

# newsletter

No 51

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JAN 1979

## Baroness Burdett-Coutts – our January talk

Jan 16th, 8.15pm  
Dyne House, Highgate School in  
Southwood lane

Baroness Burdett-Coutts was one of the most prominent of Victorians, though self-effacing. Her story has so many almost fictional ingredients: the inheritance of one of the largest fortunes in England when still a young girl, her friendship of the famous and to the poor, and a late, very unexpected marriage. Of Camden significance is that she lived for long periods at Holly Lodge with enormous gardens sweeping down Highgate West Hill – where the Holly Lodge Estate now is. She busied herself in a multitude of good causes, some of them her own, some assisted by Charles Dickens.

The most prominent reminder of her in Camden is Holly Village at the corner of Swains Lane and Chester Road, a group of 12 cottages built to house her estate staff – we show a picture of the entrance to the 'Village' kindly sent in by Mr E.G. Halse.

Last year Mrs Edna Healey published a well-received book on her, the first authoritative biography. Mrs Healey will be talking to a joint meeting of this Society and the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution and it promises to be a packed evening – so come early for a seat.

## Hampstead Wells – our February Talk

Tues, Feb 6th, 8pm  
Rosslyn Hill Chapel

Many areas of London have had their Physic Wells, their Spas and their Pleasure Gardens. Hampstead became fashionable in the early 18th century and, as so often happened, attracted such crowds that it gradually became 'too boisterous'. The Spa closed down in the 1820s and the Assembly Room in Well Walk was taken over as a chapel. But the medicinal water was still in demand and the growing population of Hampstead wanted their entertainments, so a second Assembly Room was built near Burgh House and a new Spa flourished for the rest of the century.

The story of Burgh House is very much wrapped up in the story of the Wells and Christopher Wade, our speaker, will cover both these subjects in his illustrated talk. (Soon after the date of this event, it is expected that Camden Council will be handing over Burgh House on lease to the Burgh House Trust, as was recently agreed.)



## Camden Garbles

Yes, I was listening, Gillian Tindall, to your plea in the November Newsletter for a wish-fulfilment all-purpose local history map - including an adaptable grove of Gospel Oaks. In fact, in the same edition I appeared to be trying hard to identify the original Gospel Oak in a Tate Gallery picture of Hampstead. May I beg other members not to spend too much time trying to prove or disprove my light-hearted suggestion. They would do better to go in search of Boadicea's Grave or Dick Turpin's seventeen secret tunnels.

A classic example of a local 'Garble', as Christopher Ikin calls them, appeared in a recent edition of 'In Britain', under the title of 'The Folks who live on the Hill'. He kindly sent us a copy and here are some choice bits:

"Way back in pre-Anglo-Saxon times, the Romans built their inevitable road through Hampstead to their headquarters in St Albans, leaving behind a huge gallows on the top of the Heath - a fact recorded in the Domesday Book..."

"Bonnie Prince Charlie is said to have housed a mistress or two in these parts. And Guy Fawkes vainly plotted the blow-up of the Houses of Parliament...."

"Constable and Turner, the painters, used Hampstead as the backdrop for many of their canvasses...."

Christopher Wade

## COLLECTORS' ITEMS

Back numbers of most issues of the Newsletter are still available at 5p each. Postage and packing are as follows:

Up to 3 copies	10p
4-9 copies	15p
10-20 copies	25p

Please apply to the Hon. Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3 (278 4444 ex 3002)

## VICTORIAN PUBS

Many members will remember the excellent talk given by Robert Thorne on Covent Garden a few months ago. If so they will be interested to learn that he is speaking on Victorian Pubs to the Hornsey Historical Society on February 14th at 8pm at Hornsey Central Library, Haringey Park, N.8. Visitors are welcome.

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

The Industrial Archaeology Group, now under the direction of Hugh Marks, is meeting on January 22nd at 6pm at Swiss Cottage Library. Amongst other things they will be discussing a survey of the piano-making industry in Camden. Newcomers and old members welcome.

## IS HIGHGATE CEMETERY OVERPRICED?

We have read in the Press that Camden has bought Highgate Cemetery for £37 at the rate of a pound an acre, and I am wondering if the Borough has been overcharged by four or five pounds.

After the last open day at the Cemetery I was moved to check the area by the remark of a visitor that it seemed much less than 37 acres, and I made it a little over 16 acres for each part, totalling something under 33 acres for the whole. I am conscious of having read that a site of 20 acres west of Swains Lane was originally bought by the Cemetery Company, but the corresponding fields on Tompson's map of 1804 total about 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres according to his terrier book.

Admittedly my calculation was rough and based on one of Daw's 19th century parish maps: has anyone checked the present acreage accurately?

Anthony Cooper

## The Oetzmann Family

Basil Leverton points out that the repository for the Oetzmann furniture store (see previous editions) was near the Camden Theatre in Camden High Street where Rediffusion now is. He thinks too that this building was originally the North London Collegiate School - the one for boys, and not to be confused with the famous North London Collegiate School for Girls.

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7. to whom all correspondence should be sent.

Telephone enquiries about meetings should be made to the Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay on 278 4444 ext 3002, or if she is not available to the Local History Department at Swiss Cottage Library, 278 4444 ext 3007.

Please note that the official address of the Society is now Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3.

# The Abbé Carron in Somers Town

The 'Social Catholicism' of 19th century France had its origin in the good works of the Parisian middle-class. But it had its predecessors. The psychological shock sustained by the Church during the French Revolution brought the institutional church in France to a more 'social' view. Benedict Labre, the patron saint of tramps, became an exemplar of charity. St Vincent de Paul, that most patrician of philanthropists, came to the forefront of French Catholicism. The emigration of a great number of the clergy of France following the Revolution confronted many priests with a life of abject poverty which created the apparatus and aspirations of an integrated 'self-help' christianity.

London was one of the great centres of the exiled clergy and it was from the capital that a national relief fund, financed by the British Government, was administered for the benefit of the clergy who flooded into England in 1792-3 following the increasingly tough penalties attached to the refusal of the oaths to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy, the new order for the Gallican Church. The relief fund allowed the Government to keep an eye on the priests' activity and to relieve the worst hardships but it was not able to deal with all the exiles' problems. Sickness and poverty needed direct practical help as well as financial assistance.

Somers Town became a centre of emigre clergy life for a variety of reasons. It was a reasonably priced locale, a speculative building venture which had never become profitable. It was convenient to the central agency for immigrant relief in Bloomsbury. It was situated, morbidly, near the old St Pancras cemetery, the most commonly used burial place for Catholics in the metropolis. It was in Somers Town that the Abbé Guy Carron emerged as the leader of what became 'a cradle to the grave' social service organisation.

Carron was no newcomer to such a task. A Breton, born in 1760, ordained priest in 1783, he had served his first curacy in the church of St Germain at Rennes, the chief town of the ancient province of Brittany, where he distinguished himself as a protector of the poor in a parish which might too easily have had its more fashionable diversions. Nor were his benefactions confined to pious good wishes. He established a workshop which gave employment to 200 poor women. Exiled to Jersey in 1792 he continued his good works there establishing chapels, schools and infirmaries. Transferred to the British mainland in 1796 he showed a remarkable ability in fund-raising which allowed him to

recommence his activities first in Tottenham Court Road and then Somers Town.

When he finally concentrated his efforts in the Somers Town area in 1799 the émigrés there already had a chapel dedicated to Our Lady and a number of amenities including a bath-house. Carron expanded the facilities to extraordinary proportions. He founded schools for poor and middle-class children. He established a seminary for theological students and a home for retired priests. A library provided for the intellectual needs of the exiles, a pharmacy and infirmary for the physical, and a 'Providence' gave soup, food and clothing to the destitute. At the centre of his organisation was the church dedicated to St Aloysius Gonzaga, a patron of education, which Carron opened in 1808 in Clarendon Square, now Phoenix Street.

The physical remnants of these foundations are small, including a portrait bust from the old chapel of Carron, a single register, copies of the many books that Carron penned. The institutional remnant is more substantial. The Roman Catholic parish of St Aloysius, provided with a new church in 1968, continues its work as do the schools which can trace their origins directly to Carron.

Carron himself returned to France in 1814 and apart from a brief re-exile in London in Napoleon's 'Hundred Days' spent his last years in Paris where he died in 1821. His life's work was centred on Somers Town and made a considerable contribution not only to the local Catholic history of North London but also the continuing tradition of social welfare in the wider church.

Dominic Bellerge

(The author is writing a study on the French Exiled Clergy, a subject for which he has been awarded a Ph.D by Cambridge.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

This Newsletter is being typed while blizzard and snow rage outside and the thought of walking round Camden Town is not an attractive thought. However, store up pleasures to come and buy a copy of John Richardson's Camden Town Walk published by the Society recently for 25p plus 7p postage from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3.

