

# newsletter

No 45

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JAN 1978

## Tolmers Square – Our January Talk

Tolmers Square has an affectionate place in the heart of anyone who liked the old Tolmers Square cinema. It is also a very nice Square and official and private policies to let it run down past the point of no-return have brought about a long-running cause celebre.

In 1976 a book on The Battle for Tolmers Square was written by Nick Wates one of the Square's squatters. Its historical section was compiled by Tim Wilson, of the National Maritime Museum, another squatter there.

Tim Wilson will be giving our January lecture, on the history of Tolmers Square on January 25th at the Fred Tallant Hall, 153 Drummond street at 7.30pm.

He will be dealing with one of the most interesting historical areas of the borough and his talk will be of interest to all members.

## PLAGUE-PIT FIND

The Inner London Archaeological Unit reports one Camden find – a plague pit on the Odham's Press site in Covent Garden. The pit was probably 17th century. Samples of the bones have been sent for identification. Some weeks later a single burial in a wooden coffin was uncovered but without dating evidence.

The Unit are also keeping a watching brief on Dudley House, Endell street.

## CAMDEN COMMUNITIES

Some time ago Malcolm Holmes drew attention to the number of ethnic groups in Camden and suggested that members might like to research into their histories e.g. the Greek, Italian, Irish and Polish communities. A recently received contribution for the next CHS Review on the Spanish in Somers Town shows what an intriguing subject these ethnic colonies make, and the Review Editor (Christopher Wade) would be glad to know of other similar research and possible articles on other communities.

## Elizabeth Garrett Anderson

Elizabeth Garrett Anderson has become a familiar name since the campaign to prevent the closure of the hospital in Euston Road named after her. Ms Jo Manton the author of a book on her as well as on Sister Dora (recently on television) and Mary Carpenter, is our speaker on February 21st when her subject will be Elizabeth Garrett Anderson.

Elizabeth Anderson was the pioneer of the movement to include women in the medical profession and, incidentally was the mayor of Aldeburgh in 1908 – the first woman mayor in this country.

This talk will be of great interest to anyone interested in social history. It will be at St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing street, N.W.1 at 7.30pm

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

We don't go around digging up old factories but do spend a lot of time delving into written records to discover more about the why, when, and for whom, of premises in the borough. These range from small workshops as, say, in the mews and alleys around Tottenham Court Road, to the former Idris Mineral Water works. All members are positively welcomed at these research sessions which are shown below.

For further details of the Group's activities, contact David G. Thomas, 4 Heyford Avenue, S.W.8 (735 2172 evenings)

Wed 1 Feb Holborn Library, Theobalds rd.  
17.30 – 20.00. Meet at the Reference Library desk, 17.30.. Rate books

Wed 15 Feb Victoria Library, Buckingham Palace Road, 17.30–19.00. Meet in Archives Room. Good set of commercial directories

Thu 2 Mar Swiss Cottage Library 17.30–20.00 in Local History Room. Heal and Local Collections

David Thomas

# The CHS History Essay Prize

Since our last edition the full rules of our 'Camden Characters' essay competition have now been published and a copy of the leaflet is available to anyone sending a stamped/addressed envelope to 28 Willoughby road, N.W.3. The prize money has now gone up to £50, thanks to the generous contributions from Lionel Leventhal Ltd, High Hill Bookshop, Owl Bookshop and the Hampstead and Highgate Express. The winning entry will now be published in the Ham and High. The total prize money for entrants under 18 has also been increased to £10 and local schools are being encouraged to join in. The closing date remains the same: June 30th, 1978. Note that all entries must be accompanied by the Entry Form attached to the rules leaflet.

## New Members Meeting

Every now and then we have a meeting specially for new members. This is so that the main officers of the Society can acquaint newcomers with the work of the Society, the research going on and the many subjects still to be covered. We also find that members too diffident to write to us to offer their help on projects are encouraged to do so at these meetings. We also have a tour of the archives at Swiss Cottage Library.

The next new members meeting is on Monday, February 13th at 7pm at Swiss Cottage Library in the Children's Library.

## TRANSPORT GROUP

The next meeting of the Transport Group will be in the Meetings Room at Swiss Cottage Library on Monday, January 23rd at 6pm (don't worry about coming late - we'll finish at about 8pm).

If you cannot come, but would like to hear about future Transport Group activities will you please let me know. (Address: 31 Earlsmead Road, N.W.10). I hope that at the meeting we will work out our aims and activities for the future and, if time permits, continue to sort, repair and index the plans and drawings we rescued last year.

I must apologise for the break in continuity in the past few months. Pressure of work for political and environmental groups led me to put off my historical duties. May elections and motorway plans permitting, I hope to do better this year although I would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in taking over all or part of the job of Transport Group Secretary.

John Lawson

## Hampstead at War

'A record of courage and endurance, which will be read with pride by the citizens of Hampstead...' writes the Mayor of Hampstead, Ruth Carnegie, in her introduction to the booklet 'Hampstead at War'. In conjunction with the Carlile House Press, our Society has just republished this booklet, agreeing with the Mayor that 'It is hoped that this written record will preserve for posterity the memory of those days.' Like most London boroughs, Hampstead had over a thousand air raid warnings and thousands of incendiaries. The number of other missiles was 467 and a map in Hampstead at War, shows where every one of these fell. Most of them were dropped from aircraft, but there were 10 flying bombs and 2 long-range rockets: there were also several dozen shells, which came from our own artillery, notably the battery on Hampstead Heath.

There were over a thousand casualties, including 204 fatal. 13,500 houses were damaged and over 400 completely destroyed. This record helps to explain why there are gaps in old terraces in the borough now and why buildings have sprouted in their stead. West Hampstead had some of the worst bombing incidents and Broadhurst Gardens was probably the worst hit of all the streets.

'Hampstead at War' costs 60 pence and you can get it by post from our Publications Office at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 if you add another 10p for postage

## THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA

At the visit to old St Pancras Church last July, some of us saw a partly legible tombstone to John Mills esq, who died in 1811 aged 90 and was the last survivor of the Black Hole of Calcutta in 1756.

I give an extract from a book in the India Office Library:

Mills, Captain John

Captain of the Diligence Snow, which ship was lost (List of vessels). Survived the Black Hole, but ordered to leave Calcutta. Praised for his conduct by the Court of Directors. General letter from Court, 11 Nov 1757, paragraph 60. His pocket book which he gave to Robert Orme, gives a short account of the siege.

So, he was 35 in the Black Hole. Has anyone come across any of his doings in the next 55 years?

Anthony Cooper

(Anthony's source is a List of Europeans and others in the English Factories in Bengal at the time of the Siege of Calcutta in the year 1756. S. Charles Hill. Calcutta 1902.

# Before St Michael

Last summer, Kentish Town Marks & Spencers narrowly escaped being closed down, for reasons that are understandable; the branch is over-shadowed by the nearby Camden Town and Holloway Road branches, both considerably larger. Though it was purpose-built in 1930, and carefully enlarged since, it has only 7000 sq.ft of floor space compared with the modern M&S average of 20,000; it has been failing either to carry a full range of goods or to pay its way for some time. But equally understandable was the reaction of local shoppers and traders - particularly the latter - who took the line that once Marks, today's linchpin of High Street shopping, pulled out, Kentish Town's main thoroughfare would lose credibility all round and become a 'ghost street' of unlet and unlettable premises.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the matter, St Michael appeared to be touched by the fuss and was persuaded to stay - for the moment. But what is interesting to the historian in this present-day event is the relatively short time-scale of the evolution of the chain-store from interloper into institution. In the inter-war period, when empires like Marks' (and Boots, Sainsburys, Woolworths, Timothy Whites and the Home and Colonial Stores) were busy staking out their territory in the High streets in and out of London, they were seen as characterless, cut-price upstarts. The presiding genii of the High Streets were then the department stores, each unique to its particular locality. They were still apparently in their hey-day, though a discerning shopper might have noticed that overhead cash railways, oval mirrors, bright electric lights and life-size models hardly proclaimed, any longer, a particular modernity or sophistication. But the dividing line between being attractively well-established and unattractively dowdy is always hard to discern, and Daniels - the Kentish Town Big Shop - may be forgiven for having imagined that its well-established ways would do forever.

Daniels (which occupied two large blocks on the western side of the Kentish Town road, one of which now houses Sainsburys) could trace its origins back to 1865, the period when the district was changing rapidly and definitively from an overgrown suburban village into a piece of London. Two brothers, Charles and Alfred Daniels, who are reported rather surprisingly to have been of Essex farming stock, took the lease on a shop in Old Chapel Row (as that part of the High Street was then called) from its previous occupant, a confectioner, and opened a drapers called 'The Little Wonder'. In fact indirect evidence in Street Directories of the time suggests that their tenancy coincided with the rebuilding of that

run, replacing converted houses with purpose-built shops. A local newspaper of 1867 noted with approval the area's changing character, including the 'vista of large and magnificent shops, the busy appearance of the principal streets'. No doubt, to eyes accustomed to the small-windowed, lattice-paned individual dairies and milliners of a still earlier period, the new commerce did indeed seem splendid. Even in Edwardian days, when it had become commonplace, the young John Betjeman saw Daniels as 'a kind of Selfridges'.

Daniels achieved a fleeting national fame in the 1st World War, through being damaged in a Zeppelin raid - further rebuilding followed. At that time many of its assistants actually lived above the shop, a life of meagre pay and long hours, strictly controlled by a resident house-keeper. It kept going without mishap until and during the 2nd World War, and celebrated its 87th anniversary in 1952. (Why 87?) The Beverley sisters signed their latest record in the newly-opened television department and prizes were offered in a knitting competition. One lifelong customer brought in a packet of needles which her mother had purchased at the store in 1870, and every hundredth customer was offered a free permanent wave. But in reality the writing was on the wall for Daniels, still a family firm and by then (according to someone who worked in it in those days) 'unbelievably old-fashioned - very disorganised. Full of enamel sloppails.' Domestic objects could be had cheaper at Woolworths, and its most important line of business - clothing - had lost out to Burtons and to Marks & Spencer.

A decade later, when Daniels centenary should have been celebrated, the building was empty. It remained so for years, though intermittent tenants came and went; it is only now, with the establishment of Owl Bookshop and several other individual tenants in the part not occupied by Sainsburys, that new life has been injected into it.

Now, in turn, the cycle of the chain-stores in inner London is taking its own inexorable course. Read CHS Newsletter for 1993 to find out more.

Gillian Tindall

## HELP WANTED AT THE ZOO

We have in mind a talk about London Zoo and preferably at the Zoo. We need the assistance of a Fellow of the RZS in arranging this and we would be most grateful if any member who is a Fellow could contact the Secretary about this.



This picture shows one part of C & A Daniels store in Kentish Town in 1903. No 209 is on the site of one of the old Morgan farmhouses, reputedly built on the site of the medieval St Pancras Chapel-of-Ease. Owl Bookshop now occupies 211.

## Advance Notice

On March 20th we shall have a talk on the Bedford Estate - an important factor in the development of Camden - by Mrs Draper.

In the next Newsletter we hope to publish a complete list of dates etc for the talks for the rest of the year. The absence of some confirmations prevents this at the moment. However, we shall be having the Annual Meeting at Kenwood with a talk, we shall be walking round Highgate Cemetery, as well as listening to talks on Lauderdale House and Karl Marx in London.

Everyone keeps mentioning a film about Keats in Hampstead but few people appear to have seen it. Therefore on April 17th we shall have a showing of this BBC film together with a talk by Tina Gee on some aspect of Keats and Keats House. The film is called Keats at Wentworth House. More details in the next Newsletter.

## NEW MEMBERS

Mr and Mrs T. Auber, M. Byrne, Miss N. Dawson, Mrs R. Demusiak, Miss V. Harvey-Samuel, Miss C. McCarter, Miss S. Matthews, Mr D. Pritchard, Miss C. Sampson, M.J. Bailey, P. Fehler, Miss L Greenwood, Ms L.A. Hall, Mrs H. Lefroy, Mrs C. Liddall, Miss V. Marland, Mrs C. Minty, Miss A.J. Morris, Mr and Mrs R Nathan, K.P. Newsome, G.F. Palmer, P. Roth, Mrs D. Sharp, Miss S. Spence

## OTHER SOCIETIES

Islington Archaeology and History Society

8 Mar The Archway, speaker Dr. A. Lynch. (Joint meeting with Hornsey Historical Society) At the City University, Northampton square, E.C.1  
Membership details: Flat 5, 120 Rotherfield street, N.1.

The meeting begins at 8pm

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson. Items for publication should be sent to him at 32 Ellington Street, N.7 (607 1628)



# newsletter

No 46

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAR 1978

## The Bedford Estate

3rd April 7.30pm  
Holborn Library Hall

The Bedford Estate, one of the most important factors and influences in the development of London's planning history, is the subject of our talk on April 3rd.

Please note that this is a new date for this talk, originally scheduled for March. Our speaker is Mrs Draper, archivist to the Bedford Estate.

That so much of the Estate is still standing in good condition is a credit to the management. It is a pity that so much has disappeared with the expansion of the University.

This talk will be of great interest to all members.

## Keats on Film in April

17th April 7.30pm  
Holborn Library Hall

Our other event in April is a film. We have been fortunate in borrowing a BBC film about Keats and Keats House which everyone says is very good. The film is

to be introduced by Christina Gee, the Archivist at Keats House. She will also give a talk on the recent, much publicised restoration of the building.

