

newsletter

No 34

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

FEB 1976

The Track to the Top of the Hill - a talk on the Highgate Cable Tramway

The Tramway, one of the most unusual transport experiments in London, is a subject of great interest to residents and transport enthusiasts and Mr Lee has dug out a wealth of new material.



Members who know Mr Charles Lee, the noted transport historian and founder member of this Society, will know that his talk on 30 March on the Highgate Cable Tramway will be authoritative, well researched and witty. This is a joint event with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute, but in addition interested people from the Highgate Society, the Islington History Society, and Hornsey Society, have been invited. Short of Highgate being enveloped in fog that evening a large attendance is anticipated and we have kindly been given permission to use the large hall of Dyne House, Highgate School, Southwood Lane, N6. It starts at 8.15 pm.

West Hampstead Streets - the February Event

Thursday, 19 February, 7.30 pm, Swiss Cottage Library, NW3.

This will be an armchair tour of West Hampstead conducted by three members of our Hampstead Street History Group: Shirley Harris, Anthony Moss and Christopher Wade.

They will be recalling their researches for our latest publication The Streets of West Hampstead and illustrating the history of the area with a large number of slides.

To coincide with this event, there will be

an exhibition of West Hampstead prints, photographs and watercolours in the Swiss Cottage Lending Library. Mounted with the help of the Local History Librarian, the exhibition will run from 10-28 February.

Camden Centenaries

Several members have kindly replied to my query about Benjamin Franklin and have helped to prove that he actually lived and worked within our borough boundaries. Anthony Cooper's reply is published below. I hope to quote from the other pieces in our next Review but would like to add some further details of Franklin's life in London. What were his impressions of Holborn at the time? Have we a member or friend from America and/or Holborn, who would volunteer to do some research?

This year will also be the bi-centenary of the death of John Harrison, inventor of the marine chronometer which made navigation safe. He has a fine tomb in the shadow of Hampstead Parish Church and a blue plaque on the site of his house in Red Lion Square. If anyone has special knowledge of his local connections or why he was buried at Hampstead, I would be glad to hear from them soonest.

A curious centenary-and-a-half should be explored, too. The St Pancras Book of Dates says that in 1826 the Kings Cross Cinder Heap was sold to Russia and used in the foundations of the rebuilding of Moscow. Will somebody please write this up for our next Camden History Review?

Christopher (794-2752) Wade

MEMBERSHIP

We are sad to report the death of two members, Miss Joan M Turner and Mr P E Gilroy.

We welcome the following new members:-

University College School, Mrs Vivien G Binn, Miss Catherine Brighty, Miss Fay Castles, Mrs Myfanwy Clapham, Luigi Denza, Miss P Early, A E Ecclestone, Mrs Marjorie Elkins, Lady M E Holder, Miss Theo Laurie, Martin J Lawless, Colin A Morgan, A J W Nicholls, Mr & Mrs J A Pearce, Dr D M Grant, Mrs F Rea, D M Rothwell, Dudley Scholte, Leslie Stokes, David R A Thomson, David Tierney, Miss M Van Reenen, Leslie H Willis, Mrs Yolande Wright

Camden's Industrial Archaeology - a March Event

Our energetic Transport Group, under the leadership of John Lawson, and the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society, are holding a joint workshop evening on 17 March, at 7.30 pm at Swiss Cottage Library.

A number of Camden topics will be covered. Anthony Cooper will be telling us more about the Piano factory in Fitzroy Road and about the actual processes of manufacture. There will be a survey of the various transport sites that have been studied in Camden, and in particular the Camden stables complex built to house horses for the nearby freight yards. There will also be a quick tour of other pieces of heritage - workshops, bakeries, pubs, cinemas, breweries etc. All the aspects will be illustrated and have display material.

BLUE PLAQUES OF BLOOMSBURY

Publications Secretary will be glad to hear from anyone interested in helping to compile a booklet about the blue plaques of southern-Camden - mainly in Bloomsbury. There is a complete list of these at the back of the latest Review. The group's main activity will be researching into the lives of the plaqueworthy people and especially into their local connections and achievements.

MAILERS WANTED

There will be a further mailing party on Monday, 23 February at 7.30 pm at 28 Willoughby Road, Hampstead, NW3. Anyone who can wield a pen and would like to help spread the word about our publications will be most welcome. Please ring Publications Secretary (794-2752) to say if you can come and to tell him how you like your coffee.

THEATRE GROUP GETS UNDER WAY

John Adrian's group of members studying the history of Camden theatres got under way properly on January 20th. At the moment they are restricting their researches to five theatres only. Any other members who feel that they would like to be involved should contact him during the day at 388 0031.

'THE MARCH TO FINCHLEY'

Mr Richard Graham of 4 Sudbury Croft, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 2QW, writes:

I read with interest in your third issue the account of "Hogarth and The March to Finchley." Number xvii of The North Briton (Saturday 25 September 1762) was devoted to an attack on Hogarth, in the course of which the following was written.

'When a man of parts dedicates his talents to the service of his country, he deserves the highest rewards; when he makes them subservient to base purposes, he merits execration and punishment. Among the Spartans, music and poetry were made to serve the noblest ends of the Lacedemonian state. A manly courage and great contempt of death were inspired by them, and the poet, musician, soldier, and patriot were often the same good citizen, who despised the low mechanic lucre of the profession, and was zealous only for the glory of his country. In the year 1746, when the Guards were ordered to march to Finchley, on the most important service they could be employed in, the extinguishing a Scottish Rebellion, which threatened the intire ruin of the illustrious family on the throne, and, in consequence, of our liberties, Mr Hogarth came out with a print to make them ridiculous to their countrymen and to all Europe; or perhaps it rather was to tell the Scots in his way how little the Guards were to be feared, and that they might safely advance. That the ridicule might not stop here, and that it might be as offensive as possible to his own Sovereign, he dedicated the print to the king of Pru[s]ia* as an encourager of arts. Is this patriotism! In old Rome, or in any of the Grecian states, he would have been published as a profligate citizen, totally devoid of all principle. In England he is rewarded, and made Serjeant painter to that very king's grandson. I think the term means the same as what is vulgarly called house-painter; and indeed he has not been suffered to caricature the royal family. The post of portrait painter is given to a Scotsman, one Ramsay. Mr Hogarth is only to paint the wainscot of the rooms, or in the phrase of the art, may be called their panel-painter.'

'*This is the orthography of Mr Hogarth. See the Print.'

The occasion of this attack was Hogarth's The Times, containing unfavourable portraiture of William Pitt and his brother-in-law Earl Temple, both political patrons of John Wilkes.

Subscriptions

The Treasurer wishes to remind you that subscriptions are due on 1st March (unless you joined the Society on or after 1st October 1975). Renewal forms are enclosed with this Newsletter. Payment by Banker's Order is a great help to the Society and forms for this purpose are also provided. If you are a tax-payer and are willing to sign a Deed of Covenant, the Society can claim back from the Inland Revenue, at the present rate of tax, 75 pence on every £1.50 subscription.

HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Members may be interested to hear that the proposed purchase of Highgate Cemetery has now been taken a stage further. The Greater London Council (General Powers) Bill 1975 has now been laid before Parliament and a major part of this relates to Camden Council and Highgate Cemetery. (Cost 45p from GLC bookshop and agents).

Certain powers to be granted to the Council have raised some concern, particularly by members of The Friends of Highgate Cemetery who are interested in all aspects of the Cemetery's history, architecture and environment. For those interested in the future of the Cemetery, membership of this organisation is recommended - minimum subscription is £1 and the Secretary is Mrs Jean Pateman, 5 View Road, London N6 4DJ, (telephone 01-348 0808). A copy of the Bill is available for reference at the Local History Collection, Swiss Cottage Library.

Malcolm Holmes

CARING FOR HISTORIC CHURCHES

Members may like to know that the Hampstead Centre of The National Trust have invited us to their lecture on March 18th at 8 pm on 'Caring for Historic Churches.' The talk will be given by Peter Burman F. S. A. and is at St Saviour's Hall, Eton Road.

Benjamin Franklin

In answer to Christopher Wade's query about Benjamin Franklin, the index to Rocque's in 1746 map gives nine Duke Streets, but only one of these contains a chapel. This is the Duke Street which was a continuation north-eastwards of the present Kemble Street and turned into the west side of Lincoln's Inn Fields. About the end of the 19th century it was renamed Sardinia Street, after the Sardinian Chapel which was near the Lincoln's Inn Fields end. This street seems a likely place for Franklin to live, as he worked only two turnings away. George Clinch (Bloomsbury and St Giles's 1890, p. 36) says 'Franklin... was employed in the printing-office of Mr Watts, which was on the south side of Wild Court, a turning out of Great Wild Street...'. Wild Court still exists though with no buildings of Franklin's time, but Sardinia Street was swept away in the construction of Kingsway, and the name was given to the short entrance to the south west corner of Lincoln's Inn Fields, formerly Bear Yard.

Walter Besant (The Fascination of London, Holborn, 1903, p. 29, written when Kingsway was about to be built) says of the chapel 'It was built in 1648... the exterior is singularly plain. Sardinia Street communicates with Lincoln's Inn Fields by a heavy and quaint archway'.

I think it is reasonable to locate Franklin's lodging somewhere on the east side of Kingsway, in a spot which together with the printing office was then in St Giles's and is now in Camden.

Anthony Cooper

The Rev. Gordon Taylor has also written to us about Benjamin Franklin and Christopher Wade hopes to include this in a longer piece about Franklin in Camden History Review No. 4.

BEYOND THE CAMDEN FRINGE

Members interested in the history of elementary education in general and of North London in particular will welcome a new booklet 'Taught With Care' celebrating a century of St John's School, Whetstone. The author is Cyril Bainbridge, who as reviewer of local history publications for 'The Times' has on several occasions given benevolent recognition to our own Society's output. Now the roles are reversed and we can compliment Mr Bainbridge on his readable account of the school's growth in an area which has changed from rural community to industrial dormitory, subsequently being swallowed up in London's suburban sprawl. Copies of the 22-page illustrated booklet are available, price 40 pence each, from the school at Swan Lane, Whetstone, London, N. 20.

C.W.

75 YEARS ON

The Hampstead Humanist Society was 75 years old last year. Originally called the Hampstead Ethical Institute it met at a number of places since disappeared such as the Hampstead Conservatoire, Swiss Cottage, the Studio Theatre, 59 Finchley Road. At one time, in 1905/6, the number of societies affiliated to the Union of Ethical Societies was 26. Of these only two remain - the South Place Ethical Society and Hampstead.

WHAT IS THAT PICTURE?

A number of members have asked about the illustration on the membership application form of the CHS. It was taken from a watercolour in the Heal Collection at Swiss Cottage Library and shows tile kilns at Battle Bridge (now King's Cross). Many fields in the locality were also used for brick making, the bricks often being used in local estates and the resultant pits were often filled with a variety of rubbish and other spoil.