Members are also reminded that copies of the Camden History Review No 6 are available from the same address for £1 plus postage (15p). It includes articles on Chalk Farm Tavern, the Spanish Quarter of Somers Town, the Methodist Chapels of Kentish Town, the Holfords of Hampstead, Gamages and Doctors of Fitzrovia

## THE WHITE TOWER

On the back page of the current Newsletter sandwiched between two old bits of bygone, you show the White Tower Restaurant at No 1 Percy Street. Now, the White Tower cannot date back any earlier than 1938-9. For many years before that it was known as the Eiffel Tower and was owned by a lovely old Austrian named Rudolf Stulik. Some of his clients whom I can remember were Augustus John, Lord Dunsanay, Tommy Earp, Nina Hamnett, John Strachey (who painted an oil of Charlotte Street from one of the 1st floor windows), and other greater and lesser celebrities of the time, including an expatriat American named Montgomery Evans who lived there on an off for several years and to whose MSS autobiography I have turned to refresh my memory and check dates.

Stulik maintained a cellar of fine and less-fine wines, chiefly Hock, which he would serve to match the standing or palate of his clients, many of whom owed him vast sums of money. Asked to join a party at table he would protest, "I nevaire drink with my friends"; and then sent down for a bottle of the best. He had two waiters, both Swiss. He had a wife, who kept the books and got him into trouble with the income-tax authorities. His favourite recreation was to visit a bar-cum-gambling place round the corner from which women were barred. I was one of the exceptions only because, as the owner of the bar explained, I was plain - by which I hope she meant not a tart, not plain of face.

The last time - or nearly the last time - I saw Stulik must have been not long before the war, when he was showing me an illustrated magazine with photographs of Nazi troopers and said, "This will be the end." It was probably the end of him, though I do not know exactly what happened to him, or when the Eiffel Tower became the White Tower.

I still meet hereabouts the daughter and son-in-law of the famous Kleinfeld who ran the Fitzroy Tavern, opposite the Eiffel Tower. Stulik must be long ago gone, but I have to defend his memory and that of the Eiffel Tower Restaurant, to both of which the photograph you show is an affront!

Mrs R. Demusiak

Basil Leverton sends us an extract from an advertisement in the Thame Gazette and Oxford and Buckingham Advertiser for Oct 20th, 1863:

Pianofortes. W.J. SPARKS, Manufacturer, 13 Eversholt Street N.W.

'Begs to call public attention to his Extensive stock of pianos, made of the best seasoned materials and by skilled workmen. From 25 guineas upwards. W.J. Sparks has had 28 years practical experience of the business and offers no Pianos to notice except those of his own manufacture. He therefore feels the utmost confidence in introducing his instruments as being equal in quality to those made by manufacturers of the highest repute.

Many persons find great cause to regret purchasing Pianos from mere vendors whose judgement is founded merely on the (?name) of the makers which the instruments bear, and which, in many cases are counterfeit.

Pianofortes tuned by Mr Sparks or his son in nearly every Town and Village in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire; also in the town and neighbourhood of Thame.

Attendance quarterly.

Harmoniums of the finest description Supplied and Tuned.

All communications to be addressed to Mr Sparks as above, or to his agents, Mr Thomas Sheldon, High St, Thame, Mr Samuel Gibbs, Market Square, Aylesbury and Mr J.C. Coales, High Street, Newport Pagnell where a selection of W.J. Sparks's Pianos are kept for sale or hire, with option of purchase.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include Ms S. Frost, Miss M Griffiths, Mr J.M. Guest, Mr R. Hayden, Mrs V. Roberts, Miss J. Scott Rogers, Mr and Mrs D.W. Saunders, the Kings Cross Community Association, Mr C.M. Bromley, Miss M. Cramex, Mr and Mrs G. Dougall, Mr P.C. Edwards, Mr and Mrs Halse, Mr R. Hudson, Miss M Janes, Ms J. de Lancy Lewis, Mr and Mrs C. Makepeace, Miss M. Nasmith, Mrs A. Smallwood, Mrs M. Sullivan, Miss D.W. Young.

Total membership is now 555.

## Advance Notice

Society lectures in the near future are:

Mar 15th, 7.30pm at St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street, N.W.1 - London's Waterways, by Martyn Denny

Apr 23rd, 8pm at Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, W.C.1 - John Schofield on aspects of archaeology in London.

# newsletter

No 52

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAR 1979

## Two Aspects of London – our March and April Talks

For a change we are not concentrating on Camden exclusively in our next two talks but we know that they will have great appeal for our members.

London's Waterways hold a perennial interest for people. We see a mysterious stretch of water from a bus top and wonder what canal it is and where it leads. Certainly our canal trips from which you see new prospects of the borough are always fully booked.

So, we expect Martyn Denny's talk on Thursday, March 15th to be very attractive. It will be at St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street, N.W.1 (off Eversholt Street by Euston Station) at 7.30pm.

London's medieval archaeology is the subject of our April talk. John Schofield, an expert in this field, is our speaker. Medieval archaeology quite often holds more appeal than that of previous eras, simply because it reveals features that we can more easily identify with modern life. This talk is at Holborn Central Library, Theobald's Road, W.C.1 at 8pm *23 April*

## Tribute To Jerry Shields

Members will remember with great affection Jerry Shields, who died last year. The Hampstead Music Club, of which he was prime mover, and the Camden History Society, are joining together for a musical tribute to him on March 17th. This will be at Roslyn Hill Chapel, N.W.3 at 8pm, for a programme of music drawn mainly from the 'Hampstead Concerts' devised by Jerry and Elizabeth Shields between 1961 and 1976.

There will be a collection for the Burgh House Trust, a cause which he would have strongly supported.

## The Annual General Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be at University College in June. Full details will be announced 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, E. Michael Robbins, William R. Maidment, Sir John Summerson, Professor F. Thompson and Lord Greenwood.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Gillian Tindall  
TREASURER: Helen Lefroy  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS: Christopher Wade

PROGRAMME SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

Members of the Council: E.G. Brassington, Coral Howells, Rosemary Weinstein, Cherry Lavell, John Lawson, Hugh Marks, Anthony Cooper, Deirdre Le Faye, Mrs C.M. Gee

Nominations, with the nominee's approval, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, Camden History Society, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

## Advance Notice

May 9th: Charles Lee on Transport across the London Border, 8pm, Dyne House, Highgate School

June: (date not firmly fixed yet) Annual General Meeting at University College

### WHITE LODGE, HAMPSTEAD

A correspondent from Canada is researching the life of an artist James Kerr-Lawson (1864-1939). He worked on some oval panels for the hallway of a house in Hampstead called White Lodge owned by a Colonel Waite. Our Local History department have no record of either the house or its owner. Can any reader identify it?

# New Subscription Rates

After much deliberation your Council has decided to follow the practice of many other societies and to include a copy of its annual publication, Camden History Review (price £1), in each member's subscription. This means that from autumn 1979 the Review will be sent regularly to all members, post free.

The subscription will, accordingly, rise by £1 in each category and the new rates will be:

Individual	£3.00
Joint (husband /wife)	£3.50
Associate (schools, societies etc)	£3.50
OAPs and full time students	£2.50

Those who joined on or after 1st October 1978 are covered by their subscription until 1st March 1980 but will not receive a copy of the Review which can be bought in the normal way when published.

For all those members who regularly ordered the Review (members' price 85p by post 15p, this will entail no extra outlay at all.

For the Society this will bring some much-needed extra revenue to invest in our publishing programme, which is currently inhibited by familiar cash-flow problems.

A Renewal Form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

## CRICKLEWOOD HISTORY

I have been commissioned by Samuelson Film Service Ltd to write a short history of Cricklewood. They are particularly interested in the former Westcroft Farm area of Cricklewood Lane, but my research has also to cover the whole of the district. If sufficient information becomes available they hope to produce a small publication which will be available not only to customers visiting the company but also to residents and other interested parties.

I should be grateful if you would ask any of your members who have reminiscences of Cricklewood in the old days, or any photographic items, or newspaper cuttings, posters or maps relating to the subject to get in touch with me.

Miss Malan Goddard

c/o Samuelson Film Service Ltd, Sameine House, 303-315 Cricklewood Broadway, N.W.2. (Tel 452 8090)

## THE JAMES HARTNOLL ESTATE

The St Pancras Housing Association have recently bought the James Hartnoll Estate in Grays Inn. The Association's secretary Mrs M. Burns has written to ask if any members have any information about James Hartnoll or the estate. The buildings include Tiverton Mansions, Barnstaple Mansions, Braunton Mansions, Holsworthy Square, Dulverton, Bideford and Dawlish Mansions and Rosebery Square.

Members who can help should write to Mrs Burns, c/o St Pancras Housing Association, 90 Eversholt St, N.W.1. In addition this Newsletter would welcome information.

The Association's Newsletter, incidentally, tells us that the scenes in the recent series on Edward VIII and Mrs Simpson set in working-class areas in Liverpool and Glasgow were in fact shot on the Drummond Estate near Hampstead Road.

## LONDON'S POLICE

Hornsey Historical Society have a talk on the history of the Metropolitan Police at their next meeting called 'Peelers and Pandas'. The speaker is Dr J.J. Tobias and the meeting is on March 14th at Hornsey Central Library, Haringey Pk, N.8. at 8pm

## ARTHUR MASON

We regret to announce the death of Arthur Mason an enthusiastic member of the Society. He attended our meetings frequently until his recent illness. We send our sincere condolences to his family.

