

newsletter

No 22

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

FEB 1974

The February Talk

A last-minute reminder that the February event is a lecture entitled Painters in Camden, by Mrs Evelyn Meetham. The lecture will be illustrated by slides.

Mrs Gwynedd Gosling, Librarian of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, will be in the chair.

Time and place - 7.30pm, 21 February at Swiss Cottage Library.

Meetings for new members

The membership of the Society is now at its highest number - 404 - with the intake of new members now increasing. The Committee is worried that it may become remote from new members because at the normal lectures it is difficult to meet people afterwards. As an experiment we have invited all those members who joined the Society in the last three months to meet the officers of the Society for an informal evening to discuss what the Society does, what the members would like to do or what particular interests they have so that, perhaps, more research groups could flourish.

There are probably quite a few other members who have joined and who have been only to lectures and do not feel closely involved with the Society. If there are such members who feel 'new' in that sense, we do hope that they will contact our Secretary so that they too might be invited to future 'new member meetings'.

SUBSCRIPTIONS UP

Regrettably we are having to raise subscriptions as the cost of administration, Newsletter and postage etc. is only just being covered by income. The Committee feels that there has to be a reasonable surplus on subscriptions so that more publications, which might not sell so well as our early ones, may be contemplated.

The March lecture – Underground London

Mr Ellis Hillman, GLC councillor and chairman of its Arts Board, is an expert on what is underneath London. He is Chairman of the London Subterranean Survey Association. He will be giving what will undoubtedly be a popular talk called The Secrets of Underground London on 14 March at 7.30pm at Swiss Cottage Library.

April Event

Many members will recall the lecture given two years ago in Rosslyn Hill Chapel by members of the Street Research Group, after the publication of Streets of Hampstead. A companion volume, More Streets of Hampstead, has just been published, covering the southern sector of the old borough, from Downshire Hill to Swiss Cottage. Another lecture has been arranged, at which members of the Group will talk about their work.

This meeting will again be held in Rosslyn Hill Chapel, Rosslyn Hill, NW3 (between Willoughby Road and Pilgrims Lane, about 400 yards down the hill from Hampstead Tube Station) on TUESDAY, 2 APRIL at 8pm. PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY AT ONCE, as the next Newsletter will not be issued in time for a reminder.

The speakers will be Wilfrid Meadows, who led the Group, Shirley Harris, Jenepher Hawkins, Brenda Tyler and Christopher Wade, who together did most of the work. The talk will be illustrated by slides. This promises to be an interesting evening, and we hope for a good audience.

PLAQUE FOR VIRGINIA

The Greater London Council are to erect a blue plaque commemorating Virginia Woolf's residence at 29 Fitzroy Square.

More Streets of Hampstead

Our new publication (with High Hill Press) was duly launched and toasted on 11 January at Swiss Cottage Library - but without the book itself. At the last moment the printer discovered that the cover plate had been scratched and a new block was needed. It was this sort of uncertainty about delivery - there were power problems, too - that made us reluctant to take orders for the new book at the time of the last Newsletter: but copies have now safely arrived and a special order form is enclosed. Note that the reduced price for members will only apply until the end of April this year. As with all our publications we encourage members to buy early: it helps pay the printer's bill.

What The Papers Say:

"... More Streets of Hampstead is invaluable. Like its companion volume The Streets of Hampstead, it has been compiled by the Camden History Society, to whom residents and tourists alike should be ever grateful..." The Times 31.1.74.

"People, not places or events, make the kind of history that ordinary people want to read about. And it is the people who lived in More Streets of Hampstead who make Camden History Society's latest publication so successful....(The) members of the Society's Street History Group have done their research thoroughly - both walking the streets themselves and scouring libraries and reference collections....The effort was unquestionably worthwhile. The resulting book is a continuing source of pleasure and interest to anyone who lives in the area, knows it or wants to know it better..." The Hampstead & Highgate Express 1.2.74.

"The Streets of Hampstead and More Streets of Hampstead, well illustrated with reproductions of old maps, drawings and paintings are a credit to the local publisher who has issued them in association with the Society. Solid research is enlivened by good gossip..." The Daily Telegraph 7.2.74.

Letter

Let me make one point that was excised from my review by our Editor, doubtless for reasons of brevity. Had this book come from a publisher specialising in mystic, "Atlantis" or occult books, I should not have spent any ink on it. But The London That Was Rome was issued by a highly respected publishing house known for a long list of properly scientific works. Any reader might therefore reasonably expect that this book could be taken at its own valuation as "scientific" evidence. In other words, it lays itself wide open on account of its imprint.

Now, our Society's aim is to further the study of local history (not merely to amuse or even to soothe its members) and so it seemed to me, and still seems, perfectly legitimate to expose the muddled thinking of this book lest others be taken in by it. Heaven forbid that someone should start researching for The Camden That Was Rome! (And I know from long experience that people who should know how to weigh evidence can be seduced by just such books as this.) I tried to make a readable and amusing review, and am only sorry that Mr. Barnett was not amused. Incidentally, I look forward to seeing our Editor's comment on this correspondence, since he is also, by implication, being taken to task for publishing my review!

Cherry Lavell (Miss!)

ST. MARY'S PRIMROSE HILL

Miss Gladys Beck writes:

"I am afraid that in the review of 'St. Mary's, Primrose Hill' in the December issue of the Newsletter of the Camden History Society I have received credit which is not due to me. None of this publication was written by me.

I think the mistake may have arisen because some years ago I did write a few articles on the early history of St. Mary's for the parish magazine.

Please will you publish this disclaimer in the next issue of the Newsletter."

The Fight for Bloomsbury

As most members probably know, a considerable battle is in progress between Camden Council and the now dissolved Government on the future of that part of Bloomsbury directly opposite the British Museum. The proposal is to demolish this area so that the British Library may be built there. No one is opposed to a new library being built - indeed it is a matter of great urgency as users of the British Museum Library will know. Camden's argument is that there is no need for it to be so near the Museum and have offered alternative sites in the borough.

Many members of this Society are anxious that the area is preserved for both historical and conservationist reasons. We have received a letter from Cllr Frank Dobson, Leader of Camden Council, asking for support in their fight; with the advent of a new Government their efforts will be redoubled. Camden has published an excellent booklet on the area and he refers to this in his letter:

"May I ask you - who perhaps have no connection with Bloomsbury or Camden - to read our case for preserving an important seven acres of Central London. What we have to say is brief. It relates to the importance of this neighbourhood; to the hundreds of people who live there; the dozens of publishers, bookshops and other small businesses. The government wants to destroy it to make room for the British Library. Yet even the National Libraries Committee under Dr. F.S. Dainton said that hardly anyone really needs it there. We want to ensure that everyone, as far as possible, who has an interest in the British Museum and the British Library knows our side of the argument and our constructive alternatives. From those who, on examining our case, feel convinced that it is a good one, we should welcome a statement of support.

We will willingly show you round the threatened acres. If you cannot manage this, please wander in imagination along the streets of Bloomsbury that line the pages of this booklet. They are the embodiment of a typical part of our architectural heritage, a townscape diverse in history, form and usage, domestic in scale but destined for destruction unless people realise what is at stake."

MOVING PICTURES

Our exhibition Nineteenth Century Hampstead and Belsize was opened at Swiss Cottage Library by Margaret Drabble, who called Hampstead 'indescribably lovely' and expressed her gratitude for 'those who have the time and energy to preserve it and write up its history'.

The exhibition has already left Swiss Cottage and reopened at the Keats Grove Branch, where it will stay until 16 March. From 23 March to 6 April, a smaller version of it will be at Sharpleshall Street Library.

REVIEWING THE FUTURE

The first edition of our Camden History Review has nearly sold out (750 copies) and we are reprinting. This is encouraging at a time when I am beginning to put together the second issue and hoping to produce a bigger, better magazine with no increase in price. There are already a number of talks from our Social History symposia awaiting publication and as many of these concern Edwardian Camden a large part of the next edition will be devoted to this theme. I would welcome a few short contributions from other members on this subject, e.g. brief reminiscences or research reports of life in Camden at the beginning of this century and any interesting pictures of the area. These and any other contributions for the Review should reach me by 28 February. (Address: 28 Willoughby Road, London, NW3 1SA). I will also welcome any general comments and suggestions about the contents and production of the magazine - but there is no need to write about the smallness of the print. We will make it all large and clear next time, if only because it may have to be read by candlelight.

Christopher Wade

CUBITT'S BLOOMSBURY

On 22 March at the Bishopsgate Institute the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society have Miss Hermione Hobhouse talking on Thomas Cubitt 1788-1855: Builder of Belgravia and Bloomsbury. For details of meetings please contact Mr F. J. Froom, 7 Henry's Avenue, Woodford Green, Essex. (504 3767)

THE KENTISH TOWN ROLLS

The history of Kentish Town is, it seems, a much more popular subject than we imagined. At the talk given by our Chairman, John Richardson, chairs were put out for 70 people, which is more than we expected to come, and eventually about 120 people arrived.

Two interesting things emerged from the evening. First, there seems to be a healthy demand to purchase copies of the Kentish Town Rolls. Second, very topically as it happened, questions were asked about the Grafton Road farm buildings.

Your Committee is to ask Camden if they would consider republishing the Kentish Town Rolls for sale to the public. They were printed many years ago and were sold, presumably at a subsidised rate, of 37½p. They would probably cost about £5 to reproduce now! However, they are a unique piece of local history which deserve to be widely available and we are hopeful that a joint effort by Camden and the Society may have some result.

The Grafton Road farm buildings are the subject of pressure by local residents. They want to see them retained. The buildings are a rather puzzling left-over. They do not appear on a map until about 1880 which is a bit late to be building a farm as Gospel Oak was being redeveloped about this time. One can only surmise that they were left off earlier maps and were out-buildings of a farm, possibly Mortimer's, which fronted on to Highgate Road, being cut off and forgotten when the railways went across the land. It would be interesting to discover the full history of them.

HENDON EXCAVATIONS

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society are doing an interesting excavation at Church End, Hendon. Weather permitting the dig takes place from 10.30am to dusk on Saturdays and Sundays. Evidence has been found which might be Roman, and they are working on what might be a Late Saxon ditch system. A Henry VIII silver penny has been found and quite a lot of 18th century remains. The Hendon Society would welcome helpers from the Camden Society. The Hendon Society has recently started a project to survey and record the industrial archaeology of Barnet.

