

newsletter

No 28

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

FEB 1975

The March Event – Musick at Hampstead Wells

The March event is an unusual one jointly organised by the Society and the Hampstead Music Club. Based on research by Jerry and Elizabeth Shields it features music of the early 18th century when attempts were first made to turn the village of Hampstead into a fashionable spa. The concert will provide a unique opportunity to hear about the performers, composers and audiences at the 'Consorts of Musick by the best Masters' which were given in the Great Room, Well Walk.

A leaflet giving full details of this interesting and entertaining evening is enclosed together with a booking form. Members are urged to book early.

Index – In

All members interested in helping to index the fascinating collection of London Transport Executive photographs (buildings, not vehicles) are invited to an 'Index-in' at Swiss Cottage Library at 6 pm on Friday, 7 March. Coffee and biscuits will be provided. For further details contact Miss Christina Gee on 278 4444 extension 3140.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society now has 469 members. Those recently joined are: William Ellis School, Kim Beckett, Venetia Caine, Norman Beddington, Miss P Clark, Mr and Mrs C Cleaver, D Fox, Sister Raphael Mulkern, Miss V Siriwardena.

We are sorry to report the death of Miss Marjorie Honeybourne who was a member of this Society but, more importantly, carried for a great many years, many responsibilities for the London Topographical Society and the LAMAS. She will be badly missed.

The April Event

Lecture by Charles E Lee on 17 April

Anyone who has read Mr Charles E Lee's numerous scholarly works on railway and local history, or heard him speak on the subject, will be sure not to miss his illustrated lecture on Camden's lost railways: the Pneumatic Despatch Tubes on Thursday, 17 April. Please note that the lecture will be given at the Working Men's College, Crown-dale Road, NW1 at 7.30 pm, by kind permission of the Warden, Mr W J Evans.

Archaeology in Camden

Lecture by John Hinchliffe on 20 March

Last year saw the welcome formation of the Inner London Archaeological Unit on the initiative of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, with financial support from Camden and other boroughs north of the River. The Unit's first Director, John Hinchliffe, and Irene Schwab, a member of his team who has spent several months researching Camden archaeology, will jointly give an illustrated lecture entitled The Inner London Archaeological Unit in Camden. This will be at the Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 20 March. Miss Schwab has prepared a number of new slides for the occasion. This will be a wonderful opportunity of hearing about the Unit's plans for Camden and north London and of finding out how the many enthusiasts in the Camden History Society can be involved in the work.

Camden Follies

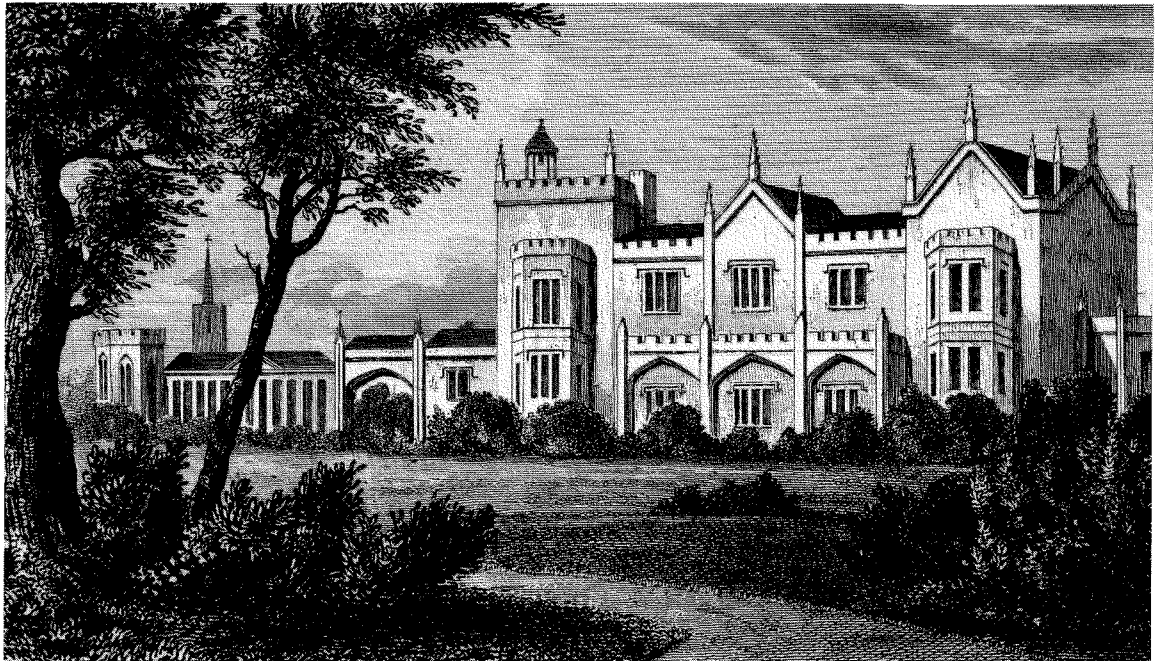
Mr A O Baxter, a member of the Society, is particularly interested in any material or information on Follies and all eccentric buildings. He would welcome correspondence; his address is 253 Chester Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Mr Malcolm Holmes, Camden's Local History Librarian, comments - Camden appears to have had few of the costly but useless structures built to satisfy the whim of some eccentrics, and thought to show their folly. However, the word folly does occur a number of times in

while the northern boundary seems to have been Swains Lane.

It was also known as Kentish Town House and in the grounds was a canal from which a handsome bridge communicated with the pleasure grounds. The house was pulled down in the 1840's.

Sometimes the history can be more elusive. A letter to the Morning Advertiser 24th November 1832 complains of the badly lit Kentish Town, stating that "from Collumpton House to Bowles Folly there is not one light, save that which is borrowed from the feeble gleams of some distant window". Where



FROGKNALL PRIORY HAMPSTEAD

the history of some localities but appears to be applied more often to unsuccessful ventures.

The Local History Collection has a broadside on a murder in Mortimer's Folly, near Tottenham Court Road. This is possibly a local name for Mortimer's Market which was in process of building in 1795, just off the east side of Tottenham Court Road. The eastern portion of Mr Mortimer's estate was later occupied by the northern part of Gower Street and provided the site for University College.

In what is now Highgate Road stood a splendid villa built in 1781 by Mr Bateman, an eminent solicitor. After Mr Bateman had incautiously exhausted his fortune the villa became known as "Bateman's Folly". It was a kind of miniature of Wanstead House and its entrance lodge was close to the site now occupied by the Duke of St Alban's pub,

and what was Bowles Folly? (The local directories have turned up a George Bowles living at 8 Fortess Terrace, Kentish Town in 1862).

One building which can be accepted was Froggnall Priory (see illustration). It was built in the first half of the nineteenth century and consisted of a mock antique structure which, its owner claimed, stood on the site of an ancient priory. Its proprietor was a retired public house auctioneer named John Thompson, best known by the name of "Memory Thompson" or "Memory Corner Thompson", a soubriquet resulting from a bet he had won that he could repeat from memory the name of every corner public house in a certain district of London.

He built his house according to the method by which he got together his antiquities, bit by bit as the whim prompted,

and this great warehouse of furniture of real and manufactured antiquity became so great a show-place that people flocked to see it.

Another building which may have been a 'folly' was the Shepherd's Cottage in the grounds of Rosslyn House. It was a small thatched cottage or summer-house, which was demolished in 1896. A photograph of the building appears in a recent book by Mrs Gee, Hampstead and Highgate in old photographs.

There have been other local follies and eccentric buildings, including the bridge at Kenwood with no water underneath, and it would be interesting to hear from other members about these.

Letter

I was reading the CHS Newsletter for December and came across the headline 'Francis Drake and Walter Raleigh in Camden' which led me to think you might be interested in another connection between Devon and Camden.

Drake was born just outside Tavistock and at the edge of the town is a splendid statue of him by Boehm - in fact the original of the better known one on Plymouth Hoe.

We have recently moved to Tavistock from Camden Town and were delighted to discover many familiar names from the Bloomsbury area: Tavistock of course, with its Bedford Square, Endsleigh, Tavition, Torrington to name just a few. The reason is that Tavistock had a fine monastery which, at the Dissolution, Henry VIII transferred to Sir John Russell, ancestor of the Dukes of Bedford, together with its lands. The Devon place names were used when the Duke's London estates were developed.

Dr Cyril Cannon
Tavistock

THE FLEET RIVER

Members who missed, some time back, Richard Henwood's absorbing talk 'An Illustrated History of the Fleet River' have a second chance to hear it on 4 March at 8 pm. It will be given at Rosslyn Hall, Willoughby Road, NW3 under the joint auspices of The Heath and Old Hampstead Society and The Rosslyn Hill Chapel. Admission is free.

The Social History Group

The Group meets next on 24 February in the Children's Theatre at Holborn Library, 32 Theobalds Road, at 7 pm. New members are very welcome.

HERITAGE YEAR IN BLOOMSBURY

1975 has been designated as European Architectural Heritage Year by the Council of Europe. The broad aim of the campaign is to halt the steady loss of irreplaceable buildings and the erosion of character in historic European towns.

Camden's contribution is to improve the appearance of its Georgian squares in Bloomsbury. Although the houses themselves are safe from demolition the appearance of the squares could still be improved, particularly the space between the houses and the gardens. Railings, to the original designs, will be installed to replace the modern ones. Car parking spaces and meters will be removed and roadways landscaped where appropriate.

An interesting leaflet has been published on the project and this can be obtained from the Planning and Communications Department, London Borough of Camden, Old Town Hall, High Holborn, WC1.

CONFERENCE OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The Annual Conference of London Archaeologists will be held in the Livery Hall of Guildhall from 1.30 pm to 6 pm on Saturday, 22 March. The lectures will be related to work in the London region in the past year. The fee for non-members of LAMAS is 85p. Tickets from Miss Alison Laws, The London Museum, Kensington Palace, W8.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Miss Harmston has resigned from the Council and we would like to thank her for all her help over the years. We are pleased to announce that Gillian Tindall, author and broadcaster, has taken her place. Miss Tindall has a special interest in Kentish Town.

Book Review

HAMPSTEAD AND HIGHGATE IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS 1870-1918 by Christina M Gee. High Hill Press in association with Lionel Leventhal. 1974. £3.50.

Hampstead and Highgate - like ham and eggs - seem invariably to be linked to each other. The famous houses, Fenton House and Burgh House in Hampstead, Cromwell House and The Grove in Highgate - are, of course, familiar to all. Christina Gee's fascinating book of photographs should help to widen the scope of their knowledge by showing the way that people in both communities have lived their everyday lives. It is interesting to see the variety of types of houses, good and bad, and to realise that the "desirable cottage residences" of today are the labourers' dwellings of yesterday; and to read the advertisements in the shop windows - 'Best Tyne Main Coal 24/- a ton' for example. (One particularly intriguing poster reads "£200 Reward: Missing Lady Doctor". What is the story behind that?).

In the Highgate section of the book, the boundaries have happily not been narrowly parochial (as in the infuriating LCC Survey volume on Highgate Village which stops at the old St Pancras boundary in the middle of the High Street), and the Archway has been included, Highgate still looks remarkably little changed from the days when these photographs were taken, except in one respect - the traffic. Several people have asked, incidentally, why Highgate cannot have a book to itself; it is evidently considered to be uneconomic.

What emerges so vividly in the photographs in this book is the change in the tempo of life during the last 100 years. Children play in the middle of the road, shopkeepers stand in their doorways to be photographed, the odd horse and cart rattles by, but there is none of the present-day roaring vibration of the giant lorries to jangle the nerves and fray the temper.

Christina Gee, in her foreword, comments on the value of photographs to local history. This is amply demonstrated in her extremely welcome and interesting selection.

Gwynydd Gosling



Christopher Oxford in Hampstead

Christopher Oxford who retired recently has lived in Hampstead for 37 years. For 17 years he was President of the Hampstead Photographic Society. He had also been Vice-Chairman of Music and Arts in Hampstead, Chairman of the Hampstead Local History Society and was a founder-member of the Camden History Society. During these years, he has always had a deep interest in Hampstead's local history. He is by profession a photographer and for years has done work for the Libraries and Arts Department and for the Camden History Society.

From 30 August to 20 September this year, the Society staged an exhibition of Mr Oxford's local photographs at the Swiss Cottage Library. The exhibition consisted of 76 photographs of Hampstead; 38 of old prints (1750-1820) and 38 showing the same views in the 1950's.

On 11 September Mr Oxford was entertained by the Society and afterwards gave an illustrated lecture about his experience in photographing Hampstead's local history. He was particularly concerned with the disappearing street furniture and old shop fronts. At the conclusion of the meeting he presented to the Chairman, John Richardson, the 76 photographs contained in the exhibition and also an old sign that used to belong to the rat-catcher of Hampstead. Both the sign and photographs are now in the Swiss Cottage Library and can be seen on request to the Local History Librarian.