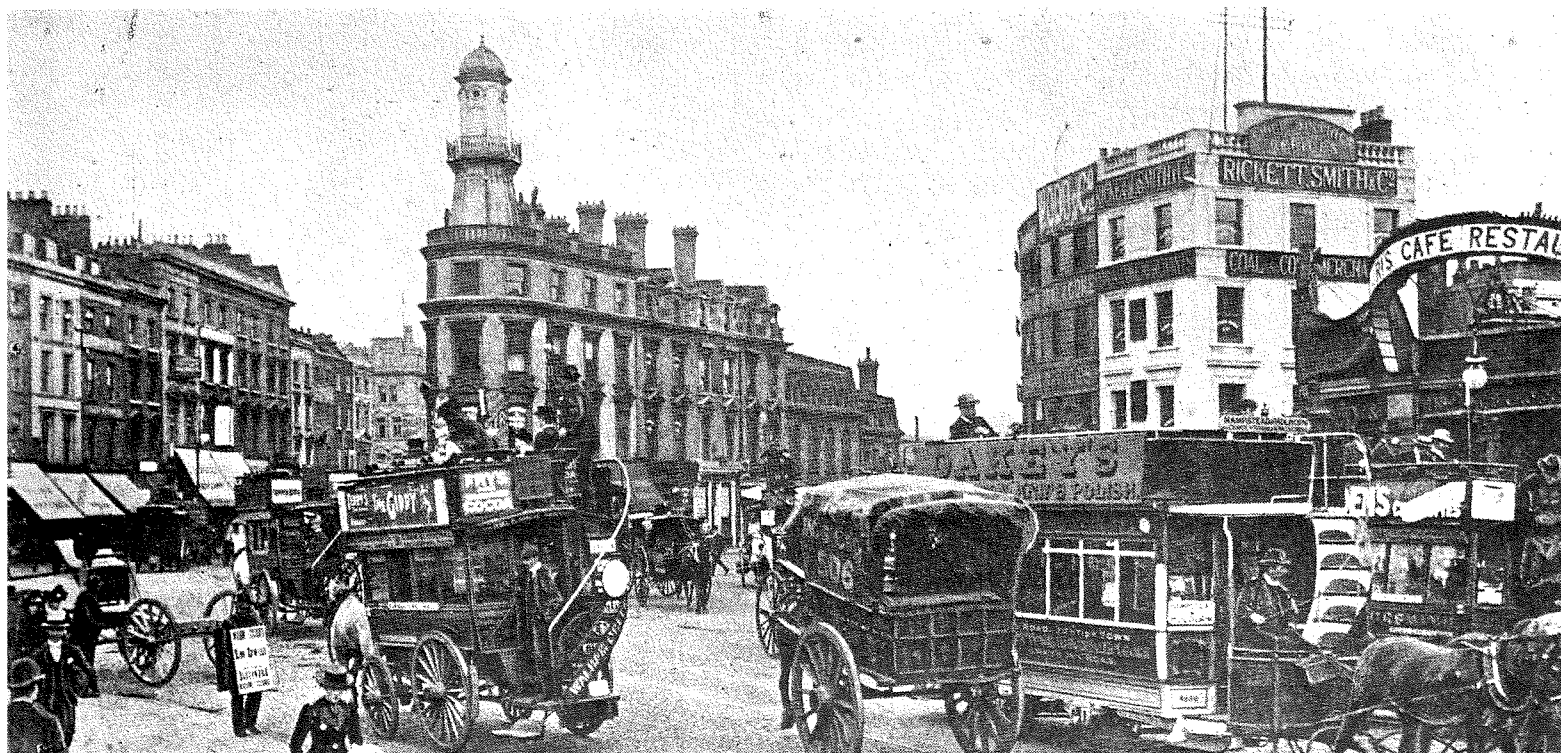
## Kings Cross Mystery

Many of you will have passed by the building with the tower shown in the old illustration below. It frequently arouses comment but initial investigations in the Local History Library have revealed little about its origin. I wonder if any CHS member can provide a clue to its previous uses.

A print showing the demolition in 1845 of Stephen Geary's monument, the King's Cross, has in the background a similar building but with a different tower. From lettering seen on the building the word 'Dispensary' can probably be deduced.

The building, 380 Grays Inn Road and 297 Pentonville Road, often seems to be excluded from the London directories even under its previous numbering as part of Cumberland Row, New Road and St Chad's Row.

Malcolm Holmes



## ADVANCE NOTICE

The programme for the rest of the year so far as we know it is:

- May 17th Industrial Archaeology Workshop organised by David Thomas. Swiss Cottage Library 7.30pm
- Jun 26th Annual General Meeting, a talk on Kenwood by the Curator, John Jacob, and a viewing of the Exhibition of Romney drawings At Kenwood House, 7.15pm
- Jul 15th Tour of Highgate Cemetery
- Aug 6th Outing to Chedworth Villa and Cirencester. Organised by Mr Gregory
- Sep Still to be arranged
- Oct 3rd Baroness Burdett-Coutts, a talk by Mrs Edna Healey. A joint event with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.
- Nov 9th Sir George Gilbert Scott and Camden, a talk by Gavin Stamp. At Hampstead Parish Church, 8pm
- Dec 12th Karl Marx in London. Speaker and venue to be arranged.

## Blake Submission

A Committee to Review Local History has recently been set up under the chairmanship of Lord Blake to review the extent of local history provision and activity in the country. This Society has sent a lengthy submission which emphasises the need, in Camden, for a local history centre and museum. Among the other things on our 'wants' list is the professional translation of court rolls, extended opening hours of libraries (in particular at County Hall), and the facility to sell our publications through the borough's libraries.

Cherry Lavell kindly did the work of drawing up the report, for which, many thanks.

## REVIEWS GROUP

Rising costs have finally forced the price of our annual Review up to £1. The new price will operate from April 4th next, the day after our next talk. So, this will be your last chance to buy the new Review or back numbers at the old price of 75p. You can also order them by post from Christopher Wade, 28, Willoughby Road, N.W.3 by adding 15p for postage.

## Subscription Increase

At their meeting at the beginning of February, the Council of the Society decided that a subscription increase was now necessary. The rates have remained the same for four years, while costs, particularly of printing and of postage, have increased greatly. At £2 for an individual membership, this still represents good value, and we hope that you will continue to support the work of the Society.

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of March, and a renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter. It is a great help if you are willing to pay by Bankers Order, and Deeds of Covenant benefit the Society by £1.04 for every £2 paid (at present rates of tax). Forms for these are also included. I will be writing to those who have already signed Bankers Orders and Deeds of Covenant, but if you have any query, please contact me at 278 4444 ext 3002.

Jane Ramsay,  
Treasurer.

## The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be at Kenwood House on June 26th, at 7.15pm. Full details will be in the next Newsletter.

Nominations for Officers and members of the Council are required by March 31st. The present list is as follows:

President: Sir James Brown  
Vice Presidents: Sir John Betjeman,  
Charles Lee, William Maidment, Sir  
John Summerson, Professor F.M.L.  
Thompson and R. Michael Robbins

Chairman: John Richardson  
Vice-Chairman: Gillian Tindall  
Editor of Publications: Christopher  
Wade  
Secretary: Jenny Stevens  
Treasurer: Mrs Jane Ramsay  
Archivist: Malcolm Holmes

Council members: E.G. Brassington,  
Anthony Cooper, Mrs Christina Gee,  
G.D. Gregory, John Lawson, Miss Deirdre  
Le Faye, Cherry Lavell, Horace Shooter  
and Rosemary Weinstein.

Nominations should be sent to The  
Secretary, St Pancras Library, 100  
Euston Road, N.W.1.

# The Site of the Old Kentish Town Chapel

Re the caption to the illustration on p4 of the last Newsletter, there is no doubt as to the precise location of the old Kentish Town Chapel. It is represented by nos 207 and 209 Kentish Town Road.

After the new Kentish Town Chapel, in Highgate Road, was consecrated in July 1784, the Trustees of the Church lands of St Pancras sold by public auction on 6 August 1784 the materials of the old chapel in Kentish Town Road, together with a 99-year lease of the site. These were bought by William Morgan for £150. The agreement for the lease, at a ground rent of 5/- per annum, was made on 9 September 1784. The old chapel was demolished and Morgan used the oak panelling in his residence as well as gravestones to pave the frontage. Incidentally, Samuel Palmer stated in his 'History of the Parish of St Pancras' that part of the wall of the old chapel was still standing in 1870. There were complex legal proceedings about the sale, but in the outcome the freehold remained in the hands of the Trustees and the lease to Morgan was eventually granted on 20 Sept 1793 for a period of 98 years from Michaelmas 1785.

In 1863 the lease was surrendered to the Trustees and the land was let under the authority of an Order of the Charity Commissioners in 1863. The site was used for 2 houses and two leases dated 1 March 1865 for nos 207 and 209 Kentish Town Road were granted to George Claudius Ash and William Ash (C. Ash & Sons) for 98½ years from June 1863 at £10 each per annum. The benefit of these leases passed into the hands of C & A Daniels who had purchased adjacent properties, and were desirous of developing the whole site by erecting modern shop premises. In the circumstances, the Trustees felt that it would be advantageous to accept an offer for the freehold which was duly sold in 1926 for £2750. The capital sum was invested and is still administered by the Trustees (of whom the present writer is one).

Charles Lee

# THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA

I had a quick response to my enquiry about John Mills. Mr David Webb of the Bishopsgate Institute sent me various extracts from 'Notes and Queries' between 1891 and 1915.

The comments are a little contradictory, but it appears that Mills was more noteworthy for his wife than his own adventures, although according to the Gentleman's Magazine of September 1811 he gave up his place by the window in the Black Hole to the acting garrison commander, not as I hoped to a lady. The non-combatants had already fled except for one Mrs Mary Carey who would not have been described as a lady; according to one account she was in the Black Hole and survived it but died later aged 18.

Mills was afterwards in the Civil Service of the East India Company who gave him an unexpected pension in his old age. But the Gentleman's Magazine says he was not exactly the last survivor of the disaster, as 'Mr Burdett, late of Ealing but now a resident of Southampton, is still in existence'. John Burdett is described as a young gentleman volunteer at the time of the siege.

John Mills' wife was born Isabella Burchell about 1735, and was a milkmaid who was taken up by Jonathan Tyers, the proprietor of Vauxhall Gardens where she appeared as a singer between 1751 and 1760. She played Polly in the Beggar's Opera at Drury Lane in 1760, is said to have belonged to Covent Garden in 1758, and sang at Marylebone Gardens from 1763 to 1766. Sometime before 1760 she married 'the younger Vincent', an oboist in the band at the Vauxhall, and after his death she married Mills with whom she lived in the Hampstead Road after accompanying him to the East Indies. She died in 1802 and was buried in old St Pancras Churchyard.

I think they shared a grave; the upper part of the tombstone has gone but there are traces of an illegible inscription followed by: 'Also the a(fores)aid JOHN MI ESQ, 'which is all that is visible of his name although the last newsletter printed it in full.

Anthony Cooper.

From a Review of Local History & periodicals by D.A. Reeder, Urban History Yearbook, 1977 p52:

'A more evident attempt to adopt a comprehensive view is registered in the aims of the Camden Society, a well set up organisation drawing on much Hampstead support, which aims 'to study and catalogue the fabric of life in Camden's past', including the development of roads and transport, population movements, political changes, ownership of land, family histories, archaeology, working and living conditions, architecture grand and small, and many other subjects'. Examples of this research, from individual pieces to a symposium on Edwardian Camden, are displayed in the Camden History Review (ed. Christopher Wade) which has the format of an illustrated magazine. This type of publication appears to raise a controversial issue since some of the more conservative organisations want to retain an older style of transactions while others want to cut more of a dash. Thus the Hornsey Society, founded in 1971, and a near neighbour to Camden, insists on its quarterly bulletin as a serious journal rather than a society news sheet..

(sent in by Cherry Lavell)

## BOOK REVIEW

Joan Schwitzer has kindly drawn our attention to a book which will be of interest to many members. It is called 'Middle Class Housing in Britain'. It is by M.A. Simpson and T.H. Lloyd, published by David and Charles 1977, price £6.50, 217pp. It includes a section by Professor F.M.L. Thompson, one of our Vice-Presidents and author of 'Hampstead. Building a Borough', which deals with Hampstead 1830-1914. It is a useful summary, based on estate papers and other primary sources.

## Burgh House

Plans for a Hampstead Museum and Art Gallery are included in the Burgh House Project announced by a newly-formed trust which aims at saving this famous old building for public use. An appeal for funds will be launched shortly. Meanwhile Christopher Wade, at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 would very much like to hear from anyone interested in helping with this exciting project as soon as possible.



This delightful postcard of Chalk Farm Road was recently donated to the Local History Library at Swiss Cottage by Mr Butler.

# newsletter

No 47

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY 1978

## The Annual General Meeting

This year's AGM is at Kenwood, one of the most beautiful houses in the borough. Most members will be familiar with it, but not with its history. We are therefore delighted that John Jacob, the Curator, is taking time off from his fight to keep the place fully open, to tell us something about its past. The business meeting starts at 7.45pm, but before that the Society is invited at 7.15 to view the exhibition of Romney drawings that will be on at that time. After the meeting John Jacob will talk, and then there will be Refreshments in the Old Kitchen. The refreshment part will depend on the response of members to the enclosed form as there has to be a reasonable number for the caterer to think it worth his while. This will be a good opportunity for members to meet each other and we do hope that most people coming will want to come to the wine etc after. So please send in the form by May 25th so that we can give the caterers notice.