Malcolm Holmes
Local History Librarian

newsletter

No 35

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

APR 1976

Story of a Family Engineering Firm – The April Lecture

Engineering in Euston 1825-1960 is the title of a lecture to be given by Rex Wailes, OBE, FSA, FIMEchE, FFSA at St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street, off Eversholt Street, NW1 (near Euston Station) on Thursday, 22 April 1976 at 7.30 pm.

In 1825 Charles Rich started in business as an engineer, millwright and founder at 10 Palace Row, New Road, later to become 258 Euston Road. From 1855 to 1906 the business was carried on by George Wailes, moving on his retirement to 386 Euston Road and closing in 1960 when the road was widened and redeveloped. The range of work covered a large number of firms in Camden as well as elsewhere and was surprisingly varied, including some important inventions and ranging from scale models to heavy machines. Our speaker, Mr Rex Wailes, is a grandson of George and was the last Managing Director of the business. He is widely known as the historian of the windmill, and has produced many authoritative books and papers on that subject. For fifty years he has been a member of the Newcomen Society and served as President in 1953-55. Since the closure of his firm, he has contributed extensively to the work of industrial archaeology, and has enhanced a deserved reputation for conveying in interesting manner the essentials of early mechanical engineering to non-technical audiences. This is our first lecture at the St Pancras Church House, easily accessible by public transport - don't miss this unique event!

Constable and Hampstead – June Lecture

An illustrated lecture entitled "Constable and Hampstead" will be given by Lindsay Stainton, Assistant Curator of the Iveagh Bequest, Kenwood House, at the new theatre of University College School, Frognal, NW3, on Friday 11 June, at 7.30 pm.

This is a joint event with the Hampstead Centre of the National Trust. The speaker has made a special study of Constable's Hampstead work and should fill in some gaps about this side of the painter's art which are evident in the present Suffolk-sided exhibition at the Tate.

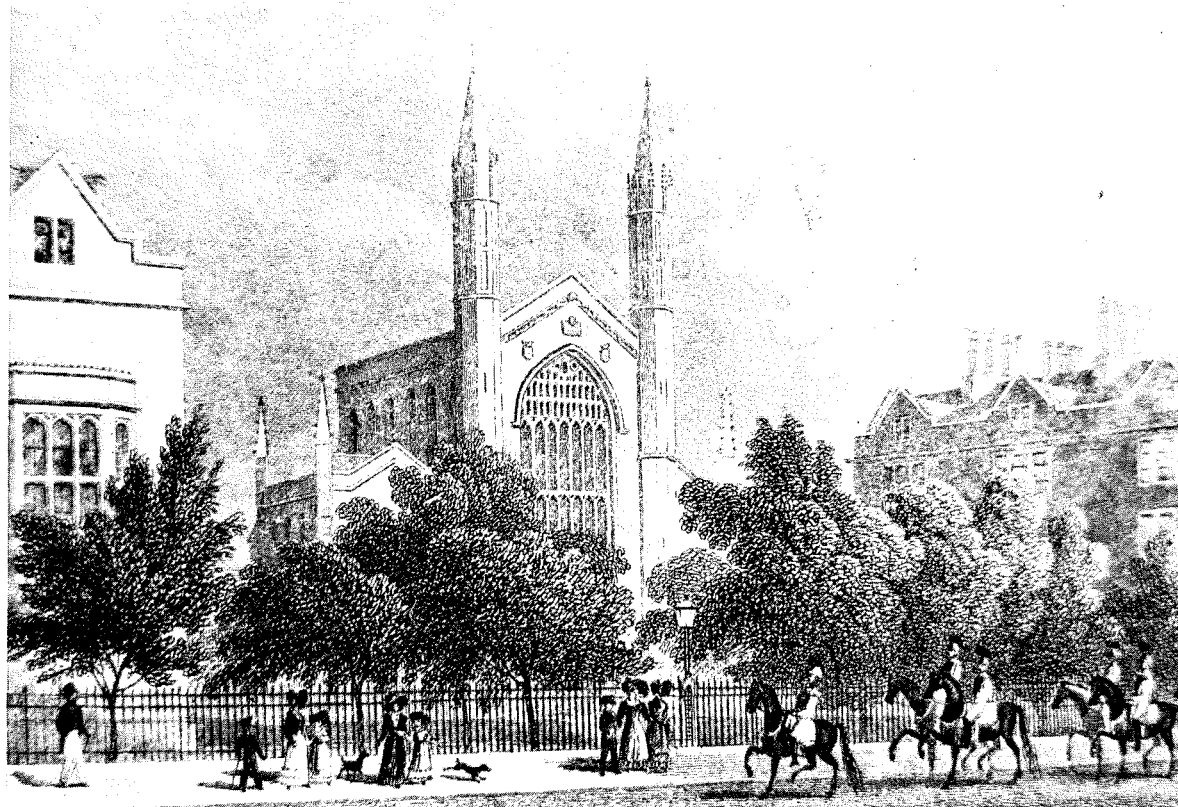
After the lecture members of the audience who wish to do so can join in a walk up the hill to Constable's tomb.

On the Saturday and Sunday following there are plans for an art exhibition, poetry recital, Constable walks and Graveyard walks, all centred on the Parish Church. Further details will be given in the "Ham and High"

Watch out also for a booklet on Constable and Hampstead which should be in bookshops and newsagents any moment now. It has been specially compiled for the bicentenary celebrations by Camden History Publications and is being sold in aid of the tomb restoration fund.

All Constable-lovers are urged to help the restoration work by sending donations to the John Constable Fund, c/o Hampstead and Highgate Express, Perrin's Court, Hampstead, London, NW3.

Annual General Meeting



By courtesy of the Rev Poul-Erik Fabricius, this year's A G M is to be held in the beautiful and historic setting of S. Katharine's, Regent's Park, on the evening of 13 May.

The Hospital of Saint Katharine moved to Regent's Park in 1829 but its history in the East End goes back to 1148. Some medieval and renaissance relics can still be seen in the Church. In 1952 the Church was consecrated to

the Danish Lutheran faith.

The business meeting at 6.30 pm will be followed by refreshments (small charge) and a lecture by Prebendary Henry Cooper who, until he came to Bloomsbury seven years ago, was Master of the Royal Foundation of Saint Katharine, the successor the Royal Hospital. Mr Fabricius will add a postscript on the Danish Church.

Archaeologists Forward

Irene Schwab of the Inner London Archaeological Unit is seeking volunteers to help in rescue digs from now until the end of the year. Would anyone interested please contact her at 242 6620.

There is also a training excavation to be run in Southwark in the first half of August. Further details can be obtained from Archaeology Vacation Courses Officer, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University of London, Room 8, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AD.

CAMDEN CIVIC SOCIETY

The Secretary now has an up-to-date list of the officers of the Camden Civic Society. This can be seen by any member wishing to contact the Society.

FESTIVAL TIME

Would you like to join in your local neighbourhood festival and help run a CHS stall? It would be a sort of bookstall-cum exhibition-cum information desk for a few hours on a Saturday afternoon. Provisional dates are 5 June Fitzrovia; 12 June Falkland Fair and Mansfield; 2-4 July Queen Square and Somers Town; 3-11 July West Hampstead; 3 July King's Cross; 10 July Bloomsbury; 17 July Albert Street NW1; 24 & 25 July Winchester Fair; 28 & 29 August Covent Garden; 4 September Gayton; 11 September Belsize.

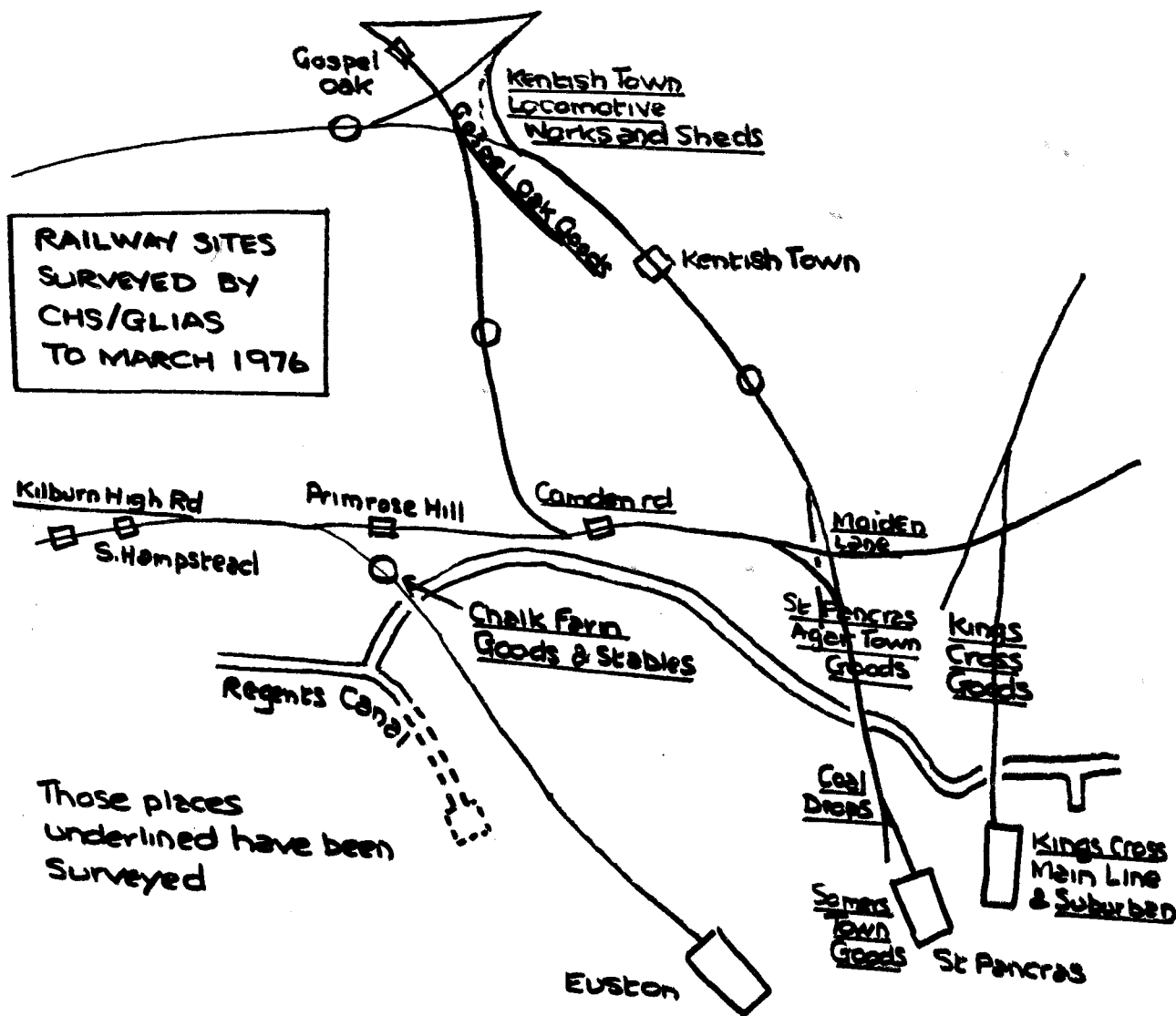
Please contact Christopher Wade if you can cover any of these.