OTHER SOCIETIES

LAMAS (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society)

26 Feb 2. 30 pm. Visit to the Corporation of London Records Office, Guildhall.

Hendon and District Archaeological Society

4 March. Medieval Jewellery and Pottery by Jon Cherry, at the Central Library, The Burroghs, NW4.

Hampstead Centre of the National Trust

20 Feb. Kenwood and the Iveagh Collection - a lecture by the Curator, Mr John Jacob. At Fenton House, 8 pm. Further details from the Hon Mrs Fred Uhlman, 47 Downshire Hill, NW3.

Kate Greenaway

Miss Lynn Knight-Smith writes from Luzac & Company Ltd., 46 Great Russell Street, WC1:

I was especially interested to read the article on Kate Greenaway in the Camden History Review no2. I wonder if you know that Randolph Caldecott, a contemporary and friend of Kate Greenaway (she was extremely jealous of his ability and imagination as an illustrator), lived in our house, at the above address, and where his kindly ghostly presence is still to be felt! I think he is even more worthy of an article in your journal, there is a tremendous revival of interest in his books, and we are visited by scores of American librarians, wanting to see where he actually lived. As we believe his rooms are where our bedroom now is, we do feel a little weary sometimes tramping up all the stairs. It is worthwhile when we realise how thrilled our visitors are!

We are trying to have a blue plaque put on the house to his memory, but are meeting with the usual lack of enthusiasm in official quarters, foreigners it seems are much to be preferred in these matters! As we are having a board prepared for the shop with a potted version of Luzac's history I think I might add a few lines about R. C. !!

Letter

I was interested to read your column in the December Newsletter regarding the North London Line and the article in the February 1964 issue of the Railway Magazine.

As a very newcomer to the Society it is with some hesitation that I write to you on the subject of that interesting railway line, but I do hope that you are well aware (I feel you must be!) of the really excellent essay on that line, published originally by the Oakwood Press in 1937 and since reprinted at least twice (I have a copy of the 1946 third edition), written by none other than one of the Society's most recent and distinguished speakers - Mr R Michael Robbins.

It really is most interesting and I feel sure should be required for reading for anybody interested in the subject.

J B W Heyman

MILTON IN CAMDEN

In 1647 John Milton left his house in the Barbican and took a smaller house "among those that open backwards into Lincoln's Inn Fields". This house must have been situated between Great and Little Turnstile, near Whetstone Park, at that time a notorious thoroughfare. He had given up teaching, possibly as a result of receiving a legacy from his father who had died in 1647, and at this time he was engaged on writing works mostly of a political nature. He composed a sonnet to Fairfax on the siege of Colchester and following Charles' execution, a tract "Tenure of Kings and Magistrates". It was very soon after this appeared that he was invited to become secretary to the Council of State. Following this appointment he was given chambers in Whitehall and left the house near Lincoln's Inn Fields in 1649.

Again in 1660, pardoned but blind and in financial straits, he briefly took lodgings near Red Lion Fields before returning to the City, to Jewin Street.

Irene Burns

THE RIFLE VOLUNTEERS OF CAMDEN

One of the papers included in the symposium on aspects of Victorian Camden, presented to the Society by the Social History Group in October was on The Rifle Volunteers of Camden by Mr Ernest F. Rashbrook. Mr Charles E. Lee writes to draw attention to a booklet, entitled The Artists and the S.A.S., by B.A. Young, published in 1960. From this it appears that the Rifle Volunteers "moved into Camden in 1882 (not 1908) with an address at 36 Fitzroy Square. The Drill Hall in Duke's Road was built in 1888 and this date can still be seen in the terracotta work of the frontage. The Artists Rifles actually moved in in 1889. The architect was Robert W. Edis. The Artists Rifles moved out in 1967. The building is now called 'The Place' (not 'The Studio')."

Will you please convey my congratulations and thanks to the performers and all those who worked so hard to give us an excellent evening's entertainment, at the Embassy Theatre, yesterday evening. Also the refreshments were so good. What a grand evening we had - all for 30p.

I lived in Highgate 1909 onwards - I went to Byron House School (opposite the Highgate Grammar School) - now closed, then I went to the Grove School in Nos 1 & 2 The Grove. Yehudi Menuhin now lives in No 2 but Gladys Cooper bought both houses and modernised them. We watched the Zeppelin raids from our bedroom windows so Item 16 - Bombs of Queen Square brought back many memories although I do not remember the exact dates. All the programme took me back to my childhood, although we were not taken to the Bedford Theatre we were taken to Ben Greets Performances at Alexandra Palace and Hampstead Heath Fun Fair.

I do thank everyone so much and I wondered how many others, in the theatre, had really seen the life about which they sang and spoke so clearly.

I spent much of my working life at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital and was there when the Board of Governors tried to buy Coram Fields site. (1930's). We couldn't raise the £250,000 and so didn't get the equivalent sum promised to us. GOS loss was London House's gain. I relived that "struggle" as they spoke of Coram Fields and the Foundling Hospital.

Margaret C Jones

FUTURE EVENTS

The programme of "general interest" events arranged for the remainder of the programme year will shortly be issued as a folder. Copies will be available at the March and April lectures and will be distributed with the next newsletter.

newsletter

No 29

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

APR 1975

The Annual General Meeting

15 May, 6.30pm

Annual General Meeting

In keeping with our practice of holding our AGM at an interesting building in the borough, this year we shall be the guests of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, Brunswick Square, WC1. The business meeting will be followed by a talk on the history of the Foundation by Mr Jim Swinley, its Director, and a visit to the Museum. A collection will be taken for the work of the Foundation.

Items for inclusion on the agenda should be sent to the Secretary by 30 April.

OFFICERS 1975/6

Nominations (signed by two members) are invited and should reach the Hon. Secretary by 19 April to allow time for a postal ballot, should this prove necessary. The present officers are

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Patron - | The Worshipful the Mayor of Camden |
| President - | Lord Wolfenden |
| Vice-Presidents - | Sir John Betjeman CBE Sir Colin Anderson KBE and Sir James Brown |
| Chairman - | John Richardson |
| Hon Treasurer - | W H Meadows |
| Hon Secretary - | G D Gregory |
| Hon Assistant Secretary - | Mrs Coral A Howells |
| Hon Publications Secretary - | Christopher Wade |
| Hon Archivist - | Mrs C M Gee |

Other council members - Charles E Lee
Leslie T Newman, Mrs G E Gosling,
E G Brassington, H V Shooter, Miss V
Morris, Mrs J Ramsay, Malcolm Holmes,
Miss Cherry Lavell, John Lawson and
Miss Gillian Tindall.

Visit to St Pancras Station

Saturday, 17 May at 10 am

By the courtesy of the Public Relations Officer, London Midland Region, a tour of St Pancras Station and Chambers has been arranged for Saturday, 17 May. We shall have to limit the size of the party very strictly and members who would like to come are asked to write to the Secretary for tickets without delay. Applications will be treated on a first-come first-served basis and we hope to be able to arrange a second visit, should this prove necessary.

Celebrating Dickens

In June the Dickens Fellowship celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Dickens House, Museum and Library at 48 Doughty Street, WC1. To mark the occasion, the Libraries and Arts Department, on behalf of the Borough Council, and with the help of the Dickens Fellowship and the Victoria & Albert Museum, is arranging an ambitious exhibition on the theme of Dickens in Camden at the Swiss Cottage Library during the month of June.

On Sunday evening, 22 June, Emlyn Williams will give one of his celebrated Dickens readings at the Shaw Theatre.

Further details will be publicised by poster within a month or so.

HELP WANTED

A leaflet is enclosed about how you can help our Publications side in various promotional and anti-inflationary activities. Some of these projects, especially the Festivals and the walk-cum-talk, promise to have social as well as publicity attractions.

Hop on a Horse Bus

In the 19th and early years of the 20th century a common feature of public transport was the horse-bus. Its closest historical ties were stage-coaches which travelled the country before the advent of the railways, and highwaymen were looking for victims before train robbers had more grandiose schemes.

When steam engines were replaced by diesel locomotives, bands of railway enthusiasts formed preservation societies. Several local lines were maintained by mainly volunteer forces.

But what happened to the horse buses?

One man who can give us the answer is CHS member Lawrence Anthony Sheffer.

He is more than a one-man horse-bus preservationist, for he proposes to run a service for Londoners and visitors to London which he hopes will not only provide a little colour to the metropolis but which will also be a viable business proposition.

There were no objections from London Transport as their only control is over motor buses. Any other type of bus is not affected by legislation. Neither is he doing a stage-coach service. It will be a pre-booked sight-seeing tour. There are certain streets in London where horse-drawn vehicles are not permitted - for example, at certain hours in the City.

The bus is a classic double-deck twenty-six seat, two-horse bus built at the end of the 19th century and withdrawn on 30 January 1912; garden-seat type with forward facing seats on the top. The pattern was the distillation of years of public transport experience and is one of the finest examples of the coach-builder's craft.

It was operated by Patrick Hearn - one of the best-known private operators - who at one time had his yard in Grays Inn Road where The Times is published in New Printing House Square. He ran not only buses but a number of hansom cabs.

It may not be generally known that horse buses were run by Associations, which were groups of operators controlling certain routes for which they paid a considerable amount of money to join. At

a given settling day the fares were distributed in proportion to the number of miles operated, routes and so forth. This particular bus was run on the Victoria and Kings Cross route with the Victoria & Kings Cross Omnibus Association. This association is mentioned in Charles Lee's comments on Edwardian transport in the Camden History Review, No.2. Patrick Hearn was the member of a number of associations one of which was the Camden Town Omnibus Association.

Mr Sheffer is a member of the London Bus Preservation Group, the Historic Commercial Vehicle Club, and is very friendly with the publisher of Old Motor. It was as a result of these connections that he was told of the existence of the garden-seat bus. It was discovered in the kitchen garden of a farm in Iver, Buckinghamshire. It was in a very bad condition - 'diabolical' was Sheffer's word - having been standing for fifty years in the same spot.

The removal of the bus was an extremely difficult operation because sheds had to be knocked down on each side of it. With great trepidation it was put on to a low loader. There was a fear that the bus would collapse into rubble. It was a great tribute to the early coach builders that it stayed in one piece. There was no upstairs and no staircase remaining, just the main downstairs saloon. All the running gear, the axles, the wheel boxes were in remarkable condition.

He then transported it to Colchester where the coach builder was going to start restoration. Most of the wooden structure is being replaced.

When the service starts this month it will run six days a week excluding Monday. It will start from the Penta Hotel opposite the West London Air Terminal proceeding to South Kensington Station, Pont Street, Sloane Street, Belgrave Square, Buckingham Gate, Victoria Street, Parliament Square, Whitehall, Pall Mall, Piccadilly, Hyde Park Corner, Belgrave Square, and returning to the Penta Hotel; a journey of approximately two hours. This will be run twice daily. There will be three teams of Persheron horses which will be stabled in Chertsey and which will be used in turn.

Enthusiasts will have an early opportunity of seeing the bus with its team of horses when they take part in the Parade of Horse Drawn Carriages at Regents Park on Easter Monday which is London Horse Carriage Association

Prior to the LGOC adopting red as their fleet livery when they were going over to motor buses in 1907, all routes in London in the horse-bus era were designated by colour and not by number. 'This must have made transport a more colourful spectacle than it is today. The colours of the Victoria-Kings Cross Association - yellow wheels and undercarriage and green body - will again be in evidence and it is due to information obtained from the Reinohl Collection. This remarkable collection of documents and tickets concerning transport throughout the world is now residing at the Chartered Institute of Transport in Portman Place.

This venture has involved considerable expense and time, but Lawrence Sheffer says that he has enjoyed every minute of it. 'It has been great fun,' he says, 'and it has been worth all the hard work that has been put into it as well as the joy in colour that it gives to people in a time when there is so much 'grey'.'

George Halse

An Early 'Whitehall Farce'

In the course of his researches recently, Malcolm Holmes, Camden's Local History Librarian, came across the following account in the Morning Chronicle of 24 September 1790 and thought it would amuse members. Headed A WHIMSICAL MISTAKE, it goes on -

A curious circumstance happened at the lodgings of a lady in Charlotte Street, Rathbone Place.

A tall gentleman, well known at Mr WHITFIELD'S Chapel in Tottenham Court Road, for the loudness of his voice, his pious demeanour, and his partiality for black attire, paid a visit to his Dulcinea, who is one of the Cyprian tribe, on Sunday night at an unexpected hour.

An officer who had anticipated this modern David in his visit, happened to be in bed when the amorous Methodist rapt at the

door; on the solicitation of the lady, the officer ran upstairs into the garret, to avoid detection.

The Saint, who had taken too great a portion of astringent port, was rather inebriated when he entered the apartment of his fair friend, where there had been, fortunately for her, no candle.

Having occupied the quarters deserted by the martial hero, the lady upbraided him with his brutal drunkenness: an open rupture ensued, the psalm singing paramour rose in a passion, swore vehemently that he would never see her more, and departed, having first put on the regimental waistcoat and breeches of the officer, which he took for his own!