RENT STRIKE PUBLICATION

The St Pancras Rent strike in 1960 was accompanied by some of the most violent clashes between population and police since the last war. A booklet has recently been published called Rent Strike in St Pancras 1960 by Dave Burn and can be obtained, price 15p, from Pluto Press Ltd, Unit 10, Spencer Court, 7 Chalcot Road, NW1. Hugh Kerr, in his introduction, says:

"For me, St Pancras was the first example of working-class action I saw in England. I remember getting off the train from Scotland in 1960 as a young man who had just moved to England. I stepped out of Kings Cross Station and into a battle between mounted policemen and demonstrators outside St Pancras Town Hall. I remember thinking 'England can't be as bad as I thought!'"

LEIGH HUNT'S COTTAGE IN THE VALE OF HEALTH

According to Helen Bentwich's The Vale of Health on Hampstead Heath, 1777-1961, Leigh Hunt occupied, in 1821, a cottage formerly occupied by Rowland Hunter from 1816 to 1818. Rowland Hunter was Leigh Hunt's stepfather; by profession he was a bookseller and publisher. In particular, he was Maria Edgeworth's publisher from 1809 to 1827 and it is interesting to find, in Maria Edgeworth's Letters from England 1813-1844, the following passage from one of her letters, addressed and dated from Hampstead. (Thursday October 15th - she was staying with Joanna and Agnes Baillie at Bolton House):

"I believe I left off on Tuesday when we were just going to the Vale of Health to see Mrs Hunter in her baby house cottage - very nice it is with a swarm of singing birds in cages in the trelliced room and an open book of mathematics which Miss Hunter was reading on the table. She is a pleasing, unaffected sensible girl with wonderfully good manners... When we were going away I whispered a request to kind Joanna... and she invited Miss Hunter to spend the next evening with us; she asked Mr Hunter also to bring his daughter."

Since there has been much speculation about Leigh Hunt's cottage, this description may prove helpful.

Paul Ricard

newsletter

No 23

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

APR 1974

Annual General Meeting

The date of this year's AGM is 13 May. The business meeting will be preceded by a visit to St Etheldreda's, Ely Place, EC1 at 6.30 pm. We will then assemble in St Andrew's Church Hall (Holborn) EC4 at 7.45 pm for the AGM. Although the Society's Patron, the Worshipful the Mayor of Camden, Councillor Richard Collins, cannot be present, we are delighted to know that he will be represented by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor B J Taylor, who will be accompanied by the Deputy Mayoress.

These arrangements are in keeping with our usual practice of holding our AGM in an interesting building and we are most grateful to St Etheldreda's for being so willing to receive us and to provide a guide and to St Andrew's for allowing us to hold the business meeting in the Church Hall. We hope that as many members as possible will come to both parts. The usual order has been reversed to ensure the best possible light for the visit to St Etheldreda's. Our thanks to Mr Horace Shooter for the suggestion and for making the arrangements.

June Event - Archaeology

By the next newsletter there will almost certainly be news about the appointment of a consultant archaeologist by the Borough Council. He (or she) will act as a focal point for the many volunteers in the Society whom we know are anxious to offer their services. With this in mind, we have arranged a meeting with an archaeological theme in June. For some time past, two young archaeologists, Sally Kington and Joanna Bird have been plotting the archaeology of London on a 1" OS map. They will both come to speak about their survey on Wednesday, 19 June

at the St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Rd NW1 at 7 pm. The talk will be illustrated by slides and a small exhibition.

There will be no further reminder of this event - please put it in your diary now!

Canal Trip in July

We are sharing the Jenny Wren with a group from the Hampstead Centre of the National Trust on Saturday, 13 July for a day trip from the Camden Town Lock to Limehouse. Embarkation will be at 9.30 am at Camden Town Lock or, if preferred, at 10.30 am at City Road Basin, Islington. A short walk from the Limehouse Basin brings us to The Grapes Inn overlooking the Thames for a drink and lunch break. Thence up the Limehouse Cut to the River Lea and back down the Hertford Cut, alongside Victoria Park to rejoin the Regent's Canal at Bethnal Green. The return to Camden Town will be at about 3.30 pm.

The tour will be guided by Crystal Hale, who is a member of the Inland Waterways Association and founder of the Islington Sailing Club and organiser of the Islington Boat Festival last year. She believes that there are new functions for London's old canals and will explain these as well as the history and architecture of the canal as we go along. There will be a small exhibition on board.

Tickets for the round trip cost £1.75 each and can be obtained from the Secretary at St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 2AJ. Cost of lunch is not included.

MEMBERSHIP UP AGAIN

The Society's membership has increased to a new high level - 433.

New Light on a Holborn Conspiracy

REGENCY REVOLUTION: THE CASE OF ARTHUR THISTLEWOOD, by David Johnson.

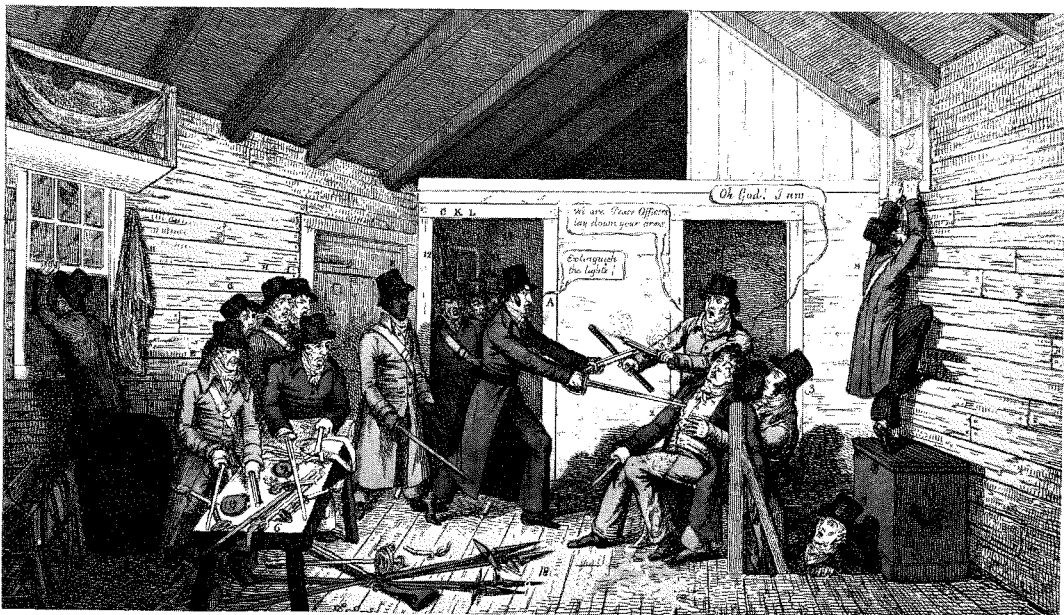
Published by Compton Russell Ltd., Compton Chamberlayne, Salisbury Wilts. Price - £2.75p. Publication date - 6 May 1974.

On May Day 1820, Arthur Thistlewood and four other men were hanged at Newgate for their part in the Cato Street Conspiracy; five accomplices were transported to Australia for life. This conspiracy has always had a powerful hold on Londoners' imaginations, for the plotters meant to murder members of the Cabinet at a dinner party in Grosvenor Square, seize control of the capital, and proclaim Thistlewood President of an English Republic.

REGENCY REVOLUTION is based on a mass of largely neglected material at the Public Record Office. For leading a riot in 1816, Thistlewood was indicted for High Treason, but the Government's case against him failed and he was released. During the last few months of his life he was closely watched by the police, and his words and actions were minutely reported to the Home Office, mainly by spies posing as his followers. By extensive research their manuscript notes and reports, David Johnson has built up a highly detailed account of Thistlewood's bizarre and almost incredible conspiracy.

The book names many of the buildings associated with Thistlewood's extraordinary career, a few of which can still be seen. Stone Buildings, for example, where one of the men who spied on Thistlewood reported to the Treasury Solicitor, is part of Lincoln's Inn; and the stable in which the plotters fought their famous battle with the police has miraculously survived in Cato Street, one minute's walk from the Edgware Road. Because Thistlewood killed a police officer and managed to escape, the little street in Marylebone became notorious, and gave its name to a conspiracy which was largely plotted in Holborn. Thistlewood, who lived at Stanhope Street, Clare Market, held his most secret meetings either at a room in Fox Court, off Gray's Inn Road, or at the White Hart Inn in Brooke's Market.

The fate of the spy who became Thistlewood's right-hand man, and who fled from England in 1820, has intrigued historians for well over a century. The author of REGENCY REVOLUTION puts forward fresh evidence to show that George Edwards died under an assumed name at Cape Town. He also illuminates the remarkable character of John Stafford, Chief Clerk at Bow Street for over thirty years, who played a vital role in bringing Thistlewood to the gallows. There is much else of interest in the book, including a somewhat gruesome account of what became of the corpses at Newgate. When the prison was demolished in 1903,



Bow Street Runners confront Thistlewood and his men as they plot to murder the Cabinet. (From a contemporary print in the possession of the author).

Thistlewood and 96 other felons were still buried under the flags of a passageway. (They were exhumed and transferred to a well-known London cemetery).

Eight pages of illustrations include a likeness of George Edwards, two artists' impressions of the fight at Cato Street, a photograph of the Newgate passageway, and a drawing of the house in Moorfields - long ago pulled down - in which Thistlewood was captured.

A Bit of Denmark in Camden

Many people know that St Katharine's Church in Regent's Park near Gloucester Gate is now the home of the Danish Church in London; but not everyone, perhaps, realises that on the south side of the church is quite an amazing sight, a copy of one of Denmark's finest ancient monuments. This is the famous Jelling Stone which Harald Bluetooth (King of Denmark, AD 940 to 985) set up at the ancient sacred site of Jelling in eastern Denmark. It is well worth a detour if you are walking nearby in the Park.

The Jelling Stone is an irregularly-shaped boulder, about 8 feet high by as many wide. On one face is carved the earliest Scandinavian representation of Christ - arms outstretched, the whole body twined with ribbons in the typical late Viking style of decoration. On the second side is a great beast caught up in a vine, a beast surely ancestral to a fine monument of our own, the carved tombstone from about the time of Canute found in St Paul's Cathedral in 1852 and now to be seen in the Guildhall Museum.

The third, largest side of the Jelling Stone carried an inscription in runes: "King Harald had this memorial made for Gorm his father and Thyri his mother; that Harald who won for himself all Denmark" but the inscription carries on at the bottom of the other two sides: "and Norway, and made the Danes Christian".

So it is a very appropriate monument for the Danish Church here, even though its splendours may look rather barbaric to modern eyes.

