

newsletter

WITH INDEX

No. 75

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jan 1983

Camden Edwardian Architecture – our January talk

Wed, Jan 19th, 8pm
Burgh House

Edwardian architecture is now back in favour. Camden, in particular Hampstead, has some of the best examples. Our speaker is the architectural historian Alastair Service and this promises to be a very entertaining talk. Please note - Burgh House has a restricted seating capacity - first come, first seated!

The First Fabians and Hampstead Historians

Thurs, Feb 3rd, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library

For our February talk we have pleasure in welcoming Norman Mackenzie, formerly assistant editor of the New Statesman, now a professor at Sussex University; he lived once in Branch Hill. His subject is the early Fabian nucleus in Hampstead. An organisation called the Hampstead Historic Club met in the 1880s at Old Wyldes, North End - this was a Fabian study group and nothing to do with local history. Prof. Mackenzie, together with his wife Jeanne, recently published the Diaries of Beatrice Webb (1st volume) and they previously collaborated on a biography of H.G. Wells.

PROVIDENT CHAPELS

Mr K.A. Dæck is writing a thesis on William Huntington (1745-1813) and would appreciate information about his 'Provident Chapel', first in Little Titchfield Street and then Grays Inn Lane. He is particularly interested in information leading to extant chapel records. His address is 46 Dymock Street, S.W.6

Plans for the Bloomsbury Estate

Deirdre Le Faye has sent us an extract from the Lady's Magazine (or Entertaining Companion for The Fair Sex) for September 1800 which includes details of the laying out of the Duke of Bedford's Bloomsbury Estate. It will consist of (it records):

'A square of 700 feet which is considerably larger than any in London (except Lincoln's Inn Fields) called Russell Square. Another, somewhat larger than Bedford Square, between that and the New road, to be called Tavistock Square.

These squares are to be connected by three spacious streets, running north and south, and opening into Bloomsbury-square and Russell-street, where several houses, as well as in Russell-square, Southampton terrace, and in the new street adjoining the Museum-gardens, are already in great forwardness.

At the north end of these improvements, and adjoining to the New-road, a very handsome dressed nursery ground and plantations are already inclosed and laid out; and northward of these, a road 160 feet wide, in a direct line, is to be formed through the joint estates of the duke of Bedford and lord Southampton, from these buildings to the junction of the two London roads to Hampstead, saving the circuitous and unpleasant routes either of Tottenham-court-road, or Grays Inn-lane. This road is to be fully planted with avenues of timber-trees on each side, as on the continent, and houses separated from each other are to be erected on each side of it. There will be gates at the north extremity of the estate next the New-road, to prevent carts, drove cattle etc passing through it.

Mr Burton, who has carried on the buildings on the Foundling estate is the contractor for the greater part of these improvements.

Index to Nos. 1-75

Below is an index to numbers 1-75 of this Newsletter. It includes only items which might be useful in local history research - it does not include meetings of the Society or book reviews etc. The abbreviation 'ill' means illustration.

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newsletter

No. 76

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Mar 1983

The History of Westfield College

March 10th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library

Westfield College was one of the earliest women's colleges - it celebrated its centenary last year and there will be an exhibition on the subject at Burgh House in May. In the meantime Dr Janet Sondheimer, honorary archivist to the College is giving this talk as an appetizer. Incidentally we are trying (for this our thanks to Diana Wade) to introduce refreshments before our lectures so that members can meet and talk. So, please come early as many of you who would like to.

Subscriptions Due

Subscriptions for 1983 are now due and a renewal form is enclosed. It would help our Treasurer a lot if members were prompt with their renewals! There is no increase of subscription this year

Dibdin's House in Camden

A letter was recently received from Mr Gordon Flood of 246 Brecknock Road, N.19 whose mother was mentioned in the Society's publication 'A Camden Town Walk'. He is able to say where Charles Dibdin, the dramatist and songwriter, (1745-1814) lived in Camden Town - it was on the site of 34 Arlington Road in a house which once had a plaque commemorating his residence.

Dibdin, who was most famous for his sea-songs including 'Tom Bowling', led a financially precarious life. Indeed things were so bad in 1810 that a Mr Oakley of Tavistock Place arranged a public dinner in his honour and raised £640 to keep him for the rest of his years. It was just after this that he moved to Arlington Road. He was buried in St Martin's burial ground behind the almshouses in Camden Town and later the Kentish Town Music Society erected a monument to his memory. Mr Flood is concerned that the Dibdin tomb is collapsing and would welcome suggestions as to its renovation.

