Street with an initial enrolment of 40, to the present establishment at Sandall Road with more than 720 girls. However, because the Camden together with Miss Buss' first school, the North London Collegiate School for Ladies, was such a pioneering venture, its history necessarily involves wider educational and social issues.

Miss Burchell in her history of the school has managed to include much of the important social history of the borough, and throughout she shows a fine awareness of continuous historical change and development in Camden and Kentish Town. She has enlivened what might have been a rather dull educational history by a delightful sense for particular people and incidents. It is refreshing to see Miss Buss not only as a determined militant in her fight to achieve Parliamentary recognition and financial support for her girls' schools, but also as someone with a distinctively Victorian aversion to wet feet and to ink spots in the class room. "In the Camden from the beginning it was an established rule that a teacher was fined one penny whenever ink stains were found on her desk or ink was spilt by her, or by anyone else under her care." (The school caretaker always had a bucket of chlorate of lime to dab on the offending spots.)

There are evocative scenes of Camden Town in the 1870's, as a place of horse buses, four wheeler and hansom cabs, with new middle class houses run by scores of young maid servants, together with appalling slums especially near the new railways. (One is reminded of Sir John Betjeman's memory of visiting a poor family in Angler's Lane, where "the only toys the children had to play with were pieces of wood from a bundle of kindling.")

All these social conditions were reflected in Miss Buss' school, which from the beginning had insisted on no class distinction among its pupils. There are early reports of malnutrition and bad eyesight, the worst features of which are mirrored in a note of 1874: "Two girls died during the term, one from scarlet fever and the other from consumption." It is to Miss Buss' credit as an educationist that she did a great deal to improve the health of her students, instituting coffee and buns for lunch and arranging for swimming lessons at the St Pancras Baths in 1872. In this, as in so many other aspects of education, she set a pattern which was later adopted nationally.

Miss Burchell consistently relates the fortunes of the Camden to the progress of women's fight for education, which was especially militant in the 1870's. It was also the time which saw real progress, with the founding of women's colleges like Girton (1872), and the London School of Medicine for Women (1874), while the University of London agreed to grant degrees to women in 1878. There is the same concern with relating the life and problems of the school to later education acts and national crises, and the book has the advantages of a broad social study while being clearly focused on the Camden.

Miss Burchell's history is pleasing and informative. She gives it a coherent shape, while consistently sharing Miss Buss' own awareness of the uniqueness of people and the importance of circumstantial detail.

Coral Ann Howells

OFFICERS

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ASST.	
SECRETARY:	Mrs Coral Howells
TREASURER:	W.H. Meadows
ARCHIVIST:	Mrs C.M. Gee

All correspondence to this Newsletter or the Society should be sent to Mr Gregory

newsletter

No 9

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

OCT 1971

The Conservation Brains Trust

In association with the Hampstead branch of the National Trust, the Society is organising a Brains Trust on conservation, preservation, landscaping etc., with particular relevance to Camden. Questions are welcome from members and these should be sent to Mr.G.D.Gregory, the Society's Secretary, by the end of October.

The Chairman of the Brains Trust will be Kenneth Robinson former Minister for Health, and the panel will consist of Mrs Peggy Jay, Ben Whitaker, Christopher Gotch and Sir James Brown.

The Brains Trust is on November 18th at Hampstead Old Town Hall at 7.30.pm.

The Camden Domesday

After a difficult start the Photographic Group has reformed itself, this time with a larger administrative backing. A number of photographers has offered to give their services but we can still do with more. The Society has a grant from Camden Council for our photographic scheme and so members will not be involved in any expense.

The idea is to complete a Camden photographic Domesday in the years 1972-3, involving street architecture and

furniture, street scenes etc. At the same time we hope to make a start on research as to what photographs exist of this borough with the eventual aim of a central index. This is a vast undertaking and in many ways complements our present Street History scheme.

Our December Lecture - Kentish Town

Gillian Tindall will be talking on "The Vanished Suburb", describing the social changes in Kentish Town over the years. This will be at St Pancras Library Meetings Room on December 9th at 7.30.pm.

HAMPSTEAD WATER COMPANY

Richard Henwood is writing a book on the Hampstead Water Company, which had control over the Hampstead and Highgate ponds. It was one of the earliest public companies in this country - incorporated 1692 and eventually acquired by the New River Company in 1857. It is also one of the first companies to receive financial help from the newly established Bank of England.