Transport Group

Recent meetings and activities have been devoted to preparation for the joint workshop evening on 17 March with the Greater London Archaeological Society. It was necessary to collect together slides, drawings and photographs and select suitable ones for display. At our next indoor meeting on 28 April (6.30 pm at 31 Earlsmead Road, NW10) we shall be looking at them again to consider which of them should be copied for deposit with the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage Library. If you have any photographs etc of any Camden transport subjects, John Lawson (969 2529 or 603 4622 - office) will be pleased to know. We will also have to consider how best to catalogue the items deposited and decide how and when to fill the gaps.

It was suggested at the workshop evening that it was time to publish a summary of the sites we have so far covered. The sketch map shows the sites which have received some coverage. Some of them have been extensively photographed, measured and drawn, but only the stables block off Chalk Farm Road has had more documentary research than the reading of published material. For anyone with time to spare, especially during weekdays, there is therefore plenty of documentary research to be undertaken.

We intend to take a look at further parts of the extensive King's Cross Goods Depot on Friday 9 April. Meet at 12.30 pm at York Way entrance or the administration block.



BRICKFIELDS

Hugh S Pocock writes - Your reference to the King's Cross cinder heap and Malcolm Holmes's note, both in the February newsletter prompts me to send you an extract from the will of John Thomas Pocock dated 4 January 1827. It is a long will with references to much property in London and Middlesex.

"All that my freehold estate situate lying and being in the parish of St Mary Islington now in my own occupation and in part used as a brickfield with the six messuages and stabling thereon and which estate lies on both sides of the Battle Bridge and Holloway Road".

This would seem to be the area in the illustration on the membership application form of the CHS.

John Thomas Pocock, citizen and stationer, was a prosperous coal merchant of St Brides Wharf where he also had a dwelling house and a "country house" in Greville Place. The house was No 6 at that time but is now numbered 18 and is well preserved.

There is an account of Battle Bridge in Old and new London, volume II, page 278, to which Lady Holder, a new member, has drawn my attention.

NEW LAMAS PUBLICATION

Members can see a copy of The archaeology of the London area: current knowledge and problems in the Local History Library at Swiss Cottage. This is a Special Paper No. 1 recently published by the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. It will be reviewed in our next newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP

There are now 582 members. Recent enrolments include two schools (North Bridge House School and South Hampstead High School), Mrs Miriam Alman, Dr M Alpert, Miss Charlotte Anderson, Mrs P Braun, Miss Dinah Brook, Mr Graham Collins, Mr & Mrs Peter Demos, Dr J R Fairhurst, Miss Adelaide Harris, Miss Pat A Hendra, Mr D G Pitt, Miss Jean Pontefract, Miss Joan Quinn, Mr & Mrs T J Rider, Mr & Mrs W W Salinger, Mr & Mrs Peter Stadlen, Mrs M J Tringham, Mrs Jean Tsushima, Mrs J E Wigley, Mr & Mrs W H Wilcox, and Dr P M E Youngman.

WHITE STONE

John Dizer writes - I have greatly enjoyed exploring Hampstead with the help of your booklet The Streets of Hampstead. About a month ago, my mother unearthed from our family archives a letter from my Grandfather to the Evening news of 30 December 1924. He refers to the face of the White Stone which has 'IV Miles from Giles Pound' on it. He asks, "Where was Gile's Pound, and why was it so important? Even the head keeper could not tell me, though he know the stone well".

The only reply he apparently received was an anonymous one, reading "Don't worry about Giles Pound but Read your Bible, it is far more important".

In The streets of Hampstead only the side which has on it $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Holborn Bars' is mentioned. Now, both faces of the stone are so weathered that it seems just possible that, although it is still just legible, the Giles Pound side may soon be forgotten.

Grave Survey

A Hampstead Graveyard Group has been formed from among our members to survey the tombstones in the Parish Churchyard. After a number of meetings, we have settled down to checking and recording the inscriptions on the stones, many of which are wearing away fast. Among the many famous graves in this churchyard, those of John Constable and John Harrison have bicentenary interest this year. Many others are offering local history and genealogical interest.

Christopher Wade

WHISTLING STONE ON HEATH

Christopher Ikin has drawn our attention to a reference by Antony D Hippisley Coxe in his Haunted Britain (Pan Books) to a stone on Hampstead Heath "which whistles at the place where a highwayman was killed". Mr Ikin can find no reference to such a stone in any of the Hampstead histories and wonders whether any other member knows the source of the story.

Book Reviews

The Growth of London is the title of a series of six packs being produced by the Media Resources Centre in co-operation with the Greater London Record Office.

The packs are a series of source units for teachers and pupils containing facsimiles of maps, documents and other material relating to the growth and development of London as a great city. Broadsheets for both teachers and pupils give further background information and reference is made to relevant material to be found elsewhere (including an extensive bibliography). Full transcriptions of the more difficult documentary items are given and sets of work cards are included which are based on the information contained in each pack. Age 12 upwards.

The following are now available:-

Sixteenth Century: The Beginning of
Expansion
Seventeenth Century: Beyond the Walls
Eighteenth Century: Flowering of a City
Price for each pack: £1.50 (ILEA
customers)
£2.25 (Non-ILEA
customers)

Available from:-

Greater London (Cash and cheque
Record Office orders only.
London Records Cheques should be
Room B21 made payable to
The County Hall the Greater London
London SE1 7PB Council)

Inner London Education
Authority (ILEA orders only)
Media Resources Centre
Highbury Station Road
Islington
London N1 1SB

"London's Tramway Subway" by
C S Dunbar. 26p 8½ in x 5½ in.
Light Railway Transport League.
Copies from the Publications Officer,
13a The Precinct, Broxbourne, Herts,
EN10 7HY. Price 30p.

By reason of its proximity to the
Cities of London and Westminster, the
southern part of Camden has been
associated with many transport
developments, and this interesting

booklet records and illustrates the
story of the Kingsway Subway, the
only tramway subway ever constructed
in the London area. The author is well
qualified for his task, as he is a lead-
ing tramway historian and a former
editor of transport journals. He out-
lines the need to connect the northern
and southern systems of the London
County Council, and the difficulty of
securing the necessary powers.
Eventually the tunnel was built, but
only for single-deck cars, and was
opened from Aldwych to Southampton
Row on 24 February 1906. Together
with the electrified horse tramway
along Theobalds Road, and a new
line from Holborn Hall to the Angel, this
enabled an electric service to be estab-
lished, the first in north London of the
LCC system. Mr Dunbar describes the
vehicles and route changes, which were
numerous after the subway was opened to
the Embankment on 10 April 1908. The
work of enlarging the subway to take
double-deck cars was begun on 11 Septem-
ber 1929, necessitating the closure from
3 February 1930 to the reopening as en-
larged on 15 January 1931. With the
abandonment of tramways in London, under
London Transport auspices, the last car
ran through the subway on 5 April 1952.

It is a worth-while story, well told, and
by an author who pays great attention to
accurate detail. In addition, there is
an article entitled "Subway Memories"
by J H Price, another well-known trans-
port enthusiast who had done much for
preservation of vehicles, records, and
details of tramway history. A further
contribution, by B G Wilson, outlines
unfulfilled subway proposals for the London
area. The booklet is a valuable contribu-
tion to local history which is worthy of
commendation.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Subscription reminders are enclosed
for those members who have not renewed
following our note in the last news-
letter.

Regretfully, because of the high cost
of postage, we shall not be able to
send newsletters after the present
one to those members who do not re-
new. The chore of annual renewal can
be eliminated by completing a banker's
order or better still, a deed of
covenant.

THE CORAM FOUNDATION

Seeing a copy of the Annual Report 1974/1975 of the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children prompts us to remind members of the fact that the art gallery and museum at 40 Brunswick Square, WC1, are open from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday. There are some very fine pictures by Hogarth, Gainsborough, Reynolds etc. there, as well as a collection of most interesting historical mementoes.

PIANO FACTORY, NW1

At the time of writing, the result of the Public Inquiry last October into the future of the old piano factory in Fitzroy Road, Chalk Farm, has not been published. But even if the building is not pulled down, it will be considerably altered.

I undertook to provide record drawings of the building for the Camden History Society and have made a survey but am having difficulty in finishing. I now have 3½ nearly complete drawings out of six. Would anyone with a draughting skill like to take on a drawing? The work involved would be tracing from my roughs. Anthony Cooper (722 7063)

HOGARTH AND WILKES

Jim Swinley, Director and Secretary of the Thomas Coram Foundation writes - I was very interested in Mr Richard Graham's letter and the extract from The North Briton containing the attack on Hogarth by Wilkes. Both were Governors of the Foundling Hospital. After their quarrel arose, they ceased to attend Governors' meetings "as if each were afraid of meeting the other, even on the most benevolent ground". While Hogarth's connection with the Hospital was entirely beneficial, Wilkes seems to have misapplied some of the funds for the branch Hospital at Aylesbury! Of the other people mentioned in Mr Graham's letter, Allan Ramsay was also a Governor and his portrait of the famous Dr Mead (who lived on the site of the Hospital for Sick Children) is in our possession. I cannot find William Pitt's name in our records, but Earl Temple was elected in 1758. To round the matter off, Mr Richard Graham of Prince's Court, Westminster, was made a Governor on May 12th, 1742.



The Piano Factory, Fitzroy Road, N.W.1.

newsletter

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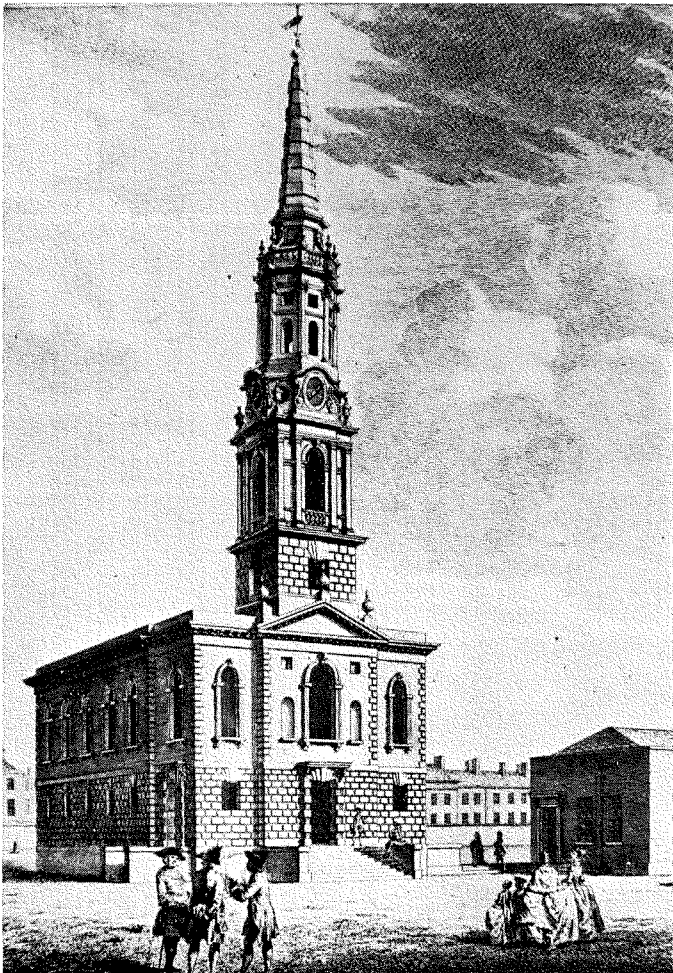
JUN 1976

July Event

15 July 1976 at 6.30 p.m.
St Giles-in-the-Fields

For our July event we go to Church in Holborn, to St Giles-in-the-Fields, for a talk on its history by the Rector, the Rev. Gordon C Taylor, MA, FSA. The Church stands on part of the site of the leper hospital founded by Queen Matilda in 1117 but the present Church is probably the third to stand on the site, having been built in 1734 by Henry Flitcroft, a protégé of Lord Burlington and a pupil of James Gibbs.