London's Cemeteries - our April Talk

Thurs. 14th April 7pm
Holborn Central Library
Theobalds Road, W.C.1

Last year Hugh Meller published a fascinating book on London's cemeteries - not just the fashionable ones such as Highgate or Kensal Green but the municipal grounds including those of Hampstead and St Pancras. We are reminded that the Fortune Green Cemetery which Hampstead opened in 1876 has some very bizarre graves such as the enormous headstone shaped like a church organ erected to the memory of Charles Barritt. Also in that graveyard are people like Gladys Cooper, Dennis Brain, Sebastian de Ferranti, Pamela Frankau, Kate Greenaway, Joseph Lister, Marie Lloyd, the Grand Duke Michael of Russia and Sir Tom O'Brien.

Mr Meller's talk on the subject promises to be very entertaining. Please note that at Holborn Library we start half an hour earlier than usual.

Advance Notice

May 12th 7pm, Holborn Library. The History of the postal services by Jean Farrugia

June 14th (time to be announced) Annual General Meeting at the YWCA in Great Russell Street with a talk on the history of the YMCA and YWCA movement

BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Two events at Burgh House will interest members. The first is an exhibition of paintings by Bryan Senior depicting Hampstead in the last 25 years. This begins on March 4th and will go through to the end of April.

On March 7th there is a 'Very 20s Evening' a words and music show from Bitter Sweet to the Black Bottom at the very reasonable price of £3 including wine and refreshments. Proceeds go to the fund to put wheels on the old chimney-sweep's cart recently donated to the museum.

The Wardes of Regent's Park Road

Anthony Cooper writes:

One Sunday last October, my son-in-law, who now lives in 68 Regent's Park Road, noticed three ladies looking at the house with interest. They told him they were sisters, and great-great-granddaughters of a Mrs Sarah Warde who had lived in the house in mid-Victorian times.

Sarah Warde, a widow, was in fact the first occupant of the house, which was successively 2 Chalcot Road, 2 Queens Road West, and finally 68 Regent's Park Road in the renumbering of 1865. The rate books show it as empty in March 1849 and occupied by Mrs Ambrose Ward in September that year. In the 1851 census Sarah Ward (she was rarely given her final 'e') aged 58 was living in the house with two daughters of 29 and 16 and a son of 20, also a maidservant and a cook. The elder son, Ambrose John, was in the west country travelling as a junior partner for his father's firm of Gale, Baker, Warde and Oldfield, wholesale chemists of Bouverie Street. In Cornwall he met Anna Maria Brougham who was born in Falmouth, and they were married in 1855 when he was 35 and she was 19.

Anna Maria in 1896 left a short account of her life in a family album of which this is an extract:

'After our marriage I travelled for a time with him in the West of England, driving most comfortably in his own Mail Phaeton with a good horse & I learnt to drive, which I enjoyed - We went to good Hotels & I saw some lovely country and good Churches & Cathedrals.

We stayed most of that winter in London at your Grandmother's, 68 Regent's Park Road N.W. Mrs Warde was very kind to me - We had to make some return for many invitations so gave our first dinner party from her house & I had to take her place at the table.

In the Spring we took a furnished house in the village of ST Mary Church, Torquay.... In the following May we went to London for the final settlement in leaving Bouverie Street... At Michaelmas of 1859 we went to London with 3 children and two servants & stayed at Mrs Warde's till the end of October when we commenced our life in Yalding at the Downs House.'

Sarah Warde was evidently a nice mother-in-law. She died at her home in 1872. One of her daughters, Cordelia Margaret, married William O'Key Lamond, possibly in St Mark's church (Sarah had contributed something over £12 to its building fund in the early 1850s: her daughter's marriage here remains to be checked), and in 1873 Mrs Lamond appears at 68 Regent's Park Road, probably caretaking while the sale of the house was being arranged.

I am grateful to Mrs Jean Walker, one of the Warde sisters, for the information from her family archives, and I share her wonder how the young Ambrose Warden with three children and two servants fitted into the house in 1859 as well as the usual residents. I lived in the house for 33 years: the rooms are large but there are not very many.