Mr Henwood would be grateful for information on the Company other than that which appears in the standard history books. Please write to him at 3 Kemplay Road, N.W.3.

Aspects of Archaeology

The enterprising weekend symposium organised by Miss Caroline Neuburg for the Society, has attracted a very good response although some places are still available. Miss Neuburg is a firm believer in archaeology and local history studies going hand in hand and for this reason the programme has a great deal to interest the non-archaeologist. There are talks on trade in Highgate Village, the concentration of piano-making in St Pancras and papers on Medieval and Roman Camden. The weekend has a distinguished body of speakers, all of whom are giving their time free, and is a must for anybody who takes his local history seriously.

Exhibition of Hampstead Pictures

Dr Philip Hopkins who recently gave a talk to the Society on Medicine in Hampstead, followed by excellent articles in the Ham & High, has kindly lent a collection of Hampstead pictures to the Society which has, in its turn, been able to arrange for these to be displayed at the Heath Library, Keats Grove as from 1st November for four weeks.

RECENT BOOKS

Two books, recently added to Camden Library stocks are of interest to members:

Mudie's Circulating Library and the Victorian Novel, by Guinevere Griest. It is published by David and Charles at £3.30.

Thomas Cubitt - master builder, by Hermione Hobhouse, published by MacMillan at £12.60. As this price is enough to deter even the keenest we must be grateful to Camden for buying it, for it tells the story of much of Bloomsbury and St Pancras.

Camden sells Holborn Town Hall

Camden Council has sold Holborn Town Hall, together with its adjacent dustcart yard, to an unnamed Californian holiday resort. The Hall, which has a unique council chamber in which hardly a word can be heard - rumoured to be the reason why the old Holborn council meetings were brief and largely unreported - will be demolished stone by stone and cleaned before re-erection on the shores of the Pacific. Initial cleaning has revealed an inscription which indicates that the building was originally built as a home for distressed gentlefolk, and this suitability has been confirmed by today's office workers there.

The dustcarts, with their ancient orange livery and Roman insignia are being sent out as part of the deal, together with some original Holborn rubbish which will be crushed by the carts' mechanisms at the opening ceremony.

It is rumoured that the selling price of £4½ million will enable Camden to buy Witanhurst and so turn it into a home for distressed gentlefolk. The Mayor of Camden and other civic dignitaries will go to California by 214 bus for the opening ceremony and will almost certainly begin negotiations for the sale of Hampstead Town Hall as well.

PRINTS OF CAMDEN

Members are reminded that the "Twelve Views of Camden 1733-1875" have now been published by Camden Council. They measure 11½" x 14", are printed by Collotype, and at £1 the set are exceptional value for money. The subjects include four each from Hampstead, Holborn and St Pancras. Please write to the Director of Libraries, St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, N.W.1.