Come and hear the full story and note the unusually early time - 6.30 pm.



Constable Weekend

Friday, 11 June. 7.30 'Constable & Hampstead' lecture by Lindsay Stainton CHS and HC. NT event at University College School Theatre, Frognal, NW3 (See April newsletter).

Saturday, 12 June: 2.00 A walk round Constable's Hampstead, starting from the Parish Church.

4.00 A recital of Poetry and Prose with Constable connections, given by Ruth Rosen: in the Churchyard.

10.30 Special Film Show at Everyman Cinema: 'John Constable: Romantic versus Classic Art' featuring Lord Clark, and Korda's 'Rembrandt', starring Charles Laughton.

Sunday, 13 June: 2.00 and 4.00 Further walks round Constable's Hampstead, starting from the Parish Church.

2.00 - 5.00 'Paint your own Constable' rally and competition at Judges Walk, near Whitestone Pond.

2.30 Guided tour of Church and Churchyard.

6.00 Special Evensong in Parish Church.

Constable's Hampstead has now been published by Carlile House Press, in association with Camden History Society, and is available, price 30p from all local bookshops and newsagents. Profits from the first edition are going to the Constable Tomb Restoration Fund. CHS Members can order copies to be sent, post free, from 28 Willoughby Road, NW3 1SA.

Mr. Gregory

The Chairman announced at the Annual Meeting that Mr Gregory, our Secretary, is retiring from Camden Libraries in June and, at the same time, from the Secretaryship of this Society.

Those who know him will realise the extent of the loss to both Camden and ourselves. He has been our secretary for nearly six years and quietly and competently kept pace with our rapid growth - indeed the growth has a great deal to do with Mr Gregory's efforts. We wish him well in his retirement and hope to see him on many occasions.

The President of the Society, Sir James Brown, presented him with a set of The Annals of Hampstead by Thomas Barratt.

G D Gregory writes - The Editor has allowed me a little space to thank members for the totally unexpected and most generous gift of a set of Barratt's The annals of Hampstead and for the added pleasure of having it presented by the President at the annual general meeting on 13 May. As my office copy will have to stay put for my successor, I had been bracing myself to buy a copy to have at home. There could therefore have been no more welcome gift and I am delighted.

It has been a great pleasure to serve as Secretary since 1970 and to see the Society grow steadily in numbers and activity. The Secretary's role has been the enviable one of observing work going on all around him and he has felt guilty for having contributed no more than a little gentle stamp-licking from time to time.

We have been fortunate in our officers and council. The first President, Lord Wolfenden, before his retirement as Director of the British Museum, gave us a great deal of help and encouragement in the early days and took part in the inaugural weekend school. His successor, Sir James Brown, is the perfect President, always ready to help in a practical and generous way. A galaxy of Vice-Presidents, all of whom have helped from time to time, are most often represented by Charles Lee, known to us all for his meticulous scholarship and authoritative knowledge of all aspects of the Borough's history. John Richardson, founder of the Society, has proved an able, influential and energetic Chairman. Who else, in addition to a demanding day-time job, could find time

to be deeply involved in the political and cultural life of London and to put together, as a result of lunch-time research, a best-selling and widely acclaimed Encyclopedia for local historians? Our charming Vice-Chairman, Cherry Lavell, is a tower of strength in all archaeological matters. Assistant Secretary, gorgeous Coral Howells, has shown her skill at organising special events such as the successful "Camden Miscellany" at the Embassy Theatre and the Dickens evening last Christmas. Two archivists, Tina Gee and Malcolm Holmes, have provided a link between researchers and the Borough's local history collections. Wilfrid Meadows, the first Treasurer, set the Society on a sound financial footing and will also be remembered for his work on the "Streets" series. His successor, Jane Ramsay, has been frighteningly efficient. Christopher Wade, urbane and scholarly Editor of Publications, has been responsible for the Society's highly successful publications programme. He rapidly found himself at home in the world of printers and booksellers and his expertise is such that he makes money for the Society.

Council meetings have been a delight, with their mixture of business and local history talk. Each member brings a special knowledge or skill - Gillian Tindall, combining her ability as a writer with an enthusiasm for Kentish Town; Anthony Cooper, authority on architectural matters; Viv Morris and Leslie Newman, the joint driving force behind a productive social history group which has delighted members with a number of thematic symposia; Horace Shooter and E G Brassington, each making a highly practical contribution and both particularly interested in ecclesiastical history; and John Lawson, newest council member, who organises the work of an enthusiastic team urgently recording transport history.

As I leave, a fresh attempt is being made to interest and involve schools in our work and a promising start has been made by a new industrial archaeology group led by David Thomas.

The close link with the Borough Council is, as far as I know, unique. Help in money and kind, as well as the Patronage of the Mayor and the interest of the Libraries & Arts and Planning & Communications Departments and their Directors, have been a source of great encouragement. In return, the Society has done a great service to the Council and the people of Camden. The link is certainly the envy of colleagues in other boroughs and of societies such as ours.

The Story of Kidderpore Hall

According to Thomas J Barratt in The Annals of Hampstead, vol. 2, p. 250:

"About 1844 Mr Cannon, a retired India and Dyè Merchant, built Kidderpore Hall".

While looking at original sources I have discovered some facts which show that this statement may not be correct.

The 1839 Tithe map of Hampstead and the 1842 Rate book show that John Teil Esq owned 20 acres of land in Hampstead. The 1843 Rate book shows that John Teil built Kidderpore Hall on this land. His ownership is indicated in Rate books from 1843 to 1855, the year of his death. The Census of 1851 also has an entry "John Teil, East India Merchant, aged 60" for Kidderpore Hall. W Keane in The Beauties of Middlesex, 1850, following a visit on 20 May 1850, described Kidderpore Hall, "the seat of John Teil Esq", as a "large and beautiful villa recently built for John Teil Esq by Mr T Howard, Architect. The house stands on its own parklike grounds, at a considerable distance from the High road and is approached by a long carriage-drive. The ground or principal floor is approached by a long flight of stone steps leading to the main and garden fronts both of which have large porticoes of the Ionic order and to the west is a very large bow front with handsome circular porticoes of the same order".

Shaw's Hampstead Directory 1854 has an entry for Kidderpore Hall, New West End - "Tiel (sic), John Esq".

Kidderpore is a suburb of Calcutta and since Teil had trade connections with India, he gave the name Kidderpore to his house. Teil is reputed to have owned a tannery business in India, possibly in the Kidderpore area, but I have not been able to prove this from original sources.

In 1856 the Hall was owned by a Mr Sweeting and rented by Philip Blyth (Rate book 1856). Part of the estate was bought by the West Middlesex Water Company who built Kidderpore Reservoir (Rate book 1856).

Charles Cannon first appears as the owner of Kidderpore Hall in 1857 (Rate book 1857). He lived there until his death on 19 June 1876. There is no evidence from the Rate books to show that Cannon changed the Hall in any way. He left his business as a dyer in Davies Street, Oxford Street in trust for his son Charles; and his estate Kidderpore Hall to his three

daughters, Caroline, Amelia and Cecilia (Hampstead and Highgate Express, 19 August 1876, Cannon's obituary). Barratt describes Cannon as an "India and Dye Merchant". In this context, "India" refers to Indian ink, a black pigment made in China and Japan (O E D), nothing to do with India! The Misses Cannon lived at the Hall until 1889 (Hampstead Directory 1888-9).

The Council of Westfield College purchased Kidderpore Hall, together with two and a half acres of its grounds, in 1890 (Alfred Yarrow Esq and the Rev W H Barlow and others-agreement for sale and purchase of Kidderpore Hall - deed held by Westfield College).

At the same time, permission was granted by the London County Council and Hampstead Parish Vestry to Messrs Davis and Emanuel of 2 Finsbury Circus, E C, for the formation of two streets to lead out of the north-east side of Finchley New Road, on a portion of the grounds of Kidderpore Hall and a portion of West Hall estate, to be named Kidderpore Avenue and West Heath Avenue (Hampstead Vestry Minutes, 12 June 1890, p 218).

So Kidderpore Hall and immediate surroundings became Westfield College; the original carriage-driveway which led up to the Hall became Kidderpore Avenue and the rest of the grounds were gradually covered with houses. Felicity Macqueen.

WEST HAMPSTEAD - YESTERDAY AND TODAY

WEST HAMPSTEAD - YESTERDAY AND TODAY is the title of an event being held at Berridge House, Hillfield Road, NW6 on Tuesday, 6 July at 8 pm, as part of the West Hampstead Festival.

The 'Yesterday' part will be a repeat of the illustrated lecture on The Streets of West Hampstead given by members of our Street History Group who helped compile this publication. After refreshments, 'Today' will be examined by the West Hampstead Action on Traffic (WHAT), who are organising this joint event.

During Festival Week, there will also be a West Hampstead Historical Walk on Saturday, 3 July, led by Christopher Wade and organised by and for the local Red Cross. It will start from Red Cross Headquarters in Fairhazel Gardens at 11 am.

We hope to have a CHS Stall at the Festival on Fortune Green on the afternoon of Saturday, 10 July. If you would like to join in, tell our Publications Editor (794-2752).

Publications Report

At the AGM last month, The Editor of Publications reported that this had been a year of battle against rising costs and had included a considerable amount of cycling (deliveries) and recycling (old envelopes).

He was proud to have kept his prices down, while all about him were going up. The High Hill Press were being forced to increase the price of The Streets of Hampstead, which was about to be reprinted for the second time. The Society was greatly indebted to Ian Norrie and the High Hill for their continued support and for taking the great gamble of publishing The Streets of West Hampstead.

The circulation of Camden History Review had continued to rise. Up to date, No. 1 has sold nearly 2,000; No. 2. - 1,500 and No. 3. - 994. Sales had been much helped by a team of local distributors:

Elizabeth Cunnington, Barbara Ely, Bernice Letts, Pamela Maas and Hilda Pallan. Contact was still wanted with more schools, local organisations and learned societies, who could mention our publications in their newsletters and circulate leaflets with them. CHS stalls at more Neighbourhood Festivals were wanted, too.