JAPANESE LINKS

Bowen Aylmer-Pearse, a member of the staff of the Local History Dept at Swiss Cottage, is preparing a compendium of British/Japanese links, which the British Travel Authority is hoping to publish as a full colour guide in time for British Heritage Year 1984. He is particularly interested in local historical ties - of people, residences, sites, collections, and any instances of co-operation, scholarship, or contribution from either side to the other.

Please drop him a line at Swiss Cottage or telephone him on 278 4444 x3007

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting is in June and you are invited to nominate for the officers and council. The present members are as follows:

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: Michael Chambers
Archivist: Malcolm Holmes

Meetings Secretary: Horace Shooter

Council Members: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Roger Cline, Richard Conquest, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, John Lawson, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Christopher Wade, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

The Society is now affiliated to the Hampstead and N.W. London branch of the Historical Association. You may like to know that on May 14th (Saturday) they are visiting the Charterhouse in Charterhouse Square at 11am. Anyone who wishes to go should contact Joyce Wheatley at 177 Hampstead Way, N.W.11 (455 2820).

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

D. Binns, Mrs E.G. Cline, J. Collie, Mr and Mrs H Engler, Mrs B. Grafton Green, Mrs G. Harrington, Mr and Mrs G. Leigh, Ms J. Mack, G. McKee, Mrs M Walkin, Miss M Peretz, Ms A. Rushton

A Matter of Convenience

The provision of public conveniences does not, it has to be said, feature in the usual local histories. However, they are of some importance, even if left largely unsaid, and the information in the old records of St Pancras Vestry is worth summarising.

St Pancras, at least the southern part of it, had a pub on almost every corner in the 1850s. To some of these pubs were attached unsavoury urinals and there were many, quite justified, complaints about them from neighbours. The main problem was that they did not have a supply of running water and the cleaning was very rudimentary. Many publicans just gave up providing them - and there was no legislation to force them to maintain sanitary facilities; until the Metropolitan Local Management Act of 1855 the vestries were not organised to provide them either.

In 1860 St Pancras Vestry was approached by a Frenchman called Woolff who was prepared to join with the Vestry in the provision of iron urinals built on the 'Macfarlane Patent Principle' if he had the advertising rights inside. The Vestry did not care to have their conveniences 'defaced' with advertisements and decided instead to go it alone with a scheme for twelve iron structures, above ground. They did not think it necessary to have running water and in this way, with daily cleaning instead, they reckoned they would cost only 10/- per annum to keep watered. Unsurprisingly the neighbours again complained but the scheme went ahead with some modifications and at least twelve were built costing between £15 and £25. It was reported at the time that St Marylebone had seven in existence, Islington six and St Giles three, so St Pancras Vestry was not a pioneer in the business.

These facilities were for men only and it was a long time before women were considered. A committee in 1874 recommended that there should be provision for women and quoted medical opinion in support. The Vestry decided to build a convenience for women as an annexe to 147 Hampstead Road and the lease of the house was bought. However the freeholder objected and the Vestry abandoned the scheme.

In 1878 the Ladies Sanitary Association urged the Vestry to consider the matter again but it was not until 1880 that the subject came up again. A Mr Alfred Watkyns of Paris (it is interesting that the suggestions came from France

albeit from people with English names!) applied for a lease to erect for both sexes 'chalets de toilette et de necessite', 20' long and 12' wide with accommodation at both ends and in the centre, facing the outside world, a newspaper 'kiosque' and a stand for a shoe-black. The Highways Committee recommended an experiment at the unlikely site of the junction of Gloucester Avenue and Oval Road to the wrath of Mr Pennington of Park House nearby. If the chalet were a pecuniary success, he warned, 'it would have a tendency to diminish that innate sense of modesty so much admired in our countrywomen.' The Vestry agreed with him and dropped the plan.

The Chalet Company were persistent though. In 1882 they invited the Vestry to inspect their chalet in the Whitechapel Road and although the Highways Committee were favourably disposed the Vestry again refused. The Company tried again next year and this time obtained permission to put up a building in Camden High Street opposite the Britannia pub. They were also allowed the advertising rights. It was the advertising which caused the next discussion in the Vestry. The Chief Surveyor objected to advertisements being displayed for the National Secular Society which he thought 'controversial in nature'. The secretary of the local society accused the Surveyor of acting with 'motives of secular intolerance and trying to suppress the promulgation of opinions opposed to his personal dogmas'. The Vestry supported the Surveyor and refused even to countenance the Society's later proposal just to advertise the speakers' names and not the title of the lectures.