He left the Lady in a passion at midnight, and returned to his WIFE!

In the morning, when he got up, he perceived that instead of black he had got a BUFF waistcoat and breeches. He upbraided his wife with incontinence, and she in return justly retaliated, imputing to him the "sinful lusts of the flesh".

He even had the effrontery to send for his wife's friends and a lawyer, well known in Lime Street. He was in the act of having an instrument drawn up for a separation, when lo! - the officer's servant arrived with the identical clothes of the canting sinner, which he presented, demanding his master's in return.

The Saint was therefore obliged to confess the whole - ask pardon - and declare that he would in future be faithful!

DECOY VILLAGE

Events which occurred during the Second World War are particularly difficult to trace owing to wartime censorship. I am, therefore, wondering if CHS members have any recollections of a decoy village built at Kenwood which was eventually burnt down in a large blaze explained away as a 'bonfire' by the authorities.

The information I have is rather vague and anything that could clarify it would be welcomed.

Perhaps, too, readers have their own war-time recollections, amusing, tragic or unusual, which could throw new light on a period which has been under-recorded locally.

Malcolm Holmes

Musick at Hampstead Wells

30 and 31 May

In February we sent members details of an unusual concert presented jointly by the Hampstead Musick Club and the Camden History Society at Burgh House on 6 and 7 March. The response was immediate and overwhelming and we were unable to supply tickets to many members from both societies. Mr Jerry Shields has kindly offered to repeat the concert and arrangements have been made for two further performances at Burgh House on Friday, 30 May and Saturday 31 May, at 8.00 p.m. A booking form is enclosed.

Based on research by Jerry and Elizabeth Shields, the concert features music of the early 18th century when attempts were first made to turn the village of Hampstead into a fashionable spa. The concert provides a unique opportunity to hear about the performers, composers and audiences at the "Consorts of Musick by the best Masters" which were given in the Great Room, Well Walk.

We very much hope that we shall be able to satisfy all demands for tickets for the repeat performances but early application is recommended.

Doors will be open at 7.30 pm to enable members to view a fascinating exhibition mounted by Mr Anthony Cooper for the occasion.

THE TRANSPORT GROUP

The Transport Group has met several times recently and is due to meet again on 8 April (7.00 pm at the Swiss Cottage Library), 3 May (10.15 am at Camden Town Underground Station) and 31 May for a tour round some of the sites covered by recent research.

John Lawson, group leader, writes, "The most interesting things to report on are our visits to the railway-horse stables off Chalk Farm Road and the Rail/Canal Warehouse across the North London line from them. We took measurements and photographs of the upper floor of the main stables block and will return for the lower floor and other surrounding buildings. Mainly only the concrete troughs remain as evidence of the specialist use. However in one corner there are the remains

of the mangers, horse shoes, bridles and stalls. There also remains the smithy but we were unable to see it properly as it is largely hidden at present behind a stockpile of timber. One unexpected feature of the site was the amount of concrete used. Probably this was not original but seems to have replaced worn setts and presumably cracked troughs. It would be interesting to find out when this concrete was used and whether it was cast on site or brought in from a central LMS Railway concrete-moulding depot. We estimated that about 400 horses must have been kept there at one time. Many of those who work there must still have a good memory of how the stables were run, so we must try to trace some of these people. Apparently about three horses were retained to work at Maiden Lane as late as the 1960's.

At the Rail/Canal warehouse near Camden Top Lock we were able to see the extensive cellars of arched brick construction and the narrow silted-up canal basin as well as the tunnels through which horses were brought from the stables to work in the yards. We also learnt that the remnants of the hydraulic power system used in the yard is about to be replaced. Unfortunately most of it seems to be inaccessible. To make a proper record would require considerable time and manpower."

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Many thanks to those members who have already renewed their subscriptions. We are pleased to say that we have been able to hold subscriptions at last year's rate and it will help us greatly if members will send their renewal cheques promptly. The new financial year commenced on 1 March.

Subscription rates are -

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Individual membership | £1.50 |
| Joint membership (husband and wife) | £2.00 |
| Associate membership (societies etc) | £2.00 |

If they wish, old age pensioners and students may pay at the reduced rate of £1.00

Please complete the enclosed form and send it with your cheque to the Hon. Treasurer, St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, LONDON, NW1 2AJ.

newsletter

No 30

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JUN 1975

The June Lecture

The River of Wells and the Spa Fields

Richard Wood, our June lecturer, told us of his "pleasurable surprise in discovering areas of contemporary London one may know well, to have been - yes - medicinal spas and places of general entertainment and fashionable resort not all that long ago!"

The river Fleet - the spas - the tea-gardens - the balloon flights - the charm of rural St Pancras and King's Cross brought to life with slide, map, story, poem and a little music.

Time and place - 7.30 pm, 12 June 1975 at the Swiss Cottage Library.

Medieval Camden - the July Lecture

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a leaflet and order form for Miss Le Faye's admirably cheap publication 'Medieval Camden'. On July 10th she will be amplifying this with an illustrated talk at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm. Those members who have heard Miss Le Faye before will know that this will be a well researched and authoritative evening.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CAMDEN

The Local History Librarian at the Swiss Cottage Library will be pleased to show interested members a copy of the Archaeological survey of Camden, a report presented to the Borough Council by the Inner London Archaeological Unit in May. The Secretary also has a copy in his office at the St Pancras Library. To avoid possible disappointment, members should ring 278 4444 (ext. 3007 or 3001 for Mr Holmes or 2192 for Mr Gregory).

North End Walk

Saturday, 28 June at 3 pm

Members are invited to explore the ancient hamlet of North End, on the borders of Hampstead and Hendon, on 28 June, but numbers will have to be limited. Those interested should apply as soon as possible to Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, London NW3 1SA. To save postage, no tickets will be issued in advance and applicants can assume they have been successful unless they hear to the contrary.

Rallying at Jack Straw's Castle at 3 pm, the party will descend to North End through the grounds frequented by William Pitt, Earl of Chatham. Among other sights, we will look at the Bull and Bush, Golder's Hill Park, Pavlova's house and Byron Cottage and finally we will converge on Wyldes. The only house in London to have a triple blue plaque, this picturesque ex-farmhouse has associations with John Linnell, William Blake, Charles Dickens and Sir Raymond Unwin, designer of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Our hosts for this visit will be the present owners of Wyldes - David Sullivan and Philip Venning, who will be telling some of the history of North End and presenting not only a small exhibition of pictures and maps but a kindly cup of tea.

Our guests will include members of the Hendon and District Archaeological Society, on whose preserves we will be happily poaching and who, we hope, will contribute to our knowledge of North End.

Recommended Reading:

The Streets of Hampstead (CHS Publication)
The Blue Plaques of Barnet (HADAS Publication).

Mr and Mrs Sainsbury – 'the Founders of the Feast'

It is 1869 and the crowds are making their way down Drury Lane to see the ventriloquist, Lieut. Cole, one of their favourite artistes at the "Old Mo". As they pass the new dairy near the corner of Drury Lane and Charles Street, few would have guessed that the little shop was destined to be the first of a great chain of food shops. This was the dairy opened by John James Sainsbury and his wife at 173, Drury Lane.

In April 1975, Sainsbury's decided to close their Drury Lane branch (this was a new building opened in 1958 after the original shop had been closed) partly as a result of their policy of closing smaller branches but rather more because trade had been seriously affected by the drastic decline in the resident population of Covent Garden and by the uncertainty over the ultimate future of the area. It is a curious contrast to 1869 when the area was teeming with life and work. Now buildings lie open to the sky and such residents as there are tend to be elderly, forced to rely for their shopping on ventures such as the Food Co-operative in Seven Dials or the street market if it receives official sanction.

John Sainsbury began business in 1869 though the ratebooks here present something of a mystery. In late 1868 the house and shop are noted as being empty and the previous occupier's name, Thomas Skivens, is crossed out. By 1869, instead of John Sainsbury's name appearing, Thomas Skivens' name has been added in again and it is not until early 1871 that John Sainsbury's name does actually appear. Thomas Skivens had been a well established greengrocer and it would be very interesting to know whether there was any sort of partnership between the two men.

Two years later, in 1873, John Sainsbury took on a second shop, another dairy, at 159 Queens Crescent, Kentish Town followed in 1875 by a cheese shop at 151 Queens Crescent. From then on the story is one of expansion. He was very shrewd in his choice of sites avoiding the obviously wealthy areas and concentrating on Shoreditch, Hackney, Whitechapel, Islington, Somers Town, Kilburn, Hollo-

way and Southwark. By the 1890's the headquarters had been transferred to Stamford Street whilst in 1915 the list of branches had grown so long that the Post Office directory entry simply says Stamford House and branches. The range of goods Sainsbury was dealing in between 1869 and 1900 also grew to include general grocery provisions, pork, bacon and game in addition to cheese and dairy products.

Consumption of dry groceries, such as tea and sugar, had been increasing steadily since the introduction of free trade and when Gladstone abolished customs duties on a large number of items in 1860 the grocery trade was given another fillip: This, in fact, was the period when men like Henry Tate and Thomas Lipton who started life as ordinary grocers found themselves leading enterprises which are still household names today. John Sainsbury, however, made his name by selling fresh dairy products and it is interesting to speculate how he achieved this.

Sainsbury always stressed cleanliness, value and fair dealing. At the time he went into business, dairy farming was becoming more of an organized industry whilst increasing attention was being paid to public health. Legislation passed in 1872 obliged local authorities to appoint public analysts to examine food, drink and drugs. These analysts made regular reports of goods tested and milk and butter were among items tested and continually found wanting. At this time too, it was still the practice for cows to be kept in town - even in a built up area like Holborn - and cow sheds could be found tucked away in all sorts of odd corners. Conditions were, to say the least, insanitary both for the cows and their human neighbours and legislation was gradually passed trying to remedy this. Some of this legislation applied specifically to dairies. Again, the 1870's were the decade which saw great advances made in bacteriology due mainly to the work of Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur and the prevailing atmosphere seems to have been one of increasing awareness of the importance of correct food handling. In an age when milk and butter were the prime targets for adulteration by unscrupulous shopkeepers, John Sainsbury's emphasis

on cleanliness and fair dealing must have been an attractive sales line.

Sadly, however, there are various aspects of the story which must remain a mystery. How soon did Sainsbury grasp the implications of refrigeration? There is reason to believe it was fairly early on and if this was the case then it would imply that his shops were carrying fairly large stocks. This in turn raises the question who and where were his suppliers. Whoever they were, they could obviously cope with the increasing demand. It is likely that they were outside London since as early as 1862 there were adequate transport facilities for conveying milk from the country into London. Yet perhaps the most intriguing question is where did the financial backing come from which enabled the small shop in Drury Lane to become the cornerstone of a business which is still going from strength to strength.

Irene Burns

The August Excursion

Saturday, 30 August 1975

Sir William Petre acquired the manor of Ingatestone after the dissolution of Barking Abbey in 1539. The main parts of this many-gabled hall of rose brick with mullioned windows and ornamental chimneys was completed by 1548; later additions have added to its beauty. The present 17th Lord Petre lives in the house, but leases to the Essex County Council the North Wing and Long Gallery which each year are used by the Record Office for exhibitions. This year the exhibition is Elizabethan Essex which presents a closely integrated sequence of manuscripts, prints, drawings, maps and photographs.

The history of Colchester begins before the Roman occupation of Britain and extends forward for some two thousand years. Much of this history is illustrated in the Castle Museum and the nearby house, Holly Trees and these, as well as other places will be visited.

The Castle Gardens is an ideal place for eating a packed lunch; for others there are many restaurants in the town.

Our party will meet up for tea before departing. The cost of the excursion is inclusive of reserved coach seat, all entrance charges, afternoon tea and gratuities - £2.30.

The coach will call at Camden Town, Hampstead and Highgate to pick up members. Start from Camden Town is likely to be 9 am. Exact details will be given on ticket. Please use the enclosed form for booking.

The Regent's Canal Walks

Members are reminded that David Thomas is leading two walks along the Regent's Canal in July. The first one is from Little Venice to Camden Lock on 16th July, meeting 6.30 pm at Warwick Avenue Underground station booking office, and the second is on 22nd July from Camden Lock to Islington Tunnel meeting at Camden Town Underground station booking office.

THE MARY WARD EXHIBITION

The Mary Ward Festival in Tavistock Place, includes an exhibition not only of 80 years of the Centre's history, but of the history and architecture of Bloomsbury. It is open from 5 - 11th June between 2 and 6 pm.

RESEARCH INTO THEATRES

The Social History Group have set up a group of members, led by John Adrian, to research into Camden's theatres.

BOOK AWARD

'The Local Historian's Encyclopedia' by John Richardson, the Society's Chairman, has been highly commended in the Library Association's annual awards for outstanding reference books. Members who wish to buy a copy should write to Historical Publications Ltd, Orchard House, 54 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts, enclosing £1.50 plus 18p postage.