## Industrial Archaeology Workshop

May 17th 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing st  
N.W.1 (close to Euston tube)  
Our May meeting is devoted to Industrial Archaeology, an event organised by David Thomas.

It will take the form of a workshop and is a joint evening with the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society at which members of the Industrial Archaeology and Transport groups present the results of their recent researches. John Lawson will be talking on the railway goods yards, particularly that of the Great Northern Railway at Kings Cross. Hugh Marks (of GLIAS) will tell us about piano and piano part makers in Camden and David Thomas will describe a walk along the Regent's Canal with the help of a short film.

## ESSAY COMPETITION

Would-be essayists in our Camden Characters competition are reminded that the closing date is June 30th and that all entries must be accompanied by the official Entry Form. All enquiries and essays to CHS Essay Competition, 28 Willoughby road, N.W.3.

## Advance Notice

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

- Jul 15 Tour of Highgate Cemetery  
(details in next Newsletter)
- Jul 29 Summer Outing to Brixworth and Rockingham (Details in this Newsletter)
- Sep 28 Speculative Building in Holborn by Frank Kelsall. Holborn Central Library 7.30pm. This is a change from our previously announced programme
- Oct 3 Baroness Burdett-Coutts by Edna Healey. A joint event with the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution at Dyne House, Highgate School.
- Nov 9 Gilbert Scott - a talk by Gavin Stamp. Hampstead Parish Church 8pm
- Dec 12 Karl Marx in London. At the Working Mens' College 7.30pm

## PHOTO INDEX-IN

A good way of spending an evening is to join in sorting out the many old photographs in the possession of Camden's Local History Library. Members help to identify and classify them. The next Index-in, run by Christina Gee, is on Wednesday June 7th at 6pm at Swiss Cottage Library. Coffee and biscuits supplied. Please contact Mrs Gee at Keats House, Keats Grove, N.W.3 (435 2062) if you intend to come.

# The Summer Outing

Saturday, 29th July

A Field Centre, a famous church and a castle

Our Summer Outing this year is being organised by Mr Gregory, our former Secretary. He writes:

A number of suggestions for a summer excursion were talked over by the Council and the one unanimously approved was Rosemary Weinstein's for a day in two villages in the heart of England, both charming, one famous for its church and the other for its castle

BRIXWORTH has a fine Saxon church, described as the 'best architectural monument for a hundred miles around'. Read about it in any book on Northamptonshire before coming. The Vicar will be on holiday but is arranging for a knowledgeable guide to meet us.

Way to the north, but still in Northants, is ROCKINGHAM, and here our first stop will be the Castle, home of the Watson family since 1530. The present owner, Commander Michael Saunders Watson, is allowing us to visit on a day when the Castle is closed to the general public and will provide a guide. We are also to have tea there. There is also a good account of this in the popular books. Believe it or not, there is a Camden connection here, for Charles Dickens often came as a guest, and wrote 'Bleak House' here.

At both places there will be an opportunity of savouring the atmosphere of these enchanting villages and the surrounding countryside, for our stop at Brixworth will include a break for lunch and there will be time to spare at Rockingham after tea before we set off for home.

On our way to Brixworth in the morning we will pause for an hour or so at BRADWELL ABBEY FIELD CENTRE, near Milton Keynes. The Centre, opened in 1973, is housed in the charming Bradwell Abbey Farmhouse and on the site is the 14th century Chapel. A member of the staff will meet us to tell us about the activities of the Centre which include archaeology, geology, natural history and environmental conservation.

This will be a full day and we shall need to start from Hampstead no later than 8.45am. The ticket issued to members who book this excursion will give details of pick-up point etc.

The charge of £4 includes fare, admission to Rockingham Castle and tea. Members may like to bring a packed lunch or use the restaurant or pub in Brixworth.

## WHAT'S IN A BLOCK NAME?

It was with some concern that I heard from Eric George of the Hampstead Town Tenants' and Residents' Association that the Council were going to name two new blocks of flats in Hampstead after villages in Yorkshire and Berkshire. The Hampstead District Management Committee was being asked last February to choose between Finningley, Lindholme and Sandtoft in one case and from a string of Berkshire names in the other. One of the blocks was the replacement for Campden Court (behind the Everyman Cinema), named after Hampstead's benevolent Lord of the Manor in the 17th century, and it seemed only right that the old name should be preserved. But the GLC, who are the final authority in naming London blocks, have a rule that you cannot re-use a name when a block is demolished. After various counter suggestions, which uncovered another GLC rule - that a block cannot bear the same name as the street in which it is situated - a compromise was reached with New Campden Court. The second block in question, on the so-called Klondike site at the corner of Fitzjohns Avenue and Arkwright Road, has also been saved from the prettification and christened Field Court. This followed a suggestion from 'The Streets of Hampstead' pointing out that this part of Fitzjohns Avenue was once called Field Place.

Will other members please act as watchdogs and fight for local historical names?

Christopher Wade

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

The Treasurer wishes to remind those members who have not yet renewed their subscriptions that they were due on 1st March and should be paid now if you wish to continue receiving the Newsletter!

The membership fees are now:

Individual £2

Joint (Husband and wife) £2.50

Associate £2.50

Full time students and OAPs £1.50.

Renewal forms were enclosed with the March Newsletter, but if you have mislaid yours, please send your remittance to The Treasurer, Camden History Society, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3



## C & A Daniels

Someone has passed to me the Camden History Society Newsletter for Jan 1978, with an account of my father's old firm, C & A Daniels of Kentish Town, and I would like to make a brief comment, if I may.

C & A Daniels was started by my grandfather and his two elder brothers, Charles and Alfred (his name was Edward) so this much is accurate. The writer (Gillian Tindall) finds the fact that they came of Essex farming stock rather 'surprising' though I don't know why! They did indeed, and like many young men I suppose they came to London to seek their fortune. My grandfather, who died when I was seven, was evidently the moving spirit in Daniels for the greater part of its early history; and my father entered the firm when about 16, although he had not wished this, but wanted to have been a lawyer. My own early memories of Daniels date from the age of about 5, when I was allowed to play with the cash-desk cylinders (under supervision of course). In those days you put customers' change into cylinders which travelled on wires overhead from one part of the shop to another. Daniels did a very large mail-order business in those days, and people used to send from Wales and remote country places for blouses, dresses, etc. There was a housekeeper, a Mrs Coath, in my childhood, and a few of the girls lived in under her care - but this had ended before World War II, when Mrs Coath and her husband retired to Worthing. I stayed with them there in the mid 1930s.

I think your author is a little confused about the war damage to Daniels - I don't recall any damage being spoken of in World War I, though there may have been something. I was born in 1919 - but I should have heard it talked of when I was small, if it had been significant. However, in the last war, Daniels really had a bashing. At 1am one morning the whole of the centre building was blown to bits by three direct hits from German bombs. Fortunately the only staff in the building were the restaurant cook, the restaurant manageress and a porter, and they heard the warning and went to the shelter, from which they were eventually rescued. The centre of the building was just a pit of earth, and a temporary prefab frontage was put up - but we did not get the Government grant to replace the proper frontage for several years after the war. The birthday celebrations referred to were held to celebrate this. Incidentally one of the staff, a buyer, Miss Minnie Preston, composed a 'poem' about the bombing:

'Hitler tried for our destruction  
By dropping bombs in our direction.  
He'll not break our resolution  
Daniels still gives satisfaction '

I served as a Director of the firm from 1947 until 1954 when it was sold. My father had died in 1936, but we had managing directors. His partner and cousin, Jack Daniels, died I think in the 1940s.

I don't know about the blanket statement that the firm was old-fashioned. In some respects I expect it was; but the major part of our post-war trade was concerned with furniture and television. We were somewhat hampered by the fact that a small radio shop stood in the middle of the frontage, and prevented rebuilding in a modern way. In my grandfather's day, I understand the owner would have sold this shop to us quite reasonably, but my grandfather, despite my father's pleas, would not buy it. By the time it got to post-war days, the owner was asking a tremendous price.

Diana Daniels

## Burgh House Appeal

The Burgh House Trust's major Appeal to 'Keep Burgh House' in community use is being launched this month. The Trust aims at taking over the Queen Anne building in New End Square from Camden Council later this year and opening it to the public for a wide variety of interests. One floor would be mainly available for meetings, concerts, exhibitions and a study centre for schools. Another floor would be devoted to permanent displays of local history material, covering such subjects as Hampstead Wells, Constable and Romney and other famous residents, and the geology and natural history of Hampstead Heath. Donations of exhibits will be invited from the public.

CHS members Jerry and Elizabeth Shields have researched widely into the history of Burgh House and its rich crop of inhabitants. A guide book to the house is planned, but a brief historical survey will appear in the Hampstead and Highgate Express this month. Anyone interested in keeping Burgh House as a meeting place and museum is warmly encouraged to support the Trust's Appeal. Contributions and offers of help should go to the Appeal Director: Mrs Anthea Holme, 14 Buckland Crescent, N.W.3 (586 0056)

## HELP NEEDED ON THE HAC

A CHS member, Jean Tsushima, is researching the biographical details of members of the Honourable Artillery Company 1837-1907. Many of its members lived in the Hampstead and St John's Wood area.

Interest centres particularly on three families:

1) George Alfred Raikes, b 1850, died 1940s(?), lived from 1868 until the mid 1890s at 63 Belsize Park. He had a brother who also lived there called Charles.

Their father was Robert Raikes (1801-76), a banker, but bank unknown.

2) Frederick William Justen, born c1858 and died 1903. In 1894 he gave his address as 120 Alexandra Road, Sth Hampstead. He worked in the French book trade at 37 Soho Square.

3) The Oetzmann family. They have a constant address at 67-79 Hampstead Road, almost certainly a business address, but the nature of the business is unknown. Frederick Augustus Oetzmann lived at 103 Haverstock Hill in 1894, moved to Kelso, Greencroft Gardens in 1899 and to Heathland, West Hampstead Avenue later. Arthur Sidney Oetzmann lived at Hillside, Haverstock Hill as did Albert Ernest Oetzmann

Any members who can fill any gaps on these families, or have ancestors who belonged to the HAC at the period being researched, please contact the Editor of this Newsletter at 32 Ellington street, N.7.

## HOW DID THOSE GARDENS GROW?

A Museum of Garden History is proposed by the Tradescant Trust set up in 1977. The name comes from the two John Tradescants, father and son, who between them travelled from North Africa to Northern Russia and eastern North America in the early 17th century to introduce many plants and trees new to this country.

The aim is to house the museum at the parish church of St Mary-at-Lambeth, by the River Thames, wherein the Tradescants lie buried. The church has now ceased to be needed for worship.

Those interested in the project or who wish to donate towards it should contact The Tradescant Trust, 7 The Little Boltons, S.W.10.

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr and Mrs G. Franglen, Mr G. Goodwin, Miss J. Prosser, Miss P. Redford, Miss A. Trippe, Mr and Mrs S. Wolf

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

The Group meets next on Tuesday, 11th May. It will be a library research evening at Victoria Library, Buckingham Palace rd, 5.30-7pm. Under the leadership of David Thomas the group will be tracing the histories of firms with the aid of Street Directories. Ring David Thomas 735 2132

## LECTURES AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The Museum of London have a number of interesting lunchtime talks arranged:

Bricks and Mortar: aspects of the architectural history of London.  
at 1.10pm

- 10 May Introduction by Francis Sheppard
- 17 May The City Wall, by Ralph Merrifield
- 24 May The Tower of London, by Philip Walker
- 31 May Medieval Houses, by John Schofield
- 7 Jun London Bridge, by Brian Spencer
- 14 Jun Christ Church, Spitalfields, by Kerry Downes
- 21 Jun Georgian Houses, by Dan Cruickshank
- 28 Jun The Houses of Parliament, by Michael Port

## WEST HEATH DIG EXHIBITION

The West Heath Dig has been one of the success stories of our friends of the Hendon and District Archaeological Society. An Exhibition of finds and photographs from the Mesolithic site now being dug by the Leg of Mutton Pond is being held at Swiss Cottage Library from 3 May - 31st May

## UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - 150 YEARS OLD

University College, Gower street are 150 years old this year and are staging an exhibition and various lectures to celebrate this. (Which seems better than saying they are having a 'sesqui-centennial exhibition')

The Exhibition contains College Treasures such as gold and silver jewellery from ancient Egypt, the first English Bible and also features space travel and infra-red telescopes. The Exhibition runs from 9-18 May, 9.30am to 5pm (except Sunday).

# newsletter

No 48

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

July 1978

## A Tour of Highgate Cemetery

Highgate Cemetery is one of the most interesting and attractive places in Camden. Unfortunately a combination of lax upkeep, vandalism and black-magic ceremonies forced its closure some time back and there are now rare opportunities to visit it. The upkeep of the cemetery is now undertaken by the Friends of Highgate Cemetery and to them we owe the facility for our tour on July 15th. We meet at the lower gates in Swains Lane at 2.30pm; the Friends have kindly supplied two guides for the occasion.

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

David Thomas has relinquished his position as organiser of this Group although he will still be actively involved. We would like to thank David for the energy with which he has founded and led this Group over the years, and to welcome Hugh Marks his successor. Hugh's address is 252 Willesden Lane, N.W.2 (tel:459 0991 home, 730 8921 work).