As a sequel to his conversion, Harald built a small wooden church at Jelling, traces of which were found by excavation

in 1948; in this way he Christianised a site that apparently had a long tradition as a pagan sacred centre. In 983 the Danes expelled the Germans from the south of their country, but Harald lived only another couple of years, with declining powers and finally in flight from his own son.

The cast of the stone was placed in the garden of the Danish Church in 1955; the design has been picked out in rather bright colours, though I have not so far been able to discover whether there is evidence for these on the original monument, all the photographs of which are plain. One thought lurks - will the archaeologists of the far-off future be baffled by this monument being "in the wrong place"?

Cherry Lavell

THE GOVERNESSES' INSTITUTION

In the Survey of London Vol 19 there appears to be an error. On p.155 under provisional Grade III listing it has 'Prince of Wales Road, gates and railings at Camden School for Girls (c.1780-90, "G.S. ")'.

This building, now the annexe of St Richard of Chichester School, was of course originally the Governesses' Institution, and the G.S. over the gates is obviously G.I. The design of the gates and railings suits the layout of the building and they must have been erected with it in 1848 or 49. It seems unlikely that second-hand railings of 1780-90 were adapted.

I have been told that the railings have since been listed and I don't know if the mistake has been perpetuated. They are nice railings anyway.

Anthony Cooper

Archaeologist to be appointed

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society will be advertising this month for the archaeologist who will concentrate on Camden for the next year. This has been made possible by the decision of Camden Council to provide funds for the appointment.

CHANGES IN THE ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Mrs Christina Gee, Camden's Archivist since 1965, is soon to relinquish the post and concentrate on being Assistant Curator of Keats House. She has been of enormous help to this Society and to the many members of the public with local history inquiries. She will be greatly missed.

Likewise Miss Beverley Monchar, Senior Assistant Librarian specialising in archives is also leaving, to take up an appointment with the British Library. She has specialised in St Pancras history and has contributed to local history study by her reorganisation of the St Pancras records.

THE ENDLESS RAILWAY COMPANY

I am currently researching one, James Boydell Jnr., who died in St Pancras in December 1859. He was a man of many parts but is mainly remembered as the inventor of the Boydell Endless Railway, a system employed on the first heavy road locomotive built in 1856.

He was a Machinery Agent and Valuer with offices in the City, and a partner in an ironfoundry and manufacturing concern named Boydell and Glasier, Hawley Crescent, Camden. Latterly he lived in Gloucester Terrace, Regent's Park. In 1856 he promoted a new company, The Endless Railway Company, in partnership with Messrs Hamilton and Hemming. Many and various patents are registered in his name.

Several leading traction engine manufacturers employed Boydell's system and an engine took part in the 1856 Lord Mayor's Show, causing, one gathers, quite a stir. Heavy artillery used in the Crimea was fitted with his wheels and engines employing the system went to India, Egypt, Russia and South America. Legislation and the notorious "Red Flag" Act prevented the further exploitation in this country.

The Illustrated London News 1856 illustrates an engine with Boydell wheels giving a demonstration of direct traction ploughing at Lough in Lincolnshire. Other demonstrations were given subsequently in Hyde Park.

I should be extremely grateful to have information about this man and his work

I can find no reference to his successors or the fate of his enterprises. Certainly, the Endless Railway was out of favour by 1866.

I am intrigued to notice a large block of flats at Swiss Cottage named Boydell Court and wonder if there is any connection with my man or his family.

Michael R Lane

JESSICA DISMORR

A member writes: Jessica Stewart Dismorr (or Dinsmoor), a Hampstead artist, is to be the subject of an exhibition to be held in April 1974. She was born in 1886, was educated at Kingsley Ladies' School, 3 College Villas Road, NW3 (later renumbered 35 College Crescent) and possibly Forgnal School for Girls.

Registered as an elector at 4 Cannon Place NW3 from 1924 to 1931: she was resident in 1938-1939 at 17 Willoughby Road and also stayed at 32 Glenloch Road, then a nursing home. Jessica Dismoor apparently committed suicide and died on 29 August 1939.

Information is sought regarding this Hampstead artist, and also about two of her painter colleagues Bertha A Jones, who lived at 4 Cannon Place from 1924 to 1939, and Catherine Giles, living at that time in London. Any other information, possibly from residents at Cannon Place or Willoughby Road, would also be very welcome.

WAS BETJEMAN RIGHT?

In "Small Boy on a Kentish Town Tram", Camden History Review I, Miss Howells concludes that "Charrington, Sells, Dare & Co" is a figment of Mr Betjeman's imagination. However, in the St Pancras Street Directory of 1874 (Swiss Cottage Library), I today noticed "Charrington, Sells & Co. Coal Merchants", of 35, Highgate Road. I presume this must be the actual firm referred to by Mr Betjeman, though obviously not at that date!

Barbara Prowse (Mrs)

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newsletter

No 24

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JUN 1974

Calendar of Events 1974-75

We have now planned the main monthly events for the remainder of the programme year to February 1975:

- 19 June
7 pm Archaeology and development in Greater London: an illustrated talk by Sally Kington and Joanna Bird.
St. Pancras Library
- 11 Aug.
11. 30 am A Bloomsbury walk which is being arranged by Mr Malcolm Holmes. Would interested members please contact Mr Holmes at the Swiss Cottage Library.
- Sept. Exhibition - please see August Newsletter for details.
- 1 Oct.
8 pm An evening with the Hendon & District Archaeological Society. Members will present "Aspects of archaeology, covering excavation, field archaeology and recording in the London Borough of Barnet."
Central Library, Hendon, NW4.
- 26 Oct.
2. 45 pm Aspects of Victorian Camden; a symposium to be presented by the Society's social history group. Further details and booking form with the August Newsletter.
Holborn Library Hall.
- 5 Nov.
7. 30 pm The work of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society: a talk by Michael Robbins.
Holborn Library Hall.
- 8 Dec.
8 pm A Camden miscellany, in association with the Central

School of Speech and Drama. See note elsewhere in this issue by Coral Howells who is arranging this event for the Society.

Embassy Theatre, NW3.

1975

- 16 Jan.
8 pm Old Camden postcards: an illustrated talk by John Richardson.
Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Road, NW5.
- Feb. Romney: an illustrated lecture by Roger Ellis.
Swiss Cottage Library.

The Canal Trip

The response to the announcement of the Regent's Canal Dock trip in our last issue was immediate and greater than for comparable trips in the past. Once again, our apologies to those members whose cheques had to be returned but good news too! Mrs Hale has kindly agreed to repeat it on a Saturday in September. Those members whom we were unable to accommodate for the first trip will be notified individually of the date and there will be further details in the August Newsletter. In the meantime would anyone likely to be interested in coming please tell the Secretary. No money at this stage please.

The Coach Outing

An interesting day has been planned for Saturday, 17 August. The two places to be visited, both near Winchester, are the Weald and Downland Open-Air Museum at Singleton and the Roman Palace at Fishbourne. Details and booking form are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Book Review

Discovering Regional Archaeology: South-Eastern England

by Edward Sammes. Shire Publications Ltd (Aylesbury), 1973. 40p.

This useful little paperback is an essential companion for everyone who wants to explore the visible remains of the past in Greater London, Hampshire, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. Like the others in this excellent series, Mr Sammes' book gives clear though brief, descriptions of the best sites to visit, provides a map reference for each, and (most useful of all) gives directions for the best approach to the site. (It is one thing to locate a hillfort, say, on your map, quite another to find unaided the most convenient way up to it.) The book is planned with the motorist in mind, and most sites in it entail no more than a one mile walk.

For Greater London Mr Sammes has listed 9 sites plus 11 in the City that he recommends as worth a visit. Many people are vaguely aware that great chunks of the Roman and medieval wall of the City are still visible somewhere; this booklet shows exactly where they are. It also lists the all-too-few other standing remains of the past, such as the church of All Hallows-by-the-Tower with its Saxon features and its Roman tessellated floor in the crypt. Outside the City proper, sites noted as worth a visit include the group of Saxon burial mounds in Greenwich Park, the length of Grim's Ditch in Harrow-Stammore, the Iron Age camp on Wimbledon Common, and the moated medieval site at Northolt. As for the burial mound on Parliament Hill, Mr Sammes evidently has not quite made up his mind about its antiquity - compare his statements on pp 7, 15 and plate 4 - but this reviewer is quite happy that the mound is an absolutely typical Bronze Age barrow, and has so argued previously in these pages. The dig in 1894 was not well enough executed to constitute reliable evidence.

Moving away from Greater London, Mr Sammes directs us to sites as diverse as the spectacular Roman villas at Bignor, Brading (IoW) and Fishbourne, the Mesolithic rock shelters at High Rocks near Tunbridge Wells, the (?) Saxon figure cut in the Downs at Wilmington, the deserted Roman town at Silchester, and the Iron Age defences at Hengistbury Head and at

Danebury. Slips appear to be few, but the Anstiebury hillfort (pp 63-4) went out of occupation finally in mid-1st century AD and did not continue into the 2nd century.

Mr Sammes is an enthusiastic field archaeologist and aware of much information from recent excavations not yet recorded in print. He is an indefatigable attender of archaeological conferences and meetings, as well as currently directing the Church Terrace dig for Hendon and District Archaeological Society. His booklet is therefore as up to date as anything in a fast-moving subject like archaeology can ever be. He does not take up space to explain key archaeological terms, since these are, as he explains, set out in James Dyer's introductory booklet to the whole regional series; but he usefully mentions that, for instance, military exercises may occasionally prevent access to certain sites in Hampshire. He also gives the location of excavated finds, as well as listing eight major museums to visit in London. Thoroughly recommended: and, N.B., most bookshops keep stocks of this rightly popular series so it should be easy to find.

Cherry Lavell

WORKING PARTY ON SPECIAL TOPICS

Camden is rich in sources for research into the many aspects of social history, and especially in those related to the poor and poverty, the housing of the people and growth of the new suburbs, working class movements and so on. Some of the records involved are available for use out of normal office hours. Richard Conquest is willing to act as leader to a working party on these special topics and members interested in researching in depth on these projects are asked to contact Mr Conquest at 55 Lissenden Mansions, Lissenden Gardens, London, NW5. As a first step the initial meeting would survey the material available for the chosen topics.

HENDON DISCOVERIES

The Hendon Archaeological Society report the finding of ancient human burials at their Church Terrace dig. Judging by the pottery finds at the same level the burials appear to have taken place in the 13th or 14th centuries. They are, mysteriously, outside the known original churchyard area.

Have you renewed your Subscription?

Membership subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 March for all members who joined the Society before 1 October 1973. Three months later there are still over 100 subscriptions outstanding, representing about a quarter of our membership.