The Chalk Farm Tavern

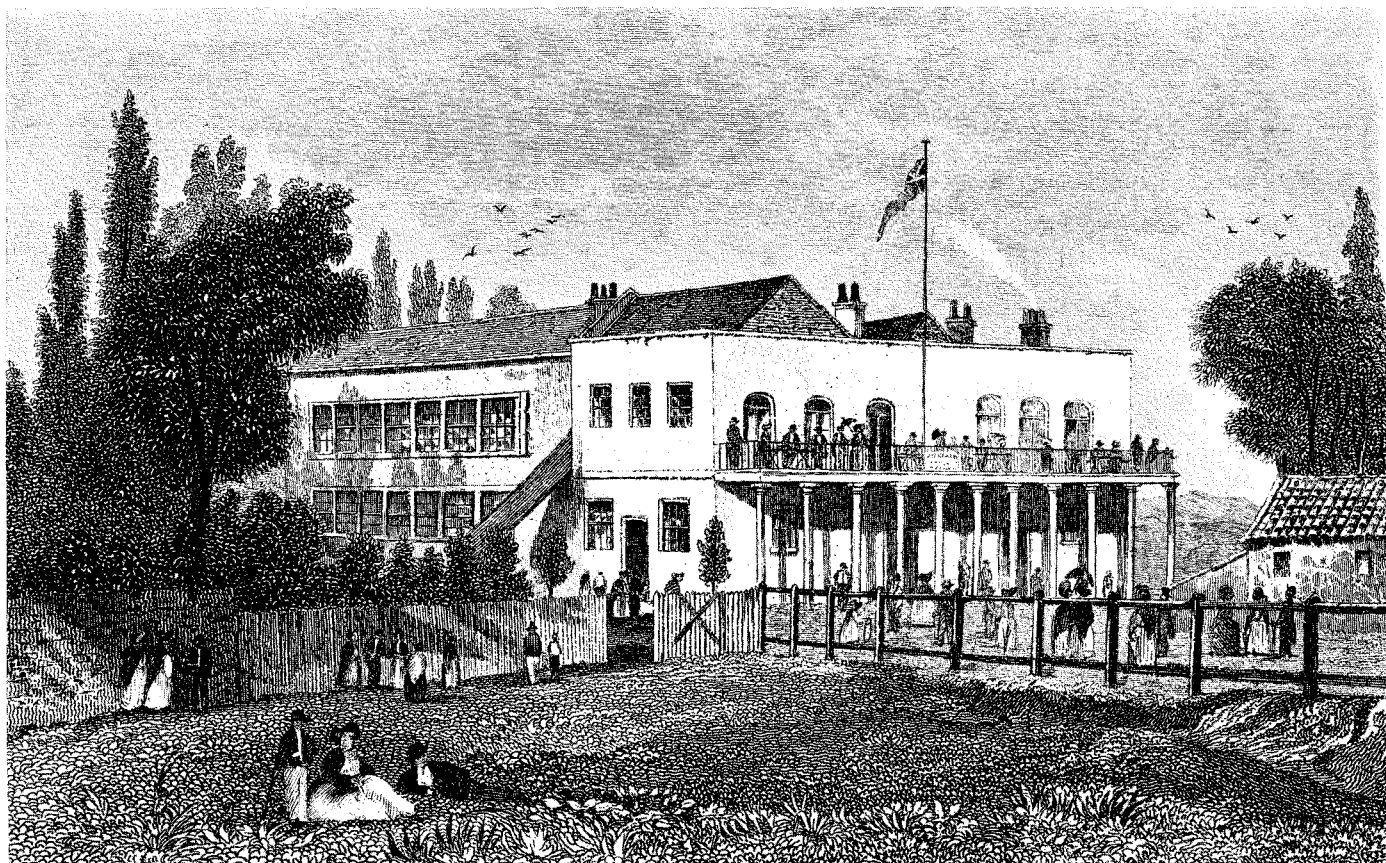
Mr Anthony Cooper has sent us an advertisement from the Hampstead and Highgate Express for W.R.Harvey & Co., the Antique Dealers at 67-70 Chalk Farm Road. It reads: "Behind the Victorian facade of our shops in Chalk Farm Road stands the original Chalk Farm - a Queen Anne Farmhouse - in which you will find etc." Mr Cooper points out that the Chalk Farm Tavern was in Regent's Park Road.

There is no doubt that the Harvey claim is preposterous without a piece of evidence to support it. The very detailed St Pancras map c1800 shows the Harvey site - virtually opposite the Round House, completely devoid of buildings. The Harvey shop would fall in what was then known as Washey Ten Acres a field actually containing over 12 acres and farmed by Richard Morgan, a prominent local man, whose main property was where Sainsbury's

is now in Kentish Town Road. The first buildings in Chalk Farm Road are shown with gardens in front - later replaced by a single storey shop extensions - in the 19th century.

Chalk Farm Tavern itself is marked quite clearly in the Regent's Park Road area in the 1800 map and although most authorities say that the existing Chalk Farm Tavern (now called Pub Lotus) was built on the same site this could only be confirmed with more detailed research. On the 1800 map the Tavern is on the left of the road going west; today it is on the right of Regent's Park Road. This may simply be because when Regent's Park Road was built after the sale of the Southampton Estate in 1840 it was aligned south of the old road to the Tavern.

Perhaps Messrs W.R.Harvey might care to give some evidence for their claim.



CHALK FARM, PRIMROSE HILL.

Our case for Lauderdale House

The Society has been asked for its views on the proposed use of Lauderdale House, in Waterlow Park, as an Archives or Local History Centre. Unlike the Camden councillors who will eventually have to weigh up the merits of the various claims to the house, the Society had the luxury of considering only if it would be suitable for local history.

Lauderdale House stands at the extreme north east point of the Borough. It has Islington and Haringey nearby and not a particularly large hinterland of Camden people. It was gutted by fire some years ago and contains only a caretaker's flat. It is fairly inaccessible from most parts of the Borough by public transport.