Mediaeval Camden had sold over 800 copies and been sent all over the country, through the Commonwealth and across to Harvard & Yale. Constable's Hampstead had just been published in association with Carlisle House Press and Roman Camden would follow shortly.

John Thomas Pocock

I was interested to read in the last newsletter the item relating to Pocock and his estates in St Pancras and Islington. I can throw some light on the Pocock holdings in Islington, if not St Pancras. There is a Pocock Arms in The Caledonian Road, north of Pentonville Prison. Secondly, only this weekend, clearing an old rockery away from a wall at my house in Ellington Street N7, I came across a very large engraved stone set in the wall which described the boundaries of that part of the Pocock Estate.

John Richardson

STREETS APART

Did you see Simon Jenkins' piece in the Evening Standard of 13 April? After their excellent Streets of Hampstead and the even better More streets of Hampstead, Ian Norrie's High Hill Bookshop have now produced THE STREETS OF WEST HAMPSTEAD (High Hill Press, £1.50); a venture of private enterprise architectural guide-book-writing which deserves a big cheer. It takes as its motto Nikolaus Pevsner's dismissive reference to West Hampstead (i.e. Camden west of Finchley Road) - "its houses and streets require no notice".

It then proceeds to demolish Pevsner by carefully charting and picturing the treasures in store for the assiduous lover of late-Victorian property development in this unpromising neck of the woods. The booklet, like the previous one, is written by members of the Camden History Society and edited by Christopher Wade.

It really is a scandal that efforts such as this - the only popular architectural guide to this part of London - should be left to a bookshop to subsidise. Meanwhile all ratepayers are having to pay through the nose for the gargantuan SURVEY OF LONDON volumes, whose plodding scholastics have now spent over 50 years painfully describing the capital's buildings and not yet reached half way! Its latest volume, on the museum block of South Kensington, appeared recently from the GLC Athlone Press, price £20. Buy the Hampstead book instead.

WHO KNOWS NARDI?

June Troy, a member who lives in Surbiton writes, "It may be of interest to anyone studying the Bloomsbury area to know how my parents came to meet. They were both in lodgings in Brunswick Square - it must have been 1908-09, and a violinist called Nardi also lived there. He used to play in the square in the evenings and the other residents used to stroll in the gardens listening to him. I wonder if any of your members know anything about this NARDI? I know nothing more than the story told me by my mother"

WORK WITH SCHOOLS

Members may like to know that the Society is now making a serious attempt to co-operate with and help along local history work in schools. We had a stimulating meeting with a number of teachers and librarians recently and some recommendations will be made in the near future.

Research Topics

A Society such as ours caters for a wide range and depth of interest. We all like to receive the newsletter and buy the other publications. Many of us attend lectures. Fewer are engaged on some sort of research and there are indications that more members would be prepared to help in this way if they knew what there is to be done. Malcolm Holmes, our Archivist, has therefore drawn up a list of research topics which could usefully be undertaken by members and he would be pleased to give any help and guidance which may be necessary. He will be aware of published or unpublished material on the chosen subject and will be able to suggest how research can sometimes bring existing work up to date or extend its range.

1. Camden's communities, e.g. Greek, Italian, Irish, Polish.
2. Theatre and film industry in Camden (distinct from the history of theatres), e.g. scenery, costume and associated topics in the area near the Seven Dials. Much of this is likely to disappear as a result of Covent Garden redevelopment.
3. Denmark Street and the music industry.
4. Politics in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.
5. Crime in Camden.
6. Ghosts in Camden.
7. Poor relief in Holborn, particularly St Giles-in-the-Fields.
8. Disasters - whirlwinds, floods etc.
9. Religious movements, e.g., Irvingites, the Catholic Apostolic Church in the 20th century, Swedenborgian.
10. Characters, e.g., piemen, Joanna Southcott etc.
11. Quack medicine.
12. Lutheran churches in Camden.
13. Cost of living at various dates.
14. Gordon Riots in Camden.
15. Street ballads and broadsides (some work already done on Pitts and Catnach).
16. Early policing of the area pre-1832.

17. Growth of boarding houses and hotels, particularly in Bloomsbury.
18. Graveyards and burial grounds in Camden; most existing material requires updating.
19. Natural history of Camden.
20. Old signs on buildings.
21. Street furniture. There are a number of items of street furniture in the List of buildings of special or architectural interest drawn up by the Department of the Environment but much more needs to be recorded.
22. Education generally and also the history of individual schools.
23. History of local societies.
24. Laundries and laundresses; baths and wash-houses.
25. Hampstead Public Library (Subscription Library).
26. Artists in Camden, particularly the more obscure ones.
27. Dictionary of dates, centenaries etc. (There is a useful St Pancras book of dates covering up to the beginning of the 20th century).
28. Population. The Census returns 1841-1871 provide a wealth of accurate information about birthplace, age structures of the population, density of housing, occupations of inhabitants. Examples of use include
 - a) Migration studies - where did the inhabitants of, e.g. Hampstead and Highgate come from?
 - b) Social changes in certain areas over a period.
 - c) Occupational structure of the population etc.

Anyone wishing to use this type of material is strongly advised to contact Malcolm Holmes, unless he is familiar with the complexities of 19th century census recording and methods of analysis.

This material was often available to earlier historians who often had to generalise (often inaccurately!) on the population.

29. Early advertisements, e.g., for "bug catchers".
30. Breweries.
31. Customs (work being done on this topic by Malcolm Holmes but information always welcomed).
32. Tape recording of local residents' memories. Very little of this has been done in Camden, but it does involve a great deal of preparation and possibly more than one visit. Most people are unable to provide the sort of historical information sought unless pertinent questions are asked. However, if well done, this source will provide information often not available from books, newspapers etc. The Local History staff have done a little work in this field and may be able to help here.
33. Development of particular localities, e.g. Somers Town.
34. Victorian housing for the working classes.

The Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting the Chairman described a successful year of talks and enterprise. He welcomed the probable advent of a local history centre at Lauderdale House and promised the co-operation of the Society in the venture.

The Mayor, Arthur Soutter, patron of the Society, said that he was particularly impressed by the Society's publications and was pleased that the partnership between Council and Society worked so well.

The following officers were elected:

President - Sir James Brown
 Vice-Presidents - Sir Colin Anderson, KBE
 Sir John Betjeman, CBE
 Charles E Lee, MA, FCIT
 R Michael Robbins, MA, FSA
 Prof. F M L Thompson D.Phil

Chairman - John Richardson
 Vice-Chairman - Cherry Lavell
 Secretary - held open for the time being
 Programme Sec. - "
 Treasurer - Mrs Jane Ramsay
 Publications Sec. - Christopher Wade
 Archivist - Malcolm Holmes

The Council was re-elected in its entirety.

The Meeting was held in the magnificent surroundings of St Katharine's Church in Regent's Park. We were entertained by two witty and informative talks by the Rev. Poul-Erik Fabricius who told us about the history of the Danish Church in London, and by Prebendary Henry Cooper who described the high points (and the low) of the St Katharine's Hospital Foundation.

Everyone agreed that it was a very successful evening and we are most grateful to the Danish Church for their hospitality.

Transport Group News

John Lawson has been on holiday during May and before going, he wrote, "On Friday 9 April we visited another part of the King's Cross Goods Depot and saw what remains of the hydraulic system. The shaft which housed the pump and weights remains, as do some of the connecting pipes. Next door, the boiler house also remains but the boilers went many years ago (probably pre-war), being replaced by supplies from the Hydraulic Power Co. We were told that a tap remained which allowed canal water into the supply. Some doors were locked and we were unable to find it. Whilst looking, however, we did find some stables in which the layout and design of the mangers and bales were very similar to those on the London Midland at Chalk Farm.

I had earlier in the week been looking at some of the tenders put out by the Great Northern Railway 1897 for alterations to some parts of the King's Cross Goods Yard. These records, now stored in the Public Record Office at Porchester Road, show very precisely the materials to be used and their costs. It was interesting to look out for the iron viaduct which had been rebuilt in a new position, look at the roadway built in cement and coke breeze concrete and topped with Smart's Limmer Asphalte, and to see how well the red deal wood had survived as paving.

It is becoming increasingly clear to me that we need to do much more research before we can gain much more from looking at sites. We have superficially covered most railway sites, though there are some corners and some buildings we have not yet covered. On the road transport side we need to do research before we can get any further. Once one has learnt where to go and what to ask for research can be interest-

ing in itself. For example, what modern contracts would include, "Materials are to be carried as far as possible by the Great Northern Railway at the Contractor's expense", or "No foreign iron or steel will be allowed to be used on the works". Anyone who has time to spare, especially weekdays, please contact John Lawson, 31 Earlsmead Road, NW10 5QD, 603 4622 ext. 467 or 969 2529."

STRETCHER RAILINGS

An interesting relic of London's more recent history is to be found at the GLC's Ossulston Estate in Somers Town. The rather odd-shaped fence found the estate is made from World War Two civil defence stretchers which were ordered in large quantities by the Authorities in the expectation that the V bombs would cause a greater loss of life and casualties than was the case. When the emergency was over the LCC bought up the surplus stretchers as a job lot and used them to make fences in place of railings removed for scrap as part of the war effort.

On the Ossulston Estate the original brick pillars were too close together to take two full length stretchers, and it is still possible to see where a section in the middle of each stretcher was removed and the two ends welded back together. The fence is well-maintained and should survive as a reminder of the war years. Philip Hawkins.