Hugh Marks writes:

This is a short note to introduce myself. I have taken over the job of co-ordinating the work of the Industrial Archaeology Group from David Thomas, thus allowing him more time for the mass of other I.A. work in which he is involved. If I can bring a small part of his enthusiasm and expertise to bear on this work I will have done well.

Over the last year I have been concentrating on the piano industry but I am very aware there is much more to visit and record. I need your support to stay informed; if you know of any buildings or processes which you think would be of interest or have any views on the direction the I.A. Group should be taking I will be only too pleased to hear from you. One suggestion has been that we should produce a gazeteer of I.A. sites in Camden. This is a massive task but well worth doing I feel.

Details of forthcoming events

Jul 11: Research evening at the RIBA Library, 66 Portland Place, meeting at the library desk upstairs at 5.30pm

Jul 25: Research evening at the Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Road, meeting at the Reference Library at 5.30pm

Aug 12: Recording visit to workshops in Camden meeting at Camden Town tube station at 10.15am. Wear old clothes and bring note-pad

## LECTURE CANCELLED

Mrs Edna Healey has had to cancel her proposed talk on Baroness Burdett-Coutts on October 3rd. This is due to possibility of a General Election near that date. The talk has been re-arranged for January

## Advance Notice

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows:

Sep 28: Speculative Building in Holborn by Frank Kelsall. Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Road, 7.30pm.

Oct 10: Covent Garden Market by Robert Thorne of the Historic Buildings Division of the GLC, at 7.30pm. (This is a change of programme)

Nov 9: Gilbert Scott - a talk by Gavin Stamp. Hampstead Parish Church 8pm

Dec 12: Karl Marx in London. At the Working Mens College at 7.30pm

## Change of Address

Will you please note that the Society's new Secretary is Mrs Jane Ramsay whose address, and henceforth that of the Society, is Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

The Treasurer's post was unfilled at the last meeting though it is hoped that this will be very temporary. For the time being any correspondence re membership or finance should go to Mrs Ramsay.

# The Annual General Meeting **SUMMER OUTING**

The AGM at Kenwood was, many people said, highly successful. It was followed by an entertaining and perceptive talk by John Jacob the Curator, on the history of the building and furnishing of Kenwood House. The attraction of Kenwood led to possibly our largest attendance at an AGM - about 100 people, and many joined the social afterwards. The Mayor of Camden attended the meeting.

The following officers and committee members were elected:

**PRESIDENT:** Sir James Brown

**VICE-PRESIDENTS:** Sir John Betjeman, Charles Lee, E. Michael Robbins, William R. Maidment, Sir John Summerson, Professor F. Thompson and Lord Greenwood

**CHAIRMAN:** John Richardson

**VICE-CHAIRMAN:** Gillian Tindall

**TREASURER:** unfilled

**SECRETARY:** Jane Ramsay

**EDITOR PUBLICATIONS:** Christopher Wade

**PROGRAMME SECRETARY:** Horace Shooter

**ARCHIVIST:** Malcolm Holmes

The meeting, with only one vote against, agreed to donate £100 to the Burgh House appeal.

## The Oetzmann family

Gillian Tindall, Sir James Brown, Mona Burns, Clare Mansel and Edward Wolfe have all responded to the plea in the last Newsletter for information on the Oetzmann family. The sum total of their letters is:

The Oetzmanns ran a furnishing business in Hampstead Road, the shop occupying the whole site between Drummond Street and William Street. Mrs Burns has bills of her grandmother's purchases there in 1891. Mr Wolfe thinks they went out of business in the late 1930s and Miss Mansel thinks the shop was demolished in the 1950s. Mr Wolfe, incidentally, joined his family firm of Wolfe and Hollander (also furniture) in 1926. His father who established the business in 1896 knew the Oetzmanns. The Tottenham Court Road was the centre of the retail furniture trade in those days- there were about 40 specialist shops and stores in the road. Oetzmanns were, he thinks, members of the Tottenham Court Road Traders Association whose secretary might still have records for the period. Sir James mentions that he thinks Oetzmanns did hire-purchase from an early date and says that hire purchase for furniture was innovated by a man called Thomas who had a shop in the Tottenham Court Road.

The programme for this year's outing has proved so popular that it has been over-subscribed. We had thought of arranging for two coaches to cope with the excess numbers but the organisers at one of the venues have said that they cannot take so many people. So, we regret that only those already with tickets will have places this time.

## THE FLEET RIVER

A reader brought into the Local History library an undated proposal relating to the Fleet River and wondered if any of our members were able to supply any further information:

'Proposals for cleaning, mending and repairing an ancient channel, from the mouth of Fleetditch to the End of the Cross Lane in Hamstead (sic) Road, in which Channel or River Vessels of Burden have formerly sail'd, as may be plainly prov'd, not only from several Anchors having been dug up in Pancras Road, but likewise by Records of the City of London....'

While local accounts of St Pancras and the River Fleet refer to the anchors the next part is interesting:

'It is propos'd to open the said River or Channel, and to add a small cut from Hamstead Road where the said Water ends, to Hanover Square, by cutting of which small Tract of Land, not exceeding three quarters of a Mile, Barges and other small Craft may be brought up to Marybone every Tide, which will supply all those Buildings with all sorts of Merchandise, at much cheaper Rates than they can be supply'd by other means; which will likewise be of great encouragement for People to inhabit those Buildings....'

Hanover Square was built between 1716-1720 and at this time other developments were taking place nearby particularly on the Duke of Newcastle's estate, including Cavendish Square. The proposal, of course, may be of a later date.

Malcolm Holmes

# Mystery in Hampstead

Miss Elizabeth Einberg, Assistant Keeper, British Collection at the Tate has sent us a photograph of a painting by Clint of Hampstead from the Heath. There are one or two question marks over it which she hopes members of the Society might be able to solve.

Clint was living in Downshire Hill from 1847-50 and at Haverstock Hill after that. In 1952 the then Hampstead Borough Librarian wrote of the painting "It seems probable that it is a view of Christ Church with Downshire Hill below. The angle at which the church is seen is painted from roughly the SE and from a point corresponding to the present day Constantine Road. Thus the Hampstead ponds are presumably behind the chimney in the middle distance and Parliament Hill begins to rise up at the right. Christ Church was erected 1852. According to Baines' 'Annals of Hampstead' the railway from Camden Town and Hampstead to Willesden was opened in 1855". From this evidence the picture was painted between 1852 and 1855.

So far, so good, but what could the laundry or bleaching works in the mid-distance be? There **are** long lines of whitish-beige something stretched out in the fields immediately beyond it. There is

also a glimpse of an important-looking house among the trees to the right of the church. The little factory complex with its chimney in the mid-distance is also intriguing. There is lots of white smoke (?steam) rising from the row of six brick-red structures of the 'laundry'.

Any ideas anyone?

## FLORA MACDONALD MAYOR

Sybil Oldfield writes:

The writer Flora Macdonald Mayor; author of 'The Rector's Daughter', now a Penguin Modern Classic, lived in Hampstead throughout the 1920s until her death at 7 East Heath Road in January 1932. Very little is known about her life and work and it is only now that the first biographical and critical study of her is being put together. If any reader should have any knowledge or even personal recollections either of Flora Mayor or her twin sister Alice, who continued to live in Hampstead after her sister's death would they be kind enough to contact the above at the School of English and American Studies, Arts Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, nr Brighton.



## FACTORIES IN CAMDEN

Joan Schwitzer writes:

I came across a book in the British Library which threw a spotlight on three factories in Camden which existed in the 1860s. These were:

- a) the Fitzroy Zinc and Galvanised Iron Works in Euston Road, of Messrs F. Braby & Co (a detailed description of the operations on various floors)
- b) Huskisson's Chemical Factory, described as by the Bagnigge Wells Road
- c) Gray's Inn Piano Factory, in the 'Tower Manufactory', so-called, the author states, because surmounted by a clock tower, adding that this was formerly a coach-building works.

The book is England's Workshops, published by Groombridge in 1864. Tegetmeier, who lived in Muswell Hill and was a professional journalist as well as a scientist, was one of the six authors who contributed to it.

(An article on Tegetmeier by Mrs Schwitzer appears in the Hornsey Historical Bulletin for Summer 1978.

## The Beginnings of the Ambulance Service

L.H. Collins writes:

In her interesting article entitled 'The Grand Duke at Kenwood' in the 5th Camden History Review Gwynydd Gosling refers to the Grand Duke's gift of the first motor ambulance in London (outside the City) for use in street accidents. There is yet another connection between this first motor ambulance and Camden. It was Sir William Collins, born in 1859 at 46, now 18, Gloucester Road, Regent's Park and whose home was at 1 Albert Terrace opposite Primrose Hill from 1862 until his death in 1946, who had been the inspiration behind this gift.

Sir William was elected a county councillor for West St Pancras in 1892 and was chairman of the LCC for 1897/8. As chairman of the Council's Ambulance Sub-Committee he prepared and laid before the Council in 1902 a report on the then existing ambulance provisions for London. This report while saying much was done by the St John Ambulance Association, the Volunteer Medical Staff Corps and the London Horse Ambulance Service, pointed out that there was no uniform, adequate or co-ordinated system for dealing with street accidents in London and no central supervising authority in quick touch, on the one hand, with casualties as they occurred, and on the other with hospitals in which they could

receive prompt attention. No use was made of the telephone.

By 1905 a complete scheme for a rapid ambulance service for street accidents in London was laid before the Council. This meant a Bill in Parliament to give the Council the necessary powers. By this time the City of London was proposing, and in 1907 establishing, an ambulance service of its own. The Bill passed the Commons but the Lords objected to the ambulance clauses. In 1906 the then Home Secretary appointed a departmental committee to inquire into the subject. Sir William was a member. One piece of evidence given to the committee was that in a tram smash at Highgate in which 23 persons were injured all were conveyed to hospitals on carts or by improvised arrangements as the wheeled litter arrived too late. The committee reported that removal of street casualties by rapid ambulance was the most appropriate method of conveyance. Sir William pressed the Home Secretary to implement the report but without avail.

In 1906 Sir William had become the MP for West St Pancras and in 1909 he introduced as a private member the Metropolitan Ambulance Bill. The Bill passed both Houses and received Royal assent in Oct 1909.

But there remained a further obstacle. It was one thing to give the LCC powers to establish a service, it was another to get them to exercise them. In 1911 the Hampstead and North West London Hospital (as it was then named) offered a site for an ambulance station as part of their then new out-patient department at Camden Town. In the meantime the number of street accidents was mounting.

Though municipal activity to exercise their powers was at a standstill private charity intervened and it was at a dinner on behalf of the Hampstead hospital of which, as recorded by Gwynydd Gosling, the Grand Duke was president, that Sir William made an appeal which resulted in this timely gift by the Grand Duke of an ambulance to convey the sick and injured to and from the Hampstead hospital. Such was the start of the ambulance service in the county of London.

There was a sequel. The new ambulance was being tested on Highgate Hill with the Grand Duke as a passenger. The vehicle broke down and for the first time in his life His Imperial Highness took refuge in a penny tram-car.

All the above is obtained from Sir William's papers now in my possession.



# C & A Daniels

A.R. Mann writes:

Miss Daniels' interesting note in the May Newsletter on her father's old firm prompts me to point out that there is an interesting survival of the building's former ownership on the building itself - namely, a panel on a moulding above the fascia at the left-hand end with the initials 'C&AD' intertwined. There is nothing to correspond with this at the other end.

My attention was drawn to this earlier in the year by a friend of the Daniels family, who was anxious that it should not get defaced. The building is not 'listed', but Gillian Tindall tells me that the 'Owl Bookshop' has a twenty-year lease. I have written to Salter Rex, and I would think that if your readers could also keep an eye on this feature, the memory of C & A Daniels should last into the next century.

Marianne Colloms writes:

I was most interested to read the recent CHS Newsletter articles on C & A Daniels. Perhaps your readers might like to know that in his autobiography, 'A Cab at the Door', the well-known writer V.S. Pritchett gives a brief insight into working conditions at the shop, during the closing decades of the last century. His parents first met at the store, where his father was employed as a shopwalker, and his mother as an apprentice in the millinery department.

"She was so quick with the customers...and so clever with trimmings! She could put an ugly hat on a grumbling woman, give a twist, snatch a feather or a bunch of cherries and so dazzle the customer with chatter and her smiles."

Although the work was hard and the hours long - "Eight to eight, weekdays, eleven o'clock Saturday nights," - the shop was regarded as a 'good crib or berth' and the workers were anxious not to lose their jobs. As mentioned by Ms Tindall, the male employees lived on the premises:

"The poorly paid shop assistant fed in the basement, slept in the attics and went out to get drunk when the shop closed."

However, despite the hours, "cold draughts and the poisonous, headaching smell of gas-light", the job did have its lighter side, with sales assistants indulging in what by present-day standards, would be regarded as harmless, even naive diversions.

"What us girls used to get up to. The nerve we had, dodging across the street, under the horses' heads, playing tricks on

your poor father, he looked so stuck up till you got to know him, putting fly papers on old Daniels' chair...Oh, I was a young limb. One day I tipped a whole pile of hat boxes, the white cardboard ones, on top of your dad. Us girls were always giggling round corners."

However, his father was an ambitious man and such innocent amusements came to an end when he left the shop for another 'berth'; soon after this the couple moved away from London altogether and went to live in Ipswich, where V.S. Pritchett was born in 1900.

