

# newsletter

No. 69

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jan 1982

## Fitzrovia—the story of the book

Tuesday, 19th January, 7.30pm  
Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3

It is only in the last ten years or so that Fitzrovia has been commonly identified as such and become a sought-after address. Before the last war it was the refuge of those who had little money for rent and who enjoyed the cosmopolitan and Bohemian atmosphere.

Fortunately conservation saved a lot of it though the condition of some of Warren Street is a scandal which Camden should not tolerate. Nick Bailey, author of the recently published book on the area, will recount its development and social history and whet your appetite for the book.

## New Books

Members are reminded that FITZROVIA by Nick Bailey, a Society member is now on sale. It is profusely illustrated and is the first street history of that area between Gower Street and Cleveland Street. It is a 76page paperback and may be obtained from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 (£2.90 plus 36p postage) or else from the bookstall at Society meetings.

Cherry Lavell warmly recommends 'Writing Local History' by David Dymond. It is published by the Bedford Square Press of the NCVO and available from bookshops or else by post from the distributors Macdonald and Evans Distribution Services, Estover Road, Plymouth (£2.95 plus 35p postage)

It is jargon-free and will help would-be writers to bring their contribution to an acceptable standard for publication. Step-by-step guidance is given at all stages from the selection of a subject to preparation of the final text. It gives detailed and practical information on the search for sources.

## Smithfield—our February talk

Thurs. 4th February 7.30pm  
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd, W.C.1

Smithfield is under threat in much the same way as Covent Garden was. The need for a distribution centre in London with all its overheads and fees for middle-men is diminishing as the share of the meat retailing trade held by supermarkets increases: they do their own distribution and ignore Smithfield. The building is one of our most attractive markets and it is surrounded by one of the lesser known historical parts of London.

Alec Forshaw, a town planner, recently published a book on Smithfield and members will, we feel sure, be entertained by his talk on the subject

## Advance Notice

Fri, 19th March: 7.30pm at the Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5  
- H.G. Wells a talk by Christopher Wolfe

### LONDON EARTHQUAKES

We don't have many earthquakes in these parts - not noticeable anyway. We have been sent a list of previous ones by a company called Soil Mechanics Ltd who are conducting a re-assessment of UK seismicity data. The first one they list is for 1185 in Lincoln and the last in 1981 in Constantine. What they are after is any information that crops up in local history research which might have escaped their knowledge. In particular they are interested in the years 1580, 1692, 1750 and 1860 when there were significant tremors in London and the south east. Details to T.F. Morse esq, Soil Mechanics Ltd, Foundation House, Eastern Road, Bracknell, Berks

### **NEW MEMBERS**

New members include J. Baker-Counsell, Ms Joan Clayton, Miss Ruth Haslam, Geoffrey Kaye, Miss Eileen McDonald, Mrs Felicity Marpole, Ms Helen Mayer, R.A. Quint, L.M. Sydes, Miles Taylor, D.C. Whyman, G. Wiseman.

# Recent Acquisitions

Recent additions to the Local History Collection are listed underneath. The publications at Swiss Cottage are coded 'A' and those at Holborn are coded 'B'

The Story of the British Museum by Marjorie Caygill. (British Museum 1981) B

Well illustrated particularly with drawings and paintings by George Scharf

Contemporary Artists in Camden by Zuleika Dobson. (Arkwright Arts Trust, Camden Arts Centre, 1981) A

Catalogue of exhibitions organised to celebrate their tenth anniversary, to provide a current survey of contemporary artists. Excludes artists who work or teach in the Camden Arts Centre.

Fenton House, Hampstead. A guide. (National Trust 1981) A

Record Offices and how to find them by Jeremy Gibson and Pam Peskett (Federation of Family History Societies, 1981) A,B  
Sketch maps of where they are with parking, bus stations, railway stations and the best routes by foot shown

A simplified guide to probate: where to look for wills by J.S.W. Gibson (Gulliver Press and the Federation of Family History Societies, 1980) A,B

Enjoying Archives by David Iredale (Phillimore, 1980 re-issue of 1973 edition) A,B

Very readable guide to a wide range of archives that may be encountered during any local history research. Particularly useful to introduce the amateur to invaluable sources which might be overlooked or avoided because they are unfamiliar.

The London Book edited by Ian Hesselberg (Bergstrom and Boyle Books, 1980) A  
A picture book about London but of features not places. It includes coal hole covers, fanlights, bollards, lamp posts, pillar boxes and many other items. Camden well represented.

Coram's children. The London Foundling Hospital in the 18th century by Ruth McClure. (Yale University Press, 1981) A,B

Very readable, authoritative account of the work of the Hospital and the benefactor, together with a detailed account of the children- the food they ate, clothes they wore and where they went afterwards.

An account of Hampstead Workhouse 1837-1848 with reference to its incorporation with and separation from the Edmonton Union, by Susan Matthews (Thesis, 1979) A

Historical Sources in Geography by Michael Morgan. (Butterworths 1979) A

Useful summary of types of sources and how they may be interpreted. Emphasis is on methods of analysing large quantities of data from which it is possible to draw conclusions by using statistical techniques.

Memoirs by Frances Partridge. (Gollancz 1981) A

Another book on the Bloomsbury Group. The Local History Library tries to acquire a representative collection on the Group

The Road to Cricklewood. A history of Edgware Road in London, and its role in the development of the areas bordering it, by Elizabeth Pearse.

(Dissertation for Diploma in History, University of London. Department of Extra Mural Studies, April 1978) A

Regent's Park: a study of the development of the area from 1086 to the present day, by Ann Saunders. (Bedford College, 2nd ed 1981) A

The Regent's Park Villas by Ann Saunders. (Bedford College 1981) A

More London Villages by Nerina Shute (Robert Hale 1981) A,B

Alas, while writing on London's 'villages' seems to be the vogue, little will be added to Camden's local history from this work. It covers the St Giles-in-the-Fields and Bloomsbury areas but really features little more than Nell Gwyn and the Bloomsbury Group.

Transport Planning for Greater London by Malcolm Buchanan, Nicholas Bursey, Kingsley Lewis and Paul Mullen. (Saxon House 1980) A

Les cimetières de Londres by Guy Vaes. (Editions Jacques Antoine, 1978) A

Photographic record of a number of cemeteries, particularly of Highgate, and a few of St Pancras Gardens and Hampstead

Firemen at war: the work of London's fire-fighters in the 2nd World War by Neil Wallington. (David and Charles 1981) A

Trams in Inner North London: a pictorial souvenir by D.W. Willoughby and E.R. Oakley. (The authors, Hartley, Kent, 1980) A,B

Photographs of trams in the Kingsway Tram Subway, Highgate, Highgate Road, Camden Town and other parts of Camden and surrounding areas.

Malcolm Holmes

# More Kentish Town Memories

In the Newsletter for Jan 1981 we printed an extract from a book by J. Pendleton concerning a disaster on Hampstead Heath station at Easter 1892 when eight people were crushed to death in a crowd. We asked if any member could recall having heard of this disaster in childhood, and have received the following reply from Mr A.E. Moody of Poole, in Dorset, who has corresponded with us before. He writes:

'The account of the disaster which you used for your enquiry is about word for word how father related the story to me, he witnessed the crush of people from the opposite platform and helped in clearing up of the mess...Strangely enough, when I told my schoolfriends of that Hampstead disaster none of them had heard of it!'

Mr Moody's father was born in Marsden St, West Kentish Town, and his mother's family were the very first tenants in St Silas Street nearby: the tenancy remained in the family over a hundred years (the street was rebuilt in the 1960s). In correspondence with Gillian Tindall about an early 19th century villa, one of the first built on the West Kentish Town estate, at the corner of Prince of Wales Road opposite the Mother Shipton, he writes:

'Way back in the 1920s I worked for a small builder who had a shop in Prince of Wales Crescent, he also had a 'stores' adjoining these premises - the store was really a coach-house with stable and hay-loft, a rear door opened onto the back garden of the 'Villa'. During the winter of, say, 1922 - it was about that year, the drains of the villa were repeatedly blocked and we were called in to clear the same. We discovered, to the dismay of the landlord and the surprise of St Pancras Council Sanitary Inspector that the drains emptied into a cesspit bang under the pavement on the Malden Crescent side of the property. Now there was proof of age if you like! That villa was there before all the others came along with their glazed drain pipes and manholes, sewers etc. A new drain had to be put in, run in the opposite direction, through the stores, tunnelled under the road and the tramlines to get to the sewer on the other side of Prince of Wales Road. During the work the old drain still discharged into the cesspit and us workmen were paid double time and a packet of fags every morning to bale out the effluent into the road gullies before 7am, wash down the sidewalk and road with carbolic before too many people were around, Sundays included.'

Other information on Kentish Town life and work in the early part of this century has been received from another reader of 'The Fields Beneath' = Mr H.V. Marshall of Brundall, Norwich. He writes:

'I lived for a time in Rochester Square. In common with many London squares it had a large garden in the centre but this one was rented by a Mr Kent who ran it as a market garden complete with greenhouses, an idiot boy, poor lad, and tomato plants which grew from a pile of sewage.'

(Ed. note: the centre of the square is still occupied by nursery gardens. The proprietors, for over a 100 years, have apparently been Stroud Bros.)

'Opposite the end of the garden, in Rochester Place, was a very busy forge largely engaged in shoeing the Shires belonging to the Idris soft drinks firm. I often worked the forge bellows, being occasionally rewarded with an Idris ginger beer. In the same mews at the back of Great (now Royal) College Street School was an organ pipe factory - our lessons often being punctuated by the hollow sounds of their tuning. I remember the organs being made in Kelly Street, but these were reed organs just then being given smart up-to-date oak cases (£80 each with full pedals). My piano, which I can hear at the moment, came from Paynes, who occupied the disused South Kentish Town tube station. Bagpipes were made on the east side of Kentish Town Road, just beyond Camden tube station. A little further along, at Hawley Road, was a coal office outside of which stood a huge lump of coal weighing several tons. The local paper had a photograph taken in the General Strike of 1926 with a boy perched on the top of this carboniferous monolith attacking it with a chopper to obtain fuel. Tennis racquets were made under the bridge at the far end of Hawley Road.