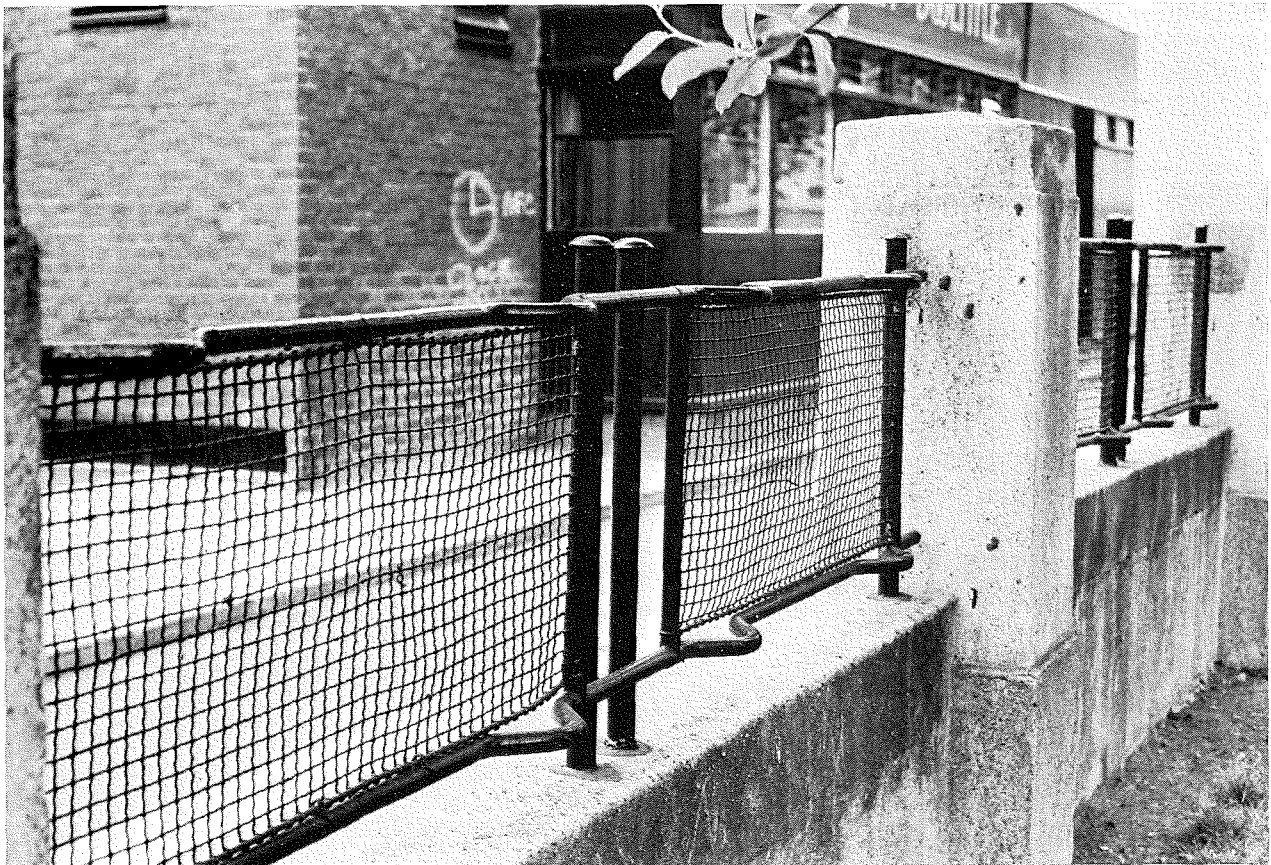
Camden's Industrial Archaeology

A new group has been formed to investigate, visit, photograph and report on some of the places of I A significance in Camden. The Group is already active, but is as yet very few in numbers, and needs support from members who would like to find out more about this fascinating subject. This is an area in which previous similar experience is not necessary! So far, the Group have visited two former piano factories, a bakery and Prince of Wales Road Baths. Members interested in the survey are invited to join the group at any of the planned activities listed below, or write for further details to the acting co-ordinator, David G Thomas, 4 Heyford Avenue, SW8 1ED (735 2132 home).

Saturday, 12 June. Firm near St Pancras; meet steps of St Pancras Hotel, 10.30 am; cameras and note-pads useful.

Tuesday, 29 June. Progress and planning meeting, Swiss Cottage Library, 18.30 hours. To plan future and set priorities.

Saturday, 17 July. Site near Camden Town; meet Camden Town Tube, 10.30 hours. Again, cameras and note-pads.



STRETCHER RAILINGS

Book Review

The Archaeology of the London area; current knowledge and problems (London & Middlesex Archaeological Society Special Paper No. 1, 1976).

Some years ago the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's Research Committee had the excellent idea of producing a complete record of what was known of Greater London's archaeology at all periods, so as to show where further research was most needed. Unfortunately, like all projects involving a team of writers, this one took a long time to complete, the quality is uneven and the papers are not as up-to-date as they might be. Nor am I sure how this volume relates to the Kington-Bird Survey of Archaeological Needs, about which CHS members heard in June 1974 and which will be published later this year.

Nonetheless, this work in its cheerful red cover is a full and valuable record of what is known, and allows us at last to shelve for good the 1930 book by Vulliamy which, though desperately obsolete, was the only collection of factual information we had. How well have the authors communicated the new material? I have to admit to feeling a little disappointed myself. These 67 pages are not an easy read - they have been written by experts for enthusiasts, and anyone who wanted a gentle introduction to London's archaeology would do much better to read Ralph Merrifield's very enjoyable and well illustrated little book for Heinemann. (The Archaeology of London, 1975).

One thing sadly missing from the new publication is a sufficient quantity of illustrations, as each contributor was allowed only one page of drawings. Most of them show a few typical objects, with the odd result that we are given only one map in the entire volume. I would rather have paid 50p or even £1 and had a series

of maps than have (as a IAMAS member) a free copy with only one map.

The two sections which cheered me most were Jean Macdonald's on Neolithic London and John Barrett's on the Bronze Age. The first contain a lot of exciting new material, the second has an especially thoughtful approach (though he gets a black mark from me for not accepting the Bronze Age barrow on Parliament Hill!) In the chapter on the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic I felt that the author had not been able to solve the difficult problem of explaining his material readably. At the other end of the time-scale I was disappointed that John Hurst, winding up with Saxon and medieval London, had to leave us stranded in the 14th century. He himself has done so much for the archaeology of the later periods, and in any case modern London is largely to be understood by means of developments after the 14th century.

Specific references to Camden are very few indeed, showing how little archaeological work has ever been done in the Borough. It is certain that every day we are losing pieces of information, some of which could be vital, through lack of people able and willing to watch building sites. Amazingly enough, D of E money is not available for the administrative costs of organising rotas of amateurs, even though site-watching often brings high benefits for low expenditure. Indeed, much of the factual information in this IAMAS survey was recovered by painstaking individuals peering down sewer trenches a hundred years ago. Dare we hope that the D o E will have the courage to divert a little of the money now spent on not entirely vital digs towards the cost-effective business of site-watching?

Cherry Lavell

newsletter

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of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

SEPT 1976

The September Event – Three Films

13th SEPTEMBER

The Society has arranged for three films of varied topics to be presented at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm. They are:

Hampstead Garden Suburb 1907-1975

Age of Invention (Industrial Archaeology)

Caring for history (Techniques used in the preservation work by the Department of the Environment)

This is the first film show we have given and we anticipate a good attendance.

HAMPSTEAD HISTORY

Brenda Tyler, one of our first members and a contributor to 'The Streets of Hampstead' and 'More Streets', also lectured in Hampstead history for many years at the Camden Institute in New End. She has now moved to Birmingham and her chair at New End has been taken over temporarily by Christopher Wade. Christopher will be known to most of you as our energetic Editor of Publications and an expert on Hampstead history.

His first course of Hampstead lectures will be on Wednesday evenings from Sept. 29th to Dec. 8th (Enrolment in the week commencing Sept. 13th). Christopher is an amusing and imaginative speaker and those wanting to know more of Hampstead History are strongly advised to enrol.

Our New Officers

We reported in our last Newsletter that Mr. Gregory had retired as our Secretary. We have been fortunate to gain the services of Jenny Stevens, who works at St Pancras Library, as our new secretary and we warmly welcome her. In addition, Irene Burns, who was formerly in the local history department of Camden, has become our Programme Secretary and all correspondence to do with meetings etc should be sent to her at St Pancras Library. Mrs Ramsay, our Treasurer, will deal with all Membership enquiries.

The West Hampstead Walk

SUNDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

Starting at Emmanuel Church, West End Green at 2.30 pm, Christopher Wade will be leading another exploration of the beauties, curiosities and antiquities of West Hampstead. This tour will embrace the northern reaches including sites of the Iron Foundry and Eley's Cartridge Factory, the houses of Alfred Harmsworth and Evelyn Waugh, the Boy's Industrial Home and Fortune Green Cemetery.

New Members' Meeting

Every so often we hold a meeting at which members who have joined since the last one can come and hear more about the Society, meet the Society's officers and Research leaders informally, and get to know more about the research facilities in Camden. We are having another such meeting on September 20th, at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.30 pm. There will be short talks from group leaders and some officers, and members will also be shown the archives in the strong room at the Library. New members are very welcome – and also not-so-new members who haven't been before!

LOCAL HISTORY STAFF

The last few months have seen a high turnover in local history staff in Camden. Miss Irene Burns from Holborn has been appointed local history librarian of the neighbouring borough of Brent, and now works from their new local history centre in Forty Lane. She will, however, be keeping in close contact with Camden as the CHS programme secretary. She is replaced by Richard Knight.

Mrs. Maureen Rowbotham now works at Holborn Reference Library and in her place at Swiss Cottage came Miss Felicity Macqueen. One of her first queries in the job resulted in the article on Kiddepore Avenue in the previous issue of the Newsletter.

Mr. Bowen Pearse has arrived to fill the vacancy resulting from the departure of Mrs Bernie Hennah to have a baby girl.

Malcolm Holmes, Local History Librarian.

The Summer Outing

When the Society's Summer Outing on June 26th coincided with the first days of the heat wave, we thought how lucky we were: little did we know how long it was to last. Bayham Street, Camden Town, at nine a.m. was already seeming a particularly sticky, dusty place to be on such a lovely morning, while Bayham Abbey on the Kent-Sussex borders, two hours of comfortable ride and a coffee break away, was far more appropriate.

This ruined monastery, some of which is still under excavation, has a long history, which only intersects late in time with the fortunes of the Camden family and hence with the development of Camden Town. Its days as a religious house were two hundred years behind it and most of its splendid perpendicular architecture was already roofless and fragmented, when it was acquired, in 1714, by Sir John Pratt, ancestor of the family that has held it ever since. This family, which was raised to the peerage later in the century and took the name 'Camden' from another family seat, also managed by money or influence to get their leasehold of Canteloves Manor (St Pancras Parish) converted to a freehold in perpetuity, and subsequently laid out Camden Town upon it. The second Lord Camden, who succeeded to both the title and the fast-developing new suburb in 1797, was also (according to the National Trust Guide) 'among the pioneers of pre-Romantic Gothic taste'; at Bayham Abbey as a younger man he had built himself a Georgian-Gothic villa which still stands and is known as the Dower House. Evidently, property speculation, then as now, was one thing, and personal taste in architecture for one's own dwelling was another: Camden Town could have done with a few Gothic villas among its modest terraces.

The ruins, despite some meddlesome over-landscaping in the nineteenth century, still look much as they did when the eighteenth century sketched them as models of that new and chic phenomenon, The Picturesque. They are lapped by green lawns, on shady corners of which we ate our picnic lunches, before proceeding to Sissinghurst, the gardens created by Harold Nicholson and Vita Sackville-West among the remnants of a Tudor house. What can one say about Sissinghurst that has not been said many times before? It remains an astonishing and beautiful achievement, and even in this summer's drought it retained cool, fragrant and lovely corners.