## Book Reviews

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin  
NO 16 Spring 1978, price 45p

The main feature of this edition of the Bulletin is a well-researched article by Joan Schwitzer on The White Lion in Highgate High Street (Hornsey side) a pub long since disappeared. Mrs Schwitzer takes us from the 17th century to the 19th (with more to come in a future edition) with her usual clarity and annotation.

The edition also includes Reminiscences of Stroud Green School and an article on the part the Society played in conserving 118 Crouch Hill.

Hornsey Historical Bulletin  
No 17 Summer 1978 Price 45p

In this edition Edwin Monk continues to write his Memories of Hornsey, some of which have already been published in book form. Another main contributor is Joan Schwitzer writing on a local resident W.B. Tegetmeier the prominent Victorian naturalist. Well up to Mrs Schwitzer's usual standard. Dot Woodrow contributes an interesting piece on Steam Carriages in North London

A quote from another Review:  
Kevin Flude in the London Archaeologist reviewing Gillian Tindall's book on Kentish Town 'The Fields Beneath' says:

'I don't want to mislead the reader too much by concentrating on the archaeological implications as the book has so much more to offer. But it does suggest the great potential of the non-professional (Gillian Tindall is of course a professional writer) to the archaeologist. She is associated with the splendid Camden Historical Society, whose publications are of a very high standard. Could we hope for greater co-ordination between over-stretched archaeologists and enthusiastic societies, Gillian Tindall's work shows the potential.

# Methodism in Camden

Mr J.S. Ellis has been writing an interesting series for the Archway Central Hall Newsletter featuring Methodism in and near Islington. Some of his articles include Camden churches and we are hoping that this series will have a comprehensive presentation in the future. In the meantime he has kindly permitted us to produce one of the articles which deals with Methodism in the Kings Cross area.

When John Wesley died in 1791 London did not extend northwards much beyond Hoxton, Clerkenwell and Bloomsbury. At that time Islington, St Pancras, Somers Town, Camden Town, Kentish Town and Highgate were quite small country villages and hamlets. The construction of the New Road from Paddington to Islington in 1756-7 (now known as the Marylebone, Euston and Pentonville Roads), led to the development of the areas along this road. The district known as Pentonville began around 1773, when Capt. Henry Penton, MP, the chief proprietor of a beautiful hillside estate looking over to St Pauls, the City and the Surrey hills beyond, had the first houses built; and then in 1790 Lord Somers gave building leases on an estate known as Brill Farm, to form the district known as Somers town.

Methodism had taken a strong hold on the life of London and the work spread from the City Road and Great Queen Street chapels to the chapel built at Saffron Hill (near Hatton Garden), around 1800, afterwards known as the 'Local Preachers' Cathedral', and to the chapel built at Hinde Street, nr Manchester Square, in 1809-10, for the society which had been meeting for some years at a chapel built in Chandler Street, (renamed Robert st) nr Oxford Street. These chapels in turn helped other smaller societies to extend their work and our Kings Cross Methodist Methodist Church, one of the six churches in the London Mission (North and Central) Circuit, was founded in this manner.

One society met for worship every Sunday evening at Somers Town in 1801, whilst another society of 57 souls worshipped in a small meeting-house at the south end of Maiden Lane (remaned York Way), which had been built by a congregation of Particular Baptists around 1770, called

Battle Bridge Chapel. This was used by Methodists in 1807 and no doubt as a result of the building of new homes and the growth in membership the society decided in 1822 to build a new and larger church. They moved from the western boundary of St Mary's

Islington, to the adjoining parish of St Pancras, not far away to a site of 180 sq. ft. cut out of what was known as Battle Bridge fields. Here, between Liverpool Street and Chesterfield Street (later renamed Birkenhead and Crestfield Streets) and quite apart from any other building they sited their new chapel in 1824-5 at a cost of £4000. The chapel was 80ft square with a gallery and a schoolroom beneath. It had accommodation for 618 people and was ready for worship at the end of December 1824.

Among the first Trustees was John Gaulter who had become a Methodist preacher in 1785 and was President of the Conference in 1817; others were W.H. Smith, stationer, father of the founder of the well-known firm of that name, Robert Eckett, a prosperous builder, William Jenkins, the architect and John Thurston cabinet and billiard table maker.

## MEMORIES ARE MADE OF THESE

Camden Council is holding an exhibition from 1st-30th September called Memories are Made of These. It will feature bygones, memorabilia or documents depicting interesting aspects of life in Hampstead, Holborn and ST Pancras before 1939. Anyone whose attics hold such items are invited to contact Malcolm Holmes at Swiss Cottage Library (where the exhibition will be staged) on 278 4444 ext 3007.

## MEASURED DRAWING COMPETITION

A measured drawing competition of buildings from the period between 1830 and 1920 is being sponsored by Wiggins Teape, the Victorian Society and the Architects Journal. The purpose of the competition is to improve national records of Victorian buildings which are unrecorded. The competition will run from 1st March to 31st October (1978) and the winner will receive a prize of £750. A further £1000 in prize money will also be distributed at the judges' discretion. Prospective entrants should send their name and full address to 'Measured Drawing Competition, Wiggins Teape (Mill Sales) Ltd, Reprographic Division, Chartham Paper Mills, Canterbury, Kent.

## HAMPSTEAD PEOPLE

A look through Holden's London Directory for 1805 reveals a great deal about Camden. If you are prepared to look through 1000 pages and more that is. What it does reveal is what the rate books ignore - the trades of the occupiers. The St Pancras entries are too numerous to include in a Newsletter (interested members can see the extracted list at Swiss Cottage Library) but the Hampstead entries, set out below, are manageable as well as being fascinating local history.

Benham William, grocer and cheesemonger, High st  
Bestland Cantlo, artist, West End  
Bidmead Academy, High Street  
Bliss John, surgeon, nr the Heath  
Bovingdon William, milkman, New End  
Brown John, poulterer, High street  
Browne Thomas, Seminary, Bath House, New End  
Buckland James, ale brewer, High st  
Butler James, Castle Inn, Hampstead Heath  
Campbell George, gruiterer, High st  
Carter Thomas, fishmonger, High st  
Clark James, carpenter, New End  
Clark David, carrier, Holly Bush hill  
Clark John, pastrycook, High st  
Clarke Sarah, sadler and collar maker, High st  
Clowson George, bricklayer, New End  
Collingwood George, taylor, High st  
Collins John, Boarding School, Church row  
Cook John, shopkeeper, High st  
Cooper Thomas, sadler and harness maker, High st  
Cooper James, cowkeeper, High st  
Crouch Abraham, gardener and seedsman, High st  
Davies Joseph, Load of Hay, Haverstock Hill  
Dean William, Black Boy and Still, High st  
Dixon John, leather cutter, High st  
Draper Thomas, gardener, Frognall  
East William, Kings Head, High st  
Edwards Samuel, shoemaker, High st  
Evans Thomasin, hairdresser, High st  
Eves Mary, Three Horseshoes, High st  
Evelt Marian, haberdasher, High st  
Eyles Benjamin, farmer, 1 Wells Walk  
Froster Thomas, White Horse, Pond st  
Frego Dometro, newsman and postman, Flask Walk  
Fullagar Thomas, farmer, Church row  
Gadsden James, baker and cornchandler, Pond st  
Giles Henry, King of Bohemia, High st  
Goodwin Thomas, surgeon, Hampstead  
Graham William, taylor, Bath place, New End  
Greatly Edward, shopkeeper, Pond st  
Griffith William, Bell and Horns, High st  
Grove Thomas, coach master, High st.

Guyons Mrs, Boarding School, Square  
Harrisson James, Castle, Childs Hill  
Hearn William, hatter and hosier, High st  
Heathcock Thomas, apothecary and man midwife, New End  
Hedges John, gardener, High st  
Heskins Thomas, carrier, High st  
Higgleton Charles, greengrocer, High st  
Hitchman, plaisterer, New End  
Hollyland John, carman and cowkeeper, Pond st  
Hook William, painter, Windmill Hill  
Hughes Mary, Preparatory school for children, High st  
Humphreys Charles, wine and liquor merchant, High st  
Hurrell John, shopkeeper, High st  
Irons William, baker, Shoot up Hill  
Ives William, Bird in Hand, High st  
Jakes Mary, shopkeeper, High st  
Jeeves Thomas & Son, linendrapers, hosiers, haberdashers, High st  
Johnson William, sawyer, Church lands  
Johnson Miss, Boarding School, High st  
Johnson Thomas, butcher, High st  
Jones John, coachmaster, High st  
Jones Thomas, victualler, Duke of Hamilton New End  
Keene Daniel, butcher and shopkeeper, High st  
Keith Charles, taylor, Flask Walk  
Kelly John, shopkeeper, Yorkshire Grey Yard  
King William, grocer and chandler, High st  
Lawrence Elizabeth, shopkeeper, New End  
Lee Robert, fishmonger, High st  
Lilley John, butcher, High st  
Lincoln Morris, hairdresser, Flask Walk  
Livock John, coal merchant, High st  
Lyford, Bull and Bush, North End  
Magney Christopher, The Foxall House, Hampstead Heath  
Malkin George, taylor and habit maker, High st  
Malkin John, smith and tinman, High st  
Mallard Stephen, plumber, glazier and painter  
Marryat William, baker, High st  
Martin Sarah, shopkeeper, High st  
Mason Thomas, bricklayer and shopkeeper, New End  
Mason Benjamin, White Bear, New End  
McGarvar William, Ladies Boarding School, Hollybush Hill  
Meggison George, wax and tallow chandler, High st  
Miller William, butcher, High st  
Mitchell Thomas, Academy, High st  
Morris Samuel, brickmaker, farmer and cowkeeper, Childs Hill  
Mose James, pastrycook and confectioner, High st

Moulson Thomas, tool chest maker, High st  
 Napper James, surgeon and man midwife, High st  
 Newens Thomas, coach master, High st  
 Nicholls William, baker and cornchandler,  
 High st  
 Nightingale Samuel, carpenter, High st  
 Norbury John, The Spaniards, Hampstead Heath  
 Nowland Thomas, The Hawk, Flask Walk  
 Page Edward, bricklayer and plaisterer,  
 High st  
 Paxon George, upholder, auctioneer and under-  
 taker, High st  
 Payne John, grocer and tea dealer, High st  
 Payne John, butcher, High st  
 Payne George, butcher, High st  
 Perkins Thomas, baker, High st  
 Poulter James, grocer and cheesemonger,  
 High st  
 Poulter Charles, boot and shoemaker, Holly-  
 bush Hill  
 Prentice Paul, shopkeeper, High st  
 Price James, bricklayer, High st  
 Purvis Mary, linen draper, High st  
 Raymond William, shopkeeper, Flask Walk  
 Read William, carpenter, Pond st  
 Read Esther, Grove House boarding school,  
 New End  
 Read Thomas, bricklayer and plaisterer,  
 High st  
 Richardson W. butcher, High st  
 Roberts Amey, haberdasher, High st  
 Robotham Francis, watch and clockmaker, High  
 st  
 Ross Abraham, cock and Hoop, West End  
 Rudd J, Horse and Groom, High st  
 Scriven William, Nags Head, High st  
 Sharp Mary, cooper, Flask Walk  
 Shelton William, baker, High st  
 Simpson Thomas, hairdress and perfumer,  
 High st  
 Simpson William, greengrocer, High st  
 Sims Thomas, shoemaker, High st  
 Slater Philip, apothecary, High st  
 Smalley and Johnson, smiths, Flask Walk  
 Spooner William, porkman, High st  
 Strachan Robert, circulating library, High st  
 Symons John, gardener, New End square  
 Tibbs Thomas, Cock and Crown, High st  
 Tillyard Joseph, shoemaker, Perryns Court  
 Timmins William, gardener, Frognall  
 Todd William, tailor, Flask Walk  
 Tolman George, Flask Tavern, Flask Walk  
 Virgin William, cowkeeper and milkman,  
 Hampstead Heath  
 Watson George, ironmonger, smith and  
 brazier, High st  
 Whetley Elizabeth, milkwoman, High st  
 White Henry, surveyor, builder and stone-  
 mason, High st

White Sarah and daughter, dress and mantua  
 makers, High st  
 Whiting William, Yorkshire Grey, Yorkshire  
 Grey Yard  
 Wicks John, baker, West End  
 Winsbury Thomas, bricklayer and plaisterer,  
 West End  
 Withers Mary, Boarding School, New End  
 square  
 Woods Lydia, carpenter and greengrocer,  
 High st  
 Woodward James, baker, High st  
 Yates Thomas, Coach and Horses, High st

John Richardson

## HENRY HOLIDAY

Christine Mill, a member, is researching into the career of Henry Holiday a stained-glass painter and friend of the Pre-Raphaelites. He lived in Hampstead most of his life and in particular at Oak Tree House, Redington Gardens. She is particularly keen to trace original material or people who may have known him as an elderly man. He died at 18 Chesterford Gardens, N.W.3 in April 1927. Any member who has information should write to her at 41, Downshire Hill, N.W.3.

## RESEARCH IN WEST HAMPSTEAD

Dick Weindling writes that he is currently researching the local history of the West End and Kilburn area of Hampstead and he would very much like to collaborate with other members of the Society. Offers of help should go to him at 109 West End Lane N.W.6 (Tel 624 9138)

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include Miss J. Andrews, Miss A. Duddington, T.V. Finnerty, R. Harte, R. Thomas, Mrs O. Hill, Miss S. New, Miss L. Ruff, Mr and Mrs P. Russell, S. Saltoon, Mr and Mrs Tierney, Miss S Webb, Mrs J. Woolf

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington street, N.7 (607 1328)

# newsletter

No 49

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1978

## Speculative Building in Holborn

Sep 28th 7.30pm  
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds rd.