I sometimes used, perhaps illegally, a footpath through the huge railway complex from Grafton Road to Leighton Road. Near this Grafton Road spot stood 'Dell's toffee factory' which was hit by a bomb during a daylight raid. I saw the two bombs leave the 'plane: one hit Dell's, the other fell in the railway yards...

'At the junction of Malden Road and Prince of Wales Road could still be seen the lines forming the terminus of the old horse tramway. The electric trams were noisy but cheap. If the driver took the crossing of rails too slowly he would stop for lack of power, and had to wait for a following tram to push him off - this often occurred at the North London Station of Camden Town. In the mid '30s came the trolley buses: fast, warm, quiet and they pulled into the

kerb to pick up passengers. I cannot think why they were scrapped. I recently came across a '30s bus ticket; cheap mid-day fare, Goodge Street to Highgate Archway, 2d.'

Mr Marshall worked for some years as the outdoor draughtsman for the then St Pancras Council Electricity Department. He adds: 'When war broke out no further cable laying was possible - the Borough was then getting underway with its changeover from DC current to AC - and I served for a time in the air-raid mortuary which was installed in the Redburn Street School (Somers Town) with Royal College Street School as the stand-by mortuary. The first bombs in the Borough fell in Lismore and Allcroft Roads and the bodies came to us in a sad convoy of horse-drawn dustcarts.'

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please note that in accordance with the resolution of the last AGM subscriptions are increased for this coming year. A form is enclosed. The Treasurer would be grateful for a prompt response

#### STORAGE OF PUBLICATIONS

At the moment the Society's stocks of publications are kept, very generously, by Christopher and Diana Wade, Mr Brassington and the Owl Bookshop. However, we do need some more, reasonably accessible and dry, accommodation. It could be in a house, garage (now that police raids have stopped) or a shed. Anyone who can help please contact Christopher Wade, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

#### **BAGLEY'S COMMON**

Bagley's Common was that area of Camden around Grays Inn Road and Kings Cross Road. An interesting document has been deposited in the Local History Library by Edgar Chapman whose ancestor ran the Bagnigge Wells spa. It is too long and too detailed for the Newsletter but interested members can see it at Swiss Cottage.

#### **THE SOMERS TOWN GROUP STARTS WORK**

The Somers Town Group has begun work - they have had two meetings so far in which they have discussed the scope of their research. It is, however, not too late for other members to join the group and research the many interesting themes. If you want to join please contact Jane Ramsay, CHS Secretary, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

#### **BURGH HOUSE EVENTS**

There's another chance to catch up with your Hampstead history this winter. Christopher Wade is presenting six slide shows at Burgh House on successive Wednesdays from January 20th to February 24th, under the title 'The Streets of Hampstead.' After an introductory talk (Jan 20) about Hampstead's place in history (repeated from previous series), he'll be following the pattern of the first CHS Streets book, covering a section each week:

Jan 27 - Frognal area

Feb 3: The Grove

Feb 10: The Wells

Feb 17: Main Roads

Feb 24: The outskirts

All talks begin at 8pm. Admission 50p

The Burgh House series of lectures on Architecture and Conservation continues on January 13th at 8pm with a Conservation Epilogue by Michael Powers. On January 24th at 3pm Matthew Saunders will give an illustrated biography of S.S. Teulon, architect of St Stephens, Rosslyn Hill

#### **WATTS REMEMBERED**

The Twenties and Thirties will be evoked in the next exhibition at Burgh House, which will show the drawings of Punch cartoonist Arthur Watts (1883-1935). Apart from cartoons, he drew many posters for London Transport and the old LMS railway. Others will remember his illustrations in books and the early Radio Times. Watts lived in Holly Place, Hampstead from 1911 to 1935. After the Watts show (Jan 9 to Feb 28) there will be an exhibition commemorating 75 years of Hampstead Garden Suburb.

#### **TV SERIES ON LOCAL HISTORY**

Members may like to be forewarned that BBC Television are mounting a series, beginning in January, called History on your Doorstep. It will consist of 8 programmes devoted to such subjects as your house, your High Street etc. Camden History Society has been invited to mount an exhibition at Swiss Cottage in conjunction with this and leaflets about the series will be available from libraries at the time. More details from your Radio Times.

#### **THE SOCIETY**

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

# newsletter

No 70

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Mar 1982

## H. G. Wells — our March talk

Fri. March 19th, 7.30pm  
Room B8, Polytechnic of North London,  
Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5

H.G. Wells was a Camden resident - still without a plaque so far as we know. A collection of H.G. Wells material has recently been rehoused at the North London Polytechnic and to mark these two things our March talk is on Wells. The speaker, Christopher Rolfe, is a senior lecturer at the Polytechnic and his talk will be about Wells in Camden.

### EDITOR WANTED

The workload on publications has grown and Christopher Wade with his other responsibilities elsewhere, is looking for someone who would help to edit and prepare for publication the occasional work. Experience in editing and the practical side of publishing would be a substantial asset. Please contact Jane Ramsay, at Swiss Cottage Library if you feel you can help.

### A MEDIEVAL EVENING

As part of her fund-raising activities for charity, the Mayor of Camden (who is our Patron), is arranging a medieval evening on Sunday May 9th at Lauderdale House. She is looking for 12 volunteers who will be provided with period costume and free entry, if they are willing to form part of a cavalcade or procession during the evening.

Tickets for this event are also available, at £10 each, and all are requested to wear fancy or period dress. Any volunteers please write to the Mayor's Secretary, Mr Garvan, at Camden Town Hall, Euston Road NW1 or telephone 278 4444 ext 2044. Please mention the Society.

### DON'T FORGET SUBSCRIPTIONS!

If you have not yet renewed your membership, may I remind you that they are due on 1st March. A renewal notice was enclosed with the last Newsletter.

Helen Lefroy, Treasurer

## An Evening of Chalk Farm

Thur. April 22nd, 7.30pm  
Chalk Farm Library, Sharpleshall Street  
N.W.1

The Society's next publication is one dealing with Chalk Farm, Primrose Hill and that area west of Hampstead Road going down to Euston Road. It is the first book on the area and has been compiled by a group led by Anthony Cooper and is due for publication about Easter. To mark this we are having a talk about the area - or rather each of the research group will be giving a short talk on the area of their study.

### GLC ARCHIVES TO MOVE

The GLC Record Office and History Library at County Hall will move to 40 Northampton Road, Clerkenwell EC1 during the autumn of 1982. The new premises will provide improved and enlarged accommodation for readers and for the storage of records, books, maps, prints and photographs. There will be a readers' common room and an Exhibition Room, for talks and displays.

As they will be moving over thirteen miles of archives and books, the move will be lengthy and complicated. They plan to start moving some of the archive collections early in 1982 and anticipate that the whole exercise will take 8 months to complete. During that time availability of some collections will be restricted. The lists and indexes will remain accessible as long as the Search Room remains open.

From 25th January 1982 the Search Room will be closed all day Monday and the History Library, Map, Print and Photographic Collections will be closed on Mondays until 2pm. During the autumn they will close completely for several weeks while the final moves are made.

# The Smerdon Story

Anyone who knows Kentish Town will know Thos. H. Smerdon the old-established electricians shop near the corner of the tube station, and will be sorry to hear that they have closed due to a collective retirement on the part of the staff. This loss marks, in fact, the end of an era, for the business started in nearby premises in 1906: it was the first general electrical repair shop in the district and one of the first north of the Thames, at a time when the gaslit terraces of the Victorian townscape were being enthusiastically converted to electric light by the go-ahead St Pancras Council.

Robert Smerdon - 'Grandfather Smerdon' to the shop - was born in Devon around the middle of the last century and, like so many in his generation brought himself and his trade to London to seek his fortune. He was a builder, and (so the local story runs) managed to found his own firm after a lucky incident in Highgate Road which, at the time, was nearly the end of him: he was going up the road on the roofless top of one of the old horsedrawn trams and, failing to duck as they went under the North London Line railway bridge that spans the road near the junction with Gordon House Road, was nearly decapitated. He ended up with a metal plate in his head and a sum of money from the tram company in compensation - while the road ended up with a new and carefully arranged dip just beneath the bridge which is said to be visible to this day.

Three of his four sons followed him into the building trade, and the fourth, Thomas, took up the associated trade of electrician. His first job, when he had set himself up in business, was to fix up a house in nearby Falkland Road with a modish new electric bell - one operated off its own Leclenché cell, as there was as yet no circuit in the house. Subsequently the firm did a great many conversions for the Council, as well as jobs in conjunction with the building side of the family and - as the present owner says - "We've all lived well out of the business ever since."

The father of the present owner, Mr Morrell snr, joined Thomas Smerdon as a partner some time in the 1920s, but before that date the Morrell family already had connection with the business: the Balance Sheet for 1912-13 shows an item for £1 for 'Morrells for paper', which refers to materials provided by grandfather Morrell who was a bookbinder. His grandson, Mr Morrell jnr, is the present owner of the business. He joined his father and Thomas Smerdon there when he was fifteen in 1935. "I left school one day and

started work the next; that's what it was like in those days." So this year, when retirement has been forced on him by precarious health, is his forty-seventh in the shop. But Mr Wilson, his chief assistant, can go one better: he is just clocking up fifty-one years in the business; while Mr Offley, the main visiting repair-man, is a comparative newcomer with a mere thirty-six years to his credit.

Thomas Smerdon died in the early part of the last war, but the shop never closed (a matter of pride to Mr Morrell). Nor have they ever changed their original policy of providing what, in Mr Morrell's view, the public wants - an efficient and courteous service. "You've got to care about people", he says. A good epitaph for a Kentish Town institution that will be much missed.

Gillian Tindall

## NEW PUBLICATION

Ian Norrie, characterised recently in the New Standard as the archetypal Hampstead man is well-known to many. We have good reason to thank him for the tenacity with which he has developed his bookshop, and this Society is grateful for his financial base from which we published 'The Streets of Hampstead' series.

Few people know Hampstead better: not just the buildings, but the day-to-day businesses and habits of a locality which has more to it than the superficial newspaper writer's view.