## KINGS CROSS GREETINGS CARD

One of the latest offerings on our bookstall at meetings is a local greetings card published by the Kings Cross Community Association. It shows a print of the Presbyterian Church in Regent Square (a T.H. Shepherd engraving). It is quite a bargain - the card, mounted on a yellow background and with envelope and an historical note is only 5p.

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

In the recent Camden Scene exhibition a sketch by Samuel Hieronymus Grimm re-emerged from the archives to pose a question - what is the substantial building with the tower in the middle foreground?

Grimm died in 1794. On the reverse of the sketch is an inscription by R. Graves, dated Feb 4 95 - presumably, from the handwriting 1795 - 'From the Elephant and Castle'. This inn stood at the bottom of what is now St Pancras Way where Goldington Court now is. The exhibition catalogue says that it is a view looking north - therefore up St Pancras Way. To the left and right are what became Crowndale Road and Pancras Road.

That very substantial building does not appear on the 1800 map of the area.

Alternatively, if the Catalogue is wrong, and the view is southward looking, Pancras Road is in front of us and Crowndale Road and Pancras Way are to the right and left. Is that substantial building then the Small Pox Hospital? If so it appears to be on the wrong side of the road as it stood where Kings Cross station now is.

Any suggestions please?

## NEW MEMBERS

New Members include Mrs M.M. Adams, Mr S.I. Alman, Mr and Mrs A. Alvarez, Mr C. Childs, Mr A. Kidd, Mrs N Plass, Mr D.P. Rowan, Mr R. Warrick.

We apologise to new member Mr R. Hudson for having spelt his name 'Hudson' in the last Newsletter.



The Mystery Building

# The White/Eiffel Tower

Mrs Demusiak's reminiscences of the Eiffel Tower Restaurant (now the White Tower) in Percy Street, have provoked several people to write:

From Anthony Cooper:

Mrs Demusiak reminds me that the Eiffel Tower Restaurant was known to us students of c1930 - known but not patronised because its prices were beyond our pockets. We used to go to Bertorelli's in Charlotte Street where you could get a small meal for 10d, comprising, I think, spaghetti 4d, roll and butter 2d, some sort of pudding 4d, or maybe it was coffee, rounding it up to 1/- with tip. We generally spent rather more, perhaps 1/6d or so, but two of my fellow students once went into the Eiffel Tower, thinking it would be a change from Bertorelli's, and were horrified to find that the cheapest dish on the menu was beetroot salad at 3/6d. They had two beetroot salads and came out again.

We could not afford much pub-going, but I remember it was done to talk about the Fitzroy Tavern. You had to call it Kleinfeld's.

However no one should think that these were the good old days when everything was dirt cheap: there never were good old days. I earned £4 a week in my first job and was considered quite lucky.

From Anthony Cox:

Mrs Demusiak is probably right in supposing that the White Tower Restaurant cannot date back any earlier than 1938-9. I lived in Percy Street then. It was shabbier than it is today. I think it must have been in the spring of 1939 that the Eiffel Tower changed. Previously it had a mysteriously reticent appearance, almost secretive, and there was a legend that it had often been patronised by the Prince of Wales, which in 1938 lent it an air of conspiracy. There were no tables outside then, no awnings or bay-trees, no white paint or illuminated letters on the fascia; curtains permanently obscured the windows. It looked, and I think was, far beyond the means of a student.

But certainly in the hot spring of 1939 it became possible to have a relatively cheap evening meal at the new White Tower, at a table on the pavement, and to be given an aperitif as a free inducement and Turkish delight with the coffee

From D.R. Webb, Librarian at the Bishopsgate Institute:

No 1 Percy Street has been a restaurant since 1896, when Charles Homer (probably connected with a family which owned several public houses and hotels in Sth London in the last half of the 19th century) acquired the premises from a wine merchant (some years previously it had been used by a lace manufacturer). Homer ran his "Restaurant Francais" until 1910, in which year Rudolph Stulik acquired it. There is, as it happens, no mention of its name as the "Eiffel Tower". Stulik's occupation ended in 1938, presumably as Mrs Demusiak says, as a result of impending war.

For the next 5 years, it was apparently not used, until in 1943 Yannis Stais opened his restaurant there. In 1949 it became the White Tower Restaurant.

## Fringe Publications

We have so many publications for sale these days that it is probably worth a recap of the ones we sell from areas just outside Camden - just in case you haven't been to a meeting recently and seen them on display. They can all be ordered by post from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3. enclosing the price plus 15p postage.

Hornsey Historical Society Bulletins  
Nos 15 and 16 45p each

Hornsey, Highgate and the Victoria  
County History (with map) 75p

Blue Plaques of Barnet 45p

The Site of Southwood Park (Highgate)  
48p

Money, Milk and Milestones (a HADAS  
miscellany) 35p

The Kindling and the Flame (history  
of Sth Hampstead High School) £1.00

## SEARCH FOR A SCREWDRIVER

A Mr Carr, who has been enjoying our 'Streets of Hampstead' notes that there is no mention of the screwdriver embedded in the Grange Cinema. Is it still there? he asks. The odd sight resulted from a bomb hitting an ironmongers on the other side of Kilburn High Road in 1940 and he remembers his father showing it to him in post-war days.



# newsletter

No. 53

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

MAY 1979

## Transport on the London Border

May 9th, 8pm

Dyne House, Southwood Lane, N.6

Charles Lee, a Vice-President of the Society, is well-known as a transport historian. Those who have heard him talk before will know that his lectures are well researched and accurate. His talk in May explores a little-known field - the story of how public transport gradually crossed the London border into the Middlesex of Highgate, Hornsey, Tottenham etc. The talk will show that there was an invisible line, for some time, which prevented this.

For this interesting talk we have joined with the Hornsey Historical Society in booking Dyne House (part of Highgate School) in Southwood Lane. The hall costs £30 to hire, and as both societies are a bit impoverished we have, on this occasion, to depart from our usual practice of free admission and charge 20p at the door.

However, it will be well worth it!

## OTHER SOCIETIES

Activities at Lauderdale House are now in full swing. They include two evenings of reminiscences of old Highgate on May 11th and May 18th. No time has been advertised on their leaflet but it is probably 8pm. Enquire first though.

## PARKING METERS FOR POSTERITY?

A member asks whether our transport and highways enthusiasts are duly recording for posterity the final movements of traffic meter poles? Some of them, he points out, are holding up the planks of stepped earth-embankment cutting, running down to the 'Bull and Bush'

Someday parking meters will be collectors' items!

## The Annual General Meeting

11th June, 7.30pm

Gervase Tuck Lecture Theatre, University College, Gower Street, W.C.1.

The Annual General Meeting last year at Kenwood was a great success. This year we will try to repeat this at another famous Camden institution - University College.

The business part of the meeting will be as follows:

1. Apologies for absence
2. To confirm the minutes of the last AGM and matters arising
3. Address by the Society's patron, the Worshipful the Mayor of Camden, Cllr Sally Peltier
4. To receive the Chairman's report
5. To receive the Treasurer's report
6. To receive the report of the Publications Editor
7. To elect officers and council for the coming year.
8. To consider an amendment to Rule 8 of the Constitution and Rules: replace the words 30 September by 31st December. It would then read: Members enrolled after 31st December shall be deemed to be covered by their subscriptions up to the end of the following financial year.
9. Any other business.

After this will be a talk on the history of the College by N.B. Harte, BSc(econ), followed by refreshments.

## Advance Notice

Our plans for talks and outings for July and August are not yet finalised but will be reported in full in the July Newsletter. However, Coral Howells will be conducting a walk around Kentish Town on July 8th, meeting 11am at Kentish Town tube station.

There will be an open day at Highgate Cemetery, Swains Lane on June 3rd at 2pm sharp.

# Latin Americans in St Pancras

Francisco de Miranda, Simon Bolivar, Andres Bello - these are all names associated with the independence of Venezuela, and all three met at 27 Grafton Street (now 58 Grafton Way) in 1810 to plan the liberation of Venezuela from the Spanish. Miranda had been working for the freedom of his country for some years and he had visited London to gain the support of the British Government. In 1798 he lodged in Euston Road and Tavistock Street and in 1803 took up residence at 27 Grafton Street, which became the unofficial headquarters of the revolutionary movement. Miranda and Bolivar returned to Venezuela to fight against the Spanish but Andres Bello remained in London for 20 years as agent of the Venezuelan Revolutionary Government. His only known address in St Pancras was 9 Egremont Place from 1827 to 1828 (the site is now occupied by the frontage of St Pancras Station) but he probably lived there longer as he had three children baptised at the Church of St Aloysius, Somers Town in 1820, 1825 and 1827. It is also likely that he met his two wives in Somers Town - both had Irish names: the first Mary Ann Boyland and the second Elizabeth Dunn. Somers Town had proved an attraction to Catholic immigrants since the French emigres settled there during the French Revolution and the Abbe Carron founded the Catholic community of St Aloysius with its church and schools. The original church was rebuilt in 1968 and a plaque in the new church states that in 1971 the Venezuelan Government acquired

the font used to baptise Andres Bello's children for the nation. The Venezuelan Government is still interested in the connection with Camden and has recently bought No 58 Grafton Way which they hope to turn into a memorial to Miranda and his compatriots.