Later in the summer a personal letter will be sent to each member whose subscription remains unpaid but, as this will involve considerable work, it will be appreciated if these members will respond at once to this notice and send their subscription to Mr W.H. Meadows, 9 Pilgrims Lane, Hampstead, NW3. Renewal forms were sent out with the February Newsletter but in case these have been mislaid, the current subscription rates are as follows:

Full membership	£1.50
Joint membership (husband and wife)	£2.00
Full-time students and pensioners	£1.00
Associate membership	£2.00

A CAMDEN EVENING

In December we are arranging a Camden evening in the Embassy Theatre. There will be poetry, prose, drama, and music all about Camden and all by writers who have lived or are living in the borough. The programme will be performed by students from the Central School of Speech and Drama.

There is clearly an amazing variety of material from which to choose, and we want to create a programme which reflects Camden in all its aspects, factual and fictional. Already we have in mind a melodrama, extracts from newspapers, letters and novels, poems, as well as Elgar's music, ballads and colour slides.

We would be very glad of any ideas or material from members which you feel would contribute to the interest of the evening. If you have any suggestions, could you please send them to Coral Howells, 5 Hadley Street by September at the latest.

HAMPSTEAD SUNDIALS

Do members know of any interesting sundials in Hampstead? The only one I have found is on a house on Holly Bush Road.

Mrs P. Gibber

The Annual General Meeting

At the Society's Annual General Meeting on 13 May all the officers were re-elected. Mrs Burt resigned from the Council and Miss Cherry Lavell was elected in her place.

In his report to the Society, the Chairman, John Richardson, said that membership was at its highest level yet and that attendances at lectures had been good throughout the year. On the subject of a central archives centre for Camden, he said that the Society was unhappy with the proposed Holborn location. We felt that this would make it difficult for the bulk of our members, who lived in the northern parts of the borough, to use the archives effectively because of travelling and parking difficulties.

He reported that there were now street history groups working on three areas - West Hampstead, Highgate and Kentish Town. Photography of the borough, on a systematic basis, had started, and the Social History group was flourishing. He hoped to see the revival of the archaeological group once an archaeologist had been appointed to the Camden area.

The Publications Secretary, Christopher Wade, reported a lively year. The Camden History Review had sold out and after reprinting was approaching 1000 sold. The Streets of Hampstead had now sold 4000 and More Streets of Hampstead over 1500. Future publications included another Review and Medieval Camden.

We were pleased to welcome the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs Bernard Taylor.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr A Astles, Miss Jane Wrigley, Mr and Mrs J Hodgson, Mr M Klug, Professor and Mrs Leslie Collier, Miss Mary Lewis, Mr B Holbrough, Mr J Walmsley, Mr G Forsyth.

The Membership total is now 442.

RESEARCHER WANTED for Kilburn Priory area, to help with information and illustrations for publication of Pocock Diary.
Please ring Christopher Wade, 794-2752.

The Streets of Hampstead

Reluctant as I am to disagree with the hard workers who produced the splendid Streets of Hampstead, I thought one small item might be of interest to your researchers. On page 21 (Prince Arthur Road) the following passage is written. . . . "The modern block of flats called Greenhill are on the site of a long-lived mansion called the Rookery or Mount Grove, the home of Thomas Longman, the publisher. The house had gone by 1872, when a short-lived Wesleyan Chapel took its place." I would point out that a house called 'Mount Grove' did in fact exist at 102 Fitzjohns Avenue until early 1964 when it was demolished to make way for Henderson Court. The present flats are on the site of both the old house and the beautiful garden which ran right down to the boundary wall with the Greenhill flats. This was really a splendid house inside, although it looked rather grim from the outside view. Whether this and the 'Mount Grove' referred to in the book are one and the same, I do not know, but as the two sites are adjoining and as the name was always given as part of the postal address, one assumes that this was either the original Thomas Longman mansion or another house with the same name built after the Wesleyan Chapel. I hope this might bring forth some more information on the building.

Julia Smith

I have to confess that my story in More Streets of Hampstead that Picasso painted two hands on a ceiling at 21, Downshire Hill has proved to be without foundation.

The story came from the present owner of the house who had had it from one of his predecessors, who thought it came from Sir Roland Penrose, who lived in this house in the late 'thirties. Sir Roland was Picasso's friend and biographer, so it seemed a likely tale, and the current owner was even contemplating scraping his ceilings to find the hands. But last month an urgent despatch reached me from our publisher, Ian Norrie: "Fred Uhlman writes from Venice, where he has gone on holiday with MORE STREETS OF HAMPSTEAD, to say that Picasso never visited Hampstead and never painted those hands on Penrose's ceiling. Furthermore, he says that they are not hands but female

legs. . . and the artist might have been Max Ernst or Penrose himself. "

With this confusion of artists and anatomical parts, I felt I must get to the bottom of this story and belatedly wrote to Sir Roland himself. He has now replied that (a) Picasso never visited him in Hampstead (b) there were some hands on a ceiling, put there by Sir Roland, but (c) he cut them out of a photograph.

So, though there is no need to scrape the ceilings of Downshire Hill, I have to scrape a little egg off my fallen face.

Christopher Wade

THE MENTALLY HANDICAPPED IN CAMDEN

I am presently completing a special report as part of a study program supervised by London University Institute of Education.

The area of special interest to me is: provisions for the Mentally Handicapped. In compiling a history of services in England I found reference to a Park House (1846), Highgate where the first asylum (to use the term of the day) for mentally handicapped people was opened. This facility is of historical value because Park House marked the first separation of the mentally defective from the mentally ill.

Shortly, Camden Social Services Department is to open a home for the mentally handicapped at Highgate. I would very much like to know if Park House, Highgate was in fact in Highgate, now part of Camden.

My interest was aroused through additional research which showed that the first "day care centre" for mentally handicapped children in England was operated around 1919 near Kings Cross by Elfrida Rathbone.

If Park House was indeed in Camden and if Elfrida Rathbone did indeed operate the first day-care facility in Camden then I can fruitfully "string" much of my historical data together, concluding with a coverage of to-day's provisions in Camden as an example of a typical community approach to the care of the mentally handicapped.

I would be most grateful if your society could provide me with answers to my queries.

Neil Reid

Photographic Edition Newsletter

No 25

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

AUG 1974

Christopher Oxford

Christopher Oxford has been photographing Hampstead for years. Many of his photographs are already historical documents and a public showing of his work is long overdue. We are therefore grateful, then, that Christina Gee is mounting for the Society, a retrospective exhibition of his topographical work. Its theme is Hampstead Then and Now with archive prints side by side with recent photographs of the same buildings or places to point out the changes. As most of the photographs were taken in the early '50's the exhibition should, perhaps, be called Then and More Recently Then.

His work is of the highest standard and it will be a fascinating and absorbing show. It opens, if all goes well, at Swiss Cottage Library on September 2nd and on September 11th at 8 pm, at the same venue, he will be giving a talk called 'A Photographer in Hampstead'. Members are urged to come to both. To mark the events this Newsletter contains some of the exhibits.

Camden Town Walk

The Society is to hold its first topographical walk round Camden Town and Chalk Farm. Our guide will be Vivienne Judge and this promises to be a lively and informative event. We meet outside the Co-op opposite Camden Town Tube Station, at 3 pm on Sunday October 6th.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr Michael Doherty, Mr John B Frost, Mrs M Little, Miss M L Spencer, Miss Joanna Wade, Mr & Mrs Roger Robinson and Mr and Mrs Jacob Simon. The membership total is now 450.

The October Event

The evening with the Hendon and District Archaeological Society on October 1 should not only be a boost to our resurgent archaeological section but could provide us with several new ideas for our own local history research. HADAS will tell us, for instance, about hedge-dating, including a 13th century hedge on the playing fields of Hampstead Garden Suburb, and churchyard recording, in which members have logged 3,000 graves and investigated the lives of some of their notable occupants.

The speakers will include Edward Sammes, whose book on archaeology in S. England was reviewed in our last Newsletter.

He will be reporting on the significant HADAS dig at Church Terrace, where actual evidence of the links with Saxon Hendon have at last begun to come to light. In addition, four unsuspected medieval graves have been discovered in an area outside the Churchyard. This and other subjects will be illustrated by slides.

Our meeting with HADAS starts at 8.15 pm in Hendon's Central Library, which is half-way along The Burroughs (off Watford Way). You can get there by 83 bus from Golders Green station, which passes the door, or by 113 from the West End and Swiss Cottage, which stops at The Burroughs. Hendon Central on the Northern Central on the Northern Line is about ten minutes walk away. If anyone would like a lift by car, could they let Christopher Wade know and he will do what he can. Could those members going by car who have any spare seats also give him a ring on 794-2752? (He will have two spares from Hampstead himself). There is a car park, incidentally, opposite Hendon Library.

Book Review

The Local Historian's Encyclopedia
by John Richardson, Historical
Publications Ltd., Orchard House,
54 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts.
£1.50.

More than ever before we are becoming aware of our local history, and we may perhaps guess that in the next ten years the local histories published will number more than all those that have gone before. But they are histories involving specific people, places and events; what of publications on how to find out the facts of local history? Well, just a few books of this kind have been published, but never, to my knowledge, has there been an encyclopedia, something in easy reference form which covers the basic information for those interested in local history. John Richardson, our Chairman, has now given us such a book.

The author has clearly recognised that local history is not a matter of just the lord of the manor, local notables and the church fabric, but rather something which involves the whole essence of local life, and the eighteen section headings and 1875 separate entries reflect this view. Some of the entries are single line ones; others take the form of an essay. Do you know what a 'math' is? (Unexpectedly, 'aftermath' is derived from it): a 'selion' and a 'shot'? These are terms one meets with in reference to medieval agriculture, and the book explains them. A most useful section of the book is Archives, Documents and Printed Records, wherein is given all the information for a researcher who wishes to pursue the whereabouts of documents relating to non-parochial registers, Civil and State ones, Army and Navy Lists, county and Quarter session records, and so on. Also included, under county headings, are the Local Societies. The list of specialist libraries is, again, most useful.

It will always be the endeavour of the local historian to determine the effect upon a community of Acts of Parliament - things did not change suddenly at the exact time of an enactment. Most of the enabling Acts are cited and

briefly explained. Heraldry and architecture are subjects each worthy of a book, but, bravely, the author has given us the elements - enough to satisfy the interested reader and get him under way. The same remarks can be said of the sections giving Latin work lists and archaeological periods.