He has now published a book derived from his knowledge of and his affection for Hampstead (Hampstead: London Hill Town, £8.95, hardback 210pp, High Hill Press and Wildwood House) decorated with many excellent photographs by Dorothy Bohm of the Photographer's Gallery. It is part guide, part history - the latter drawing on much from the CHS publications. He would be the first to agree that it is an opinionated guide - indeed he would probably not see the point of one that wasn't. He dislikes bureaucracy, the tidying up of the Heath and most modern architecture. He doesn't, I know, like the book trade imposing ISB numbers on him either, but that's a different story. This lusty independence is a hallmark of the book and if you don't mind that you will probably enjoy a number of energetic walks around Hampstead clutching the volume.

It's a pity more of the photographs weren't given full page treatment and, at the risk of being conventional, it also needs some old prints and drawings to back up the narrative.

# The First St Pancras Workhouse

It is generally accepted that the first St Pancras workhouse was opened in 1731. The Vestry minute for October 21st in 1730 records that it was agreed that the churchwardens together with others were to look out for a proper and convenient house for a workhouse to lodge and 'employ the poor'. This was a period when many parishes were trying to wrestle with the problem of the poor by this method.

However a document which has been in the Camden Local History collection for some time provides evidence that St Pancras had a workhouse well before this - in the 17th century possibly - and this would be a very rare, if not unique, example of a workhouse in a small parish outside of a city.

It is in the document called the Woodhouse Journal, part diary, part memoir of a man who lived in what was evidently Sir William Bruges' old house in Kentish Town and who was a magistrate. He recalls in his diary for 1703:

A most dreadful instance of the dismal effect of superstition occurred in this village last year. An old man living at the Castle Inn gave out that he was bewitched by one Osburn and his Wife living at a cottage in the fields (inoffensive people near 70 years of age). It was cried in all the neighbouring Parishes that they were to be tried by ducking on such a day, when, about noon, a great concourse of people to the number of 1000 appeared in the town. The officers of the parish had privately removed the poor old couple in the dead time of the night to the church, as a place of safety. The mob demanded these unhappy wretches at the workhouse, on being acquainted that they were not there, they pulled down the pales and walls, broke all the windows, and demolished a part of the house. After searching the chimnies and ceilings without effect they siezed the governor, hawled him down to the stream, and declared they would drown him and fire the whole village, unless they delivered these poor creatures into their hands. The mob ran up and down with straw in their hands, and were going to put their threat into execution had they not found the two unhappy persons, who were concealed in the vestry room near the chapel. They immediately siezed these miserable creatures, stripped them stark naked, tied their thumbs to their toes and dragged them in this shameful manner to the stream now increased by the rains, and after much ducking and ill-usage the poor old woman was thrown quite naked on the bank, almost choaked with mud and

expired in a few minutes, being kicked and beat with sticks even after she was dead and the poor man lied long dangerously ill from the treatment he received. To add to their barbarity, they put the dead witch (as they called her) in bed with her husband and tied them together. The master of the workhouse, fearing the consequences to himself, it was who informed these wretches where these two poor old people were secreted.'

The whereabouts of this workhouse is unknown - indeed no other document has come to light which indicates its existence. The narrative would indicate that it was near the chapel or church. Unfortunately Woodhouse calls it both chapel and church so he could be referring either to the old St Pancras Church in Pancras Road or Kentish Town Chapel where Sainsburys is in Kentish Town Road.

John Richardson

## DICKENS IN HAMPSTEAD

Some readers may not yet have seen the new volume of the Pilgrim Edition of Dickens' letters and the further Hampstead connections in hitherto unpublished letters.

In January 1848 Charles Dickens invited Daniel Maclise to join him and John Forster, whom he was to meet about some proofs, at Jack Straw's Castle to dine at 5, if he was "disposed to come" (p237). In December he arranged with Frank Stone, an artist who illustrated some of his work, to walk up to Jack Straws with him and "have a chop", after he had called for Stone at 4pm. He proposed to read the third part of his dramatisation of The Haunted Man to him (p453). Some days later Dickens apparently refers to this meeting in writing again to Stone about his forthcoming amateur theatricals: You intimated the other night at Hampstead, that you would like to see the meeting of the actors and actresses, who I believe will all be here tonight, except the Keans and Miss Woolgar who dine with Horace Twiss..." (p454)

(From the Letters of Charles Dickens, vol 5, 1847-1849, ed by Graham Storey and K.J. Fielding, Clarendon Press 1981.

Joan Schwitzer

## FITZROVIA CORRECTIONS

Charles Lee has pointed out a number of small errors in Fitzrovia by Nick Bailey with which the author concurs:

Fitzroy Chapel was opened on Sunday, 13th December 1778 (not 1788). He adds that it was renamed St Saviour's Church in 1864.

Sir Robert William Edis was born in 1839 not 1838. He was the architect of the Great Central Hotel and not Great Northern. He was not the architect of Liverpool Street Station. His only work there was the Abercorn Rooms extension to the Great Eastern Hotel.

The Place (formerly the Artists' Rifles headquarters, of which Edis was Colonel, is in Duke's Road and not Duke Street.

## LONDON EARTHQUAKES

In the last Newsletter we asked if members had come across information about earthquakes which had affected the area. By coincidence a colleague of Peter Barber at the British Library came across an interesting reference to the London earthquake of 1692. It is contained in the papers of Adam Cardonnel who later became secretary to the famous Duke of Marlborough. Happily for Camden it was written by Edward Pauncefort later resident of Lauderdale House and rebuilder of the almshouses in Southwood Lane, Highgate. Its reference number is Additional MS 61412 f46 and was written to Cardonnel from Whitehall on 9th September (old style) 1692:

'...Wee have all been much allarmed att a degree of earthquake wch happened here yesterday about 2 a clock in the afternoon and I can assure you I felt it very sencebly and so did most in and about London in so much that the Merchants run off of the Change and the People out of thier houses. It lasted about a minute tho some say there was two heaves; but one I'll swear I perceived as much as ever I did anything in my Life that was so suden and unexpected. I was at Puntocks with Mr. Robinson, Curtis and some more of your friends where it made us pray heartily to all your healths, and wee hoped it was the blowing up the magazine at Dunkirk.' (England was then at war with France)

## BROOMSLEIGH STREET MEMORIES

Caroline Woollett is interested in any memories of West Hampstead. A group centred on the hall in Broomsleigh Street is interested in publishing a book on these. Anyone interested should contact her on 794 8837

## TUDOR PINNER

Some members may be interested in two publications from the Pinner Local History Society. One is a map of Tudor Pinner compiled from a survey commissioned by the Lord of the Manor in 1547. It is priced at 95p and measures 16x22; it can be had folded if required. The other publication is A Pinner Miscellany, 36 pages, 9 maps, price £1.20 which consists of several papers depicting Pinner history. Both can be bought from the Society at 121 Eastcote Road, Pinner. Please add postage of £1.25 for a rolled map (folded one free), and 35p for the booklet.

## BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

The main event at Burgh House in March opened on the 6th. It is an exhibition devised by Brigid Grafton Green to mark the 75th anniversary of Hampstead Garden Suburb. It is open until April 25th from 12noon until 5pm, Wednesday to Sunday (except Good Friday). Admission is free.

On the 24th March at 8pm there is a talk on the Royal Free Hospital and Hampstead by Dr Edith Gilchrist.

## BARGAIN BASEMENT

The excellent book on the Baroness Coutts by Diana Orton called 'Made of Gold' is now out of print. However Ms Orton has 100 hard-backed copies to sell. The original price was £15.00 and she is offering these last copies at £8.50 plus £1 postage. You should write to her at 32 Park Avenue South, N.8.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

P. Barkley, Mrs M. Cummins, Ms P. Flanders, Mr and Mrs Holman, Mr and Mrs Derek Jackson (the new curators of Fenton House), Mr and Mrs R. Jones, J. Kinsler, Ms D. Mandelstam, Ms. O. Rosenbaum, A. Ross, Mr and Mrs L. Sheffer, F. Shelley, Miss M. Stafford, Ms R. Stroud, Dr P. Sykes, R. Tatcher, D. Williams, T. Wright and Miss M. Chalmers.

## THE SOCIETY

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



# newsletter

No. 71

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 1982

## Flinders Petrie—our May meeting

Tues. 25th May 7.0pm  
Holborn Library, Theobalds Road WC1

Flinders Petrie, one-time Camden resident, but more importantly Egyptologist, is the subject of our talk for May. It will be given by Barbara Adams of the Museum of London. Petrie amassed one of the best collections of Egyptian antiquities based on his excavations which is now housed at University College, although his most important finds are in the Cairo museum. He was a considerable figure in one of the golden ages of British archaeology and this talk promises to be fascinating.

(Please note earlier starting time)

## Advance Notice

Meetings to come, some of which you can note in your diary, are:

20th July 7.30pm Swiss Cottage Library  
Preserving Your Treasures: a symposium on preserving and restoring books, prints etc by Rebecca Daly and others

7 August - Annual Outing (see this Newsletter)

September - (date and venue to be fixed)  
Edwardian buildings in Camden by Alastair Service

October - (date and venue to be fixed)  
a talk by Malcolm Holmes on the contentious history of the early St Pancras libraries

November 4th - (venue to be announced)  
The Lost Rivers of London by Nicholas Barton

7th December - 7.30pm Swiss Cottage Library  
Camden Token Coins by Philip Greenall

## Wellcome to the Annual Meeting

Thurs. 15th June, 6pm  
Wellcome Institution, Euston Road, N.W.1

Each year the Society, for its Annual Meeting, gathers at a building of some historic importance in Camden. This year we are at the headquarters of the Wellcome Institution, the research body set up by Sir Henry Wellcome, chemist and patron of science. His professional career began in Minnesota where he helped his father run a drug-store. He came to London in 1880, joined Silas Burroughs in partnership and from this date his philanthropic career began - bizarre and eventful.

We meet at 6pm for refreshments. The AGM begins at 6.30pm and after this we shall have a talk on Wellcome and his Institution with a tour of the museum there.

You are invited to nominate for the officers of the Society. The present ones are as follows:

President: Charles Lee, Vice-Presidents:  
R. Michael Robbins, Prof. Valerie Pearl, Dr Ann Saunders, W.R. Maidment  
Chairman: John Richardson Vice-Chairman:  
Gillian Tindall Secretary: Jane Ramsay  
Treasurer: Helen Iefroy Publications Editor:  
Christopher Wade Archivist: Malcolm Holmes  
Meetings Secretary: Horace Shooter  
Council Members: Peter Barber, E.G. Brassington, Anthony Cooper, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winsor.