Our view was that the Archives of Camden - by that we mean the Rate Books, Vestry Books, deeds etc., are badly housed at the moment in conditions unwelcome to staff and researchers alike. They are in a building scheduled in Holborn to be demolished and unless suitable space is found for the Archives they will spend the next twenty years or so going from one temporary storage place to another. It would be better to house them properly now, even in a place that might be difficult to get to, than leave them to an insecure fate.

We found that the Archives would fit quite nicely on to the ground floor of Lauderdale House with room for expansion. On the First Floor we proposed that there should be space for exhibitions, local history or otherwise, plus space for researchers.

The House is not large enough to take the Local History Collection as well. The Collection, now spread over Hampstead and Holborn libraries, is the most frequently used part of archive material.

It covers newspapers, prints maps, ephemera, books etc., and the Society felt that this, if it were to be centralised, should be located in a more accessible place. We reminded the Council that they had already agreed that Keats Grove branch library would eventually be for local history purposes and that this would be an ideal building.

HISTORY OF THE ROYAL FREE

Those members interested in medical history in Camden may like to know that an interesting article on the development of the Royal Free from its house in Hatton Garden to the vast site in Hampstead, was published in the London Doctor, September 1971.

THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY

Charles Lee is working on a paper describing the history of the first Pneumatic Railway.. In 1863 it came into use for the first time. The General Post Office had built an underground tube from the Eversholt Street post office to the North Western Railway Company's terminus at Euston Square, and this was used for the transmission of mail bags, the carriages moving by air pressure.

MEMBERSHIP

After making allowance for the inevitable fall of membership when subscriptions are renewable we find we have a total of 338 members.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Archaeology Group will meet next on December 6th at Swiss Cottage library at 7.30.p.m.

newsletter

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of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

DEC 1971

John Lehmann's Holborn

Next month's lecture, entitled The History of Holborn, will be given by John Lehmann whose book of the same title was published last year. The lecture will be given at the Holborn Library Hall, Theobalds Road, WC1 at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 13th January 1972. Highly recommended.

Looking at Sites

The Archaeology Group's observation scheme is getting slowly into gear. Unfortunately we are hampered in this large borough by the fact that we have only six observers to cover all of it.

The work need not take much time nor need it involve you in letter writing. Any new site watcher would be asked to work under existing site officers who would designate perhaps a half dozen sites with which he or she has made contact. The site watcher would be required to look at the sites perhaps once a week (depending on their extent) and to report to his site officer any signs of archaeological material.

If you are interested and have a little time to spare please write to or telephone: Miss Caroline Neuburg, 34a Redbourne Avenue, N3. Tel: 346 1572.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Social History Group will hold its next meeting at 7.30 pm, Monday, 17th January 1972 at the St. Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, NW1. Speakers will include Miss Viv Morris, Mr H. Shooter, Mr Robert Hayward and the group's Chairman, Mr Leslie Newman.

Tape Recording School

Recording local dialects and also the reminiscences of people with a story to tell of old craft methods and life in earlier days is not just a matter of flicking a switch on a tape recorder. You should know how to make a wise choice of informant and the type of questions likely to encourage worthwhile responses; the machines which may best be used for the job; and the notes which should accompany each tape if it is to be of value to future historians - where and when the recording was made and details of the informant. And what about storage?

The Standing Conference for Local History is running a number of one-day schools in tape recording techniques. The nearest one will be at the University of Reading on 22nd January 1972.

Further details from: Miss Bettie Miller, SCLH, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1. Tel: 636 4066.

PUBLICITY POSTERS

Small posters are often produced to publicise lectures and other events. The Secretary does his best to distribute them widely and to ensure that they are displayed to good effect. This is a time-consuming operation and the help of members in different parts of the borough would be greatly appreciated. Would anyone who can persuade a sympathetic shopkeeper to display a poster, or who has access to notice boards in churches, clubs, schools etc., and would be willing to take a few posters whenever they are produced please tell the Secretary? Display in windows of members' homes may also be possible.

Camden Burial Mounds

A great deal of confusion seems to exist about prehistoric burial mounds in Camden, and this note is intended to clarify a few points. Stukeley's drawing of the Parliament Hill barrow is dated 1st May 1725, that is, during a period when we can place reasonable reliance on his evidence. Admittedly, he attributed it to an occupant we no longer believe in but he did know better than most of his contemporaries what a prehistoric burial mound ought to look like. Moreover his drawing can be checked, allowing for tree-growth, with the modern skyline and I can see no good reason to reject it. If the barrow existed in 1725 then the relatively modern enlargement of it noted by Read in his (lamentable) excavation in the 1890s need not worry us.