The chalet at Camden Town was not a financial success and closed after a few years. Its site was used by the Vestry for the borough's first underground convenience in 1889. Thereafter the old street-level urinals were gradually removed and the later, more decorative underground structures were built.

John Richardson

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society and is edited by John Richardson of 32 Ellington St, 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 Michael Chambers, 20 Christchurch Hill, NW3 (435 6817)



'A 1926 photograph of Weirs Passage, off Chalton Street, Somers Town. (From the GLC Photographic Library)

newsletter

No. 77

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 1983

The Post Office – our May talk

Thurs, May 12th, 7pm
Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, W.C.1

The Post Office excites a variety of reactions today. However, it has had a chequered and fascinating history and it is this which is the subject of our May talk. Jean Ferrugia, the archivist to the Post Office, is our speaker.

Charles Dibdin and Mr Heseltine

Reference to the condition of the grave of Charles Dibdin in St Martins burial ground in Camden Town, in our last issue and a subsequent mention in the Peterborough column of the Daily Telegraph has prompted a letter from his great great great grandson Michael Dibdin. He asks if there are any funds available for restoration work and mentions that there is an 'interested party' in Mrs Thatcher's cabinet. One of Charles' great grand daughters married a Heseltine, and of her great grandsons is Michael. He was sufficiently interested in his ancestor to seek out a copy of his seasons to present to the library of No 10.

Members with the best suggestions for a scenario at No 10 involving the use of this volume will be rewarded with a copy of Mr Heseltine's latest speech.

Nick Bailey informs us that before Dibdin lived in Camden Town he was at 30 Charlotte Street

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER

Members should note that the telephone number of our Secretary and the Local History Library at Swiss Cottage has changed. It is now 586 5989 - you now just dial that number and ask for whoever you are after.

The Annual General Meeting

Tues, 14th June, 6.30pm
YWCA, 16 Great Russell St, W.C.1

The Annual General Meeting of the Society is this year to be held at the Young Women's Christian Association Building at 16 Great Russell Street. The business meeting begins at 6.30, there will be refreshments at 7.00 and Geoffrey Palmer of the YMCA will give a talk entitled 'Russells and Revolutionaries: the southern tip of Camden' at 7.30pm. Refreshments are free although members will be asked to pay for wine if they have any.

Advance Notice

Members are reminded that the Annual Outing to various parts of Essex is on August 6th. A booking form is enclosed with the newsletter.

Subscriptions Due

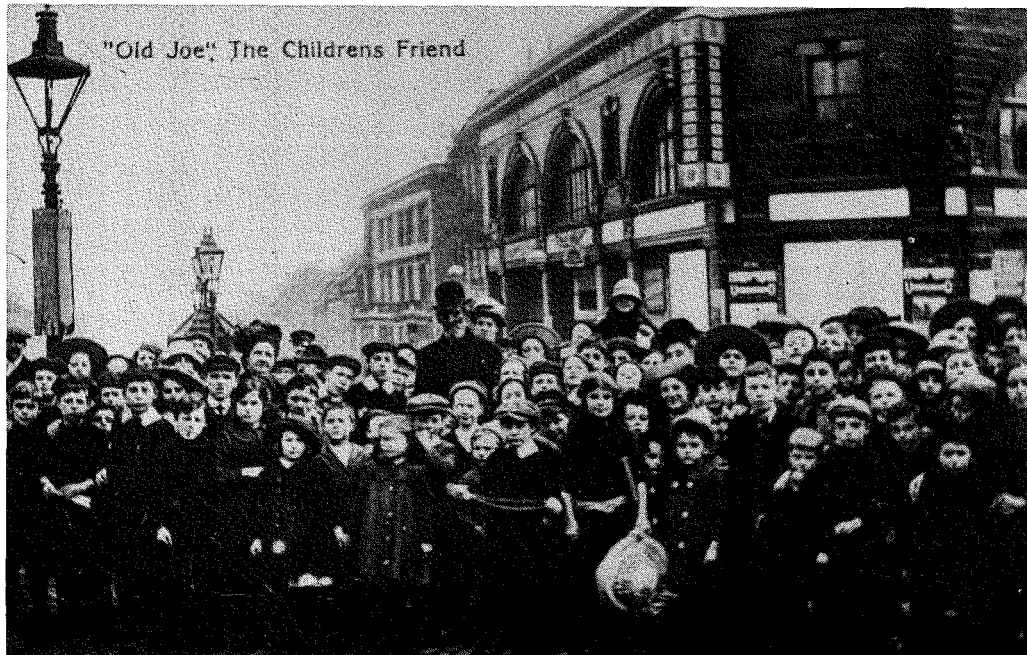
Some members are once again reminded that their subscriptions have not been received. A renewal form was enclosed with the last Newsletter. This is the final reminder and those who have not paid soon will not receive the July Newsletter.