The Annual General Meeting

This year's Annual General Meeting was a very successful affair. We met at the attractive Coram Foundation in Brunswick Square, surrounded by impressive canvasses, and had, for our speaker Mr J Swinley, the Director of the Foundation. He gave us a very amusing history of the Foundling Hospital and then took us on a tour round the other rooms. We are most grateful to him for his hospitality.

The Chairman reported that we had reached a record 500 membership but stressed again the disadvantages that could accrue from a very large membership, such as members feeling detached from the work of the Society. He once again praised the co-operation we obtain from Camden Council and said that it was a happy example of a Council and a Society jointly doing work which is of interest to the public.

He paid tribute to Wilfrid Meadows who had been our Treasurer since the Society began, and who has recently resigned.

The Society was pleased to welcome the Mayor and Mayoress of Camden, Cllr and Mrs Taylor, who had long been members of the Society. We were delighted also to have with us Sir James Brown, our new President. Sir James has been a member of the Society since it began, and as many of you will know, formerly the President of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute and an expert on Highgate history.

The following members were elected as officers:

President

Sir James Brown

Vice Presidents

Sir Colin Anderson, KBE

Sir John Betjeman, CBE

Charles E Lee, FCIT

R Michael Robbins, MA, FSA

Professor F M L Thompson, D.Phil

Hon Chairman

John Richardson

Hon Vice-Chairman

Miss Cherry Lavell

Hon General Secretary

G D Gregory

Hon Assistant General Secretary
Mrs Coral Ann Howells

Hon Treasurer
Mrs Jane S Ramsay

Hon Publications Secretary
Christopher Wade

Hon Archivist
Malcolm J Holmes

TRANSPORT GROUP MEETINGS

The Transport Group, led by John Lawson, is very active on railways at the moment. Its next meeting is at 7 pm at Swiss Cottage Library on July 1st. On July 13th it is visiting railway sites and stables. They will be meeting at 10.30 am at Kentish Town tube station.

CONSERVATION IN BELSIZE

They (the local conversationists) are having some interesting walks in the Belsize area. The next one will be on June 22nd and will be in the Elsworthy Road area, meeting outside St Pauls School, Elsworthy Road at 3 pm. Further details can be had from John Laine 722 7588.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr and Mrs M Austin, Mr and Mrs J McGregor, A G Barnard, Henry Bodenheim, P Bodenheim, Miss J Drew, Miss Mary Hill, A B Knight, Mrs F Lloyd, Miss V McGuire, D Miles, R C Morris, Miss F Peett, Miss H Sanders, P G Scott, Mrs Y Shane, Mrs Claire Tomalin, Miss Mary Cooper, Miss Mary Cosh, B W Haldane, W Heather.

THE HIGHGATE WALK

This is an advance reminder of the walk around Highgate on August 12th. We hope that the Newsletter will be out early enough in August to give full details, but in case it isn't members should meet at 2.30pm at the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institute in Highgate Village

The Visit to St Pancras Station

As well as members of the Society a gentleman from The Times came on the first of this year's tours of St Pancras Hotel and Station. We can do no better than record his impressions of it:

FANTASTIC

Thirty enthusiasts from the Camden History Society went on Saturday on a conducted tour of St Pancras, the Victorian pile which dominates their borough, looking more like a Walt Disney castle than a railway station and its associated hotel. Robin Young was with them and reports:

The Midland Grand closed as a hotel 30 years ago. Sir Gilbert Scott's opulent fantasy now serves as offices for Travellers' Fare and rest rooms for railwaymen. It is a very dirty white elephant, but nobody can afford to clean it.

Saturday's guide was Charles E Lee, a transport historian whose wing collar and old world charm enhanced the building's period atmosphere. St Pancras was a centre of controversy even while it was being built, he said, "and there were many stories about small boys kicking skulls from the disturbed graveyards up and down the Pancras Road."

The visitors climbed to the third of the building's five floors (Scott originally intended six) puffing heavily and obeying Lee's instructions to attend to architectural and decorative detail. One woman produced a pair of opera glasses to study the plasterwork on the ceilings of the lofty rooms.

Lee said one of the hotel's worst problems had been its 1870 plumbing. It had only four bathrooms and no running water in the bedrooms. Hot water for the washstands was brought round on pushcarts.

The caretaker said that at least one party came round each week. Often there were more, and because of demand British Rail had to limit the maximum number admitted at one time to 30. The Camden tour was over-subscribed, and Lee will be taking another group on May 31.

In the station itself, the main object of interest was a hole in the ground outside the shed where a hydraulic lift used to lower wagons of beer from Burton to the cellars below the platforms. Now the hole contains only such detritus as discarded shoes, broken chairs and rusting chain, but two of the party climbed down into it for a closer inspection none the less.

LOCAL HISTORY RESOURCES

Members may like to be reminded of the resources available for further study into the history of Camden. This material is available at the following libraries, for reference use only. (Copies of books for home reading are often available through the branch libraries and main lending libraries in Camden).

For general Camden enquiries, and specific queries relating to the former Boroughs of Hampstead and St Pancras.

Local History Department
Swiss Cottage Library
88 Avenue Road
London NW3 3HA
Telephone 01-278-4444 ext. 3007 or 3001

For queries concerning the Camden's rate books prior to 1955 and for the history of the former Borough of Holborn.

Local History Assistant
Reference Library
Holborn Library
32-38 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8PA
Telephone 01-405-2705 Miss I Burns

Unfortunately, it is not possible to ensure that both libraries have a member of the Local History staff available during all the libraries opening hours. To avoid disappointment, if inquirers can give advance warning of a visit this would be extremely helpful, particularly if the inquiry is likely to be a long or difficult one.

Malcolm Holmes
Local History Librarian

FROM RAGS TO?

The recent difficulties of Ferranti Limited reminds me that this began its days in a humble way in Camden. It then gradually developed into one of Britain's biggest private companies with a work force of 16,000 employed in 14 locations in England and Scotland and a turnover of some £85 million.

Sebastian Ziana de Ferranti attended evening classes at University College, Gower Street. Improving a dynamo which he first made at the school, he patented it in 1882 and its success at Cannon Street railway station led him to set up his own business.

In 1884/5, then still only about twenty years of age, he was working at 57B Hatton Garden, Holborn perfecting his inventions and evolving those schemes which afterwards marked him as one of the greatest electrical engineers of his time.

While no plaque records his local connections, on 57D Hatton Garden is a blue plaque to another inventor and engineer Sir Hiram Maxim 1840-1916. It was here that he made his first automatic gun which fired over 600 rounds per minute. The last machine gun made in the Hatton Garden establishment was sent to Stanley, then engaged upon his expedition for the relief of Livingstone.

Malcolm Holmes

DICK TURPIN'S PASSAGE

Can any Hampstead residents remember a passage in the area known as Dick Turpin's Passage? Miss Julia Brown, who lived in Hampstead about 60 years ago, remembers walking along a passage of that name, which she believes ran from Finchley Road to the Heath, near Whitestone Road. If anyone can confirm or add to these recollections, please contact the Local History Department at Swiss Cottage Library. Any information received will be forwarded to Miss Brown.

GLC PHOTOGRAPH LIBRARY

The GLC Library contains more than 200,000 photographs and is growing all the time. Most of the photographs are the copyright of the GLC. The Library provides a visual record of the changing face of London, some photographs dating from the later 19th century. A few of the many subjects covered are schools, housing estates, transport, parks, bridges, public buildings and private houses. There is a large topographical section, of particular value to student teachers engaged on projects.

Duplicate copies of photographs may be borrowed for a month, renewal being granted if the photograph is not required by another borrower. Sale copies of photographs can be ordered in the majority of cases. All enquiries should be addressed to Miss R E Watson, Photograph Librarian, Room B 66, Main Building, County Hall SE1 7PB (tel: 633 3255).

AMY SHERWIN

Mr Anthony Westbrook has asked if members can provide any information about the singer, Madame Amy Sherwin. He is writing a paper on Madame Sherwin (also known as the Tasmanian Nightingale), who lived at 2, Winchester Road, from about 1906 to 1912. Any information should be directed to the Local History Department at Swiss Cottage Library and will be forwarded to Mr Westbrook.

newsletter

No 31

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

AUG 1975

Climbing the Family Tree - the September Lecture

According to Oliver Wendell Holmes "We are omnibuses in which our ancestors ride". Such a thought is startling enough to arouse our curiosity about the passengers we carry. There is no doubt that the last two decades have witnessed a growing interest in genealogy. "Looking-up" forbears is a challenging pursuit which requires tenacity and the ability to survive disappointments.

Although good manuals for genealogists are available there is still a place for verbal introductions to the technique.

This lecture aims to indicate the how-to-start? the what-is-there? and the where-is-it? for the new genealogist so that energy and time can be used to the best advantage. The wider aspects of genealogy as an important ancillary of historical science will also be illustrated. An authentic pedigree of one's own family is a commendable aim but without a "tree" how can one explain why the Stuarts were succeeded by the House of Hanover!

Frederick Pryce, Camden's Head of Reference Services, has been practising and talking about genealogy for more than twenty years. His researches have taken him "nationwide" and made him familiar with repositories both large and small. He is a member of the Society of Genealogists and articles contributed to the Magazine have included the Celtic ancestry of the Prince of Wales, and the co-ordination of research on the royal lineages of Britain. His Guide to European genealogies was published in 1969.

Time and place:

7. 30 pm, 18 September 1975
at Swiss Cottage Library

The August Excursion

Saturday 30 August 1975

Details of the outing to Ingatestone Hall and Colchester were given in the last newsletter. A few tickets are still available and any member interested should contact the Secretary immediately.

The cost of the excursion, inclusive of reserved coach seat, entrance charge, afternoon tea and gratuities, is £2.30. The coach will pick up members at Camden Town, Hampstead and Highgate starting from Camden Town at 9.15 am. We hope to be back in London by 7.45 pm.

It is suggested that members who would like to come contact the Secretary by telephone (01-278 4444 extension 2192) before sending money.

The Highgate Walk

The last newsletter advertised the Highgate Walk for the wrong date. It is on 10 August at 2.30 pm meeting at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute in South Grove, Highgate. Mr John Gosling will be conducting the tour and it is hoped that the party will be able to have the very rare opportunity to see round Cromwell House and Fairseat, two of the oldest and most prominent buildings in Highgate, although final arrangements have yet to be confirmed.

JADE AXE FOUND IN HENDON

The Hendon Archaeological Society reports in its current newsletter that a schoolboy found, in a back garden in Hendon, a Neolithic jade axe, dated by the British Museum at c3000BC. It appears to be the first of its kind to be found in the London area.

Fifty years of Keats House

1975 sees the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of Keats House to the public.

Keats House was built during the winter of 1815-1816 as Wentworth Place, a pair of semi-detached houses standing in a common garden on a part of what was then known as the Lower Heath Quarter. Charles Wentworth Dilke, a civil servant and family man, occupied the western, larger, house and Charles Armitage Brown, a bachelor, the eastern house.

John Keats made his first visit to Hampstead in 1816 to meet Leigh Hunt, who lived in the Vale of Health. Keats was introduced to Dilke and Brown by Leigh Hunt and by mid-April 1817 had settled in Well Walk with his brothers, George and Tom. In 1818 George emigrated to America and in December Tom died of consumption. After Tom's death Brown persuaded Keats to live with him and for the remainder of the poet's brief life this house was his home. Here much of his finest work was written.

In 1819 Charles Dilke let his house to Mrs Brawne, a widow with three children. Her eldest daughter, Fanny, then aged eighteen, was introduced to Keats by Dilke. Thus Keats and Fanny Brawne now lived in adjoining houses and shared the same garden. They eventually became engaged but Keats's early death in Rome in 1821 prevented the marriage.

The exterior of the house remains very much as it was then, with the exception of the drawing room added on the east side by Miss Eliza Chester, a retired actress who bought the two houses in 1838-1839 and converted them into one. The mulberry tree on the front lawn probably dates from Stuart times but the old plum tree, beneath which Keats wrote his famous Ode to a Nightingale has been replaced. Inside the house the poet's sitting room is practically unchanged: it retains the original windows with their folding shutters and the shelves on which Keats kept his books.

The property was rescued from impending destruction in 1920-1921 by public subscription; largely from the USA, and was vested in the Hampstead Borough Council (now succeeded by the London Borough of Camden) for maintenance in perpetuity as a memorial to the poet.

In September 1974 Keats House was closed to the public to allow the London Borough of Camden, together with the local architect, John Brandon-Jones, to carry out extensive repairs and restoration. The house, which had rising damp, dry rot and woodworm, has been fitted with a damp course, and the dry rot and woodworm eradicated. A new alarm system and floodlights have been fitted and the whole house has been redecorated with copies of contemporary wallpapers, curtain materials and carpets. It will be opened to the public again on Tuesday 2 September 1975.