## INFORMATION WANTED

Alan Farmer of 4 Keats Grove, NW3 writes: I am doing some research on the Hampstead Heath area, and I would be grateful if anyone has come across any reference to the name Parliament Hill before 1800. Also, what name had it before then?

I would also like to know of any references to the Spaniards Inn before 1740.

(Mr Farmer's telephone number is 794 4830)

## Let There Be Milk

Just over a century ago a good proportion of the milk of the metropolis was obtained from cows housed in the area. The railways and a general tightening up of sanitary conditions reduced this gradually. However, in 1857 the St Pancras Vestry Minutes reveal the first statistics for that parish. There were 92 cowhouses in St Pancras, most of them in the heavily populated areas of the south. The Medical Officer of Health was very concerned about their effect on health - his concern was with people as well as with animals and he was, before it became law, an advocate of licensing premises, although he would have preferred a total ban.

He reported that some cowhouses were well placed (those in the fields of the north were fine) but some of them in the south were almost underground. Twenty establishments had inhabited rooms over them, many were completely shut in by surrounding houses and cattle had to pass through domestic buildings to reach the sheds. In some sheds the cubic capacity for each cow was as low as 230 cu.ft (it was later established as desirable to have 1000 cu.ft). Usually there was poor ventilation and the object of some cowkeepers was to keep the cows as warm as possible as this favours the formation of cream. However, huddling the cows together for warmth created substantial differences between the temperature inside and out - and cows are very susceptible to changes of temperature. 7 sheds were without water. Sometimes manure was heaped beneath dwellings. Foodstuffs were often sour and in 17 sheds cows were drinking distiller's wash. In 15 of them pigs were also kept. Disease was rampant. One cowkeeper who kept between 400 and 500 cows said that he lost two a week through sickness. One cowkeeper said that few of his cows failed to catch pleuro-pneumonia. There was abundant evidence that meat of diseased cows was sold as human food.

He then gave some output statistics. In the parish there was one cow for every 136 persons. Each cow was reckoned to give 9 quarts a day - 1 quart for every 13 people. The rest of the demand was imported.

John Richardson

## Microfilming the Heal Collection

The growing interest in local history does unfortunately lead to some categories of material being damaged, sometimes through careless handling but more usually just by the large numbers of people using the often very fragile old paper and other materials.

The Heal Collection of material on St Pancras has been particularly badly affected and many items are torn and urgently require repair. The collection was bequeathed to the library in 1913 by Sir Ambrose Heal (of Heal's furniture) and is a rich collection of books, maps, documents, illustrations, posters, ephemera, playbills and newscuttings.

It has now been decided that it should be micro-filmed in an attempt to help preserve the condition of the original items. Initially we will only be copying the non-book material which is mounted on large sheets of paper. The material will be filmed in stages from May to about July so that only a proportion of the collection is out of the library at any one time. Intending users are advised to contact us prior to a visit (278 4444 ext 3007).

To reduce wear on the original material only the microfilm will be available unless it is essential to inspect the original for additional information not on the film. Any photocopying required will be possible from this film using the reader-printer at Swiss Cottage whereas before photocopying of the original was generally not allowed.

I do appreciate the aversion many have to using microfilm but the alternative is irreversible damage to a unique source.

Our local directories are also receiving heavy use and again consideration is being given to filming these. However we are hoping to produce photocopies of these and bind them into volumes for the open shelves. The filming of the large collection of rate books is a long-term aim.

We have not allowed the photocopying of original maps for some time but we have been making photographic copies of these and soon readers will be able to order copies of these.

Malcolm Holmes  
Local History Librarian

## Book Review

A Thesaurus of British Archaeology, by Lesley and Roy Adkins (Pub. David and Charles, 1982, 319pp, £14.95 cased)

Don't be put off by the title - this book has almost nothing to do with Roget but is in fact a treasury of words strung together by a very readable narrative of the British archaeological periods from Old Stone Age to medieval. Angels have feared for some decades to tread this path, but don't think the Adkins team (husband and wife) are fools on that account. They have produced a soundly based and well written book, illustrated with large numbers of their own good drawings, which would help anyone interested in learning the methods and jargon of archaeology. If you want to see how inter-cutting pits on an urban site are sorted out, or how tree-ring dating works, or what exactly is a pritchell (this last was a new term to me) then this is the book to beg or borrow if you can't afford to buy it. (Incidentally, it has been offered by the David & Charles book club at a very substantial saving.)

Mr and Mrs Adkins are both employed by the SW London Archaeological Unit and display an almost frightening versatility and a very wide knowledge of the sources they had to use. They wear their learning lightly though and you can gallop through this book in a couple of afternoons, aided by excellent drawings. Inevitably a few important publications appeared as the book was going through the press, but even so it is as up-to-date a view of British archaeology as you will find anywhere. It is gracefully done too, so much so that I wish I had done it!

The index is very full and passed just about every test I gave it, although a few entries ought to have been subdivided for ease of reference. Each small section of the book has a list of 'further references' so that intriguing points can be followed up; and the bibliography is enviably accurate. Production is also good, though there is a lovely spelling error in which the owner of the Fishbourne Roman villa is described as a 'dignatory'; Tory he almost certainly was, or whatever was the Roman equivalent!

Cherry Lavell

## 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road' published

The Society's latest publication 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road' was launched on April 22nd by the group of members, led by Anthony Cooper, who compiled it. Unfortunately printing was not complete for the launching and copies were not on sale until a week afterwards. This attractive book, a companion to the 'Streets of Hampstead' series is now available from our bookstall at meetings or else direct from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3, price £2.70 plus 30p postage.

The volume covers Chalk Farm, Primrose Hill, parts of Camden Town and Regent's Park down to Euston Road. It is packed with information and a must for your bookcase.

## Lord Greenwood

Members would have read with regret of the death of Lord Greenwood of Rossendale, a vice-president of this Society. Tony Greenwood, former Cabinet minister and MP was the son of Arthur Greenwood the prominent Socialist and spent his childhood in Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb. He married in 1940 and he and his wife Gillian lived in East Heath Road, later in Gainsborough Gardens and, for over 30 years, in Downshire Hill. He was Labour councillor in Hampstead from 1945 to 1949 and entered Parliament at a bye-election for Heywood and Radcliffe in 1946. His political career was notable and his interests in and outside the Commons were extensive. To name just a few: he was vice-chairman of the Christian Socialist Movement, vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Animal Welfare Group, vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Anglo-Polish Group, vice-president of the National Society for the Abolition of Cruel Sports, on the Central Council for the Care of Cripples, President of the Pure Rivers Society and prominent in the pro-cremation movement and on the board of the Golders Green Crematorium where his funeral took place. These represent just some of the organisations in which he played a part and many, including our own Society, will feel his loss.

## BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

The temptation to pass on the information that on 30th May Burgh House have 'The Legendary Al Haig' appearing there is too much. He is the jazz pianist though. On June 5th a new exhibition starts called 'Hill, Grove and Church' the story of the Downshire Hill and Keats Grove area and its residents.

# Outing to Winchester

## HAMPSTEAD ILLUSTRATED

Every year the Society has an enjoyable coach ride to places of historical interest outside London, usually with some Camden connection. This year we are going to Winchester and places thereabouts. It will be on Saturday, August 7th and a booking form and itinerary will be included with the July Newsletter. However it would be helpful if those members who are interested, just from these brief details, could contact Christina Gee at Keats House, Keats Grove, NW3 (435 2062) who will probably have more details by now and who would like some idea of response. The cost, including tea, will be £6.

The Arthur Ackermann Publishing Co (chairman Bamber Gascoigne) is continuing its admirable 'Images' series in the autumn with a volume on Hampstead. The volume will contain three sections. The first will be narrative by Simon Jenkins on the history and development of Hampstead. The second section, the Gallery, will illustrate all known prints of Hampstead (amounting to over 500) which are arranged and illustrated by subject. In the third section, by Jonathan Ditchburn, is described each print in full detail.

## SAVE ST JOHNS

An appeal has been launched to save St John's church, Downshire Hill. The Historic Buildings Council has reported that 'the structure of the roof has failures, the slates are defective and gutters and parapet walls require major works to arrest water penetration'. It is estimated that £75,000 is required and the Historic buildings Council have promised £25,000.

Members who know it will need no reminding of its attraction. Those who have not seen it need only turn to 'Streets of Hampstead' (CHS):

"The Downshire Hill triangle...is one of the great pleasures of Hampstead..The centrepiece of this area is the splendidly situated St John's Church..with its elegant portico and cupola, galleries and box pews, a delight both outside and in."

It is the last proprietary chapel left in London.

Donations should be sent to Judith Lewis, 48 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

## REVIEWS ON THE CHEAP

We are trying to clear out some of our back stocks of publications and we are offering back numbers of some of the Camden History Reviews cheap. Nos 3-9 inclusive may be obtained for 50p each and if you order 3 editions you can get them at the really bargain price of £1.20. Postage is 20p per copy extra. Orders to CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3.

Once No 10 is out later this year we are hoping to sell bound volumes of Nos 1-10 for those who would like complete sets. There will be more details of this in subsequent Newsletters.

This is a reference book of much importance to Hampstead admirers and the publishers are offering a subscribers price to those who want to get their order in early (and have their name printed in the book). The buckram bound price is £55 and the full leather version is £190. The deposit on order is £10 and £45 respectively. The edition will be limited to 1000 for the buckram and 50 for the full leather and the eventual retail price will be £67.50 and £260.

An order form is enclosed with this Newsletter.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

Mr and Mrs N. Aked, Ms Pat Dungey, Mrs M. Gillie, D. Leigh, P. Orrett, Mr and Mrs J. Palmer-Moore, Miss A Pilcher, Miss M. Brion, W. Smeaton, N. Tracken

## THE SOCIETY

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# newsletter

No. 72

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jul 1982

## Preserving your Treasures —our July talk

Tues. July 20th 7.30pm  
Swiss Cottage Library

Behind the scenes in any museum or local history library is the restorer and repairer. Rebecca Daly is the archive restorer for Camden and her interesting work and that of her colleagues is the subject of an out-of-the-ordinary talk this month. Ms Daly will be explaining their work, showing how it's done with examples of before and after. The talk will cover books, prints and drawings at least and there will be advice on the care of old things as well as their restoration. A fascinating evening.