SELOUS STREET CONTROVERSY

Camden Council has recently proposed that Selous Street in Camden Town be renamed Mandela Street after the anti-Apartheid activist. The Council says that it is inappropriate that the street should remain named after Selous, one of Cecil Rhodes' assistants in the carving-up of colonial Africa. However, as Charles Lee points out, the Council's premise is inaccurate. Selous Street was so named in January 1938 after Henry Courtney Selous a painter who exhibited at the Royal Academy and who lived in Bayham Street. The GLC confirm this from their records. Selous (1801-90) was of Huguenot stock and changed his name from Slous to Selous in 1834.

Conveniences (continued)

Gordon Flood, who began the correspondence on Charles Dibdin has come up with a picture relevant to another topic in the last Newsletter - namely, public conveniences. The illustration shows one in the background, although it has to be said that it belongs to Islington rather than St Pancras. 'Old Joe, The Children's Friend' presumably refers to the tall man in the centre of the picture and not to the convenience, but what is the object being carried by one of the children in the foreground? Mr Flood tells us that the convenience was taken down in the 1940s.



'Orrible' Appenings

Deirdre Le Faye has been combing through the Lady's Magazine and has come up with some local calamities and awful happenings. Those with a nervous disposition should not read further!

In the August 1806 issue:

'On Thursday last the wife of a labouring man in Hampstead stepped out for some trifling articles, leaving a fine child, about three months old, in the cradle. On her return (which was not more than three minutes), she found a ferret, which her husband kept, in the cradle, fastened to the child's throat, glutting itself with its blood. In her frenzy she seized the ferret by the middle, and, with force, dragged him from his hold and dashed him against the floor; then she took up her bleeding babe in her arms, when the ferret made at her to seize the child again. For her own preservation, she was forced to run out, being followed by the ferret. Her screams brought some of her neighbours to her

assistance, who killed the ferret. The child died in a very few minutes, after having bled to death.

In July 1808:

Yesterday a man was brought before Mr Graham, charged on suspicion of having cut a young woman's throat in the neighbourhood of Hampstead on Tuesday evening. The ground of suspicion is extremely slight; it is as follows - The man had been at work on Tuesday as a haymaker for the earl of Mansfield; between eight and nine o'clock in the evening, he was observed by three men sitting on a bank in a lane by the side of a young woman; on their approach he called to them for assistance; when they came up, they found the young woman's throat was cut, and blood was flowing very fresh from the wound; they went in search of a surgeon; while they were gone, two men, who had been at work with the prisoner in the course of the day for the earl of Mansfield, passed by, and they assisted the prisoner in conveying the young woman to the nearest public house, where Mr Snow, a surgeon, soon arrived, who examined the wound, dressed it, and pro-

nounced it not dangerous, the windpipe not being cut through, and but little doubt of her surviving. The young woman remained insensible, and not able to tell how she came by the wound; and the prisoner having been seen with her under suspicious circumstances, he was taken into custody. She is a servant in a family at Hampstead.

From June 1808:

'A few days since as one of the men in the employ of Mr Rhodes, the cow-keeper, was going to attend the cows in a field at the back of the Queens-head and Artichoke public house, leading to Camden Town, he found a man genteely dressed, who appeared to have been shot; he made the circumstance known, and the body was in a short time after owned by the disconsolate widow of the deceased. He proved to be a Mr Jacobs of Pratt Street, Camden Town, who had retired there from business in London with sufficient property to live upon. He left his home in the afternoon to visit Mr Moss, who resides at Cumberland place, Lisson-green, and received some money. When he left Mr Moss, he said that he was going to Salisbury-place where he stopped to see some persons play at skittles till a late hour. About half past eleven the landlord of the Queens-head and Artichoke public house heard the report of a pistol and the cry of "Murder!" at which time it is supposed that Mr Jacobs was attacked by some robber or robbers, and he being a resolute man had resisted their attack. In corroboration of this, the stick that he had with him was found with some large marks upon it, as if it had given some violent blows. His watch is stolen, and it is supposed that he had bank notes about him to the amount of 100L of which it is conjectured the villains had by some means got information. Yesterday morning a surgeon opened the body and found that a large bullet had entered the left side.