VISIT to newly restored Keats House,
11am Sunday 7 September 1975
Party limited to 25 (repeat visit at a later date if sufficient number). Send for tickets to Assistant Curator, Keats House, Keats Grove, London NW3 2RR; telephone 01-435 8002.

Christina Gee

DICK TURPIN'S PASSAGE

A. Mason of 150 Iverson Road, NW6 2HH writes regarding Miss Brown's query in CHS Newsletter:

Dick Turpin's Passage

Some 65 years ago I remember a footpath, but not by any name, from Finchley Road junction with Heath Drive, which led via Oak Hill Way to Branch Hill, then a short distance through Lower Terrace to White-stone. I have vivid recollections of passing through a gate into a field with a ditch and wet ground on the left hand side, from where as boys we used to catch tadpoles and frogs. I now think that this wet ground must have been caused by the River Westbourne, and there is still a distinct dip in the Finchley Road at this point which I assume is caused by the river making its way to Cannon Hill. The iron gate and railings in Oak Hill Way were known as the "Lion's Gate" due to some escaped lions being recaptured at this point, in all probability a tale told to frighten us boys.

The steps from Judges Walk to Branch Hill we always knew as "Dick Turpin's Steps", but I do not remember a footpath on the opposite side of the road.

North End View

A good crowd of our members, with guests from HADAS of Hendon, spent a rewarding June afternoon walking round Hampstead's North End. After hearing with some surprise about the number of Hoare houses near Jack Straw's, we were conducted by David Sullivan through the ghost garden of Pitt House, recently added to the Heath, and reached the old hamlet itself. Here our other guide, Philip Venning, charted the community's history from late Saxon days and revealed that many of the stories about the Old Bull and Bush were old cock and bull.

Across the road from the pub, the party had a surprise view. David Sullivan explained that the pleasant prospect from The Firs, much painted in the past, had gradually become hidden by trees but, by warning the GLC of our Society's imminent visit, he had persuaded them to do some hasty chopping and lopping and to give us a preview of this restored vista of Mill Hill and Totteridge.

After admiring Golders Hill and Pavlova's house, en passant, we were privileged to see round the splendid slopes of Byron Cottage garden and to hear from Mr and Mrs Kirton about the previous owner, the eccentric Lady Houston, ex-Lady Byron, ex-chorus girl.

Finally, at Wyldes, our guides showed us their own delightful homes, converted from farmhouse and barn respectively, and outlined their history. Our renewed thanks to them and their families (and dog) for all their hospitality, including the extensive exhibition of Wyldesiana - with bits of Garden Suburbia - and for the generous tea and buns in one of the handsomest settings in Hampstead.

C. W.

MEMBERSHIP

The latest membership figure is 526.

New members include:

Sir Colin Anderson, J A Allen, Mr & Mrs de Q Cabot, Dr H Durant, Miss Mary Elsy, H J Goodacre, R R Goodey, Miss Jean Jhirad, Mr & Mrs B Lunn, Miss P Maas, Miss Cynthia Merwin, Miss B Moss, Miss C Pick, Miss Judith Randall, R Reggiori, Miss M Rogers, Mrs M Smith, Miss J Troy, B W Walker, Miss L Wineberg.

IMMIGRANTS IN ST GILES

David Green who recently joined the Society has completed two years as a Geography student at Cambridge. For his Finals next year, he plans to write a dissertation on the subject of Irish immigrants around St Giles's and Italians around Holborn in the latter half of the 19th century. In addition to material in the local history collections, he would welcome from members "any information, but especially diaries, photos, company lists of workers and general reminiscences of the Holborn and Clerkenwell area from around 1850 till the end of the century. This relates specifically to the Italian community but, nevertheless, other immigrant groups may be of interest." He is particularly interested in the Italian community.

Would any member with ideas on the subject please contact Mr Green direct at Flat 1, 48 Ellsworthy Road, Hampstead, London NW3 3BU.

HAMPSTEAD HEATH BIRDS

The Hampstead Heath Ornithological Report for 1974 has just been published and shows that 87 different kinds of birds were recorded, of which 40 were proved to have bred and a further 2 were thought to have bred here.

Among the birds listed are Cormorant, Heron, Canada Goose, Kestrel, Kingfisher, Magpie, Pied Flycatcher, Yellow Hammer and Reed Bunting. The Carrion Crow was present throughout the year and bred, a count at the Kenwood roost on 14 December showed approximately 530.

Malcolm Holmes

TOLMERS VILLAGE

A group of people living in the "Tolmer's Village" area are writing a book on the history of the area. If anyone has any old photographs of the area, or can remember it before the Second World War, could they get in touch with the Local History Librarian at Swiss Cottage Library.

HENDON DIG

Mrs Brigid Grafton Green, Hon. Secretary of the Hendon & District Archaeological Society has written to give advance information about an excavation which HADAS hopes to mount next Spring. The site is on Hampstead Heath not far from the Borough boundary and Mrs Grafton Green suggests that some of our members may be interested and, if so, they will be welcome to help with the dig.

About three years ago, a HADAS member picked up in this area a number of flints which showed evidence of having been worked in antiquity. They were identified by various experts as of probable Mesolithic date. Since then, members have from time to time kept a watch on the site, and have noticed that it is in some danger of being destroyed by erosion, as it is on the public heath and is at risk from the number of people who walk round and over it.

HADAS have now been given permission by the Greater London Council to excavate the site next April/May, subject to certain provisos, such as indemnity.

The dig will be linked with a short course of lectures on the background to the Mesolithic period. These will be given, under the aegis of the London University Extra-Mural Department, at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute by Mr Desmond Collins, who has also kindly agreed to act as Director of the dig.

Further information will appear in future newsletters. In the meantime, would any interested members please write to the Secretary at the St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, London NW1 2AJ, giving any relevant details of experience. A list of CHS volunteers will then be sent to Mrs Grafton Green.

ELIEZER KEYSER

Malcolm Slowe of 4 Oakhill Avenue, Hampstead, NW3 7RE writes:

I am endeavouring to ascertain some information concerning Eliezer Isaac Keyser who lived in Hampstead from 1812 until his death in 1820. He is referred to in certain publications as the first Jewish resident of Hampstead, but I have been unable to trace his address. I should very much appreciate any information which may be available to members of the Society concerning his address or other Hampstead connections

Hampstead Memories

Mrs Rhoda Lovejoy (now 65 years old) of 'Glimpses', 13 Woodland Drive, Old Catton, Norwich NR6 7AY, writes:

I obtained More streets of Hampstead from the Mobile Library and I was transported at once back to my childhood.

I moved to 22 Boundary Rd in 1913 from Rochester Rd, Kentish Town, when my father, Francis Henry Pain, bought King Henry's Garage in Kings College Mews. He had started first as a horse bus driver at Brixton, having run away from Bristol, sleeping in the stable with the horses at Ball's (would it be Garage?) till he was old enough to drive a bus. Then he borrowed money and bought his first taxi, and eventually bought the King Henry's Garage, again on borrowed money. He turned it into a taxi garage, some of his men living in the flats over the yard. Then came the 1914-18 War, and he had to carry on almost single-handed, washing the cabs himself, driving an ambulance when called upon, very often doing sixteen to eighteen hours per day. Mother had to go round in the evening to collect the men's money as they came in at night, and they walked back to Boundary Rd about midnight. My brother and sister and I had to be left in the rooms over the laundry shop, and I remember the airship coming down and the bomb in Belsize Rd, which knocked me out of bed.

In 1918 we moved to 57 Fellows Rd, which my father had had made into three separate apartments, completely self contained. I remember the surprise people had when they knew there were four toilets and three bathrooms in one house. Most other houses at that time were family owned with servants. The rooms were magnificent in size and height and the ceiling mouldings were beautiful. The entrance hall was tiled and the door had stained glass. The inner hall was as large as a room, and the stairs swept nobly from it.

We occupied the hall floor and the lower floor, which was semi-basement in the front, but garden level at the rear - a huge garden with lawn and trees and a terrace. We played croquet regularly, but Dad was very fussy about that lawn.

When my brother was about sixteen, he joined the business after having a clerical training at the Regents St Tech. By now father was swallowing the stables with flats over which lined the mews, making them into garages and making the flats much improved. He was a good landlord. Mother still went round in the evening to collect the money, and they had a drink at the Prince Consort, often with a Mr & Mrs W Lovejoy, who lived at Burdetts Mews, but garaged with us. Bill Lovejoy had been connected with Bill Burdetts horses in some way and thus had a flat.

Later, Dad and my brother Frank owned, on lease, almost all of that side of the mews, and then took over the other little bit of mews on the other side of Kings College Rd. By now they were doing private car hire and garage and maintenance service rather than taxis, and later Frank started Studio Cars, which supplied fine cars for film stars etc. Anna Neagle and her husband were his special customers. Frank had a lovely flat over the Hairdressers on the corner of the mews, and eventually had that business too.

My father retired to Herne Bay and my brother carried on until the leases ran out. He moved then to Belsize Lane somewhere, but died about a couple of years ago. I believe his widow is carrying on the business.

I would love to know what happened to the garage and 57, Fellows Rd. Those houses were far too good to pull down.

The Transport Group

The Transport Group is still mainly concentrating on the railway lands around Kings Cross, Chalk Farm and St Pancras. We have tried to follow up a list of former bus garages produced by Mr Westgate but it is clear that more research is needed before we can positively identify most sites. Anyone who would like to do research on directories and ratebooks would therefore be very welcome.

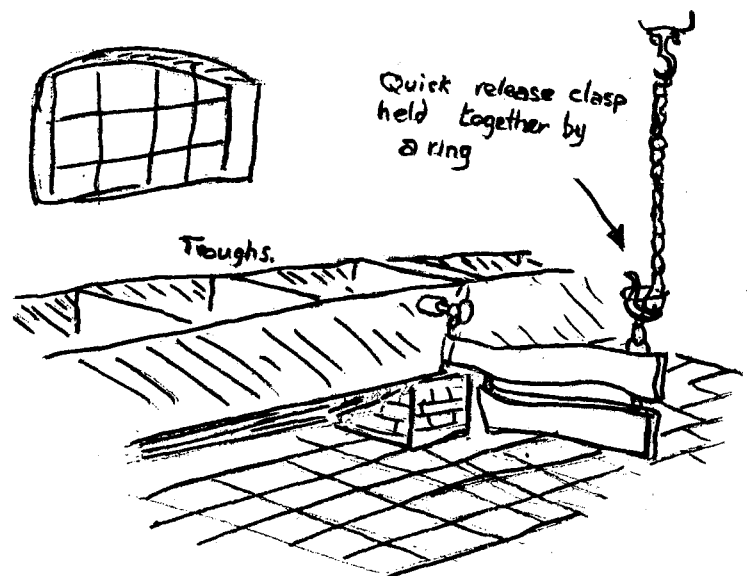
Meanwhile we have been concentrating especially on the LNWR depots around Chalk Farm; because we have found access to them easier than elsewhere rather than

for any other reason of priority. We are still occupied in the long task of obtaining permission for other areas, though some small sections have been covered.

The 'rail-canal' warehouse has been further surveyed, though many smaller buildings have not yet been looked at at all. The problem is that access is only possible during weekday lunchbreaks (rather extended ones). Again any people with spare time then and able to use a tape measure and/or a camera would be very welcome.

On the other side of the North London Line we have taken a look at another of the stables alongside Chalk Farm Road. We had thought it was just another empty building, but were pleasantly surprised when we were led inside. All the troughs, mangers and stall divisions remained, though they are now being stripped out to make way for an extension of the warehousing. It is hoped that London Museum may be able to preserve some of the items. Unfortunately, the troughs have proved to be too heavy and too bulky to find a home for and it is likely they will go for scrap and firewood. Some troughs are wood, some iron, though both quite typical. The stall divisions though, are quite unusual.

They consist of a simple ingenious system consisting basically of 2 boards held in position by chains suspended from the roof beams. Perhaps most interesting was the quick-release clasp which attached the chain to the boards; very simple when seen but almost impossible to draw or describe simply.



Next door we were also surprised to see the Hilton of stables world. Each horse seems to have had its own individual area, big enough for 3 elsewhere, with trough and manger.

We have not been able to check but we assume it was the area for sick horses. On 13 July we visited the old railway works of the Midland Railway between Kentish Town and Gospel Oak. The lathes have gone but the inspection pits and overhead gantry cranes remain. It is hoped to arrange further recording work on other parts of this site and again research into its dates of building and changes of use is needed. This is another of the sites threatened by re-development being proposed by Camden Council.

Finally, one piece of sad news. The horse bus described in the April newsletter attracted too few passengers and has had to become a museum piece, but at least it has been preserved.

John Lawson

Belsize Walk

Sunday, 28 September, 2.30
Guide: Christopher Wade

Assembling in St Peter's Church, Belsize Square, on the site of the old and notorious Belsize House, the party will explore the northern reaches of the district, notably in and around Belsize Lane. There will be stories of the Belsize Pleasure Gardens, Hunter's Lodge, the Hall School (full of girls) and of Lytton Strachey, Jerome K. Jerome and the eccentric Mrs Van der Elst - not to mention a shocking number of murders.