## Advance Notice

- 27 Sep Dr Ann Saunders on Marylebone Park  
7.30pm at Chalk Farm Library
- 21 / Oct Simon Jenkins on the new publication  
'Images of Hampstead' 7.30pm at  
Swiss Cottage Library
- 4 Nov Dr Nicholas Barton on 'The Lost  
Rivers of London' 7.00pm at  
Holborn Central Library.
- 7 Dec Philip Greenall on Camden Token  
Coins and their issuers 1648-1672  
7.30pm Swiss Cottage Library

## BRITISH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY FORMED

As a consequence of the Blake report on local history facilities in this country and the following conference the British Association for Local History has been formed. Its general aim is to further the course of local history studies in Britain and it aims to hold seminars, courses and competitions. Members will also receive a bulletin, favourable subscription terms to the Local Historian magazine and there will also be a book club.

The annual subscription is £4 and details may be obtained from the Association at 43 Bedford Square W.C.1 (636 4066)

## The Annual Outing

Sat. August 7th

Christina Gee has devised a splendid annual outing. It goes to Jane Austen's house at Chawton, on to St Cross from where you can make the Keat's walk to Winchester, to the 12th century Wolvesley Palace and, of course, Winchester itself. Nearly three quarters of the seats on the coach are sold in response to the note in the last Newsletter - please contact her early, using the enclosed form, to get one of the remaining seats.

## VIEW OF THE MARCH TO FINCHLEY

Anthony Cooper writes:

It is probably rather late to comment on Camden History Review No 3, but I have recently been refreshing my memory on Hogarth's 'March to Finchley' illustrated in that edition. The scene is the junction of Tottenham Court Road and the future Euston Road, and the text says that a little to the south was St James's Chapel commemorated today by its minute garden. I find that I had crossed out 'south' and put 'north' but perhaps the writer was thinking of Whitefield's Chapel which was to the south and now has a minute garden. Or was it confusion caused by Rowlandson's 1798 drawing of the 'Tottenham Court Road Turnpike'? This was half way up Hampstead Road by that date and the drawing does show St James's to the south. In fact neither Chapel was built by 1750 when Hogarth completed his picture.

## BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

Burgh House in conjunction with the Heath and Old Hampstead Society are holding three Heath Walks which will probably interest members. They are: 1 Aug, 2.30pm A study of the Butterflies etc there, 15 Aug 2.30pm A Guided tour of the Ponds and 5 Sep A walk round North End led by Christopher Wade

# The Ups and Downs of Chief Officer Life

St Pancras Vestry used to dismiss its chief officer - the Vestry Clerk - with a frequency which would make NALGO blanch. In 1832 they had two vestry clerks and it was decided then, despite his long service, that one of them, Mr Tims, was unnecessary. 'He appears not to be engaged in any duties' the minutes read. His colleague, Edward Scadding also had a private solicitor's practice: at that time the Vestry Clerk was paid additional money for any legal work undertaken on behalf of the Vestry and he was also allowed to take on work from elsewhere. The difficulty came in 1834 when the Vestry was having one of its periodic feuds with the Church Trustees. Scadding was also their solicitor and the clash of interests was obvious to the Vestry and indeed it should have been to Scadding. However he protested, in effect, that he was an honourable man and no clash existed. The Vestry dismissed him and his firm continued to be the solicitors for the Church Trustees for many years.

The Vestry then appointed John McGahey who had no legal qualifications. This was a matter of policy decided by the Vestry on the assumption that he would not be subject to outside temptations. However, in 1849 he too was dismissed for the very reason he was appointed - he had no legal qualifications and the Vestry of that day thought that he should.

His successor was J. Cook. In 1855 he was criticised by one of the MPs for the constituency for negligence. Cook was reprimanded and told to do better but the storm came on again in 1858 and not just for Cook. First, in that year, the Vestry arbitrarily reduced the salary of the Medical Officer of Health from £400 to £250 per annum for the reason that he was receiving more than the duties warranted, although it was the Vestry in the first place who had fixed the duties and hours and the salary. It is true that the post of Medical Officer was a part-time one and that Hillier, the officer concerned, also had a private practice. Hillier was faced with the choice of accepting or resigning and he stayed. The vendetta against Hillier was to continue however for in subsequent years, despite repeated requests on his part, the Vestry refused to allow him any furniture in which he could lock private papers or indeed an

office of his own - he shared with several sanitary inspectors.

Back to 1858 though. A Vestry committee that year found that Mr Cook had failed to pay in rents received by him from parish properties. He was immediately charged with embezzlement and a warrant for his arrest taken out. Cook was never found. Letters arrived from him via his solicitor offering to explain the matter if the warrant was withdrawn but the Vestry stayed firm. In 1861 a letter arrived from a 'G.E.' of Auvers, Belgium offering to disclose the whereabouts of Cook for a reward, but the Vestry took no action.

In 1858 also the Vestry learnt of embezzlement by two of its Collectors of the Poor Rates. This was not an unusual feature of St Pancras life and the Vestry went through its usual procedures of retrieving equivalent sums from the sureties the Collectors had to produce when taking on the post.

However, the last scandal of 1858 was of a different nature. The Directors of the Poor, the vaguely subsidiary wing of the Vestry which managed the Workhouse, reported that the Assistant Surgeon there had had sexual relations with an inmate and then procured the abortion of their child. The surgeon was dismissed of course and the Vestry determined to take legal proceedings against him. Unfortunately he could not be found. The only person who knew his whereabouts was the Workhouse chaplain to whom the demented surgeon had turned for spiritual aid and comfort. The chaplain told the Vestry that he was sworn to secrecy in these confessional circumstances and refused to divulge his address to the Vestry, whereupon the Vestry dismissed him as well.

There is no tidy end to this story. The surgeon does not crop up again and presumably he was not found. The Poor Law Board, which at that time was trying unsuccessfully to exercise authority over St Pancras Workhouse, interceded on behalf of the chaplain but they too wrote later to say that they thought the chaplain had no case against dismissal.

John Richardson

The information for this article was drawn from the St Pancras Vestry minutes

## The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was a very enjoyable affair at the Wellcome Institution in Euston Road. Mr Freeman, the librarian, gave us an excellent talk and we then were conducted around the vast collection of books housed there - and very well housed too.

Officers elected were:

PRESIDENT: Charles Lee

VICE PRESIDENTS: R. Michael Robbins, Dr Ann Saunders, Frank Cole and Anthony Cooper

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE CHAIRMAN: Gillian Tindall

SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

TREASURER: Helen Lefroy

EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS: Christopher Wade

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter

ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

Council Members:

Peter Barber, E. Brassington, Michael Chambers, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winsor

AUDITOR: Peter Russell

The Chairman asked the meeting for their views as to whether the venue and time for lectures should be stabilised. The meeting was unanimous in saying that the present policy of holding meetings at different venues around the borough was the best one. However it was thought that the standardisation of the day in the month might be explored and this was left to the Council to discuss further.

We had the pleasure of welcoming the Deputy Mayor Cllr Heffernan who deputised for the Mayor who was in hospital.

## 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road'

The Society's new publication 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road' is going well.

The Ham and High said:

"It's not the most obviously rewarding area for those determined to delve into past happenings and personalities, as the shortage of other such specific histories indicates. But seek and ye shall find is an appropriate adage for the industrious members of the CHS Street History Group. Their results, with illustrations, maps and index, fill 92 pages and provide essential reading for anyone now living within the boundaries of their survey."

It costs £2.70 from local bookshops and at CHS meetings or £3 including postage from CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3.

## Schooldays in Camden Town

Deirdre Le Faye has sent us an interesting excerpt from a publication called 'The Domestic Medical Guide' by Dr Richard Reece published in 1803. It is headed "Education of Youth" and goes on: "A Gentleman of Respectability, assisted by able and well selected Masters, has opened a SEMINARY for the Reception of YOUNG GENTLEMEN, from Three to Ten Years of Age, in a very airy Situation, at the CORNER of CAMDEN-STREET, near PANCRAS CHURCH.

The Plan of Education comprises a thorough instruction in the ENGLISH LANGUAGE, its Grammar, and a distinct and clear Manner of reading - FRENCH in its purity, and the RUDIMENTS of LATIN, according to the most approved Forms of the great English Schools.

Religion and Morals are the first Objects in view. Care will be directed also to other points, of the utmost Importance to Children of the tender Age included in this Plan - Health, Comfort, and Cleanliness: He engages to promote this by unremitting Attention to wholesome and plentiful Provision, moderate and healthful Exercise, Beds and Rooms clean, airy, and not crowded.

Considering that at a tender age, Restraint and Severity can only produce Unhappiness, without forwarding real Improvement, the Pupils are led by gentle Means to the love of Science and Virtue; so as to present them, at a proper period, eminently qualified to take an advanced Station in a public School, or to be speedily accomplished for such professional or other Pursuits, as are to engage the ensuing Portion of their Lives."

Fees quoted were:

Board and Tuition	£26.0.0d	a year
French	£1.1.0d	)
Writing and Arithmetic	15/-	)
Latin	£1.1.0d	)
Dancing	£1.1.0d	) a quarter
Military Exercise	15/-	)
Sleeping alone	£1.1.0d	)
Assistants and Servants	£1.1.0d	a year

Each pupil to bring half a dozen towels, a table spoon and a white handled knife and fork.

## NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

Miss J. Barraclough, Francis Barry-Walsh, Nicholas Eyles, R.S. Gardner, Mrs G. Gorer, Miss E. McIntyre, J. Madeley, Ms C Oliver and Iain Watt.