Holborn was one of the first areas in London to have major speculative builders. Their activities played an important part in Camden's history and so this talk by Frank Kelsall of the GLC's Historic Buildings Division should be of real interest to members.

By an odd coincidence both the talks advertised in this Newsletter are by colleagues from the same GLC Department and we are particularly pleased to have what will certainly be well-researched and authoritative talks on the southern part of the borough.

## Camden History Review No 6

Our annual periodical Camden History Review is much admired in local history circles as few other history societies are able to produce such an elegant, illustrated magazine with such wide appeal. Review 6 is due out next month and we beg all our members to buy copies quickly (the printers must be paid). There is a special offer to CHS members included with this Newsletter. They can buy No 6 for 85p (instead of £1) if they send off this form straight away. Copies will also be available at our meetings, as will back numbers and the popular binder. Full details are on the enclosed order form.

Christopher Wade

## CAMDEN DISTRICT PLAN

Camden Council has now reached the final stages in preparing the District Plan for the Borough and the Camden Town Action Area Plan. Details of modifications made since the plans were first presented are on view at all Camden libraries.

## Covent Garden Market - our October talk

October 10th, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Library, Euston Road.

Covent Garden Market flourished for about 300 years, owned for most of that period by the Bedford family and then by (Sir) Thomas Beecham. It helped to drive out the fashionable from the area and draw in the interesting. When it went to Nine Elms it left a vacuum the planners wanted to transform - an aim thwarted by public endeavour and opinion.

Today the market buildings are being renovated - as is the whole area. Robert Thome, our speaker from the GLC Historic Buildings Division, is involved in the actual task of renovation and his knowledge of the past, present and potential will make a fascinating talk.

The CHS Essay prizes will be presented at this meeting.

## Camden Town Walk

The first ever publication on Camden Town is to be issued by the Society in October. John Richardson, the Society's Chairman, has compiled a detailed Camden Town Walk which encompasses people as diverse as Mother Red Cap, Charles Dickens, Sickert and Dylan Thomas.

In Camden terms Camden Town is fairly new - it was built and named in the 1790s. Before that there were few buildings in the area - fields stretched from Tottenham Court to Kentish Town. Once the water supply problem had been solved the streets were laid out in a grid pattern, some carefully opulent, some carefully sub-standard.

As an introduction to the history of Camden Town it is a must for every member - it will also provide 2 hours exercise. Copies may be obtained of this 12page booklet, price 25p (plus 7p delivery) from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3.

# The Oetzmann Family

Deirdre Le Faye has sent in a photostat of an advertisement for the Oetzmann business which was at Hampstead Road and also at 60/61 Grafton Street, Dublin and 75 Union Street, Ryde. It advertises a mock Sheraton easy chair for 27/6d

Mr D.R. Webb, Librarian at the Bishopsgate Institute, tells us that a 16pp history of the House of Oetzmann 1848-1948 was published in 1948.

Finally, Irene Burns, formerly of the Camden Local History Department, and now with Brent, sends us this newspaper cutting which came as part of wrapping around a recent acquisition. It is from the Daily Mail, June 20th 1927.

# OETZMANN

Complete Home Furnishers  
**OUR PRICES ARE ALWAYS LOWEST**  
*—for Cash or on Deferred Terms.*

**WE invite you to make a visit of inspection—5 acres of Showrooms—or write for Complete Furnishing Catalogue. Mention "Daily Mail."**



**THE "SERVICE" FITTED WARDROBE**  
 with sliding trays, shelves, racks, rods, hangers and mirror, enclosed by two decorated panel doors. Lady's or Gentleman's models.

**SPECIAL PRICES:**

Rich Brwn. Oak **10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>** Gns.  
 Can be supplied on the first of 13 monthly payments of 17/5.

Mahogany **12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>** Gns.  
 Can be supplied on the first of 13 monthly payments of 20/9.  
 5 ft. 11 in. high. 2 ft. 9 in. wide.  
 1 ft. 9 in. deep.

**Accommodation—GENTLEMEN'S MODEL, as illustrated:**  
 8 suits, 12 shirts, 6 sets underwear, 6 pairs pyjamas, dressing gown, socks, collar, ties, handkerchiefs, hats, shoes, etc.

**LADY'S MODEL:**  
 10 dresses, 12 sets lingerie, 6 jumpers, scarves, stockings, handkerchiefs, hats, shoes, gloves, handbags, furs, etc.

**DEFERRED TERMS.**  
 Goods to the value of £10 and upwards supplied on payment of one-tenth of the marked low CASH PRICES. The balance, with 2% per annum added, may be extended according to amount over 1, 2, or 3 years.

Delivery by our Motors, or sent carriage paid (orders over £5) to your station in England or Wales.



**The "YEOVIL" DINING ROOM IN RICH BROWN OAK**  
 4 ft. 6 in. well-designed Sideboard with decorated moldings, fitted 2 drawers and useful cupboards

**£7. 18. 6**

Oak draw top Dining Table, 3 ft. 3 in. wide, opening to 5 ft. long **£4.10**

Oak Dining Chairs with loose drop-in seats covered in unique design. Recline **26/9**

Arm Chairs to match. Each **38/6**



**67 to 79 HAMPSTEAD ROAD—FOR FURNISHING**  
**125 TOTTENHAM COURT RD.—FOR ESTATE AGENCY**  
 Both Establishments two minutes from Warren Street or Euston Square Stations.  
 Buses: 1c, 14, 18, 24, 27, 29, 30, 39, 73, 74, 127, 173, 174, 212, 247, 284, 294, 529, 536.  
 Letters: OETZMANN & CO., Ltd. LONDON, N.W.1. Phone: MUSEUM 9191.

# Essay Results

The judges of our first Essay Competition 'Camden Characters' have made their selection and results will be announced early next month. The prizewinners will be listed in the Ham and High of October 6th which will also include the text of the best entry. The Ham and High donated part of the £50 prize money, and for this we are very grateful to them, as we are to Lionel Levant Ltd, the High Hill Bookshop and the Owl Bookshop for their contributions.

Full results will be announced at our meeting on October 10th (see details elsewhere in the Newsletter) at St Pancras Library, when our President Sir James Brown will present the prizes. The three top essays are being printed in Camden History Review 6 and further selections will appear in No 7.

Another Essay Competition has already been planned. The theme this time will be 'My Street', which can be considered from any angle - topographically, biographically, architecturally or as social history. Entry forms and full details will be available next month from 28, Willoughby Road, N.W.3 or at CHS meetings.

## MYSTERY IN HAMPSTEAD

Stephen Wilson writes:

It might be useful to compare the reproduction of the Clint picture (Newsletter 48) with the GLC photograph 68/3858 which appears to have been taken in the 1850s or 1860s from a point near the Priors looking north east across the brickworks to the Viaduct.

The GLC photo shows in the middle-distance long whitish rows of drying bricks and on the extreme right is a building similar to those on the right of Clint's picture.

I suggest that the Clint picture was of a brickworks on the site of what became the North London Railway and to the east of what is now Hampstead Heath station. I have no knowledge whether there was in fact a brickworks there, or whether it reflects Clint's imagination - which was apparently able to ignore the Hampstead ponds.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include Miss A. Carroll, Miss C. Crick, R.W.G. Humphreys, Ms M. Jackson-Roberts, Hugh Marks, Dr and Mrs H. Alpert, Mrs K. Baker, Miss A. Bord, Mr J Calverley, Dr Helga Graham, Lord and Lady Greenwood, Mrs W. Trewin, and Miss L. Winant.



# Poetry in Motion

Mrs Jenny Woolf has sent us a sort of poem printed in The Mirror of December 2nd 1837. It appears to concern a journey on the London and Birmingham Railway soon after Euston Station was opened travelling up to Chalk Farm pulled by cable before the engine was attached to the train.

'Well Duck, though I never did dabble  
in foreign parts  
Law Ma! how I shall squeal when the engine  
starts  
For shame child! as to fear, it's nothing  
but a notion;  
I declare I always feel the better for a  
little motion.  
Pray mister, do you call this a first-  
class carriage because it goes double  
fast?  
No, ma'am, it's because we puts it behind  
to be blown up last.  
See, they're pulling us along with a rope!  
very odd upon my word.  
Vy, you can't expect the hingins to go on  
their own ac-cord.  
But just look round at Hampstead and  
Highgate, while they slacken their pace  
And see, they hook on the locomotive! What's  
that, Pa?  
A thing they've a motive for hooking on  
at this place.  
Here's Chalk Farm, where some run down a  
hill, and some run up a score!  
And there's the famous tunnel! it looks a  
bit of a bore.  
Oh dear! Oh dear! how dreadful dark; I think  
I'm going to die  
And I'm so hot I can't say my prayers!  
But here's the light of the sky.  
See what a hole in my parasole, burnt by  
a red-hot spark  
I only wish I knew who it was that was  
kissing me in the dark.  
Sare! I wonder, sare! ven dey vill put on  
de horses to draw!  
Oh! horses don't draw here, they're all  
hors d'emploi.  
But how the hedges run past, and the trees  
and the bridges, and the posts and the  
cattle and the people!  
This is just like ploughing the air! Yes,  
and there goes Harrow Steeple.  
On, on we spin, with a clack and a din,  
like a mighty courser snorting, blowing;  
Well, how do you like the railroad now?  
Oh I think its the wonderful'st thing  
that's going.  
Ladies, here's Watford, we can stop if you've  
had enough of your ride;  
But perhaps you'd rather go on - there's a  
long tunnel on the other side.  
Oh! I'm so frightened at the thought I can  
scarcely speak!

Gracious, I'm so delighted! I hope I shall  
stay in for a week.

Well, if that's the case, as you came out  
for a little pleasure,  
I shall leave you at the tunnel, and you  
can go through at your leisure.

Well, it's not exactly Betjeman but it  
seems to be a good Awayday. Mrs Woolf  
wonders what 'some run up a score' means.  
Any ideas?

## Hampstead Wells

Another new CHS publication ready in Oct-  
ober is a reprint of George Potter's use-  
ful history of Hampstead Wells. It was  
originally published in 1904 and has been  
out of print for decades. The latest  
edition, brought out jointly with Carlile  
House Press on behalf of the Burgh House  
Trust, includes notes on the text by  
contemporary local historians. Potter  
describes Hampstead's various springs and  
watercourses but concentrates then on the  
chalybeate spring which caused the growth  
of the Spa. He chronicles the rise and  
fall of the Wells, which turned the sleepy  
village of Hampstead into an elegant  
Georgian town - and a place of entertain-  
ment. CHS Members can order copies, price  
£1.50 on the enclosed form.

## DR JERRY SHIELDS

To those members who have not heard, we  
are sorry to report the sudden death of our  
active member Jerry Shields. He will be  
long remembered for his illustrated histori-  
cal talks on Hampstead music, the concert  
for Constable, and for his articles in our  
Review. These were all entertainly written  
and meticulously researched with his wife  
Elizabeth. A memorial concert is being  
planned for early next year, in which our  
Society hopes to be associated.

## MEETING QUERIES

Telephone enquiries about meetings or  
events should be made to the Secretary,  
Mrs Ramsay, on 278 4444 ext 30002, or if  
she is not available, to the Local History  
Department at Swiss Cottage Library, 278  
4444 ext 3007.

Will you please note that the official  
address of the Society is now Swiss Cot-  
tage Library, N.W.3.

## HAMPSTEAD HISTORICAL MAP

Ralph and Eric Wade members of both this and the Heath and Old Hampstead Society have issued a very attractive historical map of Hampstead. It contains 30 drawings by Eric Wade in 'period' style and has a commentary. It is well worth the cost of £1.25 (delivery free) from Eric Wade, 24 Netherhall Gardens, N.W.3. Or else it can be obtained from Belsize Books, Haverstock Hill, Kieth Fawkes Bookshop, Flask Walk, Stamps (the chemists) High St, Hampstead Newsagents, Holly Hill, Rosslyn Books, Rosslyn Hill and Acorn Press, Goldhurst Terrace.

## NEWS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

The Lauderdale House Society is launching an appeal for the restoration of this Tudor house. A form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

The Hampstead Centre of the National Trust are holding a recital by Elizabeth Butler and Claire Sutherland (viola and harpsichord) at Fenton House on October 12th at 8pm. Tickets £1 from Hampstead Hi-Fi, Heath Street, Mrs E. Maude, 5 Downshire Hill and from Fenton House

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society are still continuing their enterprising dig on West Heath until the end of September. Diggers are still needed - volunteers should write to Mrs B. Grafton-Green, 88 Temple Fortune Lane, N.W.11.

The Hampstead and North West London branch of the Historical Association are having a talk on November 2nd of particular interest to Society members called 'Maps - a Mirror of London history' by Helen Wallis. It is at 8pm at the Lower Skeel Hall in Westfield College, Kidderpore Avenue.

A new society has been formed which may interest members. It is the North London Family History Society. Acting Chairman is M.B. Carolan (349 2254). The Membership Secretary is Miss G. Watson, 38, Churston Gardens, New Southgate, N.11 and membership forms may be obtained from her.

An inaugural meeting was held in July.

## APOLOGIES

We apologise to those members who did not receive our last Newsletter in time to obtain details of the Highgate Cemetery walk. This was due to the Addressograph machine breaking down and the 4-day postal service.