From March 1807:

Yesterday morning, about half past four o'clock, a dreadful fire broke out at the manufactory of Messrs Clementi and Co, Tottenham court-road; ... in a few minutes the flames issued from every part of the premises... About half past six a number of engines had arrived; but no water could be procured till nearly half-past seven, by which time the whole interior was a heap of ruins, and the flames were issuing from the front of the building: the houses on each side, composing a part of the manufactory, and occupied by several families were entirely consumed, with the whole of the furniture... The damage is at present estimated at 40,000L about 15,000L of which only is insured.

More bizarrely, we have been sent a cutting from an unidentified journal of October 1853:

'At the Westminster police court, a quiet-looking, elderly woman solicited the magistrate's assistance under the following circumstances: Applicant complained that her daughter, a girl of 17, had gone through the ceremony of marriage without being blessed with a husband. It was of course, at the time of the nuptials, supposed that she was being united to one of the other sex, and they went to York to spend the honeymoon; but her daughter, to her great surprise, discovered that she had been married to a woman in male attire, and the mother of three children. Mr Broderip observed that there was such a case as this in the books (legal reports), and inquired where the marriage took place. Applicant replied at Highgate Church. Mr Broderip referred her to the magistrate of that district. Applicant, before leaving court, made the following extraordinary statement in the waiting-room. That the pseudo husband was first introduced to her in female attire, under the name of Mrs Panton, but after an intimacy of some months suddenly appeared in the costume of a gentleman, announcing himself as Mr Albert Guelph, and declaring that he was issue of George IV and Queen Caroline; but that from certain reasons his existence had hitherto been kept a profound secret, and that his love for her fair daughter had wrung it from his heart, and induced him to appear in the becoming habiliments of his own sex, in lieu of the feminine attire he had been disguised in for years, by directions of a very benign lady, who met him periodically in Park-lane, and supplied him with cash ad libitum. As he dressed very fashionably, and always had plenty of money, applicant, believing the story, consented to their nuptials, particularly as the soi-disant Mrs Panton and her daughter had upon the occasion of little visits slept together before; and so Miss Robins changed her name for Mrs Guelph, on the 12th September 1852, by licence, at Highgate Church, but, alas, soon discovered that Mrs Panton was but a woman after all, although endeavours were made for a considerable time to induce a contrary notion.



Woburn Buildings, off Woburn Place in 1922
From the GLC Photographic Library

newsletter

No. 78

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

July 1983

Playing Cards in Camden Town

Wed, 13th July, 7.30pm
St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street, NW1

Our July talk is about a local firm - the Goodall factory in Camden Town which manufactured, amongst other things, very handsome playing cards from the 19th century. A descendant of the family concern is Michael Goodall; one of our members who has been researching the family business for some time and his talk will have much to interest members.

The Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on June 14th at the YWCA, 16 Great Russell Street and it was entertained by a talk by Geoffrey Palmer, amply illustrated, of the various rebels or revolutionaries associated with Bloomsbury. In the business meeting Christopher Wade was presented with the Times Comprehensive Atlas of the World to mark his retirement as editor of the Society's publications, a post he had held for over ten years.

Officers and Council were elected as follows:

President: Charles Lee
Vice-Presidents: R. Michael Robbins, Dr Ann Saunders, Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper

Chairman: John Richardson
Vice-Chairman: Christopher Wade
Secretary: Jane Ramsay
Treasurer: Helen Lefroy
Publications Editor: Michael Chambers
Meetings Secretary: Horace Shooter
Archivist: Malcolm Holmes

Council: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Roger Cline, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Cherry Lavell, Deirdre Le Faye, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

Auditor: Peter Russell

Outing to Essex

At the time of writing the Annual Outing still had two or three places to fill although these may have now gone. However if a member has a last-minute wish to go on this exploration of various Essex historical towns and villages it might be worth ringing Tina Gee at the Keats House Museum.