Industrial Archaeology, though not truly under this separate heading, is given ample comment in entries, some of them fulsome, under the sections of Public Utilities and Services, Transport, and Trade, Commerce and Industry.

Many books of reference are given within the body of the book, but, nevertheless, an adequate bibliography is appended, one which recognises that local history is not like, say, science, a subject whose previous literature may be quickly obsolete.

And so one can go on citing what it contains in its 300 - odd pages; better, I think, to buy the book and dip into, or like me, read it from cover to cover, find that it contains all you want it to, and end up with the one regret that it is not published in hardback.

John Richardson is to be congratulated on the writing of a unique book.

Leslie Newman

KEATS HOUSE CLOSING - TEMPORARILY

Keats House was built 1815-16 and has been open to the public for nearly fifty years. Major structural repairs have been found to be necessary and the House will be closed for about six months after Saturday, 21 September 1974.

Camden Council has appointed Mr John Brandon-Jones, FSA, AADipl, ARIBA as consultant architect.

The Keats Memorial Library in the adjacent Heath Branch Library will remain open as usual.

We will announce the re-opening as soon as the exact date is known.

Incidentally, on sale at Keats House is a very attractive poster advertising it, price 50p.

Kentish Town was a Lovely Place

One of the oldest inhabitants of Kentish Town, commercially speaking, is Mr Hamilton, whose well-stocked stationers in the High Street is known and appreciated from Camden Town to Highgate. The present facade, already almost a period piece with its draw-down shutter and lacquered advertisements for fountain pens, bears the name 'Bishop and Hamilton': in fact it was in the early 1890s that the present Mr Hamilton's father, a ragged boy with little formal education, joined Mr Bishop, bookseller and stationer, as his hard-worked and ambitious assistant. By 1914 he had managed to buy Mr Bishop out: the photo above shows him (the one in the high collar fading spectrally off to the right) together with two assistants - male, of course. Mr Bishop remained, but retreated with his lack of business sense to the basement storeroom, where he spent his time writing. (I wonder what?) The elaborately-dressed window in the picture is worth studying: the lettering 'Discount bookseller' refers to the shop's original speciality, the sale of paperbound re-issues of three-volume novels, marked initially at six shillings but bought in bulk by Mr Bishop and sold off at 4/6. The shop was also typical of its time in running a 'Twopenny Library' (see the notice on the left): the days when a free Public Library would flourish in the High Street exactly opposite were still distant. But, aware of changes blowing in the wind, Mr Hamilton senior set about expanding the stationery side of the business. He also, in 1917, took his fourteen year old son away from the Acland Central School and took him into the firm as a parcels' boy, fetching the daily orders of books from the City warehouses by tram. Three years later, when his son did something he didn't like, he sacked him, and though he was afterwards forgiven and reinstated the present Mr Hamilton still remembers the occasion with fear: "My father was brought up to work and really that's all he did. He was a bit of a martinet - it was the style then, it didn't matter who you were working for, your father or anyone

else, you had to do what was expected of you, or out."

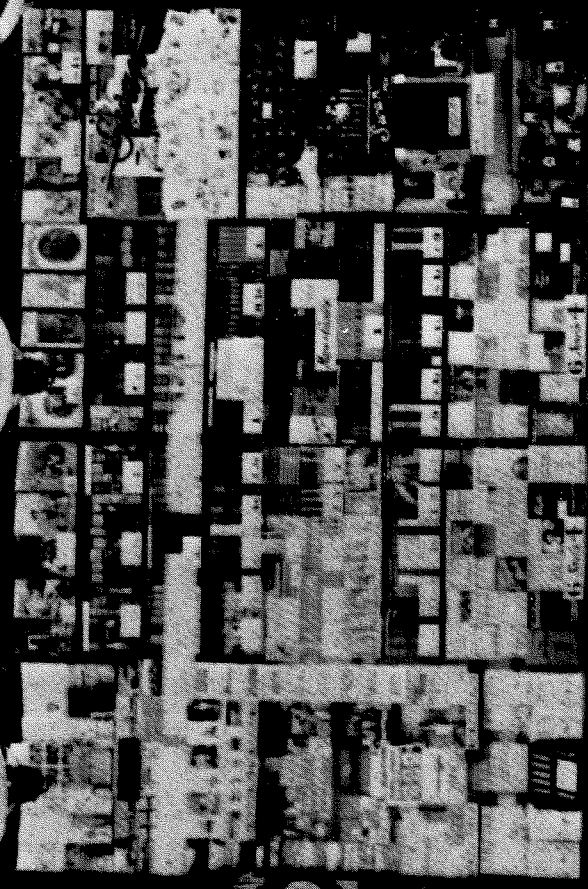
At seventy, Mr Hamilton is inclined to mourn the days when an order placed in the evening could be supplied by lunchtime the following day. (The shop stayed open then from eight in the morning till seven at night, nine on Saturdays and midnight on Christmas Eve). He also regrets the passing of the 'carriage trade' from the big houses in Caversham Road and Bartholomew Villas, and feels sad - and he is not the only one - that Kentish Town High Street, once a place of private businesses held on modest rents, has now been battered and despoiled by alien commercial pressures:

"In the old days, we all knew each other. Kentish Town was a lovely place then, it really was. There was more violence in parts of course - you used to see some dreadful things, fights outside the pubs and so on... But there was Mr Dunn, the owner of the hatters next door to us; he used to come and visit my father smoking a big cigar, and when he died he left it in his Will that Dunns was to go on doing as much business as possible with us - of course that's all been forgotten now... And there was Mr Rex of Salter Rex with a spade beard and a top-hat like Churchill's - they had a beautiful office down the road, all mahogany, and when he came in all the clerks used to get up and say together Good morning Mr Rex And then there was Mr Head, the shop-walker at Daniels, the big stores; he was always very smart in a frock coat, everyone knew Mr Head... All gone now, all those people. Just gone, and nothing left of them."

In the 1920s the next-door shop was owned by a greengrocer (Walter Ansell) who did a little horse-dealing on the side, keeping the horses behind the shop on some waste land backing onto the Midland Railway. He apparently looked as rural as he sounds, being given to old-fashioned farmer's corduroy trousers with wads of cash kept inside the front flap. One day he was standing before his shop in this guise looking pleased with himself, and told Mr Hamilton senior that he'd just

369 F. BISHOP 3

W
COUNT BOOKSELLER STATIONER



POSTAGE
TOLDS
9

2

bought the freehold of the place for cash'. He suggested that Hamiltons tried to do the same and they took his advice and did - which is how, today, Mr Hamilton junior comes to be his own master, still running his admirable low-turnover business in an era when such useful shops are more and more being squeezed out by huge rent increases only payable by large companies or by the proprietors of luxury high-turnover businesses such as restaurants and clothes shops. But even he will not remain forever: "I'm getting on, I suppose I'll have to be thinking about retiring soon and letting the business go... My wife and I do discuss it. But, the thing is, I'm too used to work and I'm too much of a one for having things the way I'm used to them. I don't know what I'd do, with nothing to do all day. The shop's been my life, really. I've never had the time to develop any hobbies... It was all so different, long ago - I really can't convey it."

Gillian Tindall

THE STREETS OF HAMPSTEAD

You mention in More Streets of Hampstead that Thomas Danby resided in Parkhill Road.

I would be interested in learning further about this man and would be obliged if you could advise me where I might find further information regarding his life and his work and indeed examples of his paintings.

H. M. Defries

RAILWAY & CANAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

There will be a public lecture at the Science Museum on Saturday, October 5th at 5.15 pm on Benjamin Outram - Civil Engineer by Dr R B Schofield. Tickets from A Roose Esq, 4a Alandale Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.

THE PLUMBERS ARMS

At 11 pm on Sunday June 25th, 1972 the Plumbers Arms public house, on the corner of Hastings Street and Sandwich Street, closed its door for the last time. In August of that year the final stones were taken from the site, and the Plumbers Arms is now but a memory, remembered by a plaque put up by Hughes Parry Hall and a pane of decorated glass placed by the bar in the Hall. The Plumbers Arms seems to have had a quiet history, or at least records concerning it are few and undramatic, indeed it is not even certain when the site became a public house, although it seems to have been there in 1902. It served the functions of a public house undramatically but efficiently, with a long tenure of occupancy by Mr Roy Honey who, from 1933 to 1935 was joint licensee with his sister and then, from 1935 to the end, was sole licensee. Then came the war, and the character of the area was changed, with more offices appearing as bombed areas were rebuilt. The change in layout of the Plumbers Arms from 1932 to 1960 seems to reflect the growing importance of lunch-time trade provided by the office workers, whilst the extension of the saloon bar and installing of off licence and club facilities would indicate that it was developing into a focal point for the local flat dwellers.

However, time and tide wait for no man, nor public houses, and the construction of Hughes Parry Hall by the University of London, who had now acquired the lease, heralded its doom. It was understood that demolition of the Plumbers Arms was a condition attached to planning permission for the Hall. A comparison of photographs of the Plumbers Arms (c 1932-1940) and of it in its last days make it very plain that whereas in the earlier period it was in harmony with its surroundings by the 1970s it was placed in an unfamiliar and grotesque situation, a small old building crouching beneath the shadow of a 14 storey tower block. The contrast was ridiculous and from the moment the first bricks of the Hall were laid the shadow of death fell nearer and darkened the doorway of the Plumbers Arms.

Tony Baugh
Hughes Parry Hall

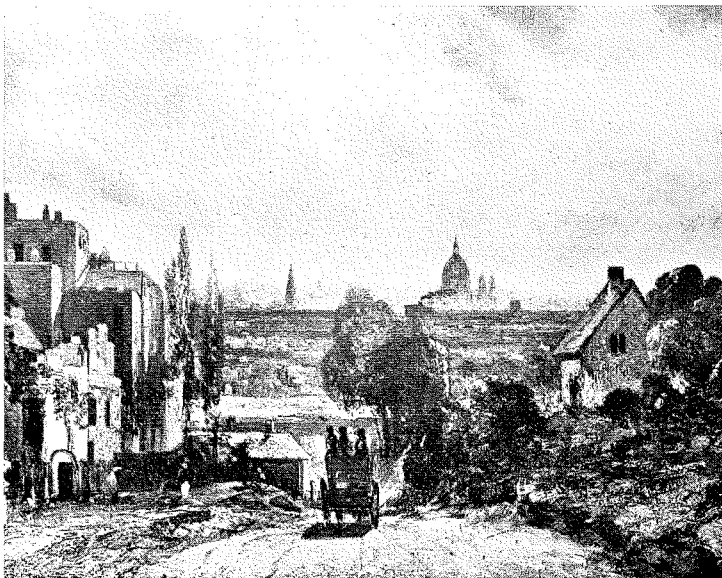
Pictures from the Christopher Oxford
Exhibition



Site of the Upper Flask Inn, Heath St
c 1950
(meeting place of the Kit-Cat Club)



Queen Mary's maternity Home, Heath
Street c 1950



Haverstock Hill by John Constable c 1839
showing Sir Richard Steele's cottage on
right hand and Load of Hay on left.