This year's trip proved so popular that we had to come in two coaches, and for some good reason that I have now forgotten those in one coach were taken to have a cream tea at nearby Tenterton while those in the other were given 50p by the Treasurer to pick their own goodies from Sissinghurst's tearoom. ("Just like a school journey", said one young member of the party, pleased to be in a situation perhaps more familiar to him than to the grown-ups). However the Board Wages coach subsequently reached Tenterton also, which is thought to have been the birthplace of William Caxton the printer and where an exhibition concerning him was in full swing. We were shown round by the Mayor, who was interesting and informative both about Caxton and about the old houses of Tenterton. In the last half hour before the coaches collected us again, some people went to look at Tenterton's privately run steam railway and others to sit in the gardens of her public houses, while one member of the Committee acquired an extremely cheap kitchen cupboard from a second-hand dealer who was just shutting up shop. Clearly, CHS outings are acquiring the subtle knack of catering for all tastes, and this one was a triumphant finale to Mr. Gregory's assiduous years as Secretary.

Gillian Tindall

Battleships of West Hampstead

Several readers of our *Streets of West Hampstead* claimed that Achilles, Agamemnon, Ajax and Ulysses Roads were not named fancifully after 'top people from the Trojan War' but after British battleships. A quick look at battleship histories would encourage this claim as the four roads were built about the time that the first iron-clad battleships were launched amid great public excitement. Frank Cole, Director of Camden's Libraries and Arts, who has a special interest in Naval History, investigated this idea and reported:

"Agamemnon and Ajax fit the theory: Achilles and Ulysses don't. The Ajax and Agamemnon were two of the most unsatisfactory battleships ever produced for the RN – 'the black sheep of the battle fleet', says Oscar Parkes in 'British Battleships 1860-1950'. They were commissioned to official and press praise in 1885 and 1884, and paid off into fleet service in 1892 and 1893.

Ulysses doesn't figure in the big ship names at all, while Achilles has the wrong dates in relation to the building of the roads around 1886."

As a further torpedo for the battleship theory, a West Hampstead member has pointed out that the northern leg of Agamemnon Road was earlier called Penelope Road.

C.W.

The Story of Fitzroy Bridge

Members who live around Primrose Hill may have wondered why the canal bridge in Gloucester Avenue is unsafe for traffic on one side, and might like to know the answer which I found among the Southampton papers in the G.L.C. Records. I will use modern place names.

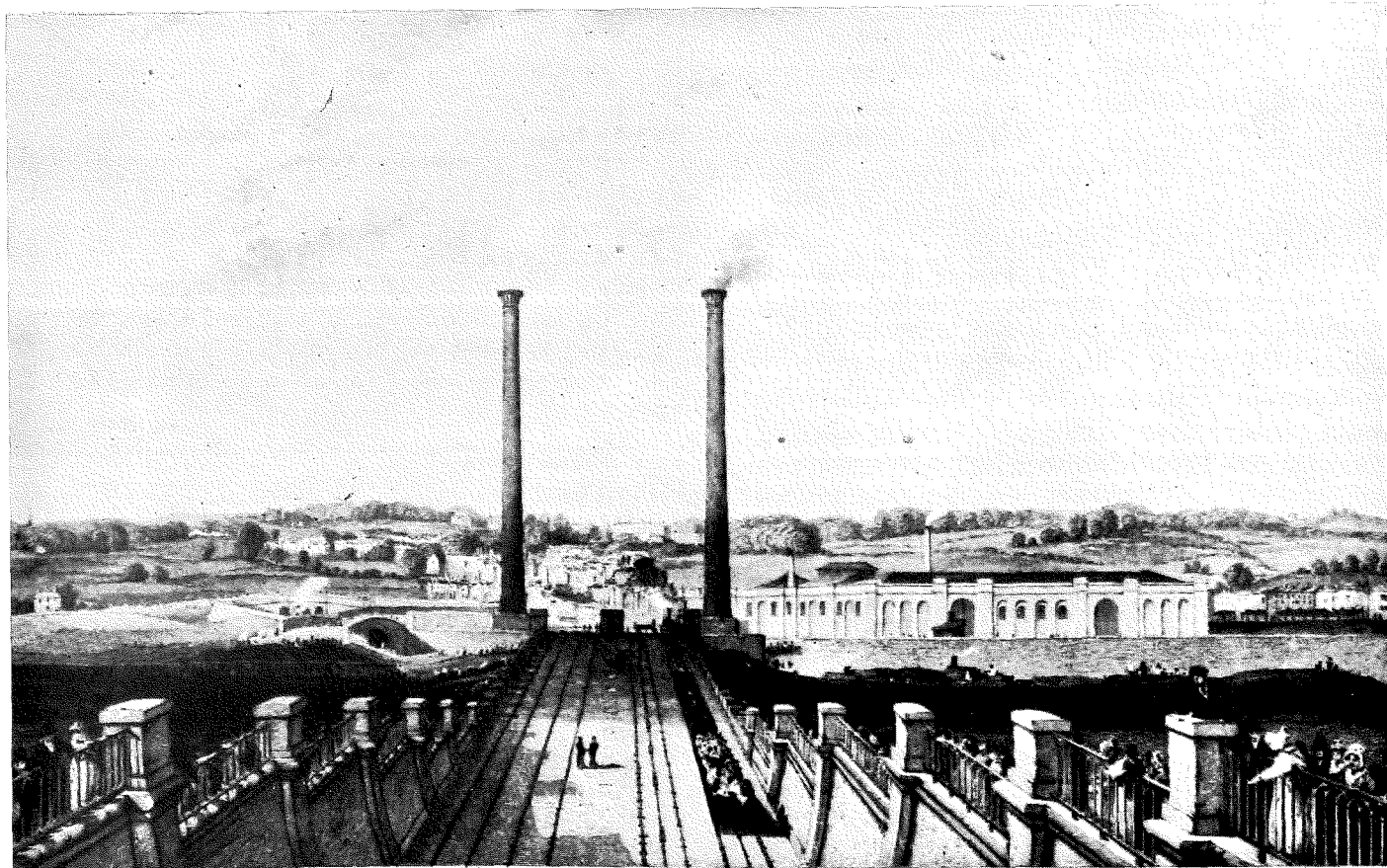
The canal bridge was built, and solidly built with arched brickwork, on the line of an 'intended road' running roughly from the south west end of Parkway to Chalk Farm Tube Station. The arrival of the London and Birmingham Railway after 1833 spoilt the idea, but when this part of the Southampton estate was sold for development in 1840 Gloucester Avenue beyond the bridge was planned to keep as nearly as possible to the original route, hard up to the Railway boundary. It was at least partially formed on this line as the sewer at the north end was installed.

In 1846 the Railway, now the L.N.W.R., decided it needed another strip of land which took nearly the whole of the Gloucester Avenue road north of the canal bridge, and the road was resited in its present position at the Railway's expense,

driving through the middle of various developers' plots. This was not necessarily a disadvantage to them as they were able to build houses both sides without forming access roads, but Henry Bassett, architect, was not so lucky. He had already built four terrace houses at the north junction of Regent's Park Road and Gloucester Avenue, and had to pull down two of them. The end wall of 196 Regent's Park Road is rendered although the rest of the house is brick, and this represents what was originally the party wall with the second demolished house.

With the alteration in alignment, the canal bridge was pointing too far to the north, and it had to be widened on the south west side. This was done at the Railway's expense but cast-iron girders and stone slabs were used which have proved inadequate for modern traffic, and that is why there are baulks of wood keeping cars away. The construction can be seen from the tow path, and on the other side at the north end of the parapet the original wall and the later wall can be seen diverging.

Anthony Cooper.



THE BRIDGE NEAR GARDEN TOWN

View from the Southward, looking towards the old house

Antony Cooper

A PLAN FOR CAMDEN

In 1975 Camden Council opened consultation on the Borough Plan with a round of public meetings and an invitation to local organisations and individuals to submit their ideas on the future planning of the Borough. Later in the year Camden Scene 1975 was published and meetings held to explain what had happened so far.

The Council will shortly publish a consultative document 'A Plan for Camden' and it is intended to mount a travelling exhibition which will provide a basis for discussion and consultation to establish Council policies and proposals.

The Plan will consist of two parts:

1. The Summary of Policies and Proposals which will be free
2. A longer, technical part of the Plan, which will be available for reference at libraries and the town halls.

The Exhibition will be at the following venues:

Sep 13 – Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute

Sep 20 – Central Hall, Chenies St Drill Hall

Sep 27 – Lambousa Hall, Greenland St, Camden Town

Oct 4 – West Hampstead (shop to be arranged)

Oct 11 – Hampstead Town Hall

Oct 18 – Arkwright Road Arts Centre

Oct 25 – Kentish Town school, Islip St.

Nov 1 – Camden Town Hall.

CONCERT FOR CONSTABLE

On November 16th the Society and the Hampstead Music Club will be presenting a joint event in Rosslyn Hill Chapel. This will be a concert of the music that Constable himself might have heard and enjoyed when he lived in Hampstead between 1819 and 1837. Full details will appear in our November Newsletter but members, especially those who saw our previous joint event 'Musick at Hampstead Wells' may wish to put this in their diary straight away. Admission will be free but there will be a collection for the John Constable Fund.

LIVING IN KINGS CROSS

Those members interested in the King's Cross area may like to know that an Environment Group of the King's Cross community has been set up. It is interested in the future and the past of the area, examines planning proposals and organises public meetings to debate proposals. It looks into the history of the area, visits interesting buildings etc. It next meets on September 23rd and October 7th at 51 Argyle St, WC1 at 8pm. The Secretary is Mr. M: Spencer (388 4311).

King's Cross, incidentally, is a fairly new name for the district. It was formerly known as Battle Bridge giving rise to all sorts of conjectures of a battle there between Queen Boadicea and the Romans, under Suetonius Paulinus. It is likely, however, that Battle Bridge is a Tudor corruption of Bradford Bridge.

The name King's Cross is derived from a monument to George IV erected in 1830 where all the roads converge outside King's Cross station. It was designed by Stephen Geary, the architect of Highgate Cemetery, and was the subject of considerable derision, so much so that it was partly dismantled in 1842 and finally removed in 1845. The monument took the form of a square building containing a room with the statue of the king on top. The room was eventually used as a beer shop.

CHRISTOPHER GOTCH SPEAKS

That well-known columnist Christopher Gotch is guest speaker from the Hampstead Centre of the National Trust on Oct. 20th. His talk is called 'New and Old in Architecture', and will be at 8pm at St. Saviour's Hall, Eton Road, NW3.

The Polytechnic of North London will be holding a Conference on October 30th entitled 'People and History in Camden'. Its programme includes talks on Discovering Local History, The Value of Oral History, Exploring Local Archives, Social History and Industrial History etc. The Conference will be held at the Polytechnic in Prince of Wales Road and there is a fee of £1 including lunch.

For fuller details please write to Patricia Garside at the Department of History and Philosophy there.

newsletter

No 38

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1976

Concert for Constable

Tuesday, 16 November, in Rosslyn Hill Chapel, NW3 (between Pilgrims Lane and Willoughby Road) at 8 pm.

Admission free. Collection in aid of the John Constable Fund.

Joint event of Hampstead Music Club, Camden History Society and Rosslyn Hill Chapel, to be given by members of the Music Club:

Singers, Jetta Robertson, Juliet Clutterbuck, Norman Soutar, Clifford Hindley; flute and piccolo, Joan Miller; oboe, David Firth; piano, Lesley Barnes; narrator, Jerry Shields.