Felicity Marpole

## JOHN BARNES

Mrs Angela Cross has written to ask for information on the John Barnes store in Finchley Road. As part of a course on 'British Architecture since the 1920s' she has to complete a project on a 1930s building and she has chosen the store. Most of the documents on John Barnes appear to have been stolen from the Local History department and she therefore wonders if members have any information regarding the building of the store 1932/6. Mrs Cross can be contacted at 20 Buckingham Mansions, West End Lane, N.W.6.

## THE WHITE LODGE

The last Newsletter asked for members' help in tracking down a house in Hampstead called White Lodge. J. Landymore has kindly sent us a cutting from Country Life (March 8th, 1979) which advertises a house for sale in Bishop's Avenue sub-titled White Lodge Close. Judging from the picture the house itself is newish but it could, of course, be on the site of an older one. With 1 acre of ground adjoining Highgate golf course it certainly wouldn't be cheap!



A scene of old Highgate - Dodds forge in the High Street. The Dodd family ran the business for at least a hundred years until 1894

## Electric Lighting in St Pancras

Camden is well-endowed with old street furniture. In particular, the old borough of St Pancras had some splendid lighting columns (or lamp posts, if you prefer it). Peter Scott, the author of an interesting new local history booklet 'Vestry Arc - The historic Public Lighting Columns of St Pancras' reminds us of their attractiveness and even points out the incorrectness of the Latin motto inscribed on them with which the old borough encouraged itself. There is a short history of the development of public lighting in St Pancras - the borough was a pioneer in this field, and a review of those columns he feels are worth preserving.

Mr Scott is a member of the Society and a draughtsman for the LEB. The booklet may be obtained from him (90p plus 25p postage) at 11 Duffield Close, Greenhill, Harrow, Middx, or else from the CHS Bookstall at meetings.



### NEW PUBLICATION ON ST PETER'S, BELSIZE PARK

A Short History of St Peter's Church, Belsize Park has now been published. The church was consecrated in 1859, and occupies the site of Belsize House. The history is written by Howard Isenberg, price 30p, and can be obtained

from him at 6 Newton House, Abbey Road, N.W.8 for 42p including postage, or from the CHS bookstall at meetings.

## How Is Your Essay?

May we remind you that all entries for our second Essay Competition on 'My Street' must reach 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 by 30th June this year?

And may we hope that many of you will be entering? Quite apart from the £25 worth of booktoken prizes and the thrill of seeing your work in the Ham and High or Camden History Review, you could be making a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Camden's past. Every one of last year's essays is being treasured in the Local History Library at Swiss Cottage. And don't forget that you can base your essay on original research or on personal memory. There are, in fact, hundreds of old folk around Camden just ripe for recording and transcribing.

If you want more information, suggestions or help with your ideas, contact Christopher Wade (794 2752), Jane Ramsay (278 4444 Ext 3002) or Malcolm Holmes at Swiss Cottage Library. You can get copies of the Entry Form from them, too, in case you have lost yours.

### GOSPEL OAK - HELP WANTED

We have received a letter from one of our members, Miss Flora Peett, who is also secretary to the Celebration Committee of All Hallows Church, Savernake Road. They are planning a week of activities from 28th October to 3rd November, and among other things are hoping to have an exhibition illustrating various aspects of the past and present life of the church and its locality. They have asked for the Society's help in this, and so we would be very grateful for any volunteers who would be prepared to organise such an exhibition selecting items from the Local History department's collection at Swiss Cottage Library, writing captions etc. There is also an opportunity to set up our Publications Stall in the church, so any offers of help to run this during the week, particularly in the evenings, would be most welcome. Please contact our Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay (278 4444 Ext 3002) if you can help in any way.

### THE EIFFEL/WHITE TOWER

Anthony Cooper has asked us to point out that we made a typing error in his piece on the Eiffel/White Tower restaurant in the last Newsletter. What we should have said was that it wasn't done to talk about the Fitzroy Tavern. He also mentions Kenneth Clark's autobiography 'The Other Half' which says that the restaurant became The White Tower c1940

## A Part of old Kentish Town Goes

Those who know the splendidly well-equipped stationers in Kentish Town High Street (opposite the tube) will be sorry to hear that Mr Hamilton has finally decided to take a well-earned retirement. At seventy-five he has at last sold the business, which his own father entered in the 1890s as a bright boy with little formal education. By 1914 this ambitious assistant had managed to buy out Mr Bishop, the original proprietor, though Bishop still remained in person - he retreated to the basement storeroom where he spent his time 'writing' mysteriously and leaving business affairs to others. The shop then did most of its trade selling books and in running a Twopenny Library, but Mr Hamilton senior, perhaps seeing the way the 20th century wind of change was blowing, built up the stationery side of the business. In 1917 he removed his own son, the present Mr Hamilton then aged 14, from the Acland Central School and took him into the firm. With the exception of a brief period during the 2nd World War, when he worked in a railway parcel's office, Mr Hamilton has been selling books and stationery ever since.

He is probably the last trader in Kentish Town to remember it as it was long ago, when the shops stayed open from eight in the morning till seven at night and nine on Saturdays. (Some of the food shops kept even longer hours). He remembers when there was a carriage trade from the big houses in Caversham Road, and when an order placed in the evening could be supplied by lunch-time the following day - as a boy, he was the one who took the tram down to the warehouses near St. Pauls to fetch the books. He remembers when there was a corn-chandlers over the way (the occupants of the first floor once did a moonlight flit to avoid paying the rent) and when the next door neighbour, a greengrocer, used to do a little trade on the side in horses, which he put to graze on a piece of waste land behind his shop belonging to the Midland Railway. (For further details see CHS Newsletter No 25, August 1974).

He once told me how strange he found it to think back to all the local characters in long aprons or frock coats or high collars that he had known as fixtures in life when he was young, and then to realise that they were gone, every one of them - 'Just gone, and nothing left of them'. Now he is going himself, and many people will miss him. We wish him and Mrs Hamilton, who has often been seen in the shop her-

self in recent years, the very best for the future.

Gillian Tindall.

## The Mystery Building at Kings Cross

Quite a few members played detective in attempting to identify the mystery building illustrated in our last Newsletter. Unfortunately the print, as supplied to the Editor and without him being aware, was cropped on the left-hand side, thereby eliminating from the view St Pancras Old Church. With this building shown there would have been no doubt as to the direction the artist was pointing or the identity of the 'mystery building'.

Anyway, the artist was looking to the south and the building was indeed the Small Pox Hospital, and suggestions that it might have been Cantelowes manor house or St James' Church are ingenious but not correct - but our thanks to those members who took the trouble to try and unravel the mystery.

Michael Ogden kindly sent a map which suggests that the artist's viewpoint needed a bit of licence, and Hugh Pocock and Lady Holder, with the aid of old maps and Old and New London Vol. 5, correctly identified the hospital. To them, many thanks.

Lady Holder has in her possession copies of the London Kalender for 1809 and 1815 which list patrons and staff at the hospital, instituted in 1746. The 1815 edition mentions vaccination as being carried out here.

## FRIENDS OF BURGH HOUSE

The Council's splendid repair and redecoration of Burgh House is nearing completion and the Burgh House Trust hope to be able to open their doors to the public sometime in July. Among the attractions will be an exhibition of old Hampstead watercolours, a Burgh House history display, the Hampstead bookstall and the Burgh House Buttery.

The Trust is now forming the Friends of Burgh House as its own supporters' club and will be glad to hear from anyone interested in developing this organisation. Friends will help to run the Bookstall, supervise exhibitions and organise lectures, concerts and social events. A membership form is to be enclosed in the next Newsletter, but anyone who would like to get in on the ground floor should contact Christopher Wade (794 2752). One way and another Burgh House is going to need more than a little help from its Friends.

# newsletter

No 54

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

JUL 1979

## Kentish Town Walk in July

Kentish Town has many charms - including those of CHS member Coral Howells who will be conducting a walk around the area on July 8th. We meet at Kentish Town tube station at 11am. Coral is part of the team of four who have put together a publication on Kentish Town which will be issued by the Society in the not too-distant future.

So, if you want to find out what lies behind that crowded high street, come along on the 8th.

## The Canal Walk

Ever since the towpath along the Canal was opened and improved thousands of people have discovered just what a delightful walk it is. No-one knows it better than CHS member David Thomas who is conducting a walk along it on Tuesday, July 24th. We meet at Warwick Avenue tube station at 6.30pm and will walk from Little Venice to the Roundhouse in Camden Town.