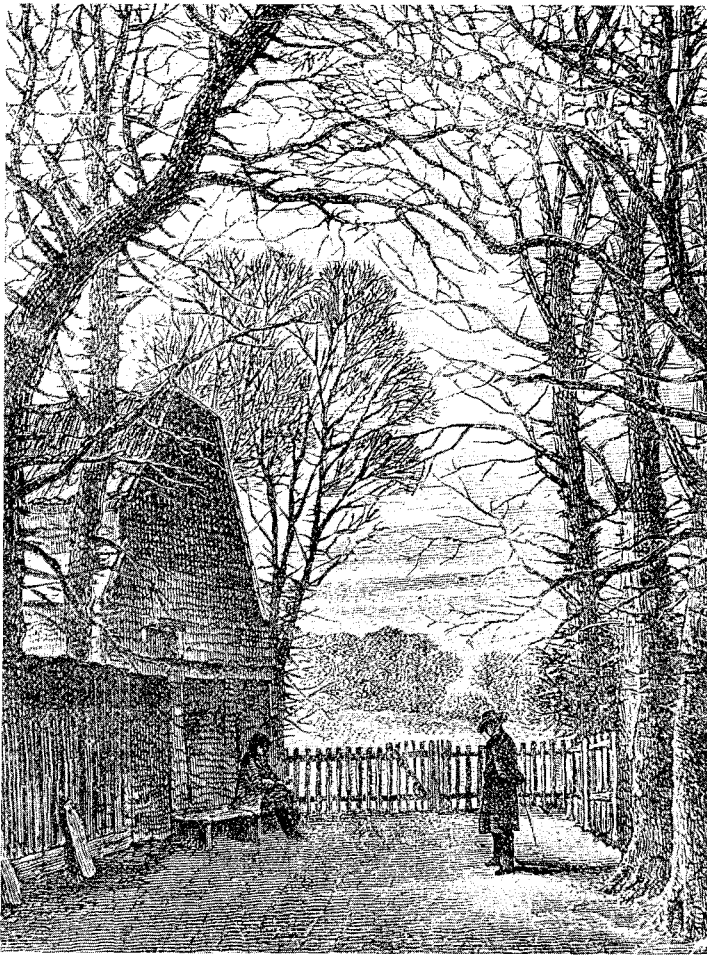
Haverstock Hill c 1949 with the Sir
Richard Steele on right and Load of
Hay on left



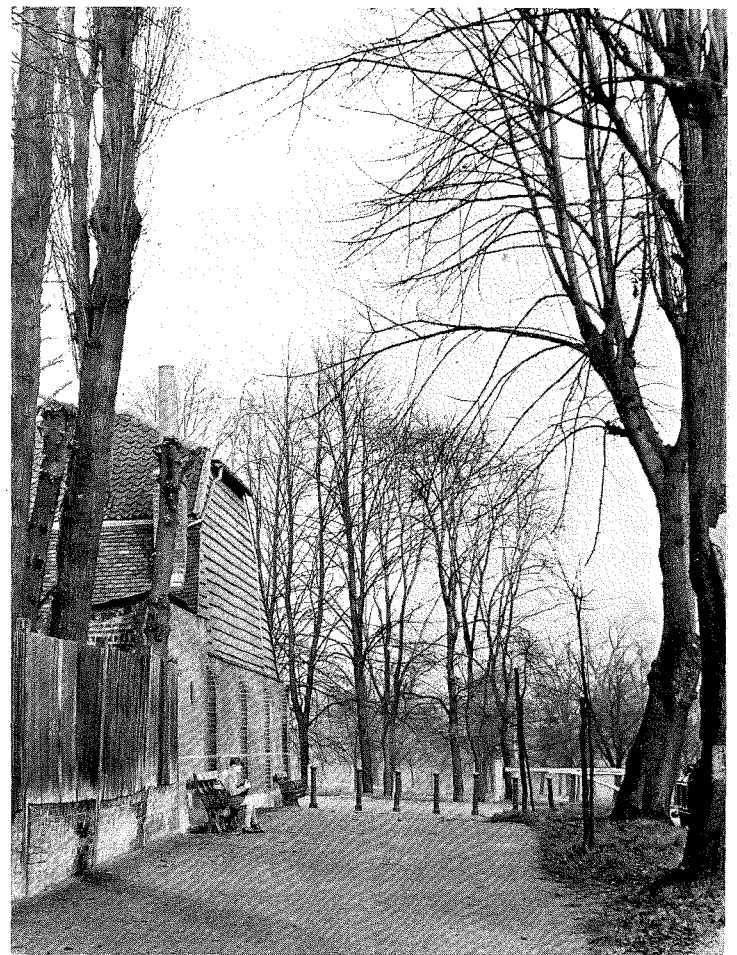
The Spaniards c 1820



The Spaniards c 1950



Keat's Seat, Well Walk c 1814



Keat's Seat c 1950

THE EASTERN FRINGE OF THE CITY

A Photographic tour of the Bishopsgate area in 1912

A Spring Saturday in 1912. In Parliament, a bill to give Home Rule to Ireland has just been introduced. West Bromwich Albion have held Barnsley to a goalless draw in the Cup Final. The appalling tragedy of the Titanic has filled the world's headlines for almost a week.

Out on the eastern edge of the City, a photographer walks round the area between Bishopsgate and Commercial Road, taking pictures of scenes in the streets - narrow alleys full of grubby urchins; Georgian squares and grim tenements; public houses and small shops. It is an area dominated by the rag trade and the market, which in the succeeding decades was to engulf so many of these streets. Not a glamorous, tourist - ridden part of the City, but a microcosm of that working-class London which was to change so dramatically on the outbreak of the First World

War, only two short years later.

Those 20 photographs of 62 years ago have now been reproduced by the Bishopsgate Institute in a 32-page booklet. They are arranged in the form of a continuous walk, starting in Norton Folgate, and ending in Cutler Street. Each photograph has an historical commentary, and there is a map of the area in 1912, contrasted with a map of the same area today.

As a record of an area changed out of all recognition, much of it to disappear in the near future, this booklet constitutes a photographic record of the utmost interest. The price is 30p (+ 6p postage), and copies may be obtained from the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, EC2.

Transport Group

The Transport Group is to start in earnest again. John Lawson has volunteered to help organise a new research programme and there will be an initial meeting on Monday 30 September 1974 at 6.30 pm. All-members interested in doing research into transport in Camden - one of the most interesting boroughs in the country in this respect - are invited to attend.

FOLEY CENTENARY

Spare a thought this August for the sculptor, John Henry Foley, who died in Hampstead exactly 100 years ago at the height of his fame. Born in Dublin in 1818, he followed in the footsteps of his elder brother, Edward, who had set up as a sculptor in London. John Henry was a full member of the Royal Academy at the early age of 40 and produced a large assortment of statues, busts and monuments. They are now scattered around England, Ireland and India and can be sampled in the National Portrait Gallery and Kensal Green Cemetery. But his main claim to current fame is his seated figure of the Prince Consort for the Albert Memorial, which he was working on at the time of his death. He had earlier modelled the 'Asia group' for the same monument and, working on this in the open air, he caught a chill which fatally affected his lungs. He moved from Osnaburgh Street, Regent's Park, to The Priory, Upper Terrace (on the site of the present Priory Flats) presumably for the sake of Hampstead's healthy air: but he died soon after, in August 1874, three months after his brother, who had drowned himself in the Regent's Canal. There is, incidentally, no apparent link between these Foley's and the Captain who left his name on Foley House in East Heath Road.

C. W.

THE CANALSIDE WALK

To mark the opening of the St Pancras section of the Regent's Canal towpath walk to the public, Camden Council has published a well-researched and illustrated booklet on the building of the Canal with help and advice from Mr Charles Lee. It is hoped to distribute copies of this booklet with this or the next Newsletter.

PARK HOUSE

In answer to your correspondent Neil Reid's queries, Park House, Highgate, was in the former Parish and later Borough of Hornsey, which is now part of Haringey, and not in St Pancras, which has become part of Camden. It stood on the east side of North Hill, N6, on the site occupied by one of the first post-War Council housing schemes - the tower blocks of Hillcrest and the surrounding grounds. A road called The Park, on the southern perimeter, commemorates the former property, as does Park Walk on the north (connecting North Hill with Southwood Lane), and Park House Passage from North Hill to The Park.

Prints of the House exist. It was once the home of Squire Cooper-Cooper, a well-known Governor of Highgate School, and after its asylum days became a "penitentiary", i.e. a hostel for "fallen women".

Joan Schwitzer Ph.D
Hornsey Historical
Society

MEDIEVAL CHURCHES

In October the Hampstead Centre of the National Trust is having an illustrated series of lectures by Miss Rosemary Manning on the interior decoration of medieval churches called The Imagery of the Medieval Craftsman. These will be at St Saviour's Church Hall, Eton Road, NW3, on October 2nd, 16th and 30th at 8 pm. Members of this Society are welcome.

SOCIAL HISTORY GROUP

The Group meets next Monday, September 16th at 7.30 pm at Swiss Cottage Library.

HARRY LLEWELLYN GORDON

The members who missed the exhibition of contemporary drawings and paintings of Camden by Harry Llewellyn Gordon may like to know that Mr Gordon who is a member of the Society is always very willing to show them to interested members at his house. Just telephone 722 7960 to make an appointment.

newsletter

No 26

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

OCT 1974

Victorian Camden Symposium – Industrial Archaeology in London – the October event the November talk

Members will have an opportunity of attending on Saturday, 26 October, a symposium on ASPECTS OF VICTORIAN CAMDEN. The programme is a varied one and includes illustrated lectures on the Work of Norman Shaw; Aspects of working class Camden; the North London Collegiate School; and Social aspects derived from studies of census returns. Dr Barbara Ely will speak on Hampstead's first Medical Officer of Health and Professor Ruth Bowden on the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine.

The photographic indexing group will present an exhibition of prints and photographs of the period.

The symposium, at the Holborn Library, starts at 2.45pm and ends at 7pm. Afternoon tea is included in the fee of 50p. The Chairman for the occasion will be Coral Howells.