(Recommended Reading: 'More Streets of Hampstead')

SOCIAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

As this may be the last newsletter to appear before the Social History Symposium on 18 October, a booking form is enclosed. It would be appreciated if forms could be returned by 5 September.

ROMAN CAMDEN

Some of you may remember, some years ago, Brian Robertson's interesting talk on Roman Camden given at one of our seminars. This has been printed in the Spring edition of London Archaeologist and can be obtained from our Publications Secretary, Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3, price 25p plus postage and packing.

The article reviews all the available evidence of Roman Camden and suggests some interesting possibilities.

WHAT THE TIMES SAID ABOUT CHR2

What The Times said about CHR2 on 27 May 1975:

Camden History Review. The second issue of this periodical look at aspects of local history in the Camden district of London maintains the standard set by the initial publication. A feature on Edwardian Camden surveys the social scene from transport to suffragettes and from musical Hampstead to an interesting account of Roger Fry's workshops in Fitzroy Square, set up to popularize post-impressionist design in decorative art.

Camden History Society, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3. 75p (postage 9½p).

Cyril Bainbridge

Edited by John Richardson and published by the Camden History Society, St Pancras Library, 100 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AJ.

newsletter

No 32

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

OCT 1975

The Georgian Squares of Bloomsbury – The November event

To mark Heritage Year in Bloomsbury, Sir John Summerson (Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum) and Dr Bruno Schläffenberg will be talking about the Georgian Squares. This promises to be a most interesting conversation between a famous art historian and Camden's Director of Planning and Communications. Holborn Library Hall, Theobald's Road, WC1. 7.30pm 13 November.

Industrial Archaeology Group

Industrial Archaeology Group - Inaugural meeting Tuesday, 21 October 1975, at 7pm at Swiss Cottage Library, NW3 (meetings room)

What is it? How do you do it? Isn't it all a bit...well...difficult? But surely this area is not industrial? That's the sort of question that we expect to be raised - for answers, come along to this informal meeting. There's lots of fascinating stuff to be found in Camden (the Transport Group have shown what can be done after a little search and research) in the sphere of piano-making premises, craft industries, bakeries, and why, how and when the gas works were set up... These are just some of the topics that an industrial archaeology group will look at, with the March "workshop" evening providing an opportunity of publicly showing what we have discovered. This meeting will be chaired by David Thomas whom many members will remember as the enthusiastic young man who led us on a brisk walk along the Regent's Canal on two evenings in July. He is presently active in the Transport Group and in the Greater London Archaeological Society. He will welcome your ideas now but, best of all, your presence at the meeting on 21 October. His address is 4 Heyford Avenue, London, SW8 (735 2132).

Camden History Review No 3

The two previous editions of the Review have been immensely popular. Well designed and printed, they have established very high standards of local history publishing under the general editorship of Christopher Wade. Edition No 3, which takes as its main theme Victorian Camden appears this month price 75p. It has articles about many parts of the Borough, including the St Pancras Workhouse, Hampstead Waterworks and Conservation of Pond Square Highgate. An order form is enclosed with this Newsletter and members are urged to order their copies of this very attractive publication.

WOMEN IN MEDIEVAL LONDON

We are pleased to announce an additional event. This is a joint meeting with the Hampstead & North-West London Branch of the Historical Association, when Caroline Barron, Lecturer in History at Bedford College, will give a lecture on Women in Medieval London at 8pm on Thursday, 11 December at Burgh House, New End Square, NW3.

The Secretary recently received a small supply of leaflets describing the activities of the Historical Association, together with a publications list. A copy will be sent to any interested member on request.

REPRINT OF MEDIEVAL CAMDEN

The first edition of Medieval Camden by Deirdre Le Faye has sold out and we have reprinted it. It is selling at the remarkably cheap price of 30p, plus 6½p postage, and can be obtained from Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3.

Talking to Drivers

John Lawson writes:

During the holiday period the activities of the transport group have been reduced but we have visited another of the buildings on the railway site adjoining Chalk Farm Road. The three storey building was until a few years ago a bonded warehouse used by Gilbeys. The ground floor consists largely of brick arches for barrel storage, forming a huge complex extending beneath part of the goods yard, the railway in this area being built up to first floor level to allow it to cross the nearby Regent's Canal. Part of the building then has a mezzanine floor. At first floor level it is clear that the building was built in at least 2 phases, probably over former sidings, which would account for the extent of the heavy arch construction at ground floor level. The hydraulic lift mechanism is of standard design with chain control, but nevertheless it was interesting to be able to take a close look at it, in these days when such lifts are becoming increasingly rare. One feature we did not understand was that some of the windows not only had bars but also had sliding wooden blinds which could allow part of the store to be blacked out. Does anyone know any reason for this? The roof construction is similar to those on the rest of the Chalk Farm site suggesting that all were renewed about the same time or that the top floor may have been another addition. The roof is now leaking, some of the floors are rotting and there are no lights. However, in the limited time of an extended lunch break we managed a reasonable survey but if time allows we will return even though we didn't find any bottles left; though some labels showing vintages remained in places.

When I handed the keys back at the National Carriers Gatehouse in Oval Road, I started talking to the gateman and some of the drivers. British Railways has for some time been a contracting employer and therefore most of the men are now in their fifties and remember clearly the days when there were LMS chain horses waiting at the foot of most hills around London to help the cart horse up them, when there were best-kept horse competitions and how the depot was operated in the 1920's and 30's, with carts going to most parts of London. Unfortunately I was already about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour late for work and could not spare more time to talk. A few

days later I was able to talk to two people at Shaw & Kilburn on Leighton Rd, and they too were able to remember the inter-war years of road transport. It is clear that there are large numbers of people in Camden, still working in the transport industries who remember quite clearly how they operated in the past and often they know of older people now retired. Most of them are only too pleased to talk of the past, but it takes time and I would therefore like to hear from anyone who would like to do this valuable work or knows of anyone who may remember aspects of Camden's transport history; my address is 31 Earlsmead Rd NW10 5QD (tel. 01 603 4622 ext. 426 [work] 01 969 2529 [home]).

Some more remains of railway stables have been found alongside Purchase St. and some recording done. The Planning Dept. asked for our views on demolition around St Pancras and we suggested that the old Porter (Woolworth) Store alongside the canal should be kept.

We are hoping to arrange visits on Saturday 18 October (before the Social History Symposium) and on Saturday 29 November. We have permission to visit the old engine sheds at Kentish Town, now occupied by J. Murphy & Sons and have asked permission to visit the King's Cross Goods Depot adjoining York Way, which includes the old canalside granary of pre-railway days. Please contact me if you are interested in helping to record either of these sites or any other activities we may manage to organise.

Finally I think anyone interested in bus history in Camden will find the article on Route 24 in the October issue of Buses very interesting.

Photograph Index – in

Christina Gee's indexing group which has done such useful work on the collection of London Transport photographs will next meet at the Swiss Cottage Library (meetings room) at 6pm on Thursday, 6 November 1975. Members who would like to join the group are welcome to do so but it would be appreciated if anyone intending to come would contact Mrs Gee beforehand, so that she can organise the work in advance and arrange an appropriate supply of coffee and biscuits. She is at Keats House, Keats Grove, NW3 (435 2062).

Books for Archaeologists

It's a pleasure to be able to recommend a really readable book on the Ice Ages and our earliest British ancestors. John G. Evans, who used to live in Pond Street when he worked at the Institute of Archaeology in Gordon Square, had written The environment of early man in the British Isles (Elek Books, 1975, £5.00) in which, among other fascinating things, he recreates the astonishing picture of Trafalgar Square filled with hyaena, rhino and hippo during the Ipswichian warm spell 70,000 years ago. The whole book traces the continuing interaction of man, animal, vegetation and climate in an excellently clear manner, and brings it right up to historic times, issuing some challenges for modern man too.

Teach Yourself . . . Modern Archaeology is a most welcome replacement of a badly out-of-date volume in this ubiquitous series. By David Browne (Hodder & Stoughton, £1.50 paperback) it is in general a very clear and absorbing account of archaeology as a modern scientific discipline. Don't let Chapter 1's style put you off - the rest is much better, so just don't worry about sentences like (on p. 4) "The artefact is the lowest level entity that can exist independently in a material culture system, but it is not the elemental archaeological entity." Honestly - archaeology does not have to be like that!

If you haven't already bought Rescue Archaeology ed. Philip Rahtz, (Penguin, 1974, about 90p) do so right away - it is a shattering account of how very rapidly indeed our archaeological heritage is being carted away in lorryloads and buried under factories, offices and housing estates. CHS has recently affiliated itself to RESCUE, the Trust for British Archaeology which gets - and badly needs - the royalties from this absorbing book.

Graham Webster's Practical Archaeology, (A & C Black, 2nd ed. 1974, £3.00) is a revised edition of a standard work; it is a handsome volume for the price but not so comprehensive or forward-looking as David Browne's book mentioned above at half the price.

HOLY TRINITY C of E CENTENARY

Mr Ralph E. F. Wade, a master at Holy Trinity C of E School, College Crescent, NW3, writes:

"My school hopes to celebrate the centenary of being in its present buildings next year, with a carefully produced topic/project on its history. Obviously we possess some of our own records in the form of Log Books etc, but it would greatly help us to establish contacts with old pupils (some famous ones would be nice) and past teachers. People willing to loan old documents and photographs are clearly those we wish to get in touch with. However, anyone with interesting memories of the School would find themselves made welcome. I wonder if an appeal could be made in your Newsletter in the near future to this effect. Any information should be sent to me at the School.

We also wish to produce as part of our celebration a history sheet/booklet and mount an exhibition. Any person with knowledge of the School's early foundation would be valuable to me."

Mr Wade ends his letter with a challenge to the Society to produce a booklet on the history of Hampstead's many schools, "thereby aiding many a harassed teacher asked to take on the organisation of a school project." The Council will be only too pleased to act on this suggestion at the earliest opportunity. Offers of help with research will be welcomed by the Secretary or Christopher Wade, Publications Secretary.

LAMAS CONFERENCE

This Society's 10th Local History Conference will take place in the Livery Hall at Guildhall on Saturday, 15 November 1975. If you wish to join the delegation from the CHS, please contact Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3.

LAMAS has also recently issued a useful list of research and publications 1970-1973, including our own. Ask the Secretary, if you would like a copy.

SIR ROBERT WILLIAM EDIS

In response to an inquiry from Mrs Shirley Neale, Mr Charles Lee writes -

"An outline of the career of Col. Sir Robert Edis is given in Who was who. He was born in Huntingdon on 13 June 1839 and practised as an architect from 1862. He was closely associated with the Artists' Rifles and designed the Drill Hall in Duke's Road in 1888 (this is now The Place). Edis served as a member of Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects and for two years was President of the Architectural Association. Both these bodies have excellent libraries and are the most likely sources of information about his architectural career. He died on 23 June 1927. The columns of The Builder and The Architect are likely sources of obituary notices. In view of his prominence in the Volunteer movement, The Times is also worth consulting. There are various references to Edis in The Artists and the SAS and also (facing p.17) a reproduction of the Spy cartoon. As one of his later major works was the Great Central Hotel, Marylebone (now the headquarters of British Railways), it is probable that British Railway archives may have something about the architect. Also, both the railway and architectural specialist press of the period - the hotel was built in 1899 - are worth consulting."

Further to this, Mrs Neale would welcome "any information about him or buildings he designed in case it is new to me. . . One fact which eludes me so far is how he became an architect. If he was trained, where did this happen? If not, what was the alternative? I gather it was a time when the profession of architect was beginning to establish and it would be interesting to know. Of course, if anybody has personal or family memories of him or about him, I would be delighted to share them and would of course treat them with confidence."

Please write to Mrs Neale at 3 Edis Street, NW1 8LG.

STREET FURNITURE

No, not pavement benches, especially not those mean little sit-up-and-beg ones that have appeared in Camden's open spaces of late. What is currently exercising the CHS Council is the historic lamp-posts, pillar-boxes, bollards and street signs that can still be found here and there in the Borough. The rarity of these makes them survivals to be treasured, and the Planning Department has recognised this by making a list of them (Malcolm Holmes has a copy). But these bits of history, even though now listed and officially protected, still remain vulnerable - lamp-posts and bollards are too often knocked over, metal plaques can come away from their fixings; moreover, since even Borough Council officials are only human, there can be no copper-bottomed guarantee against one of them making a mistake and discarding some rare antique piece, especially if it has been damaged.

So, if you know of an item of historic street furniture, please keep an eye on it, and report any damage as quickly as you can to Malcolm Holmes or the Works Department of the Council. Mr. Grigg of the Works Department has impressed your Council with his evident sincerity in endeavouring to look after these things, but he has many other matters to worry about as well. In the end it is the degree of public concern that determines how well antiquities are looked after - so will you be vigilant about your own area?