Available on that walk will be the newly published Canal Walk trail - cost 10p - an invaluable aid. This publication will also be obtainable, for those who can't make the walk, on the CHS book-stall at meetings, or else by post from CHS publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 if you enclose two 7p stamps and a stamped, addressed envelope.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members enrolled include:

Miss V. Barrow, J. Bellom, Ms N. Flessati, S. Jones, R. de Peyer, Dr A. Philipp, Miss C. Ramsden, M. Redlich, G. Sawyer, M. Wippell

## Advance Notice

Please note: the talk by Rosemary Weinstein on Civil War Defences on Lord Southampton's Estate scheduled for September 10th will now be on the 18th. Details in the next Newsletter

## The Summer Outing

The Annual Outing of the Society this year is both by coach and boat. It is to Chicheley Hall, near Newport Pagnell, one of the finest Georgian houses in the country, built in 1719 by Francis Smith of Warwick. It was bought by the Beatty family and because of its association with Admiral Beatty is partly now a naval museum. We shall go to Chicheley Hall on the morning of August 11th and in the afternoon we shall cruise for an hour on the Grand Junction Canal and visit the Stoke Brene Waterway Museum.

The whole cost including coach, boat, Hall and Museum and tea is £5 - a bargain. A form is enclosed for you to make your booking.

## New Members Meeting

Every now and again we have a new members' meeting at which various members of the Council say something about the activities of the Society and where members can be introduced to the borough's local collection material. An opportunity exists at these meetings for members who are interested in research to talk about what they want to do and enlist the help of the Society.

The next such meeting is on Monday 17th September at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.15pm, meeting in the Children's Library. Apart from new members, all are welcome.

## ROYALTIES ROLLING IN

We have just heard from the High Hill Press that they have now paid us over £1000 in royalties since they started publication of our 'Streets of Hampstead' trilogy in 1972. The research and writing of these books was done by a group of our members, led by Wilfrid Meadows and Christopher Wade, and they donated their royalties to the Society. We also hear that 'More Streets of Hampstead' is about to sell out and will not be reprinted for some time. So grab your copies now!

# The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was, again, a great success with, afterwards, an entertaining talk on University College by Mr Negley Harte.

Tributes were paid to our out-going President Sir James Brown for all his care and work for the Society during his term of office. The meeting appointed unanimously as its new President Charles Lee, the well-known transport historian.

Officers appointed were:

PRESIDENT: Charles Lee

VICE-PRESIDENTS: Sir James Brown, R.M. Robbins, W.R. Maidment, Lord Greenwood, Mrs Ann Saunders, Prof. Valerie Pearl

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Gillian Tindall

HON. SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

TREASURER: Helen Lefroy

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Christopher Wade

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter

ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

COUNCIL MEMBERS: E.G. Brassington, Anthony Cooper, Mrs C.M. Gee, Coral Howells, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser, Philip Greenall.

CO-OPTED MEMBERS: Hugh Marks (Industrial Archaeology Group), John Lawson (Transport Group)

The meeting passed an amendment to the Constitution rule 8 replacing the words 30 September by 31st December. The effect of this is that members who enrol after 31st December shall be deemed to be covered by their subscription up to the end of the following financial year.

The Council also gave notice that they proposed at the next Annual General Meeting to move an amendment to the Constitution which would enable them to co-opt members more freely than at present.

## Industrial Archaeology

Our Industrial Archaeology group, led by Hugh Marks, is to embark on a Survey of Camden dealing with their particular field. An informal meeting to discuss this will be held on Wednesday, 18th July at 6.00pm at Swiss Cottage Library Meetings Room.

Any member interested is very welcome to come.

## A New Book on Covent Garden

A new book on the Covent Garden area is to be published on July 16th. It is written by the Society's Chairman, John Richardson.

It is not another collection of coffee-house anecdotes or devoted to the theatres and market. Instead it takes the whole area (a large part is in Camden) and after a general history and an assessment of its future now that the market has gone, proceeds in a street-by-street format with a history of architecture, residents, businesses and events.

Included are 117 illustrations, many of them photographs over 70 years old, in a large format paperback.

The price is £2.70 (post free) and can be obtained direct from the publishers, Historical Publications Ltd, 54 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts. It will also be available at CHS meetings on the book-stall.

A review will appear in the next Newsletter.

## BURGH HOUSE BULLETIN

Burgh House's hopes of opening in July have been dashed by technical troubles on the electrical side. At the moment, the floorboards are all up for the installation of fire alarms, security precautions and exhibition lighting. So doors will not open until early September.

Meanwhile, I am collecting material for an exhibition on the history of Burgh House and Hampstead Wells and would be glad to hear from anyone with offers of help. In particular, has anyone any old leaflets, programmes or catalogues from events at Burgh House in the last 30 years?

Christopher Wade  
(794 2752)

## HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Two Newsletters ago Anthony Cooper, with a gleam in his eye no doubt, suggested that Camden Council had bought less acreage when purchasing Highgate Cemetery than they thought. Was Camden Council being sold short in paying £37 for the lot he inferred?

Well, we've had a straight-faced answer from Camden's Chief Executive:

According to our information the area of the western cemetery is 17.25 acres and the eastern cemetery 19.70 acres, making a total of 36.95 acres.

## 30A Highgate Road

Anyone travelling from Kentish Town to Highgate might be forgiven for missing a group of workshops set back from the road just after Kentish Town Fire Station. The site is now occupied by three firms - a clothing manufacturer, a packing-case and pallet maker, and a sheet metal and light engineering company. The latter make, amongst other things, a range of barrows for various specialist uses including the transportation of harps. The insurance plans at Swiss Cottage library show that the layout of the site remains substantially as it was in 1900.



A small, white-washed, construction is modern and a long single storey building joining this and the houses facing the road and described as a laundry has recently been converted into a dwelling. The buildings are undistinguished, the only interesting point being the brick floor in the part now used by the pallet maker. This may have facilitated cleaning or gave additional strength to the floor when carriages were stored there. It is rather the succession of occupants since 1880 when these workshops were built that provides the interest.

In 1900 the first floors were used by W. Minchin, cabinet maker and marqueterie cutter and John Murray, piano key maker. The ground floor was taken up by stables with the carriage and van store opposite. Whether the two were linked has not been established. Before this however William Parker one of the original occupants had manufactured carriages here. By the 1920s the effects of developments in transport can be seen in the replacement of the carriage-trade by a garage, joined by a motor dealer in 1933. Around this time the first of a succession of light engineering firms appears.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, the piano-making industry was a major employer in Camden. Alongside the large factories a large secondary industry flourished, supplying actions, keys and various accessories. Most were small affairs, many

of them short-lived. John Murray appears to have been typical and it is probable that the cabinet maker supplied to the industry also providing music-stands or the inlay work that was popular on pianos at the time. In the 1920s the industry was in decline. One response to this was the formation of a workers' co-operative, The Piano Workers' Guild in 1926. This occupied part of no 30a for a couple of years but nothing more is heard of the venture after that.

Other occupants of this site have been an umbrella maker, a sculptor, a leather clothes manufacturer and an accumulator maker. Industrial Camden is still composed of a large extent of small businesses operating from news workshops or groups of workshops such as 30A. This was even more the case in the past and by studying sites such as this both the continuity and the changes in the industrial life emerge.

Hugh Marks

### THE GREATER LONDON RECORD OFFICE - TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Miss Joan Coburn, the Head Archivist for the GLC has written to inform us of the temporary closure of the GLC Record Office at County Hall.

What is happening is that the Middlesex Record Office in Dartmouth Street is closing and is being united with the London collection at County Hall.

The Middlesex section closes on June 29th, and the London section will be closed, because of the ensuing sort-out, between 31st August and 2nd January. After that date a large proportion of the records will be stored in an out-repository and items will have to be ordered at least three working days in advance of a visit. It will be essential to make appointments.

This new arrangement has provoked a letter from James Wisdom. (It has been edited for space reasons).

'As far as I can establish, the past history of this decision is this. The Middlesex section houses the collection for the old county. The County Hall office holds the collection for the old London area. There has been some concern that the collection at Dartmouth Street is in danger should there be a Thames flood. This concern has co-incided with the desire of the Finance and Establishment Committee to sell the building in Dartmouth Street to reduce costs and staff.

The GLC own a warehouse in Back Church Lane, Whitechapel and has decided to move the records of the Middlesex section here.

They will then be above flood level. The London records will remain at County Hall, in the basement, by the river, and will be below river level. There appear to be no plans for a search room at Whitechapel.

There are some benefits resulting from this decision. Some records will be safer; the two offices will be integrated; an enlarged search room will be better to work in; there might well be more storage room for new records; and it might save rate-payers' money.

However, anyone who has used a search room will already have seen the disadvantages. Serious and experienced researchers who are well organised and have plenty of time will probably be able to minimise the difficulties of the three day embargo. But it will discourage anyone else less experienced and with less time. It will render research almost impossible for anyone attempting to trace facts or ideas through a series of documents unless they know exactly what that series is beforehand. It will increase the number of visits necessary and will stimulate the over-ordering of documents to ensure that a working-day is not wasted. It is clear that the overall service being offered is reduced.

It is true that other record offices have out-repositories but in the main these house records that are either little used or are awaiting cataloguing. In this case the whole collection is being moved.