Dr Celoria (formerly of the London Museum) who found Stukeley's drawing and published it in 1968 felt the existence of the barrow remained unproven, but he failed to consider one crucial point. This is that the siting of the Parliament Hill barrow is absolutely typical for the Bronze Age. It lies on the 'false crest' of the hill, in other words on the skyline as viewed from the foot of the hill by the Highgate Ponds. It was in fact designed to be seen from the Ponds and we could well expect to find the contemporary settlement there, though it might take underwater archaeology to find it!

On first 'discovering' this barrow for myself I had read nothing of it, and hence my assessment of it was unclouded by preconceptions and was purely a matter of comparison with classic Bronze Age barrows. My first unbelieving "It can't be" was eventually changed by half an hour's study of it into "It must be a Bronze Age barrow". But proof is unlikely to be available now; the vital evidence has been dug away and the tree-roots have done the rest.

Primrose Hill is often claimed as the site of another barrow, probably because of the name "Barrow Hill" at the foot, where the modern reservoir stands.

However, the Middlesex volume of the English Place-Name Society warns us that the earliest spelling of Barrow Hill (in AD 959) clearly derives from Old English bearu, a grove or wood, rather than from beorg, a barrow or hill. Thus Barrow Hill was originally Wooded Hill. Primrose Hill was probably wooded too, and very likely grew the wild flowers that prompted the name, not recorded until 1586. We have therefore no evidence for a Primrose Hill barrow and could perhaps now lay it to rest.

Cherry Lavell

Kentish Town – the Vanished Suburb

Miss Gillian Tindall gave a talk on the development of Kentish Town to the Society on 9th December.

Kentish Town as a summer resort, as an opportunity for those wishing to gain a momentary escape from London's fetid, plague-ridden air, as a venue for members of High Society, with its refined tea-gardens, later to be degraded into the notorious gin-palaces; Kentish Town as a centre for educational establishments, lending an aura of sophistication and gentility to the otherwise bucolic surrounds, and later as a gathering-point for the adherents of Bohemia, all this is proof that the 'village' is but a shadow of its former self, a fact admirably illustrated in Miss Tindall's talk.

This was a formidable task to undertake, not only because of the plethora of material available to the researcher from such rich sources as the Heal Collection, but for the very reason that Kentish Town is no longer a suburb, and has been drawn up into the complex of a large city - and a capital city at that. However, by the end of the evening one had the feeling of having experienced almost two centuries of Kentish Town life, of having seen it personally develop or decline, in vividly coloured terms.

The perceptive, logical approach to her subject, her journalist's eye for detail and the fact that the speaker was tramping on home ground, all contributed to a talk which proved to be fascinating to residents and non-residents alike. All that is now required is that this research should be preserved for posterity.

Beverley Monchar

Chalk Farm Tavern

A number of members have written to us following the item in the last Newsletter on the claim by Harvey's, the antique dealers in Chalk Farm Road, that their premises are on the site of the old Chalk Farm.

Mr Anthony Cooper, who first raised the matter with us, writes:

'I was much gratified to see that my letter gave rise to a full page in the Newsletter.

I do feel that people should not get away with falsifying history in a newspaper, and as Harveys are unlikely to see the Newsletter may I suggest that the Society should write to them or send them a copy and ask for comments.

I have approximately located the site of the old Chalk Farm Tavern by superimposing the skeleton of 1848-50 on the 1873 ordnance. The skeleton does not show the colonnade but gives enough of the outline to show that the old building was on the same site. It was much longer than the present building, stretching to the far side of Erskine Road, and was also farther out into Regent's Park Road. Surprisingly there is still a joint in the paving slabs, out of parallel with the frontage, which I think represents the previous frontage line. I should be pleased to produce my findings if anyone is interested.'

Miss Deirdre Le Faye writes:

'I would suggest that 75 Regent's Park Road (Primrose Hill Antiques) could possibly be a fragmentary survival of the buildings shown in the 19th century print, rather than the present Pub Lotus. No. 75 is the one house out of alignment with the rest of the row on that side of the road (sits back some 10 feet I would estimate, although the shop front has been brought forward to line with the others); it has a gabled roof with dormer window, again quite unlike the other houses; and it has a very worn and broken brick tiled path leading round its side to the rear quarters. I think it may well be part of the end wing of the Tavern as shown in the print - perhaps the further gable, if, as you suggest, the Regent's Park Road was re-aligned in its laying-out.