The present membership total is 523.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Hornsey Historical Society has just issued another excellent bulletin- No 23. Amongst the major articles are one on the building of Archway Road and also one on Highgate Chapel, both of them well-documented. Copies may be had for £1.20 plus 25p postage from the Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N.8. Highgate Chapel, of course, played an integral part in the development of the village; it developed from a 14th century hermitage and became a chapel-of-ease for local residents who did not wish to go to their parish church at either Hornsey or St Pancras. By then the Chapel was part of Highgate School and it was the subject of a 19th century legal case in which it was ruled that the governors of the school were illegally spending the school's funds in making the chapel available and amenable to local residents. From this decision came the necessity of building a church for Highgate - St Michael's in South Grove was the result

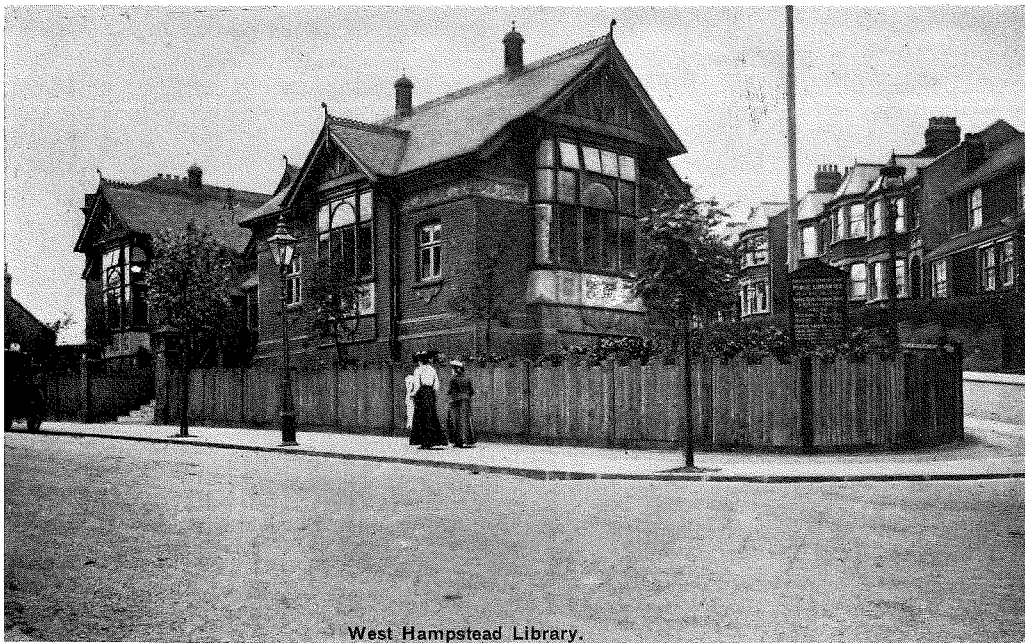
We have been sent a copy of 'A Child's Eye View of West Hampstead' edited by Caroline Woollett and published by the West Hampstead Community Centre, Mill Lane, NW6 price £1.75 plus 30p postage. Proceeds are in aid of the renovation of their hall in Broomsleigh Street.

It is an interesting collection of articles by old residents of their early days in the area, ranging through transport, shops, wartime, schools and work. Well worth getting.

Also one of our members, Paul Hogarth, well-known for his watercolours, prints and drawings has recently published a book on Arthur Boyd Houghton (1836-75) painter, illustrator and caricaturist. Houghton had local connections in Queens Crescent and King Henry's Road etc. It has 144 pages and 125 illustrations. Published by Gordon Fraser price £19.50.

## PICTURES OF SOMERS TOWN

Zelda Curtis has written to ask if any members have old slides or pictures of the Somers Town area. Ms Curtis is working with pensioners in the area and is planning a talk on the area but there is a lack of good slides of Somers Town in the archives. Can anyone help? She can be contacted at Task Force, 52 Grafton Road, N.W.5 (267 3381)



West Hampstead Library.

An Edwardian postcard of West Hampstead Library



# newsletter

No. 73

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1982

## The Story of Marylebone Park — our September talk

Monday, September 27th, 7.30pm  
Chalk Farm Library, Sharpleshall St NW1  
(Please note: seating is limited)

Members who attended the 1981 Annual Meeting will recall the excellent talk we had from Dr Ann Saunders on the Villas of Regent's Park. Everyone wanted to hear more and we have invited her back to give another talk which sets the scene for those villas - the development of Marylebone and later Regent's Park. Not to be missed.

## The Lost Rivers of London

Thursday, November 4th, 7.0pm  
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Rd WC1  
Please note earlier starting time.

It is possible that the next Newsletter may not be out in time to publicise fully the November talk. It co-incides with the reissue of 'The Lost Rivers of London' by Nicholas Barton, who is our speaker. The book has been out of print for some time and is much sought after. The new printing will be available at the meeting (price £7.50 hardback) and there will also be an order form in the next Newsletter. People are always fascinated by and usually inaccurate about the rivers which flow beneath our streets and gardens. Dr Barton has traced their courses and histories and shows also how their presence affected our topography and placement of industry.

Please put this date in your diary rather than wait for the November Newsletter!

## Images

Thursday, October 21st, 7.30  
Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Rd, N.W.3

Most members will know that an important new book on Hampstead appears soon. It is part of the series begun by Bamber Gascoigne which seeks to reproduce every known print of an area in one volume together with research into those prints - the latter being of the utmost importance to local historians. The 'Images of Hampstead' volume is the subject of our October talk in which Simon Jenkins, the well-known journalist and the writer of the narrative for 'Images' will be the speaker.

## Advance Notice

Dec 7th: Swiss Cottage Library, 7.30pm  
Camden Token Coins and their issuers  
1648-1672 by Philip Greenall

January (date to be fixed) Camden's  
Edwardian Architecture by Alastair  
Service

Feb 3rd: Swiss Cottage Library, 7.30pm  
'First Fabians and Hampstead Historians'  
by Norman Mackenzie

## LAMAS CONFERENCE

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are holding their annual conference on Saturday, 20th November at 2pm at the Museum of London. The three papers to be presented are 'Parochial Assessment Maps of the London Area 1836-1848' by Ralph Hyde, 'The Great North Road through Middlesex' by Dr. A. Lynch and 'Records of Chancery and Exchequer for the local historian' by Mr D. Gerhold. Tickets are £1.50 each (including tea) and can be obtained from J. Slade, 20 Bendemeer Road, S.W.15

# Camden Schooldays

This year's Essay Competition had as its theme 'Camden Schooldays'. One of the entries was from Mary Elsy who recalls various schools in Hampstead:

'One of my early childhood memories is that of the trek down Lymington Road to West End Lane from my home, a flat above Langfrier's Photographic Studios, now vanished, to the somewhat grandly named Lymington House School. It was situated in what was not much more than a hut in a small lane off West End Lane. It held perhaps about 25 children at its peak.

It was in the early twenties that Miss Topham, a plump, bosomy, motherly but firm-minded female, decided to set up her own school. She had previously been a governess. At first the age range in her school was 5-7 years. But like Topsy the school grew, with pupils coming mostly by recommendations from parents, chiefly middle class professional and business people, who found that her methods achieved good results. She eventually took on two assistants. To the best of my memory the 'hut' consisted of two rooms divided by a thin wall. The children sat around long tables. For play we would go outside to a small garden which overlooked the railway line.

There were other schools around Lymington Road. There was a boys' one near the corner where the road bends upwards towards Finchley Road. There was also York House, a boys' prep. school at 1 Crediton Hill. This building now houses a block of flats, a garage replacing the old playground. My knowledge of it is derived from my brother who went there while my sister and I were at Lymington House. Their blazers, caps, ties and sock tops were green and mauve. Two women taught the younger boys and administered discipline with the aid of an old gym slipper. The headmaster, Mr Hawkins, a round-faced, bespectacled man, was nicknamed 'the Owl'.

Miss Topham, naturally enough, soon became known as 'Top Hat'. As the number of pupils increased, so the hut was too small, so she bought a house in Fortune Green Road, on the right hand side near where Parsifal Road enters it, and retained the name Lymington House. We too had our uniform: light mauve, shantung (I think) dresses in summer and heavier dresses in winter (both had detachable collars and cuffs), black and mauve blazers, hatbands, ties and caps.

Miss Topham, who later married a civil servant called Kilmaster, had practical and old-fashioned teaching methods - she had no degrees in education. I do not remember that our punishments were ever very severe but I do remember one particular chatterbox once having to wear a cut-out pink cardboard tongue round her neck. She rather floored the redoubtable Mrs Kilmaster by declaring "Now I shall be able to talk twice as much". Mrs Kilmaster would have done better had she stuck to taking only the younger children and she did not have facilities for older ones. She did take on another teacher but she was a poor disciplinarian, a dull teacher who did very little work and preferred to supervise us learning things by heart. An explosion of bad behaviour led to the expulsion of one pupil and the dismissal of the teacher.

The school continued until the war when Mrs Kilmaster and her husband were evacuated. After the war she returned to open a school for infants which she ran for a few years before her death in the fifties.

In contrast our next school, Kingsley School for Girls, situated in Belsize Park, was run on sound public school lines. The school house was in one of the high white buildings opposite the Hall School for Boys. It was headed by four principals all in the vanguard of female progress. Because of this the four houses were named after eminent women. Discipline was not very heavy and we received no marks - competition was frowned upon and one was not expected to work for one's own glory. Until one reached the senior school I don't remember there being any afternoon school lessons, although we did have plenty of homework which to begin with was done at school.

The school, although small (about 150 girls) took in a wide range of intelligences and nationalities. As a large number of girls were Jewish morning prayers were held in separate rooms. During the thirties it took in many refugees from Nazi-dominated countries - in fact the school advertised for pupils in Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. Our main criticisms of these refugee girls were that they worked too hard and were not very sporty. During the war the school was evacuated to Tintagel. Afterwards it opened as a private boarding school in Horley, Surrey.

# New Books

Mortimer Wheeler, adventurer in archaeology  
(by Jacquetta Hawkes, pub Weidenfeld and  
Nicolson, 387pp, £10.95)

Ask any 40-ish or over person in the street to name an archaeologist, and the chances are you will be offered Sir Mortimer Wheeler. His flair for publicity and his performances in 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?' a highly popular TV programme of the 1950s, made him a household name and won him the title of TV Personality of the Year in 1954. Jacquetta Hawkes's book chronicles the extremely busy and complex life of a fascinating and exasperating personality - a 'Hero figure' as she dubs him. What has this to do with Camden? Perhaps not even our archaeologically-minded members realise that one of Wheeler's many splendid and enduring creations, the Institute of Archaeology, was born in Regent's Park. It occupied St John's Lodge from 1937 to 1957, a time rightly recorded by Ann Saunders in her booklet 'The Regent's Park Villas' (1981) as 'remembered as magical by all who studied there'.