The problem could be reduced if a large amount of storage space could be found at County Hall to house the most-used Middlesex records. Perhaps some little-used London records could be moved to Whitechapel in their stead.'

## Charles Goodall & Sons

Michael Goodall has written to us to ask if members have any information about the firm of his great-great-grandfather, Charles Goodall & Son, of Camden Works, Great College Street.

Charles Goodall was apprenticed to Hunt and Son, playing-card makers, in 1801 and worked for them until 1820 when he set up his own business at 6 Lisle Street, Leicester Square, for the manufacture of playing cards and message cards.

In 1824 he was joined by his eldest son Jonathan Charles and, in 1826, they moved to larger premises at 30 Great Pulteney Street, Soho. Expansion led to the acquisition of new premises at 16 Great College Street, Camden Town, in 1839. A second son, Josiah Montague, joined the firm in about 1844. Charles Goodall died in 1851. In 1853 a further house was bought at 12 Great College Street and, during the fol-

owing decade, the business expanded greatly. By then greetings cards, calendars, note-paper, menu cards, programmes, games and boards for the printing industry, were being produced in addition to playing cards.

A brand new factory, Camden Works at 24 Great College Street, was built in 1867/8 on a 2 acre site. By the 1880s the works were producing about 1 million packs of cards a year and employed over 1000 people.

Jonathan Charles died in 1885 and Josiah in 1893, but by then the company was being run by the latter's two sons Montague and Mortimer Goodall. The firm became a limited company in 1897.

The company was eventually merged with Thomas De La Rue in 1921/2, but Camden Works continued to be used for the manufacture of playing cards and stationery up to the end of the 1920s.

## ICE WELLS

Readers will remember that Cherry Lavell recently wrote to us about an ice-house at Beechwood in Hampstead Lane. The Bromley and District Consumers Group have published an article on an ice-well in their area which contains some interesting information on construction and use and from this we have extracted the following:

Ice-houses (above ground) and ice-wells (below ground) were reputedly introduced from the Continent in the early 17th century. It is recorded that an ice-well was constructed in Green Park in 1660.

Ice-wells vary in shape but are mostly brick-built structures wholly or mainly underground; the top, if above the ground, would be covered with earth for insulation. Very often the site would be screened with trees and the doorway often faced north. The ice, or packed snow, would be cut and stored by the estate servants in the winter months and withdrawn as required. The more ambitious structures had a separate chamber for storing meat and other perishables. The bottom and sides of the well would be lined with straw, with further straw between the layers of ice. This allowed the moisture from the melting ice to drain away, which inhibited further melting. Many wells had soak-away sumps for this purpose.

## LAUDERDALE HOUSE

Should this Newsletter reach you in time, despite postal delays, you may like to be reminded that there is a splendid exhibition at Lauderdale House, Highgate Hill, called 'Streets of Old Highgate', arranged by CHS member Peter Barber.

It closes on July 7th and is open that day from 2pm to 6pm.



# newsletter

No 55

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

SEP 1979

## Camden Town - our October talk

Oct 9th, 8pm  
Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3

Gillian Tindall is to give what is probably the first ever talk on the history of Camden Town. Apart from isolated buildings, such as the Mother Red Cap, the area wasn't inhabited until the 1790s when the Camden Estate was developed. Since then it has gone through a number of social and ethnic upheavals. Gillian Tindall is well known for her sharp observation of social change and this should be a stimulating talk.

## New Members' Meeting

This is a reminder to new members that there will be a meeting, especially for them on September 17th at Swiss Cottage Library at 7.15pm, meeting in the Children's Library. This is the chance for new members to find out more about the Society, get involved in research projects if they wish, and to see Camden's Local History archives. The archives themselves are worth the evening, for you will be able to see many items in the strong room not normally on show.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

Members are reminded that two new publications may be obtained from the CHS Book-stall at meetings. These are the Regent's Canal Walk published by GLIAS at 10p, and COVENT GARDEN by John Richardson price £2.70.

The Thomas Coram Foundation have recently published a booklet on the Foundation price £1. It is obtainable from them at 40 Brunswick Square, W.C.1.

The Camden History Review No 7 will be posted out to members with the November Newsletter.

## The Civil War Defences on Lord Southampton's Estate

Sep 18th 8.00pm  
Holborn Library Hall, Theobalds Road, W.C.1.

Events of the Civil War in the 17th century are recalled in a talk by Rosemary Weinstein of the Museum of London. In particular she is dealing with the defence preparations made on the Southampton Estate in Camden. Very little of merit has been published on this subject so that Rosemary Weinstein's talk is of special interest to members.

## Advance Notice

Meetings of the Society which will be announced in greater detail in the next Newsletter are:

Nov 8: COVENT GARDEN an illustrated talk by John Richardson at Holborn Library Hall Theobalds Road at 8pm

Nov 19: LAUDERDALE HOUSE a talk by Peter Barber at Lauderdale House, N.6 at 8pm

Dec 14: CHRISTMAS PARTY at Burgh House.

## INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

Hugh Marks has resigned as leader of the Industrial Archeology Group as he is going overseas earlier than expected. David Thomas is resuming leadership for the time being.

## CHS Essay Competition

The winners of the second CHS Essay Competition have now been chosen. They will be announced before the talk on October 9th and will be presented with their prizes by Charles Lee, our President.

## The Tottenham Court Excavation

Members may have seen in the press that the Inner London Archaeological Unit has been excavating a site on the corner of Hampstead Road and Euston Road in the hope of finding traces of the old Tottenham Court Manor. We have received this report of the dig which lasted from 21 May to 1st July.

'The aim of the excavation was to locate the site of Tottenham Court Manor House, formerly known as Totenthal, and named 'King John's Palace' on 18th and 19th century plans. However, the area available for investigation was limited by modern disturbance and the space taken up by the contractors demolishing Tolmers Square.

A ploughsoil containing 13th century pottery lay over the whole site. Towards the end of the 13th century a deposit of clay had been laid over, possibly as a surface, and then successive spreads of gravel were laid as yard surfaces. Postholes, which may have belonged to fences subdividing the yard, were cut through the gravels.

Part of one substantial wall of uncertain date was found on the north side of the site. It was brick faced on the south side and lined on the north with rough chalk, limestone and sandstone blocks including some well-carved Reigate stone of medieval date. The presence of this carved stone, together with 13th century decorated tile fragments, might suggest that an earlier building had been destroyed in the vicinity and its debris re-used here. There is known to have been a medieval building here although the post-medieval drawings and prints such as Wilkinson's 'King John's Palace' (1813) shows a Tudor building.

The Unit will be carrying out a watching brief on the building operations from September 1979 and hopes to gain a better idea of the extent of the manor house buildings. The Unit is at present working on the documentary evidence for the manor house and would welcome any assistance with this. Please contact Robert Whytehead (242 6620).

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include Mrs C.A. Montgomery, Mrs A. Oser, Mrs R. Reece and Mr S. Seltzer

## Burgh House Reopens

Burgh House reopens on September 8th and will be open to the public from September 9th daily, except Mondays, from 12-6pm.

Camden History Society members are invited to a special evening there on Tuesday, October 16th at 7.30pm for a guided tour around the Exhibition of water colours and prints from Camden Libraries and to the HADAS exhibition dealing with their West Heath Dig.

We are grateful to the Burgh House Trust for this welcome invitation which we are sure many members will want to take up. While mentioning Burgh House members will, we feel sure, want to congratulate them on their achievement against all odds in wresting the building from private use and finding the money and the energy to open it as a thriving local centre.

The prime exhibit at Burgh House will, of course, be the restored house itself but there is an impressive list of other attractions. They are:

### 9 Sep onwards

Exhibition: Burgh House and Hampstead Wells. The Story of the house and the 18th Century spa

### 13 Oct onwards

Exhibition: Early Man in Hampstead. Archaeological finds and photographs from the West Heath Dig (HADAS)

### 6-28 October

Exhibition: Hampstead Past. Watercolours and prints from Camden Libraries.

### 4 Nov - 2 Dec

Exhibition: Hampstead Present. Local work by members of Hampstead Artists Council

### Wednesdays Oct 3 to Dec 5 inclusive, 8pm

Ten talks on HEATH VIEWS. About Hampstead Heath's past, present and future. Admission 50p, season ticket £3

### From Oct 7 on Sundays

HEATH WALKS, starting from Burgh House at 2.30pm. 50p

### Oct 14 at 12.15pm

Kingsley Amis presents 'A Nosegay of Light Verse' with Moyra Fraser. £2 inc. wine (bookable)

### Oct 28 at 12.15pm

Daphne Slater presents 'From World to World unseen....' A salute to Captain Cook. £2 inc. wine (bookable)

To add to this adventurous start there is also the Burgh House Buttery for light meals and the Burgh House Bookstall.

# Maps and Postcards

Camden Council are issuing three new sets of postcards costing 40p for each set of five cards. Old views of Hampstead, West Hampstead and Kilburn are featured. They are well produced and your friends will be doubly pleased to hear from you. They are available at Camden libraries.