## Advance Notice

Nov 9: Gilbert Scott - a talk by Gavin Stamp. Hampstead Parish Church, 8pm

Dec 12: Karl Marx in London. At the Working Mens College at 7.30pm

Jan 16: Baroness Burdett-Coutts by Edna Healey at Dyne House, Highgate School, 8.15pm

Feb 6: Hampstead Wells by Christopher Wade at Rosslyn Hill Chapel at 8pm

## NEW TREASURER

Members may remember that the office of Treasurer was left open at the Annual Meeting. We are happy to announce that Miss Helen Lefroy, a long-standing member has offered her services and been appointed by your Council. Financial enquiries should be directed to her c/o Camden History Society, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3.

## WINSTON CHURCHILL FELLOWSHIPS

Some members may be interested to know that the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust is offering Fellowships for 1979, for foreign travel, to people taking part in archaeological projects or concerned with the recording of local history. Closing date for applications is 1st November.

The address is 15 Queens Gate Terrace SW7

## ST MARKS CHURCH

St Mark's Church, Regent's Park Road is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. On Sunday, October 1st there will be a sung Eucharist and Sermon at 11am followed by a Social downstairs in the Church Room. This in turn will be followed by luncheon (probable charge, with wine £1.50) and at 1.45 there will be a talk on the history of the church with an exhibition. Members of the Society are very welcome to go.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7 to whom all contributions should be sent.

# newsletter

No 50

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1978

## The Gilbert Scotts and Hampstead – our November talk

Tuesday November 9th 8pm

Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row N.W.3

Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-78) came to live in Hampstead in the 1850s. Champion of the Gothic Revival, designer of St Pancras Hotel, the Albert Memorial and much church restoration, he spent eight years in Admiral's House in Admiral's Walk, as the official plaque records. His only local work seems to have been the West Gallery for Christ Church in 1860, but this has since been taken down.

His son, George Gilbert Scott jnr (1837-97) was a longer resident of Hampstead, at 26 Church Row. Although principally a church architect, he designed houses and restored several Cambridge colleges; he is also interesting for his bizarre private life. He and one of his architect sons, Adrian (1882-1963) who lived in a house of his own design in Frogna! Way, are buried in the Parish Churchyard. Adrian's brother Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, who won the competition for designing Liverpool Cathedral at the age of 22, was born in the family home in Church Row in 1880: he died in 1960. (The Cathedral was completed only last month).

This year marks the centenary not only of Sir George's death but of the major reconstruction of the Parish Church. At that time the tower was nearly destined for demolition and it was George Gilbert Scott jnr who was instrumental in saving it.

Gavin Stamp, our speaker, is an historian and a leading member of the Victorian Society. He helped organise this year's Gilbert Scott Exhibition at the V & A and is currently writing a book on the Gilbert Scotts.

The chair will be taken by John Brandon-Jones. Although admission to the lecture is free (it is a joint meeting with the Hampstead Centre of the National Trust) there will be a collection for the Parish Church Fabric Fund.

## Karl Marx in London

Dec 12th, 7.30pm

Working Men's College, Crowndale Rd, N.W.1.

Karl Marx is certainly the most famous resident in Camden's history and his body, of course, lies in Highgate lower cemetery. Marx the person and his life in London are little known so our talk by Jack Dywien, chairman and Treasurer of the Marx Memorial Library in Clerkenwell Green should be of great interest to all members.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

If you want to benefit from the special offer to CHS members for Camden History Review No 6, be sure to send off the white Publications Order Form enclosed with the last Newsletter by December 12th (or buy at our meetings). After that date the price reverts from 85p to £1.00. You can use the same order form for all those copies of our publications you are sure to want to give to your friends as Christmas presents. Apart from the latest Review, our other new publications this autumn are Hampstead Wells by George Potter and the Camden Town Walk by John Richardson. And don't forget that the special Binder for the Reviews makes a splendid present, preferably filled with all six issues (at an all-in rate of £7). Bound together the Reviews grow into a Camden History Encyclopedia.

## Advance Notice

Jan 16: Baroness Burdett-Coutts by Edna Healey, at Dyne House, Highgate School, 8.15pm

Feb 6: Hampstead Wells by Christopher Wade, at Rosslyn Hill Chapel at 8pm

## THE JEWS IN HAMPSTEAD

An Exhibition describing the history of Jews in Hampstead opens at the Swiss Cottage Library on November 1st.

# Fifty Issues Gone

The first issue of this Newsletter appeared in May 1970. Some of you may wonder where eight years of their life have gone and this might be a rather depressing reminder!

We have now reached issue No 50, a good time to reflect on the changes that have happened since the Society was formed.

The most important change that future historians will remark upon is that the conservation movement has become part of the establishment. It was gathering force when the Society began but did not then prevent Vane House being demolished - an event reported in our first Newsletter. Nowadays it is difficult for anything old to be pulled down - to the despair of developers, planners and some architects alike. Their complaints might often have justification but any professional group, used to society standing aside while whole tracts of community and many beautiful buildings were demolished, must expect to put up with the backlash. It is 'they' in their haste to make money or tidily house people who are the true innovators of the conservation movement and from now on 'they' must fight every inch of the way.

Liverpool City Council have recently announced plans to raze over 3000 relatively modern council flats. Putting aside the political considerations, it does underline that dreadful mistakes have been made at local government level for which we must all take responsibility. Vandalism is now endemic in big cities and threatens anything which is now under common ownership. In Islington, just off the Caledonian Road, where the GLC have replaced old sub-standard houses with new houses graffiti is hardly to be seen and vandalism is rare. Nearby in blocks of flats, the usual treatment is meted out to walls, lifts and car parks.

It is not just houses versus flats - it is all part of the whole business of people wanting to feel they are part of a unit and therefore, hopefully, of a community. This sort of argument is now a cliché, but it has taken a long time to sink in to the planners.

Another change that has occurred is that more people are prepared to admit that modern architecture and building is generally of poor quality. Why architecture should be so is puzzling - architects, after all, are as a profession dedicated and committed and very concerned about the

quality of life. But even taking into account that styles change, indeed have to change, and that architecture should reflect our society, it must be said that much of what is put up is harsh, unpromising and lacking in fancy or detail. In fact, it could be argued that present day architects do not reflect our society and instead are pursuing instead a purist, intellectual tangent. Unfortunately their vision lasts for at least 60 years.

Which brings us to another change. Eight years ago it was the official view at borough council level that a house had reached the end of its useful life after 60 years. This is no longer the case - the lie to this viewpoint is all around us - and early houses are now shown to be more flexible than modern ones. It was difficult too to obtain a mortgage on an older property but now, in the confidence that wholesale redevelopment is a thing of the past, this is no longer so.

Of more immediate interest to this Society, we should remark upon the very great improvement in local history resources in Camden. As always the local history department is understaffed and inadequately housed, but there is no doubting the fact that our archives and collections are better housed, supervised and more available to the public than in the days before Camden. For this we must thank Tina Gee in the first few years and particularly Malcolm Holmes in the latter years.

The last major change I would like to point out is the acceptance of local history as part of the everyday educational system. This is welcome but throws a great weight of responsibility on to the library staff. We must hope that this Society's publications which are gradually covering the basic history of Camden will help the teachers in their jobs.

It is appropriate in this 50th issue to thank a number of people - that number consisting of contributors of course, but also all those who do the work of mailing every two months, and those who have in the past helped with typing, gathering of material etc. This Newsletter is always produced in a panic and our printers, Gnu City Press, deserve an honourable mention for their speed, attention to detail and good humour.

John Richardson  
Editor

# From our President

From Sir James Brown, President of the Camden History Society.

I am indeed glad to send a presidential message of congratulation and greeting on this jubilee issue of the Newsletter. It is a fitting occasion to offer on behalf of all the members our best wishes for its continuing success.

The Society owed much at the start to the distinction of its first President, Sir John Summerson, and of its Vice-Presidents who gave it its initial status. It has owed even more to those who bring their special qualifications to service in the Council. Names - Gillian Tindall, Jane Ramsay, Charles Lee, Christopher Wade - leap to the lips; but the whole Council is a team committed to the causes of historical research and local record. One name however, must be mentioned, that of our Chairman, John Richardson, to whom the Society owes an immeasurable debt.

And yet none of the work the Society has accomplished could have been achieved without the interest and support of the whole membership, and I should like this presidential message to be an encouragement to the ordinary member. Don't think that the Society is a body of specialists. You can make, if you will, a contribution not only invaluable but one which without your help may never be made at all.

May I give two suggestions? First the memories of elderly long-established residents who have seen in their own area the changes we take for granted. This cannot be done by thrusting out a tape-recorder and hoping they will speak into it: they will immediately dry up. It has to be done by personal approach and a request to be allowed to come and see them and hear about the neighbourhood. Treat it as an interview. Your first question should be to get the dates and area; your second should, if possible, be chosen to stir their recollection, and after that all you have to do is to jot down your notes and thank them and go. Don't let them keep you more than an hour. Then write up their story, get it typed and send or take a copy for the 'interviewee' to vet. The finally approved copy should be given to the Society.

It is a thousand pities that this was not done 50 years ago. What you hear today will be extremely valuable 50 years hence.

If you have a chance there is another way you can help the Society, by taking photographs of shops and houses. Take them four-square; don't make them pretty pictures. Especiall in shopping streets, where changes occur without notice, these pictures will be also a valuable record. The Camden Archivist can only cover the massive changes of comprehensive redevelopment; you will have secured the record of the changes that occur almost daily, a record which will be lost for ever without your help.

And of course, there is another thing the ordinary member can do - to get new members to join. Why not interest them in some local individual effort?

## CHS Essay Competition No 2

Following the success of our competition for 'Camden Characters' the Society invites entries for a second essay contest, this time on the theme of 'My Street'.

Every street has some local history interest. Sometimes it is the buildings themselves, or the development of the area, or the origin of the street name. Usually it is the residents. In some cases they are individually remarkable; in others it is the community that has grown and made its own history over the years. Essays relating to any street in Camden will be eligible and they can be based on research or on memory. The Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage Library has much material on street history. The tape recording of elderly residents' reminiscences may also be helpful.

There will be prizes of book tokens totalling £25, including a 1st Prize of £10. Prize money has been donated by the Hampstead & Highgate Express and the Owl Bookshop. The winning entry will be published in the Ham and High and a selection of the best entries in the Camden History Review.

The closing date for entries is 30 June 1979. Entry forms are obtainable from CHS Essay Competition, 28 Willoughby Rd, N.W.3

# The Fourth Dimension or Imaginary History

It isn't hard work and interest alone which have raised the CHS to its present and respective state. There is something else which its members share, as all historians both professional and amateur must - an unspoken vision, a constant, subterranean awareness of the physical traces of the past around us, sometimes in fragmented or vestigial form but still there, defying time and change. It is this faculty of imaginative perceptions that transforms mere knowledge into something more and makes sense of a mass of detail.

It must however be admitted that occasionally members of historical associations, both past and present, have possessed this essential quality of imaginative vision in such abundance that it has affected their judgement, and mere knowledge has hardly had a look in! The first - indeed the prototype - of these over-enthusiastic historians, was the Rev. Dr Stukeley, classical scholar, Druid, 18th century gentleman and founder of the Society of Antiquaries; it is instructive to reflect on both the debt subsequent local historians owe to him and the extent to which he was mistaken in what his vision led him to see. Briefly, he saw, in the low-lying fields that then surrounded old St Pancras Church, a complete Roman encampment, almost a city, with Forum, Praesidium and Outer Fortifications, and laid it all out in a publication which he produced at his own expense and which enjoyed wide circulation during his life-time.

The foundations of St Pancras Church are indeed very old, and fragments of Roman tile have been found in the lowest courses of brickwork - but unfortunately the 'evidence' Dr Stukeley produced for his pleasant vision, in the form of lumps and bumps in the grass, was worthless in that it discounted the large lapse of time since the departure of the Romans from our shores and the possibility of other events intervening. With his sights trained exclusively on the classical era, he failed to grasp that the hummocks he saw were far more probably traces of a medieval settlement in the area a thousand years later than the Romans, and of prosaic Cromwellian earthworks thrown up round the church a mere century before his own.

There are modern Dr Stukeleys. They frequently share his charismatic energy, and if the visions they produce are less grand that is perhaps due to lack of scope rather than want of trying. I retain a soft spot for the local newspaper editor who came up with the remarkable headline 'Jacobean

Farm Discovered in Kentish Town' - a story that sent quite a number of people prowling self-consciously round the unpromising purlieus of Grafton Road expecting at any moment to come upon some timbered and gabled gem which had just happened to be overlooked by successive generations of Victorian speculative builders. Of course, there was no such building and nor had there ever been. The Inter-Action City Farm (to which the headline referred) were not slow themselves to publicise the idea that they were (perhaps) occupying ex-farm buildings which (perhaps) had belonged to Farmer Mortimer, whose family connections with the area may have gone back to the 17th century, but in fact that space on pre-urban maps is shown merely as fields, empty of everything but the odd duck-pond.

The 'Farm' (actually more of a riding school) was in reality occupying stabling and stock yards that had been built by the Midland Railway when they had brought their main line through the area in the mid-1860s. You might think that this fact was interesting in its own right - but evidently it was an olde worlde farm like in a picture that people wanted and the newspaper editor thought that that was what they should have.