Advance Notice

Please put in your diary the following events:

20 Sept, 7.30pm at Swiss Cottage Library.
'Marylebone Pleasure Gardens' by Mollie Sands

13th Oct, 7.30pm, at Swiss Cottage Library.
Victorian Churches in Camden by Brian Fairfax

8th Nov, 7pm, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road. Samuel Pepys by Rosemary Weinstein

8th Dec, Burgh House. Christmas party and a talk on Linnell

JOANNA BAILLIE

The East Kilbride History Society is holding an exhibition in September on local history. It will include a display on Joanna Baillie who lived there at Long Calderwood for seven or eight years. They would like to gather together any visual material which pertains to her years in Hampstead - postcards for example of her residence. If any members feel they can help please contact the chairman, J.E. Allan at 94 Franklin Drive, Westwood, East Kilbride G75 8LS

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:
Primrose Hill Infants' School, R. Brien, Miss C. Cooper, Miss B. Crispin, Mrs M. Durant, Miss J. Elbourne, M.H. Goodall, P.J. Hawkins, N. Hewitt, Mrs D. Jones, Ms P. Levis, L. Seifert, Alistair Service.

Hampstead and the Music Hall

Hampstead had great links with the music-hall and many of its stars appeared at the nearby Golders Green Hippodrome.

Marie Lloyd, perhaps the most famous music-hall star of them all and who died in 1922, is buried in Hampstead Cemetery, Fortune Green Road. Her home in Golders Green was a meeting-place for many of the music-hall stars of her day. An interesting fact is that the Music Hall Strike at the beginning of the 20th century had its first meeting at the home of Marie Lloyd and her husband, the coster singer, Alec Hurley, where she spoke for improved conditions for music-hall stars less well-off than herself. She was a great humanitarian and contributed greatly to the Strike Fund. Conditions were very bad for the artistes when they often had to cover three theatres in an evening.

Kate Gurney, the embodiment of the true London cockney, adored Hampstead Heath and was the 'Old Dutch' that Albert Chevalier, the coster-singer and one of the stars of the early 1890s, immortalised in song. In his day Chevalier was known as the 'Coster's Laureate' as he had been comparatively well-educated. Not only did he sing but he wrote music and lyrics of many of his songs, including 'Oh, 'Ampstead!', and he gave recitals at the Queens Hall towards the end of his career.

Dainty Gertie Gitana, often wore Spanish gipsy dresses which she had worn at the outset of her career and which had given her the idea for her stage name. She popularised the song 'Nellie Dean' which made her rich and enabled her to buy her Hampstead home which she called 'Neldean'.

Nellie Wallace, a panto dame, was billed as the 'Essence of Eccentricity' and sang a famous song about Hampstead Heath 'The Blasted Oakand I can't find the blasted oak'.

Harry Champion, yet another music-hall star, often sang Harry Becket's song 'Hampstead on Holiday'. Paunchy, red-nosed and his waistcoat a bit the worse for stains and cigar ash, he would amble on to the stage and sing - 'Now, twenty Christmasses ago the landlord of the Star said, "Here's a Christmas box for you, a ninepenny cigar". With the end of my old cigar - Hoo-rah hoo-rah! hoorah! I stroll up Piccadilly and they fancy I'm the Shah'. He also sang 'The Cockney's Riviera' with its apt words:

'The rich go to Monte Carlo,
Or spend their week-ends by the sea;
But I'll stick to good old Hampstead,
The Cockney's Riviera for me!'

This was written by W.H. Maslem and composed by Albert Daly and was first sung at the Old Bull and Bush on Whit Monday 1908 when 120 copies were sold to the audience at 2d a copy.

Incidentally, the Victorian songs of the music-hall are kept alive today by the Parlour Quartet who are based in Hampstead.

Georgina Potter

Oral History Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to help record and transcribe the interesting memories of the elderly patients at New End Hospital. Many of the patients have lived and worked locally for most of their lives and have fascinating accounts of life in earlier days - the local shops and shopkeepers, prices, music halls, trams and other transport etc.

The volunteers will be able to use old photographs, old advertisements and once familiar every day objects during their talks to patients as aids to prompt memories. Tape recorders will be used from much of the work and the tapes, or transcripts will be made available to anyone else interested. Many of the recollections gathered in this way will certainly not be available in any other form and will therefore be an invaluable record for local historians.

The project is being run jointly by New End Hospital and Camden's Local History Library staff at Swiss Cottage Library. Volunteers are asked to contact Una Gay at New End Hospital, 435 7131 or Malcolm Holmes, Swiss Cottage Library, on 586 5989.