Cherry Lavell

INNER LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL UNIT

The Unit has now moved to Camden, its new address being Imex House, 42 Theobald's Road, London, WC1X 8NW. The Society very much regrets that the Unit found it impossible to devote the time of one officer for a year to the preparation of a survey of Camden, as promised in return for the Borough's financial backing. Many members may wish to help the Unit with field-work and research and John Hinchliffe writes that he "will be happy to see CHS members at any time".

HAMPSTEAD PUBLICATIONS

The local history of Hampstead continues to appear in print more than other parts of the Borough.

Seventy Five Years of Popular Science is a record of the Hampstead Scientific Society's activities since its foundation in 1899. The Society is best known for its observatory near Whitestone Pond, the only one in Greater London to which the public has regular access and the recipient of 2,000 visitors during the recent Kohoutek excitement. But members have also made useful contributions to the study of local meteorology, geology and natural history. The booklet, written by C. L. Boltz, is published by the Society and obtainable, price 75p, from the Secretary at 22 Flask Walk, NW3, or from High Hill Bookshop.

James Castleden, Bethel, Hampstead is a summarised version of the life of the local Baptist church's first minister (1778-1854), reprinted from the Baptist Quarterly. It is written by F. Buffard from material collected by C. W. Ikin, Treasurer of the Heath Street Baptist Church. Copies are available, price 20p (postage 6½p), from Mr Ikin at 35 Wildwood Road, NW11.

Hampstead at War is not a new publication but Sydney Arrobus has just presented a copy to our local Street History Group and others may like to know of its existence. (There is also a copy in the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage.) The booklet published by the Council in 1946 (?) lists and illustrates the damage done by the 467 bombs which fell on the Borough during the last war, killing over 200 people and damaging 13,500 houses: it explains why certain streets now have unexpected open spaces or modern intrusions.

C. W.

FRIENDS OF HIGHGATE CEMETERY

A society called "Friends of Highgate Cemetery" held a preliminary meeting on 17 July and is to hold an inaugural meeting on 9 October. Their activities have received a great deal of welcome publicity recently and will not need further reporting here. Members interested in joining or having fuller information should write to: Mrs M Pateman, 5 View Road, London, N6 4DJ.

Dickens at Christmas

We are joining with the Holborn Society on 3 December 1975 for a Dickens evening. Coral Howells, who organised the very successful Christmas entertainment for us at the Embassy Theatre last Christmas, and Malcolm Holmes are being a little mysterious as to what they have in store for us as this Newsletter is being prepared! But come to Holborn Library Hall, Theobald's Road, WC1 by 7.30pm on 3 December and we can guarantee you an enjoyable evening. As the December Newsletter is unlikely to be in time to carry further details, look out for a leaflet in the libraries from about mid-November.

RESIGNATION OF MRS GOSLING.

Mrs Gosling, a founder member of the Society, has resigned from the Council. She will be very much missed. Her knowledge and experience as the librarian of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute have been of enormous value to us. She remains as a member of the Society and we hope that we shall still see a great deal of her.

ISLINGTON HISTORY SOCIETY

This new society has got off to a good start and we wish them well. The Secretary writes that "a very fruitful pilot dig has been completed in Clerkenwell and there are plans for a long term excavation on the site." Their coming events include a lecture on Roman Sites of London by Harvey Sheldon at the Polytechnic of North London, N7, on 16 October.

We hope to plan a joint event with the Society in our next programme year.

NATIONAL TRUST INVITATION

Christopher Wade, our Publications Secretary, will be giving an illustrated talk on the Streets of Hampstead to the Hampstead Branch of the National Trust on Thursday, 6 November 1975. This will be at St Saviour's Church Hall, Eton Road, NW3 (5 minutes' walk from Chalk Farm Station) and a very warm invitation has been extended to CHS members. Coffee will be served after the lecture and there will be a small charge for admission.

A BLOOMSBURY WALK

The Planning Department's two Regent's Canal booklets have now been followed by a third equally attractive one, entitled A Bloomsbury Walk. It is written by Philip Davies, who recently moved from Camden to work for the GLC's Historic Buildings Division. Mr Davies is a Cambridge graduate who has written a number of papers and articles on local history. He is a member of the Society.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to secure a bulk supply for individual distribution to members. The booklet can be seen in the local history collection at Swiss Cottage and any member who particularly wants a copy for himself should write to the Director of Planning and Communications at the Old Town Hall, High Holborn, London, WC1. It's worth a try!

MEMBERSHIP

The enrolment of twelve new members was reported to the Society's Council at its last meeting. Some of them are already at work in the various groups. At this stage, we had regretfully to remove the names of 58 members from our records, as they had omitted to renew their subscriptions this year. Two have already made the omission good and we hope that more will re-join. The chore of annual renewal can be eased by taking out a banker's order or, better still, a deed of covenant; the Treasurer is always pleased to supply the necessary forms.

The new total on 8 September was 478 and by now we are again approaching 500. If you suspect that a friend would be interested to join, the Secretary will gladly send details of the Society's activities.

New members recently enrolled are:
Miss A. E. Sharwood, J. G. Phillips, David Green, Mr & Mrs Hanks, Miss Susan Mitchell, Mr & Mrs Gee, Timothy Coghlan, Mrs B. Clark, Miss M Nasmith, Miss Dorothy Phillips, Paul Hogarth.

LOCAL HISTORY CLASSES

A number of adult education institutes and other colleges have arranged local history classes for the current session. The enrolment date for most has now passed but we understand that there are still vacancies on two interesting courses.

At the Mary Ward Centre, 9 Tavistock Place, WC1, a course on Reading and studying local history documents is held on Wednesdays from 8pm to 10pm. Anyone interested please telephone the Secretary at 387 1816, between 10am and 8pm.

At the Bloomsbury Branch of the Stanhope Institute, 42 Queen Square, WC1, Malcolm Holmes, the Society's Archivist, has commenced his course Bloomsbury: story of 1000 years. The course is made up of talks and visits and is also held on Wednesday evenings between 6.30 and 8.30pm, during the autumn and spring terms only.

HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB EXHIBITION

On 27 October the Lord Mayor of London will open an exhibition called 'Suburb Heritage' at the Henrietta Barnett Junior School, Bigwood Road, NW11. It will portray the early history and architecture of the Hampstead Garden Suburb, the prototype of the Garden Suburb created by Dame Henrietta Barnett, Sir Raymond Unwin and Sir Edward Lutyens. A special feature will be a display of original coloured plans by some of the well-known architects who participated in the design of the early Suburb. These plans, only recently discovered, will be on show for the first time.

The Exhibition is free and will be open from 27 - 31 October, from 2-9 pm; and on 1 November from 10 am to 9 pm.

newsletter

No 33

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

DEC 1975

The December Event - a Dickens evening

Wednesday, 3 December 1975

This event is to be held in the Holborn Library Hall, 32-38 Theobald's Road, WC1. A very full programme has been planned. First of all, John Greaves, Honorary Secretary of the Dickens Fellowship and a most entertaining speaker on Dickens, will give an illustrated talk on the novelist's many Camden associations. This will be followed by an interval when refreshments will be served (small charge) and members have an opportunity of meeting for a chat. To round off the evening, Coral Howells and Malcolm Holmes will present a Dickens entertainment in festive mood.

The committee has planned this event early in the month to avoid a clash with other Christmas activities. We can guarantee you an enjoyable evening.

The January Event - The Treatment of the Poor

"Medical provisions for the sick poor of St Pancras in early days" is the subject Dr W Hartston, FRCP, has chosen for his lecture to the Society at the Swiss Cottage Library on 15 January 1976 at 7.30 pm. We understand from Dr Hartston that topics will include: Medieval medicine and surgery; Diseases and medical standards; Hospital development - monastery infirmary, workhouse infirmary, general hospitals, special hospitals (asylums, smallpox hospital, eye hospital); Development of nursing services; Development of ambulance services; Development of pharmacy. As Dr Hartston says: "That ought to fill the hour!" This is certain to be a memorable lecture from a leading authority on Poor Law.

Help Keep Subscriptions Down!

Jane Ramsay, our Treasurer writes -

At its last meeting, the council were looking for ways to cut down on an estimated £180 bill for Newsletter postage during the coming year. This is a large slice out of our income from subscriptions and we are reluctant to raise the rate at this stage. Would some members be willing to undertake delivery in their own areas? We understand that an organisation delivering to its own members may do so without infringing Post Office regulations.

There are six issues a year and any member willing to help regularly and reliably is asked to contact the Secretary (278 4444 ext 2192).

AN EVENING ABOUT BLOOMSBURY

Sir John Summerson and Dr Bruno Schläffenberg, Camden's Planning Officer, were the speakers on 13 November when the Society met to discuss the present and future of Bloomsbury. Both speakers resisted the view that conservation should necessarily mean preservation except where the existing architecture was of a very high standard. Sir John gave a brief history of Bloomsbury and Dr Schläffenberg outlined the social cost of conservation and expressed the hope that there would be a realistic view of this. There were a great number of stimulating contributions from the floor although at one time it did seem to revolve around opinions of the Brunswick Centre!

However, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we all came away, probably, contemplating viewpoints new to us.

The Streets of West Hampstead

With the splendid support of High Hill Press; we have now completed our trilogy of publications on the streets of Hampstead. As usual, a special offer for members is available (enclosed with this Newsletter) and we can confidently recommend it to all our readers as the ideal Christmas present for themselves and their friends. The cover itself looks like a Christmas card and there are several other old prints and maps among the illustrations. Unlike all previous books on the history of Hampstead, The Streets of West Hampstead deals in some detail with the area west of Finchley Road and, as the introduction assures us, it is a book of revelations. The Hampstead Street History Group is to be congratulated on its sustained effort of researching, reading and writing over the past five years. For the record, the first two volumes have sold a total of about 6,500 copies so far and earned the Society royalties of nearly £500.

Ian Norrie writes:

Publisher-author relationships range from the friendly, through the politely cool, to the chronically cantankerous. Differences can arise over miniscule matters such as the placing of a comma, and angry exchanges are not unknown when a publisher wishes to cut vast chunks of a writer's lovingly assembled typescript.

The incidence of such friction is, I dare say, as common in local enterprises as elsewhere so, for me, one of the great joys of publishing the "Streets" series for the CHS has been the continuing cordiality between High Hill Press and Christopher Wade and his team of researchers. Differences, of course, have arisen but agreement has always been reached after unheated discussion.

When the first typescript of Streets of Hampstead was submitted to me I read it with ever-increasing pleasure and respect, marvelling that so much detailed information had been brought together in so racily readable a form. Although the work of several hands it had a unity of style and a lightness of touch which made it compulsive study.

Many local histories are written by amateurs with little sense of the rhythm of language. They may be diligently researched, accurate and worthy, but reading them is as unrewarding as trying to ride a bicycle over soft sand. The compilers of the "Streets" series are also amateurs in the sense that none of them is a professional author or historian. Christopher Wade, until he elected to retire early, was in an executive position with the BBC's TV Script Unit, Wilfrid Meadows was a bank manager, other members of the team range in occupation from teacher to secretary, solicitor to social worker, housewife to evening class lecturer.

They are also non-professional in the sense that the royalty my company pays for their literary output does not go into their bank accounts but into the Society's, a fact I state to emphasise the disinterested nature of the researchers' involvement.

In June 1972 we were able to publish The Streets of Hampstead, in an edition of 3,000 copies, at 75p to the general public and 60p to members. 2,000 copies were sold by November of that year and the reprint of 2,000, ordered twelve months later, is nearly exhausted. More Streets of Hampstead, which could, at a stretch, and perhaps should, have been entitled Streets of Belsize, appeared in January 1974, two months later than intended because of the industrial disputes of that time. It was priced at £1.00, or rather, under-priced because it was 16 pages longer than its predecessor and cost so much more to produce due to increased printing charges, that its natural price should have been at least £1.25. Nearly two years later it has not recovered, for its publisher, the initial outlay of capital, having sold less than 2,000 copies compared with approximately 4,700 of Streets.

With these daunting figures in mind I first discussed the third in the series with Christopher Wade - The Streets of West Hampstead. The subject seemed less intrinsically appealing, the retail outlets in the area covered were less obvious than in Hampstead and Belsize Park, and printing costs had risen astronomically since More Streets was issued. So, I had to insist on the full colour cover (enjoyed by the first two) being replaced by a black-and-white drawing with one colour border,

and a reduction in the total number of illustrations. It also seemed realistic to reduce the print number which, naturally, affects the retail price, which is £1.50, (£1.25 to members).

Having made these provisos I was still worried about the book's prospects although anxious to complete publication of the Hampstead part of the series.

Worried, that is, until I read the typescript, which begins unencouragingly with a quote from Nikolaus Pevsner - 'West Hampstead need be visited only by those in search of Victorian churches. The houses and streets require no notice.' Devoted admirer as I am of Sir Nikolaus, as I read this third survey, (which we are to publish in late November) I became aware that Christopher's team had done it again. They have made an unlikely subject absorbing, they have done their homework and they have unearthed facts which I hope may lead to Professor Pevsner revising his opinion of West Hampstead - in any case he has generously agreed without prejudice to speak at a launching party for the book.