Mr R. Michael Robbins's lecture on Industrial Archaeology in Greater London will be given in the Holborn Library Hall, 32-38 Theobald's Road, WC1, on Tuesday, 5 November, at 7.30pm.

This is one of the highlights of our programme year and we hope that all members will make a very special effort to come.

Mr Robbins is President of the Greater London Industrial Archaeological Society and of the St Marylebone Society. The second volume of the massive History of London Transport, of which Mr Robbins is joint author, appeared recently and he has also written numerous other books on railway and local history.

Another distinguished transport historian, Mr Charles E. Lee, will take the chair.

An evening not to be missed!

The Camden Miscellany

CAMDEN ENTERTAINMENT:
an anthology of poetry, prose and music for Christmas

Sunday 8 December at 7.45pm

The Embassy Theatre, Central School
of Speech and Drama, at Swiss Cottage

This is a joint event with the Central
School of Speech and Drama

Application form enclosed

Richard Bissell Prosser

A recent acquisition by the British Library (British Museum) of considerable interest to the local historian is that of the Prosser papers, which are now in the Department of Manuscripts (Additional Manuscripts 54,496 - 54,507). Those who have studied the "St. Pancras Notes and Queries," which appeared in the St. Pancras Guardian from 3 February 1897 to 2 January 1903, must have become familiar with the initials "R. B. P." Some 315 of these notes were reprinted in nine parts, and then were issued in 1903 in a bound volume limited to 150 copies, of which only about 125 were offered for sale. The editor of these notes, and also the author of many of them, was Richard Bissell Prosser.

Prosser was born in Birmingham on 25 August 1838, and was the eldest son of Richard Prosser, an engineer and inventor of some note who had much to do with the introduction of the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852. The father, moreover, was described by The Engineer as one of the "founders" of the Patent Office Library, as his books were combined with those of Bennet Woodcroft (1803-1879) to form the nucleus of that fine collection, which was opened on 5 March 1854.

R.B.P. was educated at University College School, where he was a fellow pupil with "Joe" Chamberlain. His father died when he was 16, and two years later (in 1856) Prosser entered the office of the Commissioners of Patents, where he rose to Chief Examiner. He retired on pension in 1888, an early retirement on account of an eye disease which left him for a time almost blind, but he recovered sufficiently to continue his research work and writing, and also to take an interest in local government affairs, in education, and in Church of England activities. Prosser was a member of the St. Pancras Vestry, but his failing eyesight prevented him from standing for the new Borough Council when it was formed in 1900. He was keenly interested in the maintenance of Church Schools, and was for some years a member of the old School Board for London, which was taken over by the London County Council on 1 May 1904. To the last, he was Foundation Manager of the St. Mary Magdalene, Munster Square, Church School, and of the North St. Pancras Group of

Provided Schools. His numerous Church interests included the Free & Open Church Association; he joined its Council in 1873, became Chairman in 1913, and held that office until his death.

Although Prosser wrote many articles and "letters to editor," and was a frequent contributor to Notes and Queries, his only signed work in book form was "Birmingham Inventors and Inventions," which appeared in 1881 in a limited edition of 50 copies. He supplied a great amount of material to the "New English Dictionary" and wrote numerous biographies of inventors and engineers for the "Dictionary of National Biography," including Thomas and Walter Hancock, John Kay, Henry Maudslay, Andrew Meikle, Patrick Miller, William Murdock, Thomas Newcomen, and Denis Papin.

Prosser died on 26 March 1918, aged 79. Obituary notices included those in The Engineer of 12 April 1918 (page 320), The Church Times of 5 April 1918 (page 266), and The Guardian (a Church journal, not the Manchester Guardian) of 4 April 1918 (page 263). His books were auctioned at Hodgson's, together with his collection of biographical notes in twelve foolscap boxes. These notes were sold for about £90; the Patent Office had sent a representative to buy them, but he was authorised to bid only up to £20. These papers disappeared from view until quite recently when they appeared at Sotheby's, and were acquired by the British Library. For calling my attention to the acquisition, and for material help with various details of Prosser's activities, I am indebted to Mr. John E. C. Palmer of the Department of Printed Books, Antiquarian Section, British Library, who is himself a keen research worker.

Charles E. Lee

CAMDEN PRINTS

The Director of Libraries and Arts tells us that sets of eight colour prints from the local history collections are still available for the bargain price of £2 per set. Ask at your local library for an order form.

The Camden History Review No 2 – now published

The second review is now published. Edited by Christopher Wade and beautifully designed by Roger Dinsmore it is a highly desirable addition to your Camden bookshelf. It is packed with illustrations and articles ranging from a section on Edwardian Camden to Victorian Highgate Schools. There is a reduced-rate offer to members and you are urged to complete the enclosed application form.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE IN 1884?

I should like to take the opportunity of appealing through the pages of the Newsletter for information. In order to occupy myself when I move to Southport in the new year (remaining a member of C.H.S.), I am making a study of Everyday Life in Kentish Town and Gospel Oak in 1884-5.

My idea is not merely to get an overall view of things at that time, but to try and see the scene just as it was on any typical day of the year in question. Seeing things through the eyes of the ordinary people who were alive then, reading what they read in the papers, and doing what they did. All this, of course, requires a close check of detail, and I should therefore be very grateful for even the tiniest bit of information the members can give me.

What stories would have been on newspaper placards?

Does anybody know about stories of 'local characters'?

Were there any local street-traders regularly seen?

I appreciate, from my own experience, that information on items like the above is often nearly impossible to come by. Any little things that readers can pass on to me will be most useful in building up an overall picture of life in the period.

So, please, turn out the memory banks and let me have what you can.

Richard Franklin
55 Shirlock Road
NW3 2HR

The Streets of Hampstead

The street history group led by Wilfrid Meadows has nearly completed its researches into West Hampstead but is stuck with a formidable collection of unexplained street names. Does anyone know the derivations or associations of the following streets:

Aldred, Ariel, Broomsleigh, Burrard, Compayne, Cotleigh, Dornfell, Dynham, Eresby, Fawley, Gascony, Gladys, Glas-tonbury, Goldhurst, Holmdale, Honey-bourne, Iverson, Kylemore, Loveridge, Lyncroft, Maygrove, Messina, Mutrix, Ravenshaw, Sumatra?

Mr Winston Sparrow writes:

'My grandfather owned 'Wildwood farm' and sold out to Henrietta Burnett. He built the Express Dairy in North End destroyed by a bomb in 1941. I remember playing in the fields just where the hospital is now. There was a wonderful walled garden off Wildwood Grove - then more of a cart-track than a road - where I used to eat the fruit.

My mother was born in the house still standing adjoining Wildwood Grove.'

NEW BOOK

LIVING IN LONDON edited by Alan Ross
London Magazine Editions £2.75

The book is a collection of accounts by writers of different backgrounds and generations: the reader's expectation of plentiful references to Camden is amply rewarded in several perceptive descriptions of local scenes and moeurs. Jonathan Raban finds his part of Highgate "anxious, isolated, frightened...looking hopefully out towards Great Turnstile, Thurloe Place, Broadcasting House, Wood Lane..."

Two contributors find something new to say about over-described Hampstead; Peter Vansittart confesses that his love-affair with the place began at the age of eleven in the former Belsize Library, "my pidgin university" while Patrick Chaplin writes a telling description of that sordid frontier of NW3, the lower Finchley Road.

Archaeologists Appointed

Members will probably have heard that Mr John Hinchliffe has been appointed as the Senior Field Officer to the Inner London Archaeological Unit, which has financial support from the London Borough of Camden.

The Unit's function, initially, is to survey for archaeological potential, those boroughs in North London which are supporting the scheme. In addition, Miss Irene Schwab, who has been appointed as a Field Officer, will concentrate on the Camden area in the first year. Mr G. F. Hoar, Deputy Director of Planning and Communications, has welcomed their appointment and offered all the appropriate services of his department.

Until the survey of Camden is done - probably by about the middle of 1975 - it is unlikely that the Unit will be excavating. Their main task at the moment is to relate potential areas with redevelopment maps so that a programme of excavation might be outlined.

Mr Hinchliffe has promised to involve interested members of the Society at the earliest possible moment.

GEORGE EARL

Mr Russell Jones at the School of Oriental and African Studies has asked if members can give any information about George Samuel Windsor Earl (1813-65) who was born at North End, Hampstead, in a house on the site of the present 'Wildwood'. His parents were Elizabeth (née Sharp) and Captain Percy Earl a mariner with the East India Company who died in Hampstead in 1827.

George Earl must have left England in about 1829 (at the age of 16) and Mr Jones is particularly interested in discovering where Earl received his schooling. Did he receive it locally? Which schools were there in Hampstead at the time? Are there any survivors of the Earl family in Hampstead?

Has anyone an old plain concertina that they would be willing to lend for a production of Shaw's Major Barbara at the Central School of Speech and Drama.

If you could help, please ring Cathy Moon

NEW TRANSPORT GROUP

A transport research group was one of the first to be formed when the Society came into existence in 1970. The group achieved a great deal but its activities have been in suspense for some time, following the departure of some of the early members from London.

Mr John Lawson, a young enthusiast in this field, has now agreed to preside over the formation of a new group and he cordially invites anyone interested to meet him at the Swiss Cottage Library (meetings room) at 7pm on Thursday, 31 October 1974.

Mr Charles E. Lee, well-known transport historian and a member of the Society's council, has kindly agreed to act in an advisory capacity.

Needless to say, in a borough which has three of the main railway termini, the Regent's Canal and Euston Road (to name but a few interesting transport features) a great deal of work is waiting to be done.

NEW MEMBERSHIP RECORD

Membership has now reached 466 - the highest total ever. Members recently joined are:

Mr & Mrs D. Fraser, Mr & Mrs B. Keeley, Mr & Mrs C. Martyn, Mrs J. Banerjee, Mrs V. Berridge, Mr B. Brockson, Miss K. Cabot, Mr J. Cadisch, Miss J. Davies, Miss W. Hall, Mrs J. Murray, Miss G. Newton, Mrs Anne Peterson, Mr P. Phillips, Mrs M. Pickardt, Mr F. Wagstaffe, Mrs R. Weinstein.

It is hoped to arrange a new members meeting soon for all those who have joined since the last one.

THE GOVERNESSES' INSTITUTION

In the extract from Mr Anthony Cooper's letter in Newsletter 23 there was a mistake in the first line: Volume 19 should have read Volume 24.