What better tribute to Constable in his bicentenary year than a concert of music which he himself might have heard and enjoyed when he lived in Hampstead between 1819 and 1837? Constable played the flute as a young man; he liked music to be simple and expressive. He was a friend of Dr William Crotch, an infant prodigy and professor of music at Oxford, who was himself an accomplished landscape painter. The concert will include compositions by Crotch, such as a round called 'Painter's Lingo'; and 'the celebrated Gipsy Glee in Guy Mannering' - the music by Henry Bishop and the words by Joanna Baillie, at one time Constable's neighbour. Glee and Scotch airs were popular at the concerts held in the Assembly Rooms in Hollybush Hill (Romney's house), where Constable also gave lectures on the history of landscape painting to the Literary and Scientific Society. Among the items resurrected are some variations for flute on 'Robin Adair'. Besides such curiosities there will be a Song without Words by Mendelssohn, a Nocturne by John Field, and a sequence of musical nature painting from The Seasons by Haydn.

Jerry and Elizabeth Shields, who last year presented 'Musick at Hampstead Wells', have again done the research. There will be pictorial illustrations, including slides of paintings by Constable.

The combination of music familiar and unfamiliar, pictorial illustrations and sidelights on local history makes this an event to note.

Rescue

THE WORK OF RESCUE, an illustrated talk by Robert Kiln. Swiss Cottage Library, 7.30 pm, Wednesday 17 November.

The organisation RESCUE was formed in 1971 to press for improved Government action to help record some at least of the thousands of archaeological sites all over Britain that were being destroyed by the building of new housing estates, motorways, reservoirs, deep-piled office blocks and even by new ploughing methods on farms. Largely as a result of RESCUE's campaigning, greatly increased central funds have been made available so that archaeologists can record at least some of the most important of these irreplaceable traces of Britain's past before they are lost for ever. Many important discoveries have been made as a result. Robert Kiln has been active in RESCUE since its inception and has been its Treasurer for the last two years; he will tell us about its past successes and future hopes, illustrating his talk with slides of archaeological sites including some of his own discoveries in Hertfordshire.

Old Hornsey – our December Event

2 December, 7.30 pm at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute, South Grove, N6

Highgate, which many Camden residents seem to believe is entirely part of Camden, is, in fact, mostly in Hornsey. Highgate, of course, is a subject all on its own, but Hornsey as an area will be new ground for this Society when we hear Ian Murray, Archivist for the London Borough of Haringey. This is an illustrated lecture, Mr Murray is a good speaker, and it is a joint meeting with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institute, so there is bound to be a good attendance.

Hornsey has a particularly interesting manorial history. It was part of Stepney for administrative purposes in the same way as the manor of Finchley was part of Fulham. Mr Murray has made a particular study of his borough's court rolls, especially of the Tottenham part.

PHOTOGRAPH INDEX-IN

Members have, in the past, spent several evenings indexing the superb collection of photographs of some parts of Camden taken by London Transport about 1905. There is a wealth of material in them - street furniture, trades now disappeared, shop prices, architectural gems, etc., all of which makes for an entertaining evening. Christina Gee is organising another such evening on 29 November and anyone interested in a rewarding, but sedentary time, is welcome. It will be at Swiss Cottage Library from 6 pm onwards; coffee and biscuits provided.

THE FOOD WAS GOOD

Lunch was the highlight of the "People and History in Camden" conference on 30 October, organised by the Polytechnic of North London.

Alas, the rest of the conference did not live up to the expectations outlined in the original description. Aimed at both beginners in local history and more experienced researchers, it satisfied the needs of neither.

The lectures (Discovering Local History, The Value of Oral History, Exploring Local Archives) while interesting were not related sufficiently to the approaches that would be necessary to discover more about Camden.

While accepting the local history inexperience of those members of the Polytechnic staff who were responsible for the organisation, it should have been unnecessary for a participant at the end to have to state that there should now be another conference which really did cover "People and History in Camden".

"Jack Straw"

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Pianos, we have discovered, played a notable key part in the Borough's history. Several well-known names, including Chappells, Apollo and Collard & Collard, had workshops in Camden which are still standing, albeit in other use, and there are many related firms producing specialist small parts. A fascinating picture is beginning to emerge, but help is needed from members who can assist in tracing the history of one or two of these firms in normal reference books. The organiser would be grateful for offers of help and will, of course, give advice on what needs doing. And there are many, many other industries which promise to be equally interesting.

With winter upon us site visits will not start again until the spring, but there will be fairly frequent evenings when members of the Society will be welcomed to help in scouring local history material for information. To be included in the mailing list for dates and for details of the group generally, please contact David Thomas, 4 Heyford Avenue, SW8. (735 2132)

Our New Review

Our fourth annual Review has just been published and looks as good as ever. So does the price, which has been miraculously kept at 75 pence, the same as it was for the first edition in 1973. Can any other publication claim such a record? The Editor, Christopher Wade, and his team of distributors have worked hard to boost the circulation. Our first print order was 750; the latest is 2,500. For a spare-time effort this is quite an achievement.

Number Four has a constellation of contributors, starting with Sir John Summerson; his brief history of Bloomsbury at a CHS meeting last year was recorded and transcribed. Then there are the much-published Gillian Tindall, Charles Lee and Paul Hogarth, not to mention CHS members working in the British Library, the Museum of London and at Keats House.

On a topical note, we have articles tying up with the American Bicentennial and the new Lauderdale House Association. A full list of contents is included in the Order Form with this newsletter. The special price for members (until the end of the year) is down to 60 pence.



cover illustration on the
new Review

TRANSPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be on 7 December at Swiss Cottage Library Meetings Room (behind the book issue desk). We will continue to repair and catalogue the plans, maps and diagrams from the Great Northern Railway District Engineer's office at Kings Cross. Also we will discuss how we can consolidate our work on the Kings Cross Goods Yard site and, if necessary, plan further visits or research. If anyone has, or knows of, any photographs or records of the Kings Cross Goods Depot please can they contact John Lawson, 31 Earlsmead Road, NW10. (603 4622 ext. 467 or 969 2529)

Christmas Presents – Don't Go Away!

Before the festive season comes the suggestive season - and you can probably guess our tip for solving your present problem this (and every) Christmas. Our publications make splendid gifts - especially for old friends who used to live in Camden and are now reluctantly stuck somewhere else. Don't leave it too late: use the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

A BINDER FOR YOUR REVIEWS

At last, you can store your Reviews in a hard-back binder, black papercoat with gold lettering CAMDEN HISTORY REVIEW. It holds 10 copies and you can get one at CHS meetings (£1.25 to members) or by post (50 pence extra).

HIGHGATE CEMETERY

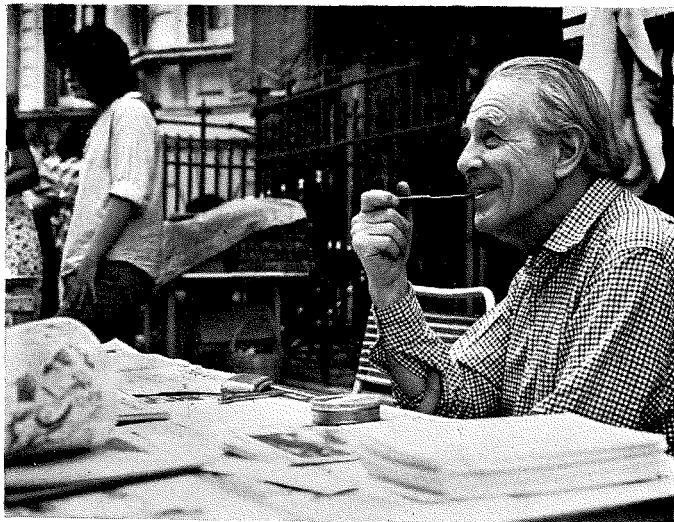
The Society has accepted an invitation to be one of the Trustees of the body which will, at some unspecified date, look after the old Highgate Cemetery. Miss Gillian Tindall will be our representative on the body.

JOHN GREAVES

Members who knew him will be saddened by the news of the death of John Greaves, Honorary Secretary of the Dickens Society for 28 years. He collapsed and died, at the age of 78, in Dickens House.

Festival Fun

Our photograph is of CHS Council Member, Anthony Cooper, watching the jelly-eating contest at the Bloomsbury Festival this year: but he is also manning a CHS publications and publicity stall with (off-screen) Pamela Maas. We flew our flag at several other street



festivals, mostly in the Hampstead area. Isobel Priest, Rosemary Weinstein and the Demos family were at the Winchester Festival and various Wades covered Belsize, Gayton and West Hampstead. Altogether, we met a lot of interested parties, made some new members and sold about £80 worth of publications. The stall-holders also had a lot of fun and managed to keep the jelly off the publications (mostly).

LAMAS CONFERENCE

Members are very welcome to attend the annual local history conference of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Admission is by ticket only and this can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Local History Committee, 3 Cameron House, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent. A Conference fee of 60p (including tea) is payable and cheques should be made out to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. The Conference is on 20 November at 1.30pm.

SHEPHERD'S LONDON

We have been asked to announce to any members who may have purchased Shepherd's London that an amendment leaflet has just been printed. This can be obtained free from J F C Phillips, 61 Haverhill Road, Balham, SW12.

Our First Blue Plaque

Following the publication of The Streets of West Hampstead, we wrote to the GLC suggesting they should erect a Blue Plaque to Lord Northcliffe on 31, Pandora Road, near West End Lane. This was his first married home and the place where he founded his fortune. In 1888, working in an attic here, he launched his first successful magazine 'Answers': he also created the Pandora Publishing Company and by 1891 he was rich enough to move to a mansion near Broadstairs. He later founded the Daily Mail and Daily Mirror, saved The Times from extinction and did some valuable public service. Whatever you think of him and his works, he was, as the DNB says, 'a consummate journalist, who changed the whole course of British journalism by making it both lively and prosperous'.

After eleven months of deliberation, the GLC has now agreed to erect a Blue Plaque in Pandora Road, reading: Alfred Harmsworth, Lord Northcliffe (1865-1922) Journalist and Newspaper Proprietor, lived here. 'It may be some time', says the GLC, 'before the plaque will appear'.

C. W.

HELP WANTED

The Hampstead Graveyard Group would be glad to hear from anyone who could help survey the old graveyard at Hampstead Parish Church. They would also appreciate some typing help for recording the inscriptions taken from tombstones. Please ring Christopher Wade (794 2752).

NEW MEMBERS

Membership of the Society, after the annual pruning of the lists, has risen to 543. New members recently include: La Sainte Union Convent School, Bishopsgate Institute, Mrs G Churchouse, Miss R Clarke, Miss I Dudeney, Miss C Gobbi, Mr & Mrs D Hamilton-Russell, Mrs G Littlewood, Mr J Parkinson, Ms L Pettoello, Miss E Thomas, Mrs B Wall, Mr M Wippell and Ms V Wood.