Manor Houses are also in demand and are therefore eagerly envisaged, sometimes in the most improbable locations and disguises. Whoever (in about 1910?) painted 'The Manor House' on the gateposts of one of those 18th century villas in Downshire Hill, Hampstead, was a representative of this tradition, but it has plenty of modern upholders. Messrs Salter Rex, Estate Agents, like to think that the Victorian terrace house they occupied till recently was 'the Kentish Town Manor House' (or alternatively 'Farmer Holmes' houses') and I feel sure that diligent local research would uncover many similar dreams in the breasts of local businessmen. But few claims are as sweepingly optimistic (and personally disinterested) as that of a lady who came up to me at a meeting a year or two ago and assured me that, contrary to what I supposed, 18th century Belsize House was still standing.

Timidly, in case I should destroy something, ('where there is no vision the people perish') I intimated to her that, if it were still standing, surely I or some other local history busy-body would have already noticed the fact. Could she describe it, say exactly where...? It turned out to be Hampstead Town Hall, an uncompromising example of late 19th century municipal hubris.



## The Beechwood Ice House

I sometimes think that, as an alternative to poking about in Rate Books, some of us should construct instead a definitive illustrated map of what people most want to believe about the past of the borough of Camden. Beautifully printed in colour, with a gibbet at every cross-roads and the Fleet (complete with Whole Navies - see Stowe) running under every house, with wolves, wild boars, milkmaids and Nell Gwyn occupying every field and an entire grove of alternative, moveable Gospel Oaks west of the Highgate Road it should, I believe, sell very well. Is Christopher Wade listening?

Gillian Tindall

### THE HILL FAMILY

Mrs Joan Schwitzer writes:

Your readers may like to know about a book which contains a chapter of unexpectedly local interest: *The Victorian Family - Structure and Stresses*, ed by Anthony S. Holm, pub Croom Helm, 1978 £7.95 (224pp with an introduction, index and nine chapters by various authors). Chapter 7 is on 'Victorian reform as a family business: the Hill family' by Deborah Graham, which is primarily about the famous boys' boarding school opened in 1827 by the Hill brothers at Bruce Castle, Tottenham (now Haringey Archives and the National Postal Museum).

Well-researched, using the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge papers at U.C. London, and Rowland Hill's diary, Miss Graham's account also shows the great influence this family had on public life. Three of the five brothers lived in Hampstead, she tells us: Mathew Davenport, an MP 1832-4, Frederick, one of the first Prison inspectors and a pioneer in the reformatory school movement, and Rowland, the most famous, whose 30-year residence off Haverstock Hill is commemorated in the street named after him (See *More Streets of Hampstead* CHS 1973 p35).

The centenary of the death of the Penny Post's inventor falls next year. Will we see an article or a book on 'The Hills of Hampstead'?

### RUNNING UP A SCORE

No doubt the answer is already known to the query about 'running up a score' (see previous Newsletter), but as a Chalk Farm man I feel I have to write!

It means, of course, running up a bill, at the Chalk Farm Tavern in this instance. Accounts originally were kept by scoring lines on a tally or stick.

Anthony Cooper

The chance find of a reference to an ice-house in the grounds of Beechwood, Fitzroy Park, Highgate (in the *London Society Journal* for 1954) led me to seek more information on this structure. It seems never to have been properly recorded or drawn, and after considerable search my best information so far has come from a former owner of Beechwood, Mr A.J. Hines. He tells me that the ice-house was brick-built, probably about 1730, and that it was rectangular with a domed roof and curved end; it measured approximately 15ft by 6ft wide and not more than 6ft in height at any point. From what he says the building seems to have been entirely underground: strictly speaking, it is an ice-well.

In these days of mechanical refrigeration it is hard to realise that ice-houses and ice-wells were a common and vital accessory to fine houses of the 18th and early 19th centuries. They were filled from frozen ponds to form a stock of ice which could be drawn on by the kitchen staff for keeping foods fresh, for making frozen desserts and other delicacies expected in great houses. Ice was also needed for treating maladies like fever. Because the maintenance and stocking of the ice-house was the gardener's responsibility, it is in horticultural and garden treatises of the period that we find the details of management. The most essential requirement in ice storage was to ensure rapid drainage of the meltwater, otherwise dampness would cause the main ice stock to melt too quickly.

The best modern information comes from Alan Penny's essay on Dorset ice-houses published in *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society* Vol 86 for 1964. More recently, and closer to home, B.T. Perry has listed Hertfordshire examples and surveyed the Balls Park one in *Hertfordshire Archaeology* No 4, 1974-6. There was a very large commercial ice-house under Nash's Park Crescent West, just south of Marylebone Road, and an even larger one (1500 tons) under Cumberland Market (this one kept stocked with ice from Norway) - see Ann Saunders' *Regent's Park* 1969 pp65 and 132. Malcolm Holmes tell me that there is another ice-house, extant this time, in Gainsborough Gardens, Hampstead. It would be splendid if some member with architectural skills could make a measured drawing of it for the record. And has anyone a friend at the court of King Khaled so that we can obtain fuller details of the Beechwood example?

Cherry Lavell

## Flaxman Terrace 1908-1978

Seventy years ago, on 29 October 1908, the Mayor of St Pancras, Cllr Alfred Mills, opened with considerable ceremony the 'working class dwellings' built by the Borough Council in what became known as Flaxman Terrace. This was the successful culmination of a slum clearance scheme which had been contemplated 18 years earlier by the old Vestry, but, as the Chairman of the Housing Sub-Committee said, "there was so much red tape that the scheme was in danger of being strangled by it." The site was on the western boundary of the Skinners' Company's Sandhills Estate, which was leased for 99 years in 1807 to the builder James Burton (1761-1837) and developed by him between 1807 and 1816. Incidentally, his original surname was Haliburton. The basic feature of his layout was Burton Crescent which was renamed Cartwright Gardens on 30 June 1908.

Between the north-west wing of the Crescent and the estate boundary were Crescent Mews North and a cul-de-sac called Draper's Place, which deteriorated greatly and in the 1860s was said to be one of the most insanitary spots, where "squalor, disease and death were rampant with immorality and crime." At the opening ceremony in 1908, Councillor Dr. Richard Paramore Chairman of the Public Health Committee, said that he had known the neighbourhood for forty years, and remembered Draper's Place with its notorious reputation among the slums of London. Draper's Place was a dangerous place in more senses than one, and medical men who went into it carried their lives in their hands. He knew of one who lost his life in consequence of its condition by contracting typhus or gaol fever. More recently, the hygienic conditions had improved greatly under the direction of Dr. J.F.J. Sykes, the Medical Officer of Health.

On 16 January 1885 the name of Draper's Place was changed to Brantome Place, and it was under the latter name that the housing scheme went forward. Part of the plan was to place the new dwellings on a thoroughfare between Mabledon Place and Burton Street, with road access also to Duke's Road. On 5 December 1906 the St Pancras Borough Council purchased for £1900 numbers 49, 49a and 50 Burton Street, and Woburn Cottage so that these might be demolished, enabling a street with footways to be formed in place of a passage leading by steps from Duke's Road to Burton Street.

The foundation stone of the new dwellings was laid formally by the Mayor of St Pancras on 7 November 1907, still as Brantome Place but, with the new form that the district was taking, it became Flaxman Terrace in 1908 on the recommendation of Councillor the Rev. Zephaniah Banks Woffendale (1833-1914), the well-known Presbyterian Minister of Somers Town, who worked in the area for nearly half a century. He was in favour of a name that could be an inspiration and advocated commemorating John Flaxman (1755-1826), the celebrated sculptor, who was buried in the St Giles portion of what is now St Pancras Gardens.

ON a frontage of about 368ft, the architects (Joseph and Smithern) arranged to house some 432 persons in 48 three-room and 36 two-room flats. The 6-storey building was erected by H.L. Holloway at a cost of £20,000. This group of dwellings is now called Flaxman Court.

## Results of our first Essay Competition

Here are the results of our 1st Essay Competition on the theme of 'Camden Characters':

- 1st Prize (£25) D. Lindsay, 'The Beggars of West Hampstead'
- 2nd Prize (£10) Mrs Christine Mill, 'Henry Holiday, an eminent Hampstead Victorian'
- 3rd Prize (£5) Eric George, Frank Ward, 'the Laughing Policeman'
- 4th Prize (divided) Miss Claire Gobbi, Samuel Bentham, Hampstead's Galileo' and Mrs Patricia Angadi 'Hampstead Characters'

Runners up were Miss J. Barraclough, John Ellis, Mary Humphries, Anthea Lahr, Shirley Neale, Sarah Reeks and Malcolm Stokes.

The prizes were presented by our President, Sir James Brown, at our October 10 meeting.

## THE BOOKSHOP GALLERY

The Bookshop Gallery writes to tell us that they too are stocking copies of Ralph and Eric Wade's map of Hampstead described in the last Newsletter.

Members may be interested to learn that they are going to stock individual drawings of Hampstead by Eric Wade - they will consist of a drawing of some place of interest and the famous person associated with them.

The Gallery is at 4 Perrins Lane, N.W.3

# Mystery in Hampstead

Miss Elizabeth Einberg, Assistant Keeper of the British Collection at the Tate Gallery writes:

I am most grateful to you for publishing the photograph of the Tate's 'View of Hampstead' by Alfred Clint. The result has been most useful.

First of all your member Miss Deirdre Le Faye suggested that the industrial complex in the middle distance was more likely to be a brick works than a laundry, and sent a copy of an article describing the manufacturing process in detail, which fits in rather well with what can be seen in the picture: the long white lines in the field would be rows of 'green' bricks laid out to dry and covered with tarpaulins or 'hacks' to protect them from the rain. The six brick buildings would be kilns of the Scottish type - 'a four-sided rectangular structure with a removable roof' - showing the white smoke characteristic of the brick curing process. An inquiry with the London Kiln Study Group at first put a bit of a damper on this suggestion as they did not think the site looked a typical brick works and did not know of any records of there being such a thing in this area. This problem, however, was resolved by Mr John Brandon-Jones, who confirmed that the buildings were typical of brick kilns or clamps, and who very kindly pointed out a letter from Keats written in 1820, while he was living in Wentworth Place, describing how he could watch 'from his front parlour the men going to and from the brickworks' Christopher Wade, who came to see the picture, immediately identified the large house visible among the trees to the right of Christ Church as South Lodge, Heath Side, and sent a drawing of the house as it is now to prove it. He also pointed out that the view of the picture is actually taken from what were then Gospel Oak Fields, and made the intriguing suggestion that the beautifully painted dead oak that dominates the centre foreground of the composition could be the original Gospel Oak! At present there is no way of proving this, but if any of your readers know of any material that would bear out this most interesting idea, I would be delighted to hear from them.

## EDWIN MONK

Members who read Mr Monk's reminiscences of Hornsey will be sorry to hear that he died recently. His book was published by the Hornsey Historical Society very late in his life and his many contributions to Hornsey history will be greatly missed.

## BLUE PLAQUE NEWS

The old LCC in 1965 decided to erect a plaque to Norman Shaw at 6 Ellerdale Road. Unfortunately the occupiers of the house, an order of nuns, declined to consent to the placing of the plaque as their rule forbids the drawing of attention to their building or themselves. The proposal has now been laid aside.

The GLC is however placing a plaque on 31 Pandora Road, N.W.6 to commemorate the residence of Alfred Harmsworth the newspaper magnate.

In addition the GLC has agreed to commemorate the residence of Sidney and Beatrice Webb at 10 Netherhall Gardens.

Ralph Wade is setting up a fund to finance the erection of a plaque to Edward Elgar who lived in the house formerly on the site of 42 Netherhall Gardens. As it is now the GLC's policy only to put plaques on houses still extant this would have to be done by private or public subscription. Donations to the Elgar Plaque Fund, c/o Ralph Wade, 24 Netherhall Gardens, N.W.3

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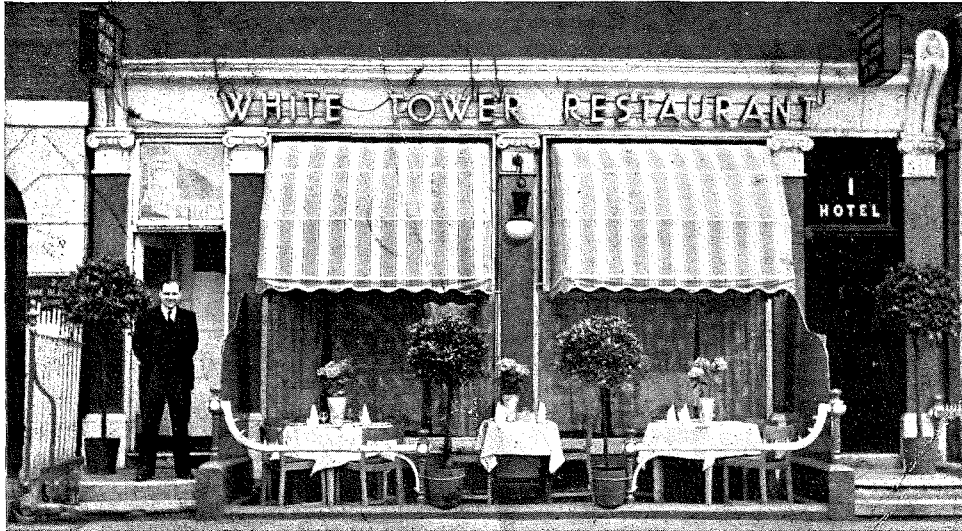
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