Edited by John Richardson and
Published by Camden History Society
c/o St Pancras Library, 100 Euston rd, NW1

newsletter

No 27

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

DEC 1974

January and February events

On Thursday, 16 January 1975, John Richardson, our Chairman, will give an illustrated lecture, entitled OLD CAMDEN POSTCARDS. This will be held at the Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town, NW5, at 7.30 pm. Members may remember that we under-estimated the attendance at the Chairman's lecture in January this year and will be pleased to know that we have booked a larger lecture hall for the next one.

The final lecture of the current programme year will be on Thursday, 13 February 1975, at the Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm. Mr Roger Ellis will give an illustrated lecture on the life and work of George Romney. Mr Ellis has lived in Romney's house in Hampstead since 1957.

The Council of the Society have already planned some events for the next pro-

gramme year from March 1975 but would welcome further ideas from members. Please write to the Hon. Secretary if you have any.

HAMPSTEAD IN THE THIRTIES

Camden Arts Centre until 17 January

An exhibition of unusual interest to members can be seen at the Camden Arts Centre in Arkwright Road until 17 January 1975. Sub-titled "a committed decade", it records the political history of the area during the period. There are sections devoted to the Left Book Club and the Spanish Civil War and the organisers promise that there will be many other items in the exhibition to enjoy.

CAMDEN HISTORY REVIEW

'Camden History Society's annual delving into the more rewarding depths of local history..'
(Hampstead & Highgate Express)

Members are reminded that Review No. 2 is available to them at the reduced price of 65 pence (including postage) only until the end of 1974. Any number of copies can be ordered and, if intended as Christmas presents, will be despatched free to any U.K. address. After January 1st, Reviews Nos. 1 & 2 will each cost 75 pence, plus 7 pence each for postage/delivery.

Orders to CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, London, NW3 1SA

Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh in Camden

What better time than Christmas to turn our attention to that most interesting chapter in Camden history, the story of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children. The account which follows is by Jim Swinley, the present Director of the Foundation and is reprinted, by kind permission of the editor, from the October issue of the Camden Council of Social Service newsletter. For an explanation of the title above, read on!

The story of the Coram Foundation begins in the eighteenth century. Thomas Coram was a master mariner, shipwright and trader from Lyme in Dorset. After making a modest fortune in Massachusetts he came back to live at Rotherhithe. While commuting to the City to look after his business interests, he was frequently appalled at the sight of babies left to die on dunghills. Kind-hearted seaman as he was, he determined to try to prevent this waste of life. He knew the potentialities of the empty lands across the Atlantic and wanted to preserve these children's lives so that they could be sent out as colonists.

For 17 years he tried to enlist the support of influential people for establishing a Foundling Hospital. Eventually helped by "21 Ladies of Nobility and Gentry", he obtained a Royal Charter from George II. He and his fellow Governors took premises in Hatton Garden and, in a commendably short time, the first children were admitted. The following year 56 acres of Bloomsbury were bought for £7,500 and the building of a Hospital began.

Enormous interest was aroused and many offered their services free or at a nominal cost. Hogarth, who had already painted a very fine portrait of Coram, offered to decorate the Governors' room with pictures of himself and his friends. Others followed and many pictures and works of art were presented to the Hospital. "Being exhibited to the public, they drew a daily crowd of spectators in their splendid equipages", and a visit to the Foundling Hospital became the fashionable morning lounge of the reign of George II. The artists were delighted at their success and formed a Society of Arts which held an annual dinner



by courtesy of the Governors of the Thomas Coram Foundation

FOUNDLING GIRL AT DINNER

at the Hospital. This was the seed from which sprang the Royal Academy.

A further attraction to the rich and fashionable people now beginning to move into new houses and squares in Bloomsbury was Handel. He, like Hogarth, took a keen interest in the Hospital. Not only did he present the first organ, but he gave many recitals in the chapel and the proceeds were given to the Hospital funds. The Messiah was performed for the first time in England in the chapel, and Handel bequeathed a fair copy of the score to the Governors.

So, the early years of the Hospital were enriched by many artists and craftsmen, the majority of whom were elected Governors. With all the publicity, it is not surprising that the Hospital was besieged by requests to take in children. The selection procedure was unusual. The mothers drew coloured balls from a leather bag. A white ball meant that the child would be admitted subject to a medical examination. A black ball meant a refusal and if a mother drew a red one, her child would be accepted if one of the "white" children was found to be suffering from an infectious disease.

On admission the children's names were

changed, partly to safeguard the mother in later years from the embarrassment of a "lost" son or daughter appearing on her doorstep, partly to protect the child from unscrupulous relatives or friends who might claim him and put him to work. In the early days children were often given the names of Governors until the latter discovered that this encouraged the children to claim kinship in later years. In some cases neither side knew whether the claim was true or not! Later, children were called after famous people and we can mention a Francis Drake, Emma Hamilton, Isaac Newton, Walter Raleigh and many other distinguished names among our former boys and girls. When a mother was able to satisfy the Governors that she had adequate means to support a child, the child would be restored to her provided she could describe the token which she had to attach to the child when it was admitted. Many of these tokens were coins or pieces of cloth. There is a large, rather sad collection of unclaimed tokens in our museum.

Until 1800 some children were admitted on payment of £100 and "no questions asked". In those days £100 was a large sum and one wonders who the parents were.

All the children were sent to foster-mothers in the country until they were 4 or 5 years old. Then they lived in the Hospital until the Governors apprenticed them out. The Governors were careful in their selection of "masters" and took an interest in the children until they were 21. They also concerned themselves with the health and diet of the children and the archives (we have ten tons of them) are full of references to the quantity of rice for puddings and the price of eggs and butter.

There was a disastrous period in the 1750's when Parliament decreed that all children who came to the Hospital doors must be admitted. 15,000 were taken in in 5 years, most of them just dumped in a basket in a niche in the gateway in Guilford Street. Later the Governors went back to the billiard balls but gradually the rules developed which held good for many years - that the child be under 12 months old and the first child of an unmarried mother who had been of good character prior to her fall from grace.

The Governors moved the children into the better air of the country in 1926, first to

Redhill and then to Berkhamsted. The buildings at Berkhamsted were sold in 1955. Since then we have continued to work with unmarried parents and their children, but in quite a different way. First of all, we offer a counselling service so that the parents may come to a considered decision about the future of their children. Then, where a mother wants us to take a child into our care we will arrange for him to go direct to a foster home. The vast majority of the children are either adopted or restored to their mothers in the course of the next few years. Our well qualified team of social workers have small case-loads so that they have time to deal with the so-called "hard to place" children in which we specialise.

Since before the war our premises in Brunswick Square have been used by a number of agencies for work with local pre-school children. We have always been glad to help them and have provided facilities rent-free or at advantageous rates. Now, however, we have started our own venture, a Children's Centre which seeks to combine the functions of a day nursery, play group and nursery school and to integrate the efforts of all those involved in bringing up children - parents, doctors, teachers, social workers, nursery nurses, health visitors and so on. The Centre started with 47 children in December, we expect to expand to about 70 places next September. Our work is monitored by a Research Unit, so successes and mistakes will be known to all interested in this field. The Centre cuts across many of the present barriers between different professions and bureaucracies and offers hope of great improvements in pre-school provision. It deserves an article in itself. For now, suffice to say that Thomas Coram's pioneering spirit is working hard.

TRANSPORT GROUP PLEASE NOTE!

Mr Vic Stanton, Camden's new Director of Works, writes - "For information, a fifteen year old ex-St Pancras Borough Council sweeper's barrow, painted up in the old Borough Council markings has been donated to the Cockney Museum, 4 Broom Lock, Teddington, Middx."

New Transport Group

John Lawson writes -

"After a few years of dormancy, the transport group has been revived following the meeting at Swiss Cottage Library on 31 October. Eight members were there and another three had written expressing interest in the group. In view of the imminent developments, concerning especially the old railway goods yards, the first priority will be the recording of what exists at present before going on to search for what used to exist. Thus the group will be very pleased to hear from anyone about sites and relics which remain, especially those which are about to be demolished, removed or modernised. For example, do you know of any trolley bus poles remaining in Camden or do you know of any traces of private commercial railway systems? What do you know about the 3-foot gauge tracks used for timber transport at the west end of Drummond Street? Are there any remains of vehicle builders' premises?

The first thing will be to survey and photograph the British Rail sites in Camden which are about to be redeveloped. If, however, anyone else has made recent plans or taken photographs of any of these sites, please let us know, for there is no point in duplicating work already done.

Much has already disappeared in recent years. Charles E. Lee mentioned that so far as he knew, no-one had ever taken a detailed photograph of the cab-men's rest hut outside King's Cross station. This was of interest, for at one time these doors were the ones through which coffins passed before being put on the train for New Southgate Cemetery. If anyone has a photograph, can they let him know? Also do you know of any other small transport items of interest which may be overlooked?

All over Camden the gas-men and others are digging up the roads. If there are still setts or tramlines down there, it would be interesting to know. Even though we may be studying a particular topic we would still be anxious to know about any other item related to transport, whether in existence or just in a book or magazine; the Railway Magazine for February 1964 had a very informative article on the North London Line. IF IT IS OR WAS TRANSPORT

IN CAMDEN - let us know - better still, come and tell us. "

FITZROY SQUARE QUERY

Mr P. Phillips of 22 Queen Anne's Place, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2PT, writes -

"I am engaged in an investigation of the social attitudes of the twenty-five (or so) artist-painters who occupied residences in Fitzroy Square between about 1835 and about 1900.

I am most anxious to trace any extant correspondence written by, or addressed to, any of the following:-

William Charles Dobson (at No. 34, 1856-58)

John Napier (at No. 1a, 1863-1875)

Alexander Melville (at No. 34, 1864-1874 and No. 6, 1890-1892)

Richard Beavis (at No. 38, 1873-1889 and, probably, at some time at No. 39).

I should like, also, to know the present location of pictures painted by the three latter artists and the location of pictures by Thomas Gullick who lived at No. 1 during 1880-1881.

I should be extremely grateful for any assistance which you, or the members, are able to provide. If any of your members is concerned with a similar investigation, I shall be happy to offer such information as is available to me. "

BARONESS BURDETT COUTTS

Highgate members in particular will have heard of Mrs Dennis Healey's research on the life of the Baroness Burdett Coutts. She is to give a lecture on the subject to the Dickens Fellowship in February and Dr Michael Slater, Editor of The Dickensian extends a warm invitation to Camden History Society members to attend. The lecture is to be given on Monday, 17 February 1975, at 7pm at the Swedenborg Hall, 20-22 Bloomsbury Way, WC1. Doors will be open at 6.30 pm.

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Published by Camden History Society
c/o St Pancras Library, 100 Euston rd, NW1