As for Mr Harvey in Chalk Farm Road, he certainly has got some elderly farm-yard type shacks and outbuildings behind his street frontage, because I once went through the shop to look around these buildings which he now uses as further showrooms; but I would certainly doubt that they were pre-Regency, or that they were anything more than perfectly ordinary small farm buildings for normal use.

Perhaps the Society should form an official Inspection Group to go round visiting suspect sites of this kind, and to give or withhold its seal of approval, as the case might be, on the spot!'

In addition, Mrs Brenda Tyler writes:

'Harvey's claim was not actually that they occupied the one-time Chalk Farm Tavern but rather the original Chalk Farm. This is, of course, equally absurd, but led me to some interesting perusal of the prints and sketches in the Local History Collection. Chaldicote (cold dwelling?) seems to have been first mentioned as one of three areas comprising one hide (120 acres) plus 40 acres of wood rented by the Hospital of St. James from the Abbot of Westminster in 1258 (though a bequest to the hospital which may have been the same land was earlier). Through Henry VIII and Eton College we arrived at 226 acres in 1531, and by the 18th century there seem to have been both Upper and Lower Chalcotts farms.

The various prints and sketches appear to show a dozen completely different buildings but by careful comparison I should say they fall into two groups, neither of which can be detected in the Tavern drawings nor, conceivably in Harvey's premises.'

EASTPARK PLAN

Mr C.W. Ikin has written to ask if any member could help him find 'A Sketch of the Plan proposed for the erection of Villas at Eastpark, Hampstead, the freehold property of Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson, Bart.' This plan is referred to by Mr Oppé in his Hampstead - A London Town, but Mr Ikin has been unable to find a copy. Will anyone with information please write to him at 35 Wildwood Road, NW11.

The Lulot Street Controversy

At the time of writing the greater part of Highgate New Town is coming under the developer's hammer. Even when new, its small, neat red-brick houses cannot have been imposing, especially being in near proximity to the Georgian homes of Highgate Village. But not long ago there occurred an incident which brought the area into prominence.

In 1955, fifty residents of Lulot Street petitioned St. Pancras Council to have the name changed because they felt the name was a hindrance to anyone going for a job. The resultant story must rank as one of the most involved ever to hit our local councillors, and there have been a few; three meetings of the St. Pancras Borough Council, and two of the London County Council, took place before the inhabitants of Lulot Street were informed that the name would be changed to Gillman Crescent (after James Gillman, local surgeon and friend of Coleridge), pending objections.

However there were some and the local press began to receive irate letters. "It's a lot of fuss about nothing," wrote one, "and I'm objecting to it. The name's all right, it may be some of the people who live here who aren't quite all right."

In the end Lulot Street remained Lulot Street.

Richard Franklin

SOME CAMDEN TOWN BUILDINGS

Christopher Dean, of 10 Oval Road, NW1, would welcome information on the following buildings:

1 and 2 Gloucester Crescent
Round Factory at the corner of Oval Road and Gloucester Crescent (architect Nash)
24-28 Oval Road, offices with frontage to Regent's Canal
Goods Shed with canal entry, Regent's Canal north side
56 Mornington Terrace
Wool Store and associated underground stables, Camden Goods Yard.

ST PANCRAS ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Forthcoming activities by this Society are:

12th January (Wednesday) - visit to Royal Worcester Porcelain Works. Fare £1.50 approx.

29th January (Saturday) Annual General Meeting in Victoria and Albert Museum and visit to Victorian Church Art Exhibition.

Enquiries to Mr E. G. Brassington, 2 Stonegate, St. Silas Place, NW5.

THE CAMDEN JOURNAL

Most members would be interested to get a copy of the current edition of the Camden Journal, issued by Camden Libraries free of charge. It contains an article by Charles Lee on the early tramways of Camden and another, by Mr C. D. Howkins, formerly Secretary of this Society, on Somers Town between the Wars. A copy can be obtained at any Camden Library.

THE MOTORWAY ENQUIRY

Any members of this Society who would like to go and are taking a car with room for passengers could help by taking people who have no transport. If you are able to help please contact Mark Bass, Chairman, Hampstead Motorway Action Group, 28 Lancaster Grove, NW3. The Hampstead Motorway Action Group has informed us that its case against the construction of an 8-lane motorway through Hampstead is to be heard on 27th January 1972 from 7pm to 10pm in Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, SW1. An evening hearing is a concession to the Group which is anxious that as many of its supporters are there as possible - the hall holds 700.