My own, infinitely less expert, opinion leaves me much admiring of Christopher's team who could surely make readable an account of the streets of such architectural wastelands as Peacehaven or Stevenage New Town. The names of those who have contributed to all three books are, Rosemary George, Shirley Harris, Jenepher Hawkins, Neville Lawson, Wilfrid Meadows, Anthony Moss, Judith Parker, Hilary Rosenthal, Brenda Tyler, Diana & Christopher Wade, and Elizabeth Wall. They should appear on any roll of honour to local historians.

Hampstead Research

Any member interested in taking part in a number of research projects about Hampstead history is invited to join Christopher Wade in the Swiss Cottage Library early next year. Sessions will be from 6 pm - 8 pm on the first Tuesday of each month, i. e. 6 January, 3 February, 2 March, 6 April.

The main activities will be checking on the records of the Parish Churchyard and compiling a chronology of Hampstead history. Other projects may emerge and ideas for individual or group research will be welcome. Needless to say, the organiser has publications in mind.

THE SOCIAL HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

The fourth symposium of the Social History Group was held on Saturday, 18 October, at the Holborn Library Hall. The range of subjects was so wide this year that members of the group had chosen "A miscellany of local history topics" as their title.

Dr Barbara Ely acted as Chairman for the afternoon.

Professor Ruth Bowden spoke first on "Elizabeth Garrett Anderson" and the hospital she founded. Dr Bowden also contributed interesting memorabilia to the exhibition mounted by Anthony Cooper and his helpers.

Joan Morris spoke on "Libraries in Camden" and Joan Warren followed this with "Some furniture makers in the Tottenham Court Road Area (1750-1900)", again with excellent slides.

Leslie Newman and his helpers provided a well-appreciated tea, during which time the audience of 70 had an opportunity to view the exhibition illustrating facets of the papers; and also to read the written contributions. These were: "Hampstead Workhouse 1734-9" by Geoffrey Harris, based on a study of the account books held by the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage; "The Burton Crescent Mystery", an unsolved Victorian crime in Hampstead recounted by Richard Franklin; and "The Southern Shores of Camden" by Isobel Priest, which outlined an historical walk along part of the Camden boundary. Christopher Wade's bookstall did a roaring trade with Camden History Review No. 3, which contains papers presented at last year's Victorian Symposium presented by the Social History Group.

After tea, Irene Ellis gave a paper on "Blue Plaques of Camden", accompanied by slides, and Rosemary Weinstein brought the afternoon to a close with "Early Entertainment in Camden", a history of the pleasure gardens of Hampstead, again with interesting slides and spoken accompaniment by Leslie Newman. The vote of thanks was given by the Mayor of Camden, Bernard Taylor, who was present as an active member of the Society.

We feel sure that everyone present will

echo Margaret C Jones's congratulations to the group. She writes:

Once again I send you very much gratitude for the fascinating and enlightening symposium which I was fortunate to be able to attend at Holborn Library yesterday.

At first glance of the programme four hours felt rather a marathon but I thought I could leave half-way through, if so long on a chair was too much!

It all passed in a flash - each speaker being so immersed in, and knowledgeable about, their subject my concentration never flagged and interest deepened.

Please convey my very many thanks to everyone who worked so very hard to provide such an excellent tea and also the exhibition together with the information about Camden.

A splendid afternoon.

Transport Group Activities

John Lawson writes -

The two main happenings since I wrote to the last Newsletter have been visits to the former Midland engine sheds at Kentish Town and Midland/Great Northern complex at King's Cross. We are also meeting shortly to consider the content of the GLIAS/CHS workshop for 17 March and we would welcome offers of talks, information, ideas, slides etc. from members.

I must correct the statement in October's Newsletter that the King's Cross granary is pre-railway. In fact it was railway built in typical warehouse style with 90,000 sq. ft. available on six floors storing grain in sacks and a system of wooden chutes for moving them around. It is still used for storage of spices in sacks.

We soon discovered that the King's Cross site was too big for a lunch-time survey but Saturday visits are not allowed, so that another lunch-time visit will be organised in January - contact me for details. There is little trace of the canal basins which served the site but many of the buildings are of interesting design. The building reputed to be the former furniture warehouse has its column supported structure exposed along the outer walls giving a good cross section of its iron columns shaped

at the top to fit in with the brick arches which they support. There is an intricate system of gradients and raised rail and roadways which will need further study to determine their previous uses and dates of construction. It was said that the three-storey block next to the Midland Goods Shed and now used as offices, used to be an hotel, presumably before the St Pancras hotel. Does anyone know anything about this?

The Kentish Town Midland sheds off Highgate Road, now occupied by Murphy's, have lost most of their evidence of rail use, extensive areas of concrete having been laid. Most interesting find here was a 1'11½" gauge rail system with some of the small trolleys for it still surviving. Presumably it used to carry ash and spares around the depot, but again any information as to use, extent and any locomotives welcome. For the rest, a few railway signs remained, some of the iron windows were of very decorative design, the outline of a turntable and remains of servicing pits could be seen in the square roundhouse and otherwise the structure was very similar to the works next door, which we recorded a few months ago before its demolition.

Note -

anyone wishing to join John Lawson's busy group can contact him at 01-603 4622 ext. 426 or 01-969 2529.

CENTENARIES

1976 will mark the bi-centenary of Constable's birth and of the American Declaration of Independence. The first event has obvious Camden connections but what about the second? There may be a link in Benjamin Franklin, who stayed in London from 1724-26 and worked with Watts, a printer, 'near Lincoln's Inn Fields'. According to his autobiography, Franklin lodged in "Duke Street, opposite the Romish Chapel". Can anyone tell me if these places were in Camden - or, if not, would anyone like to research into Franklin's movements in London?

P.S. Does anyone know of other centenarries that CHS should be celebrating next year?

Christopher Wade (794 2752)

Letter to the Editor

Dr Joan Schwitzer writes:-

I should like to add three footnotes to Camden History Review 3

First, in the interesting article on early Victorian treatment of paupers in St Pancras, reference is made to the workhouse school and its alleged inadequacies, and to the state of poor children's education generally. Far from being "almost non-existent", national education though voluntary and sponsored almost entirely by religious groups was widespread and was being actively promoted and directed by the government department responsible, which was especially concerned with devising a suitable training for destitute children. The introduction of 'Common Things' into the curriculum in St Pancras was part of this movement, an attempt to make schooling less bookish and more realistic by teaching a mixture of what we would call general science and domestic economy. 'The Science of Common Things' was encouraged nationally by various prize schemes, including one financed by Miss Burdett-Coutts; Dickens's support for his Highgate friend and patron's effort through the popular paper he edited, Household words, is shown in Philip Collins's book, Dickens in Education (1963). The whole subject is dealt with in David Layton's Science for the people (1973).

Secondly, with regard to my article on Pond Square, I regret an error about the origin of the Public Works Loan Commission. This was not in 1866 when, as stated, the Labouring Classes' Dwellings Act was passed, which empowered the Commission to give loans to local authorities and other bodies (such as those described) to build or renovate houses for the poor, but 1817; this was to relieve distress after the Napoleonic Wars, Parliament voting a large sum to the Commission. I am grateful to a fellow-member of the CHS who brought this to my attention.

Thirdly, will you also allow me to point out to your readers the transposition of eight lines to the top of the first column on page 9 which should have appeared at the top of the second column.

Anyone in Mid-Camden?

Our publications are now distributed to outlets round the Borough with the help of a number of members. Pamela Maas covers Bloomsbury, Barbara Ely the north and west, Elizabeth Cunnington and Hilda Pallan the north and east. Each keeps local bookshops and newsagents stocked up with Reviews and Mediaeval Camden and looks in on libraries and other places where posters and leaflets can be displayed. Their active assistance has already shown impressive results on our sales chart. Our distribution map, however, has a big gap in the middle of Camden. Can any member lend a hand (and foot) in the area between Camden Road / Parkway and Euston Road? If so, please contact our Publications Secretary (794 2752).

Anyone interested in helping with our promotional activities will be most welcome at a Publications Party at Swiss Cottage Library (Meetings Room) on Tuesday, 20 January 1976, 7.30-9 pm. Local history publications will be displayed and discussed, publicity will be planned, possibly envelopes addressed and certainly coffee and biscuits consumed.

PEVSNER REVISED

Bridget Cherry writes from Penguin Books to say that she is preparing revised editions of the volumes on London: except the cities of London and Westminster and Middlesex in "The Buildings of England" series by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner. She would be grateful to have from members "any corrections and suggestions for additions" to these volumes. She knows of the Society's publications but is interested in "unpublished details on architects and dates of notable buildings" in Camden. She adds: "I know that this kind of detail is often common knowledge to local people but may not have appeared in print in any very accessible place. If any of your members should care to send me brief notes about such information, preferably with details of sources, we would be most grateful. I would also be grateful to have notes on any buildings mentioned in the book which may have been demolished." Mrs Cherry also adds that the intention of the new volumes is to cover the whole of the present GLC area. Please write to her at Penguin Books Ltd. 12 Bloomsbury Square, London, WC1.

'THE MARCH TO FINCHLEY'

J. G. B. Swinley, Director and Secretary of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, has written this follow-up to his contribution to CHR - 3:

"The March to Finchley"

We were recently visited by Professor Arthur H. Cash of the State University of New York. He was really searching for material on Laurence Sterne, but was interested in "The March to Finchley". The following is an extract from a letter he has written me.

'In "The March to Finchley", the boxers must represent the boxing booth of George Taylor, or his successors which was in Tottenham Court Road. John Broughton (1705-1789) cannot logically be one of them, for he left Taylor's in 1742 to set up his own boxing theatre in Hanway Street, Oxford Road. But I suspect Hogarth intended the viewer to read Broughton into the picture anyway because of his connection with the Duke of Cumberland.

Broughton, often called "the father of British boxing" was patronized, at Taylor's and in his own theatre, by the social elite, especially Cumberland, who got him a place in the Yeomen of the Guard which he kept until his death. Undefeated for many years, he became by popular acclaim, the first "champion". But in 1750 he was defeated by Slack, the "Norfolk butcher", in a fight in which Slack first blinded and then defeated Broughton. Cumberland was rumoured to have lost £10,000 on the fight. Broughton stopped fighting, but went on as a proprietor of fights. Whether he was guilty of putting on those terrible gladiatorial contests where men fought with sharp swords and cut or maimed one another (described by Hugh Phillips), I don't know.

My information comes from easy sources - the DNB on Broughton and Hugh Phillips, Mid-Georgian London, 1964, pp. 227-9.'

WINTER COURSE FOR YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS

With the winter issue of Rescue News (a copy may be seen in the Local History Library at Swiss Cottage) comes news of a Conference for Young Archaeologists at King's College Cambridge from 4 pm on Friday 12 December to Monday morning

15 December. Saturday and Sunday will be devoted to four main themes - Directions in current field research; the EEC in Antiquity; Archaeology in transition; and, The profession. Further information can be obtained from Keith Ray, Hon. Secretary, CYA, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Rescue has now moved from Worcester to 15a Bull Plain, Hertford (Hertford.58170).

MEMBERSHIP

The membership total is back above the 500 mark - to 508. New members include:

St Richard of Chichester School,
Miss E. Abbott, Mr and Mrs R. Airey,
Mrs Margot Benson, Mrs M. Boyd,
G.A. Browning, Dr Janet Carruthers,
Mr and Mrs T. Chalmers, Mr and Mrs
B. Copley, Miss V. Gordon-Smith,
Miss F. Houser, Miss C. Hughes,
Mr and Mrs G. Jacobs, Miss B. Kinsley,
Miss M. Luckin, Miss C. Mernick,
Mr and Mrs L. Neill, Miss A. Picot, Mrs
E. Rea, Mr Bert Ross, Miss J. Speake,
Mrs I. Watson.

THE LONDON KILN SEMINAR 1976

The London Kiln Study Group is a newly-formed body which came into existence in March 1975. Its members are drawn from local archaeological societies of the Fulham, Woolwich, Southwark and Lambeth areas. Its aim is to encourage the archaeology and documentary research of pottery kilns.

In view of the many kilns discovered and excavated in the London area in recent years, the group felt the time was ripe for a seminar to exchange ideas and information on the structure and technology of kilns from "Roman to Recent".

Leading experts in this field will be discussing kilns such as Highgate Wood, in the Roman period; Kingston, Earlswood, Cheam and Pinner, in the medieval period; and Fulham, Lambeth, Woolwich and Brentford, in the post-medieval period.

This seminar, entitled "London Kilns", will be held on Saturday and Sunday, 24th-25th April 1976, at University College, Gower Street, London, WC1. For further information send a s.a.e. to: The Secretary, The Kiln Seminar, c/o The Cuming Museum, Newington District Library, 155 Walworth Road, London, SE17.