Also Camden is selling three maps: Hampstead 1814, St Giles in the Fields c1720, and St. Andrews, Holborn c1720, all priced at 50p

## APPEASEMENT

Michael Benaim is carrying out a research project on the climate of public opinion in Hampstead and Highgate on the issue of appeasement in foreign affairs from 1933 to 1939. He would be grateful if any members with reminiscences or records could get in touch with him at 30 Wood Lane, N.6.



Hampstead High Street c1908 - one of the new Camden Council postcards

Two members have written with comments on two recent publications.

Mr A. Lyons writing about the CAMDEN TOWN WALK says that he recently had a letter from an old gentleman (his former history master) in which he wrote: 'I knew the neighbourhood well, for I was born and brought up just by Camden Square. As a little child (around 1902) I used to be taken for an afternoon walk to the big road junction in Camden Town, the walk being timed so that I could see the cows being brought down Park Street from their grazing in Regent's Park to be milked at Brown's Dairy. This was at the point of the fork between the High Street and the start of Kentish Town Road and the milking sheds were behind it, where Camden Town underground station now stands.'

Anthony Cooper in a letter re the REGENT'S CANAL WALK booklet thinks that

the Roundhouse held 23 engines as it had 24 bays and not 22 engines as David Thomas says.

## THE SOCIETY

Officers of the Society are:

PRESIDENT: Charles Lee  
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
SECRETARY: Mrs Jane Ramsay c/o Hampstead Central Library, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. (278 4444 ext 3002)  
TREASURER: Helen Lefroy (address as Mrs Ramsay)  
EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS: Christopher Wade 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 (794 2752)  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson and correspondence should be addressed to him at 32 Ellington Street, N.7 (607 1628)

# Jane Austen and Hampstead

An article by CHS member Deirdre Le Faye suggests that Jane Austen might well have visited Hampstead. It appears in the Review of English Studies, Vol 30, no 117, Feb 1979.

In 1881 a record was made of the tombstone inscriptions surviving in the churchyard of St John-at-Hampstead. Using this it is possible to locate a much-worn leger stone and to know that it once read:

In memory of Philadelphia wife of Tysoe Saul Hancock whose moral excellence united the practice of every Christian virtue she bore with pious resignation the severest trials of a tedious and painful malady and expired on the 26th February, 1792 aged 61.

Also in memory of her grandson Hastings only child of Jean Capot Comt. de Feuillide and Elizabeth his wife born 25th June 1786 died 9th October 1801.

Also in memory of Elizabeth wife of H.T. Austen Esq, formerly widow of the Comt. Feuillide a woman of brilliant generous and cultivated mind just disinterested and charitable she died after long and severe suffering on the 25th April 1813 much regretted by the wise and good and deeply lamented by the poor.

Readers will recognise in these names members of Jane Austen's immediate family circle - her aunt, cousin/sister-in-law, and cousin's child.

Philadelphia was born in 1730 and was the eldest sister of the Revd. George Austen, Jane's father. She and George were early orphaned and while he was brought up by their uncle Francis Austen, nothing is known of Philadelphia's childhood. She went to India in 1752 and the following year married Dr Tysoe Hancock. Their only child, Eliza, had Warren Hastings for a godfather. They returned to England in 1765, but Hancock went back to India in 1768 and died there in 1775.

In the meantime his wife and daughter stayed frequently with the Austens in Hampshire Eliza eventually married in Paris a French officer, Jean Capotte, Comte de Feuillide and by him bore Hastings - named after her godfather. Capotte stayed in France for political reasons and was guillotined in 1794. His wife and son went to England, to Orchard Street, where Philadelphia died in 1791. She was buried in Hampstead - no reason is known but perhaps the residence in Hampstead of a number of doctors may have prompted her to seek treatment

for her breast cancer here.

Subsequently Eliza married her cousin, Henry Austen, Jane's fourth and favourite brother in 1797. Hastings, was a poorly child, and late developer. He died in 1801. At the time of his death his mother and step-father were living in Upper Berkeley Street. In 1805 the Austen's were in Brompton where Jane visited them and from there they moved to Sloane Street. Eliza died in 1813 and was buried, like her mother and son, in Hampstead churchyard. Three weeks later Jane, who had come to help her brother in his bereavement, wrote to Cassandra Austen:

...they wish us to go to them tomorrow evening to meet Miss Burdett, but I do not know how it will end. Henry talks of a drive to Hampstead, which may interfere with it.

There is no further information as to what happened that 'tomorrow evening', but it would seem quite possible that Henry did indeed drive Jane across London to pay her last respects to Eliza's grave in Hampstead churchyard.

## EVENING CLASSES

September is a time for good resolutions and enrolment at evening classes. Here are details of some classes of interest to local historians:

At the New End branch of Camden Institute Peter Westbrook is taking a class on local history (Mondays 7.30-9.30pm) for the Autumn term only, and Christopher Wade will be conducting a Hampstead History Workshop for the Spring term only (Wednesdays 7.30-9.30pm at Burgh House).

There are also day and evening classes on the architecture and history of London, including some visits, at the Marylebone Institute, Mary Ward Centre and the City Literary Institute. Prospectuses can be obtained from the Institute or from any Camden library. Enrolment begins 10 Sep.

We have also received a leaflet from the Open University giving details of two short correspondence courses being run in February 1980 for 8 or 10 weeks - cost £8 each. One is "Doing History", a practical course which shows how to go about historical writing and research. The other is "Industrial Archaeology" aimed at helping students to understand the impact of the Industrial Revolution on their own locality and encouraging them to participate in the observation and recording of the industrial activity of their neighbourhood.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 56

Nov 1979

## Covent Garden—our November talk

November 8th, 8pm  
Holborn Library, Theobalds Rd WC1

Covent Garden is in transition and it is now an ideal time to review its past, present and future. It is full of interesting buildings and small businesses. It houses two of the most famous theatres in the world; its market buildings are being converted spectacularly for other uses; and it is now one of the most pleasant parts of London to explore.

As an introduction to those who want to walk round, John Richardson, whose book *COVENT GARDEN* was recently published, is giving an illustrated talk on this much debated area. He feels that it is important to see the area now before it is too smart and overrun by tourists - as it will be next year. So do come to the talk and have your appetite sharpened.

## THE SECOND ESSAY COMPETITION

Our second Essay Competition on My Street attracted some useful entries from many corners of Camden and, for once, Hampstead was not to the forefront. The winners were:

First Prize: £10 Token, won by Miss Wyn Prescott, on the subject of Queen Square

Second Prize: Jean Scott Rogers (£5 token) on 'Recalling Redhill Street'

Third Prize: £3 token to two members - Sue Blundell 'Tottenham Court Fair' and J. Faulkner 'Camden Saga', his childhood in Hawley Road.

Runners up were Miss M. Humphries, Miss S. Rees and Mr E. George. Prize money was kindly donated by the Ham and High who have already published the winning essay, and by the Owl Bookshop, Kentish Town.

Details of our third competition 'Working in Camden' are enclosed. Further copies are available from the Secretary.

## The Society has a Party

December 14th, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

The Society is ten years old this month, remarkable as that may seem to those who have been involved in it from the beginning. So, we are having a party to celebrate that and Christmas.

We haven't had a party for some time and members often complain that our meetings don't provide enough opportunity to meet other members. So, we hope that the party at Burgh House on December 14th from 7.30pm will provide just that.

We went into the question of cost and catering very carefully. It seemed to us that a cup of coffee and a cream cracker was very cheap but not really like a Christmas party. We thought that members would prefer to pay more and have wine and buffet supper. Unfortunately that comes to £3.50 per head which, by today's standards, is reasonable.

Members may bring guests and applications for tickets should be made on the enclosed form by 1st December. Burgh House is in New End Square, N.W.3

## CHR No 7

Camden History Review No 7 is published this month and, for the first time, is enclosed with this Newsletter as part of your annual subscription. Additional copies may be purchased at the CHS Book-stall at meetings or from CHS Publications at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 for £1 plus 18p postage. Back numbers of previous issues are available for the same price.

## Advance Notice

Meetings of the Society which will be announced in greater detail in the next Newsletter are:

15th Jan: R.M. Robbins. 'A Hampstead Victorian'. At Swiss Cottage library

13th Feb: Edward Miller, 'The British Museum'

# The Kentish Town Packet Arrives

A brand new publication is due out at the end of November - just in time to make a handsome Christmas present.

This is the Kentish Town Packet, a collection of documents about Kentish Town all enclosed in a plastic wallet. The collection consists of the following items:

- a) a reproduction of a c1800 map of Kentish Town measuring 30" x 40" showing each house, field, farm building etc
- b) two sheets, meant to be displayed together of drawings of Kentish Town Road made in the early 19th century by a local resident J. King. These are excerpts from the panoramic rolls held by Camden and are a unique representation of Kentish Town 160 years ago.
- c) a collection of famous Crimes and Disasters which happened in Kentish Town reproducing the newspaper cuttings of the time.
- d) a 32 page gazetteer of Kentish Town with each street listed, its history, name derivation, famous residents etc and a general history and section on the railways
- e) a sheet with sketches of some Kentish Town pubs drawn by Mary Stapleton
- f) a map showing the development of Council housing and ownership in the area.