Jacquetta Hawkes writes of the long hunt by Wheeler and (especially) by his shamefully overworked wife Tessa for 'a large building at next to no rent' and how overjoyed they were to find St John's Lodge, in a severely derelict condition as it then was, which the Crown agents were glad enough to lease to the infant Institute at a peppercorn rent. Sadly, Tessa, who had virtually worn herself out raising the funds necessary to maintain the Institute, died in the Temperance Hospital from complications after an operation, and never saw the grand opening at the Lodge. This was attended by various University of London dignitaries who sat on a platform 'furnished with handsome gilded chairs and two palms of the more drooping variety' while suitable speeches were made and a black plaque unveiled recording Tessa's achievement. Twenty years later this plaque was moved, along with the rest of the Institute, to a functional new building (cost £½ million) on the north side of Gordon Square. By that time the University of London had accepted full responsibility for the increasingly prestigious Institute and Wheeler was able to realise his dream of a Bloomsbury base.

Wheeler had intended his creation to be a post-graduate institution only, since he believed that archaeology was no fit subject for a first degree, so he must have felt some displeasure when the Institute started taking undergraduates in 1968. Long before that, though, there was an exciting episode when Wheeler strongly opposed a candidate for the Directorship of the Institute, W.F.

Grimes of the London Museum. (He was a Camden resident - Elsworthy Road). This was one of the battles Wheeler lost for, as Jacquetta Hawkes records, Grimes was appointed Director in 1956 and continued there for 17 years, though she feels that he put an emphasis on technical expertise in archaeology rather than the deep humanistic research that Wheeler had hoped for. (A bust of Wheeler, and a portrait of Grimes, may be found in the Institute's library, suitably distanced from each other.)

Although a fascinating read, for even if your interests do not turn to archaeology, Wheeler did so many other things well, including fighting in two world wars (a couple of insanely brave episodes are recounted in thrilling detail). And his marital and extramarital affairs were of a remarkable kind too, though how he found the time not even his biographer can satisfactorily explain!

Cherry Lavell

LONDON AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN  
by Felix Barker and Ralph Hyde  
Pub. John Murray Price £12.50

The title is self-explanatory but it does not prepare one for the awful and grand schemes which could have happened in the metropolis. There were serious proposals for umpteen railways, awful statues, grand palaces and vast cemeteries. We could have had a crystal Tower Bridge, pyramids in Trafalgar Square and a pineapple on top of St Paul's. It is wittily written by Felix Baker and the illustrations researched by Ralph Hyde. An excellent buy for yourself or a Christmas present for someone to store away.

## THE REGENT'S PARK COLOSSEUM

Also by Ralph Hyde, the Keeper of Prints and Maps at the Guildhall Library, is this book. The price is £225 (yes, 225). It is, of course, a limited edition (200 copies). The main illustrations are printed by colotype on hand-made paper and then hand-coloured; the binding is sumptuous as well. The Colosseum was between Albany Street and Regent's Park, built by 1831 to house the largest oil painting in the world in a dome larger than St Paul's. On view was a spectacular 360 degrees painting - a panorama of London made by Thomas Hornor who spent the summer months of 1821 in a cramped wooden cabin lashed to the top of St Paul's Cathedral making his working drawings. The publishers are Arthur Ackermann of 1 St Helena Terrace, Richmond, Surrey who supply application forms

## Bloomsbury Group to be formed

The Society is considering the formation of a group to research the Bloomsbury area and produce a publication in the series which includes Hampstead and Chalk Farm. Members who are interested in this project should contact the Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3.

## WHITTINGTON ARCHIVES WANTED

Whittington Hospital is making a serious effort to build up its archive collection so that they may have a permanent exhibition there and perhaps publish a book. Members who have photographs or other material are invited to contact Mrs Joan Dacre, Voluntary Services Co-ordinator on 272 3070 ext 4114.

## GLC ARCHIVES DELAY

The move of the GLC archives, maps, prints, photographs and books to their new premises at 40 Northampton Road, E.C.1 has been delayed due to unforeseen problems on the building site. The new target date for re-opening is 4 January 1983 and they will close the existing facilities on 10th September

## PRIMROSE HILL TO EUSTON ROAD

Anthony Cooper reports that a number of errata have so far come to light. Apart from the obvious transposition of northern and southern parts in the end maps they are:

- p 18: for London and Midland Railway read London and Midland Region
- p 42: Monarch Public House - for certainly read possibly
- p 46: Caption - read Camden Town Tube Station
- p 62: Cambridge Terrace - damaged by fire in the winter of 1946/7, not during the war
- p 69: Edward Lear in 1834 was at 124 (formerly 61) Albany Street, not 197
- p 82: St James' Chapel demolished 1964, not 1956

The Hampstead Plaque Fund under the guiding hand of Ralph Wade, continues its work. On September 5th they unveiled a plaque to Dr Marie Stopes at 14 Well Walk. The plaque reads: Marie Carmichael Stopes, 1880-1958, Writer, Dramatist and Poet. Publicist of the campaign for sexual education. Advocate of family planning and founder of pioneer birth control clinic. Courageous crusader for the rights of women. Lived here during her first marriage to R.R. Gates.



A 1906 postcard showing Argyle Square W.C.1. The South St Pancras Liberal and Unionist Headquarters is pictured with, presumably, party workers on the balcony.

# newsletter

No. 74

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Oct 1982

## Camden Trade Tokens – our December talk

Tues. Dec 7th, 7.30pm  
Swiss Cottage Library

Trade tokens, especially in the 17th century, were a method of overcoming the dearth of coinage of the realm. They were issued by businesses and inns and were exchangeable for goods. Many survive and Philip Greenall, one of our members, is a keen collector with an enviable array of those relating to Camden.

He knows his subject well and has researched also the establishments which issued them. It promises to be an interesting evening.

## Christopher Wade hands over at No. 10

Enclosed is your free copy of Review No 10 which has nearly doubled in value since the last edition. With a small print run, it will be selling to the public at £1.90. The cover picture of Brinsmeads Piano Factory may seem familiar to you. In fact, it appeared in Review No 1 in miniature, a victim of space shortage, and our Editor has been longing to do it justice ever since. Now you can really see the grand pianos rolling off the production line.

Camden History Review was started by Christopher Wade in 1973 and he has edited all ten editions, which neatly fill the specially produced binder. No 10 includes a selective index to the whole lot and you will see that a complete index is available (£1.50) for those who want it. The indices have been compiled by Diana Wade, who has made a major contribution on the production side, as had Roger Dinsmore on the design side.

As mentioned at the AGM Christopher Wade is now handing over the post of Editor of Publications to Michael Chambers, a publisher by profession, whom we warmly welcome.

There can hardly be a member of the Society who is not familiar with Christopher's dedi-

cated work on our publications. After ten years we have one of the widest ranged and best produced publication list of any local history society - this is easily established when you go to the IAMS Conference, for example, and see those for the rest of London. Furthermore the Society has, especially through the Streets of Hampstead series edited by Christopher, made money out of them. Amplifying the editorial side has been the consistent sales work done by Christopher and Diana.

As members know Christopher is now heavily involved in the running of Burgh House which owes much to his unique flair for topicality and resourcefulness. He feels that ten years as editor of CHS is a good enough term. The next Annual Meeting will be an appropriate time for a proper vote of thanks from the membership in general but your Council felt that the early opportunity of this Newsletter should be taken to put on record our sincere thanks to them both.

The next Newsletter will contain details of the changed arrangements for corresponding with CHS publications.

John Richardson

## Hampstead weather

Watch out for a new publication on our book-stall - 'Hampstead Weather 1860-1981' by Robert Tyssen Gee. It has been compiled by the Hon. Meteorologist of the Hampstead Scientific Society, following his article on the subject in CHR No 8. The booklet has been typed and produced by a new member, Rosalind Stroud, with a cover designed by her sister: our thanks to them both. Price and postage to follow.

### INFORMATION WANTED

Mr K. Dueck is writing a thesis on William Huntington (1745-1813) and would appreciate any information about his 'Providence Chapels', first in Little Titchfield Street and then Grays Inn Lane. He would especially like information leading to extant chapel records. Anyone with information should contact him at 46 Dymock Street, S.W.6

# Napoleon Discovered

Jean Scott-Rogers writes:

When I was researching in the St Pancras Vestry minutes and elsewhere for my article 'How Cobden Came to Camden' (CHR No 9) I was puzzled by the lack of any evidence that Napoleon III had contributed to the Memorial Fund for the statue in Camden Town, whose inscription reads that it was "Erected by public subscription to which Napoleon III was principal contributor".

Through the good offices of Mrs P. Gill BA, County Archivist, West Sussex Record Office (now the repository of a large Cobden archive) I obtained a photo-copy of the list of subscribers published by the Memorial Committee, but this made no mention of a donation from the Emperor of the French. We know from contemporary records that about £15 to £30 of the £300 odd needed to pay for the statue was slow in forthcoming, and that the Committee were still collecting money on the day of the unveiling - Saturday June 27th, 1868, so when did Napoleon make his contribution?

IN the course of other research I am doing at the West Sussex Record Office I have now solved the mystery. In the Cobden Papers I found a letter to Mrs Cobden from one of the two Hon. Secretaries of the Memorial Fund, Mr Charles Greene, who wrote to her on 3rd August 1868: "Dear Madam, I have felt it my duty to apprise you of a fact in connection with the Memorial to the late Mr Cobden at Camden Town in reference to which, as you are aware, I have had the honour to be Hon. Secretary which will no doubt be highly gratifying to you, as I can assure you it has been to myself and the Committee. In the early part of June when our funds were exceedingly short I wrote a letter to the Emperor of the French sending him a couple of Photographs of our intended statue - To my astonishment on Thursday I received a Note from the French Embassy stating if I would call on the following day at Albert Gate the Ambassador had a Communication (sic) to make to me - I there received a packet with the seals of the Emperor enclosing a draft for 1000 francs (sic) which his Majesty desired to subscribe to the fund as an evidence of the high estimation in which he holds the Memory of the late Mr Cobden".