This is a splendid visual, as well as factual, production on Kentish Town compiled by Coral Howells, John Richardson, Mary Stapleton and Gillian Tindall. The price is £2.70 and can be obtained from the CHS Bookstall as from the December Christmas party, or it can be posted to you when available if you return the enclosed form. It will also be on sale at local bookshops.

## Our First Blue Plaque

In 1975, when researching for 'The Streets of West Hampstead', I discovered one VIP's name recurring in a number of local streets. This was Alfred Harmsworth, the future press magnate Lord Northcliffe, who came to West Hampstead for its cheap digs in 1888 and left it three years later for a mansion in Thanet. One address was particularly significant, 31 Pandora Road, N.W.6, a dull strip development to the west of West End Lane. Here Harmsworth set up home after his marriage to a local girl, Mary Milner, and here he dreamed up 'Answers' and 'Comic Cuts' and made his first fortune

Mindful of the plaquelessness of West Hampstead and not unconscious of the possible publicity for our new book, the Society applied to the GLC for a Blue Plaque to Northcliffe on this house. They agreed quite soon but it was not until now, four years later, when the first edition of the book is nearly sold out, that the plaque has arrived.

We have invited Sir Geoffrey Harmsworth, nephew of Northcliffe and co-author of his definitive biography, to unveil the plaque, and the brief ceremony will be on 27th November at 11am. All CHS members will be welcome to witness the occasion. A small exhibition about Lord Northcliffe and his Hampstead connections will be on show at Burgh House, New End Square, N.W.3 from 17-28th November (except Mondays).

Christopher Wade

## STEREO-PHOTOGRAPHY

Does anyone possess any old Stereo-photographs of Camden? IN case you are unaware of what these are, they consist of two photographs which appear identical, (but in fact are not), mounted on cardboard or glass which when placed in a viewer called a Stereoscope, give the photograph the illusion of depth.

Commercial Stereo-photographs of the type mentioned appear to have died out in this country in the 1920s (except for the view-master). Making some research, there appears to be only one Stereo-photo in the Local History Library - Euston Road c1890. I would be most interested to hear from anyone who possesses any. Perhaps a small group could be formed if there is sufficient interest.

Howard Isenberg

## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW KILBURN

A series of illustrated talks on the Kilburn area has already begun at the Junior Library in Cotleigh Road, N.W.6. However, there are three talks left - providing this Newsletter gets to you in time. They are:

The Big House - The Grange, Oak Lodge, Oaklands, by Dick Weindling  
on November 7th, 7.30pm

100 Years of Local Railways by Michael Alpert  
on November 21st at 7.30pm

Entertainments - Music Hall, Theatre, Cinema, by Dick Weindling  
on December 5th, 7.30pm

All the talks are arranged by the London Borough of Camden.

# Book Review

COVENT GARDEN by John Richardson

John Richardson has written in effect a personal gazetteer of the Covent Garden district. It seems the ideal guide for the intelligent amateur. The great majority of the book consists of accounts of the individual streets, Lanes, Yards, Courts, Gardens, that make up this fascinating area. (That there is not a 'Road' in the whole place tells us already of its intimacy and complexity).

From Agar to Wild the author looks at every public way, its history and principally its buildings with their changing uses and occupants. Along with 'the facts' there is a liberal dose of anecdote, and often a pungent expression of personal preference. I cannot resist quoting a couple of examples of the last: on a corner building in Garrick Street, "the bold way it sweeps into Floral Street underlines just how badly architects handle corner sites nowadays"; on another group in the same street, "No's 18-20 have the original shop front but the National Westminster Bank has ruined the rest". The corner building is featured among the generous illustrations, and there are several maps.

It is this combination, plus a marked sensitivity to sociological patterns (the theatre, carriage-makers, printing and publishing,...) which make the book a pleasure to peruse. In the personal judgements there is sufficient provocation to encourage the reader to go and look for himself, which must be the aim of any 'companion' of this type. Are the modern buildings all bad? The sense of place is perhaps best conveyed - apart from the many illustrations - by the author's nice comment on Covent Garden Market itself that congestion was a way of life". So it still is, though the Market has gone after 300 years.

As John Richardson shows, the establishment of the Market itself was odd. Why should the Earls of Bedford, having built three sides of an exceptional and handsome square (Inigo Jones) with their own residence on the fourth, then allow a casual market to develop in the middle which progressively dominated the whole area? The only remnant of that original square now is the "handsomest barn", St Paul's Church. The other vital influence on the character of the area was the establishment of the Theatre Royal (1663) and then the Covent Garden Theatre (1732), whose succession of illustrious names (and succession of buildings) are duly chronicled here. Their monopoly rights in London in the 18th century drew all kinds of social life to them, including

coffee-shops, inns and bawdy houses. Then the centre of social life moved westwards and new trades developed - warehousing, hotels, printing - along with the enormous Market whose existing buildings date from the last century. The social mutations of the area make fascinating reading.

Engaged local history is interested in the present too, and concerned with what is going on now. John Richardson prefaces his gazetteer with a short general history of the area, but he actually begins the book with a section squarely entitled "The Present". Reviewing the battles of the last fifteen years over the future of the area, he makes it fairly clear where his sympathies lie. Like another social historian prominent in our History Society, Gillian Tindall, he is very suspicious of Planning when as in the 1950s and 1960s it has tended to mean wholesale redevelopment.

He does however see planning - in lower case - as necessary in such a central area as Covent Garden, in the form of strict control of uses and businesses allowed. Indeed there is perhaps a degree of contradiction between his dislike of the wine-bars and tourist attractions that are proliferating now and his striking recognition of the 18th century Covent Garden as providing "the loose-living required and necessary in any capital city of the world". And can we be so sure that the rare opportunity for major redevelopment should always be rejected? Paris has created imaginative and dramatic buildings that are a hub of social life on their Market site, Les Halles, as they have with the Beaubourg complex. But perhaps the genius of Covent Garden, as of London, is more intimate and more subtle, like the social culture of its inhabitants. The book, in effect, both argues and demonstrates this.

I will conclude by noting one more tiny thread in the complex weave of Covent Garden's past. John Richardson's remarkable list of people associated with the area includes four for Maiden Lane: at various times Marvell, Sancroft, Voltaire and Turner all lived there. He notes that Voltaire's place of residence is not precisely known. Recent research has persuaded scholars, and the French Embassy, that the present 9-10 is the right place. This is now the back of the Vaudeville Theatre, on which, on 16th October, 1979, an appropriate plaque was unveiled.

Robin Howells

COVENT GARDEN is published by Historical Publications Ltd, 54 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts at £2.70. Copies may either be obtained from the CHS Bookstall at meetings or else direct from the publisher, post free.



Houses in Drury Lane in the 1870s. Photograph by the Society for Photographing Relics of Old London, by kind permission of the London Borough of Camden. One of the many pictures from COVENT GARDEN (see overleaf)

## THE HARVIST CHARITY

The enterprising Newsletter published by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society has revealed the existence of the Edward Harvist charity. This was set up by his will in 1610 for the purpose of repairing and amending the Highway between Tyburn and Edgware (now Edgware Road). Subsequent legislation has resulted in the proceeds of the Trust being divided between the various local authorities responsible for the maintenance of the road - Westminster, Barnet, Brent, Camden and Harrow.

The income from the Estate was derived from 333 houses, shops and workshops in the northern part of Islington. In 1966 the Estate, then much below standard and partly derelict, was sold to the Borough of Islington for £675,000 and income is now derived from interest on that amount. In 1975 the Charity Commissioners allowed that the aims of the Charity be changed to the following:

- a) the relief of the aged, impotent and poor inhabitants of those boroughs
- b) the relief of distress and sickness among the said inhabitants
- c) provision of facilities, and support of recreation
- d) provision of facilities, and support of education
- e) any other charitable purpose.

A proviso is that no expenditure can be incurred which is properly expenditure due from the General Rate. Camden is entitled to 10.714% of the income.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

A very attractive publication called The City Trail has been published by Gee and Co, 151 Strand, W.C.2 for £1.25. It is by C. Douglas Woodward, Chairman of the City Heritage Society. Aided by numerous illustrations and maps it is an intelligent walk through part of the City of London and is much to be recommended

We have been sent a copy of 'The North Middlesex' the journal of the North Middlesex Family History Society, selling at 50p a copy. The aims of the Society which covers Camden, Islington and Haringey amongst other boroughs are to further the study of family history and to co-ordinate research. Interested readers should contact the Editor, Miss Glenda Jones, 51 Holly Walk, Enfield.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include Miss A. Brien, Dr L. Goldstein, Ms Christine Hearne, Ms Patricia Norton, Ms Belinda Richards and Mr J. Winter-Lotimer.

## LAUDERDALE HOUSE

The talk on Lauderdale House scheduled for November 19th has had to be deferred till next year.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3. The Treasurer is Miss Helen Lefroy at the same address. The Editor of Publications is Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

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