The intriguing question now arises: if the Committee reached the required total on the day the statue was unveiled, what did they do with the 1000 francs handed over by the French Ambassador in August that year?

Another fact I have discovered since the publication of the Camden History Review article

is that Mrs Cobden was not in favour of a statue to her husband's memory, and wrote strongly about her views to Mr F.W. Chesson, Editor of the 'Morning Star', on 6 September 1865: "I shall like very much if I could do without appearing dictatorial or impertinent to state my opinion of monuments in general - It is that I think them worse than useless, except they be designed by the mind of genius and executed under its direction". However Catherine Anne was persuaded that she must not "wound the self-love" of the Memorial Committee, and so gave her consent to the project.

## The Lost Rivers of London

ON November 1st 'The Lost Rivers of London' by Nicholas Barton was reissued - it was first published twenty years ago and has been out-of-print since. Dr Barton gave a fascinating talk on the subject to the Society on Nov. 4th. The book deals extensively with the history and geography of the rivers - the Fleet and the Tyburn are of course the main interest for Camden residents, and shows how the once pleasant watercourses were gradually put underground. In some instances their influence was more permanent - they dictated street layout, the positioning of some industry and were the root of many street names. There is an excellent 2-colour pull-out map showing their location. It has 148 pages, many illustrations and is a hardback edition. It can be obtained from the CHS bookstall at meetings for £7.50 or direct from the publishers, Historical Publications Ltd, 54 Station Road, New Barnet, Herts post free.

## BLOOMSBURY GROUP - MARK 2

The first meeting of the Bloomsbury Group - at least the modern version, will take place on Monday, November 22nd in the Children's Library, Holborn Central Library, Theobalds Road, WC1 at 6pm. This group will set out to research the history of the area of Bloomsbury - one of the few the Society has not dealt with so far. The subject is an extensive one and much help will be needed. Members who are interested, and who have not so far written to the Secretary, are invited along.

## NO JUSTICE!

We are sorry to report that one of the items burgled from the Wade household during their summer holiday was the enormous pair of Victorian brass scales used by Diana to weigh up publications. Please look out for them in your local bric-a-brac market!

# Recent Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions in the Local History Collection are listed below. After each item A or B is added which mean Swiss Cottage or Holborn Central Libraries respectively.

## LONDON AS IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN

by Felix Barker and Ralph Hyde. John Murray 1982

A delightful collection of the imaginative bizarre or sometimes merely ugly schemes suggested for London but which were never built A

## BARKING-KENTISH TOWN LINE STUDY GROUP REPORT

1980 A

## CARING FOR BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS

by A.D. Baynes-Cope. British Museum 1981 A

BUILDING IN THE BLOOD - the story of Dove Brothers of Islington 1781-1981. Godfrey Cave Associates, 1981

Based in Islington, were important church builders, including a number in Camden - St Matthew's, Oakley Square, the Unitarian Church in Hampstead, St Martin's, Gospel Oak, St Mary's Primrose Hill etc. A

## ABOVE LONDON

by Robert Cameron and Alister Cooke Bodley Head 1980

Beautiful coloured photographs taken from the air, but while the Thames is covered for miles outside London other areas are less well covered A

LONDON AND THE FAMOUS. An historical guide to fifty famous people and their London homes.

Katy Carter. Frederick Muller, 1982. A

## HAMPSTEAD HEATH - ITS PAST AND PRESENT.

A botanical study of a public open space. By Russell Cleaver. Thesis 1982. A

## AROUND LONDON BY TRAM

by Terry Cooper and John Gent. Sheaf Publishing 1981.

A fascinating array of photographs of street scenes in all parts of London. A

## TRACING YOUR ANCESTORS IN THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

by Jane Cox and Timothy Padfield.

HMSO 1981

Emphasis in the book is to never start your search here but to use the PRO when already equipped with family history information. AB

## THE SHELL GUIDE TO THE HISTORY OF LONDON

by W.R. Dalzell. Michael Joseph 1981. A

## THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CLAY TOBACCO PIPE.

VI pipes and kilns in the London region by Peter Davey (ed). British Archaeological Reports, British Series 97, 1981. A

ADULT EDUCATION IN INNER LONDON 1870-1980 by William Devereux. Shepherd-Walwyn in collaboration with IIEA, 1982. A

## TAYLOR AND HUMBERT 1782-1982

by David Drummond. Taylor and Humbert 1982. A firm of solicitors in Grays Inn B

## WRITING LOCAL HISTORY: a practical guide.

By David Dymond. Bedford Square Press 1981. AB

POPULATION AND METROPOLIS. The demography of London 1580-1650 by Roger Finlay C.U.P. 1981 A

## FIELDWORK IN LOCAL HISTORY

by W.G. Hoskins. Faber and Faber, 1982 2nd edition.

A new edition of a classic local history book A

## LONDON'S UNDERGROUND

by H.F. Howson. Ian Allan 1981, 5th edition AB

## RECORDING OLD HOUSES: a guide

R.W. McDowall. Council for British Archaeology 1980. AB

## GENEALOGY

Public Record Office n.d. AB

## LOCAL HISTORY: a selection of leaflets

Public Record Office n.d.

Collection of invaluable leaflets describing categories of material available at Kew and Chancery Lane AB

## THE MEWS OF LONDON

By Barbara Rosen and Wolfgang Zuckermann Webb and Bower 1982

Dwells on mews outside Camden but is a fascinating book, well illustrated and generally some of the material could be of value to some one investigating local ones. A

## THE LONDON SCENE. Five essays

By Virginia Woolf. Hogarth Press 1982 (1975) A

## METROPOLITAN LONDON: politics and urban change 1837-1981

Ken Young and Patricia Garside Edward Arnold 1982. A

## GUIDE TO THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS OF ENGLAND Vol 1 Southern England

By Frederic Youngs. Royal Historical Society Handbook no 10, 1979

The changing boundaries of ancient parishes, civil parishes, the various local government units and Parliamentary constituencies cause a great deal of confusion in historical research, particularly in London. This work offers an invaluable wealth of information on the changes.

Malcolm Holmes

## CAST-IRON INTERESTS

S. Sadler Forster writes:

It started with a house in Kentish Town, and its fire places and balconies. My interest in cast-iron led to an ambition to see the place where it all started: Ironbridge.

It is not easy without a car, and it proved impossible to find a package holiday there. However a WEA summer school near Stoke-on-Trent looked hopeful: called Keystones of the Industrial Revolution, the programme included a day at Ironbridge, as well as visits to a coal-mine, potteries, a textile-mill and a canal trip.

The visits were fascinating, and throughout the week our guides and lecturers were enthusiasts who had had years of practical experience in their fields. One of the highlights was the trip down the Chatterley Whitfield mine, where the miner who took us down had spent his working life. He did nothing to dispel our apprehensive feelings as we switched the lights on our miners' helmets, and got into a rickety cage to drop 700' to the coalface.

Ironbridge itself was even more impressive than I had expected. The graceful iron bridge, now closed to traffic, I knew from pictures, but I had not realised it was set in such a beautiful valley. We did not attempt to visit all the historic sights there, but concentrated on the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron. This fine old warehouse contains a wealth of cast-iron, functional and ornamental, and stands near the Old Furnace where Abraham Darby smelted iron to make the Iron Bridge. With the viaduct which carries the railway enclosing the site, it is a most romantic place.

We were a mixed bunch on the course, including local people who were valuable contributors, and we all enjoyed it. A painting course was running at the same time, and although we shared some lectures, many of their members were sorry not to be able to join our outings, either for the guided tour, or for the opportunity to paint canals and bottle-ovens. The staff at Wedgwood Memorial College plan to run a similar course next year when the painters too will be able to join the outings.

## THE SOCIETY

Chairman: John Richardson

Secretary: Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Rd N.W.3 (278 4444 ext 3002)

Treasurer: Helen Lefroy address as above

Editor of Publications: Michael Chambers (435 6817)

Editor of Newsletter: John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7 to whom all contributions should be sent

## Advance Notice

Jan 19th: Alastair Serice on Camden's Edwardian Architecture. 8.00pm at Burgh House

Feb 3rd: Norman Mackenzie on the First Fabians and Hampstead Historians, at 7.30pm Swiss Cottage Library

March (date and venue to come) Dr Janet Sondheimer on Westfield College

April (date and venue to come) Hugh Mellor on London's cemeteries.

## Essay Competition Results

The results of the Fifth Essay Competition are now available. The subject was Camden Schooldays.

First Prize (£10) Miss Muriel Grainger; her essay dealt with Miss Horton's (Tremarth) Rossllyn Hill and South Hampstead High School

Second Prizes (£5 each) Mrs Patricia Angadi (Frognaal School) and Michael Rubinstein (The Hall)

Third Prizes (£3 each) Miss Mary Elsy (Lymington House and Kingsley School, Belsize Pk) Mrs J. Maxwell (Rosary School (Bartrams Covert))

Runners up were Albert Moody (Wilkin Street Infants and Rhyl Street), A.W. Golding and family (four generations in 3 Holborn schools), and Mala Perera, a 16-year old schoolgirl of Kentish Town who transcribed the memories of Ann Clarke at Richard Cobden School

Most of the prize money was kindly donated by the Ham and High and the Owl Bookshop, Kentish Town.

The subject of the next competition is SHOPS AND SHOPPING. Entry forms will be available shortly from the CHS Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, at Swiss Cottage Library.

## HEAR! HEAR!

Sometimes it becomes fairly essential to open the windows of the various meeting places in which we hold our lectures. Thereupon the noise of traffic etc comes in and some speakers find it difficult to make themselves heard. Other speakers, including the editor of this Newsletter, are not very good at projecting their voices anyway and there are murmurs from the back of the hall. So, the Society is buying a neck microphone and amplifiers and we hope this problem will not occur again!

## BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Nov 20th. A new exhibition 'Images of Hampstead' - old prints from Camden's local history collection (until 9 Jan)

Nov 26th: Caroline Barron speaks on Dick Whittington (admission 50p at the door)