Book Review

Living with the past: the historic environment by David Baker, privately published (3 Oldway, Bletsoe, Bedford MK44 1QG, at £8.95 paperback, £12.50 hardback, both prices including postage.

How can we best treat our dwindling stock of ancient buildings and buried archaeological sites so that they can provide a reservoir of knowledge of our ancient roots while not getting in the way of the business of modern life? That is the question principally addressed by the author of this book, who is Principal Conservation Officer for Bedfordshire, and who vividly brings out the dilemmas that face the local authority's archaeological planner. Such a person cannot possibly take a sentimental view of the past and urge the rescue of every little old cottage; he has to make a reasoned assess-

ment of what ought to be kept for future generations to enjoy and what, reluctantly, we can only keep as a record on paper. These issues are tackled in a very detailed, balanced and all-embracing way by David Baker.

I do have to declare an interest in this book, for I was in virtually at its conception and have offered bits and pieces of assistance to the author over the years it took to write it. That being said, my question must be: has the book come out the way I hoped it would? In many ways it is very much better than my own limited experience could have imagined: the author has done a magnificent job of assembling a very large amount of material and apply his quite formidable intellect to it. The book is full of well-chosen illustrations, both photographic and verbal, of the awful things our society has done and is doing to the material relics of the past. He details the kind of pressures put on historic buildings - traffic, mannerless new buildings overtopping them, the erosive action of visitors wearing out the things they come to admire (as at the Tower of London), the depredations of treasure hunters with their ever more refined electronic gadgetry, as well as the natural forces of weather and time. Mr Baker explains exactly how society in general, as well as academic researchers, can obtain benefit from the 'historic environment', as the planners' shorthand has it. He explains the complex organisation and legislation that protects (or too often fails to protect) ancient buildings and monuments; here, as at some other points in the book, the detail may be a little overwhelming and most readers will want to do some judicious skipping. The quantity of detail supplied, and the rather spiky prose, do not make for the easiest of Sunday afternoon reads.

Even so I hope many CHS members will take the trouble to read this book, whether or not they buy a copy for themselves. It contains so much of absorbing interest, for instance a potted history of how Renaissance interest in Roman things gradually developed into the modern enthusiasm for recommissioning old railway engines and cleaning choked canals, and the formation of innumerable pressure groups concerned to save historic buildings and monuments. Mr Baker also exposes the tortuous system by which historic churches (for instance) will pay more VAT in a year than they receive from the repair grants which government has only recently extended to them. And there is an electrifying photograph of a 16th century timber-framed house mounted on rollers for its half-mile journey to

escape an insalubrious environment which had encroached on it. Please do look at this book, for whether your interests are architectural or archaeological (or even sociological) you will find much in it to enlighten you.

Cherry Lavell

Selous Street

The matter of the proposed change-of-name for Selous Street in Camden Town continues (see previous issue of the Newsletter). Camden Council has confirmed that they appreciate that the Selous commemorated in the street name is not the one who would cause embarrassment to the Anti-Apartheid Movement who are to take up premises in the street, but their point is that the name is sufficiently unusual for it to be thought that the Movement were in a street named after the Rhodesian Selous.

The CHS Council recognise the point of view of those who want to change the name but in principle are opposed to the practice of re-writing history by the change of street names - and indeed in this case unjustifiably so. There are plenty of streets in the Borough which are named after people who would now be considered undesirable. Even if it was thought that this particular case warranted an exception your Council are opposed to the renaming of the street 'Mandela Street' as Nelson Mandela has no historical connection with Camden. We opposed the practice of Camden Council of naming council estates after places, say, in the Lake District, because we feel that names of houses and streets etc should derive from a topographical or residential source. Camden now has a different approach to naming blocks.

In the meantime Anthony Cooper has supplied more information about Henry Selous - the artist after whom the street is named.

'Henry Courtney Selous lived at several addresses in what is now Camden. According to Algemon Graves, he exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1818 from 2 Panton Street (the only non-Camden address), from 10 Bayham Street in 1819 and 1828, Wentworth Place, Downshire Hill, in 1838, 5 Camden Street in 1839, 41 Gloucester Road (the present Gloucester Avenue) in 1850, and 28 Gloucester Road in 1885, which is the same house renumbered.

Wentworth Place is Keats House and Selous was here according to the rate books from

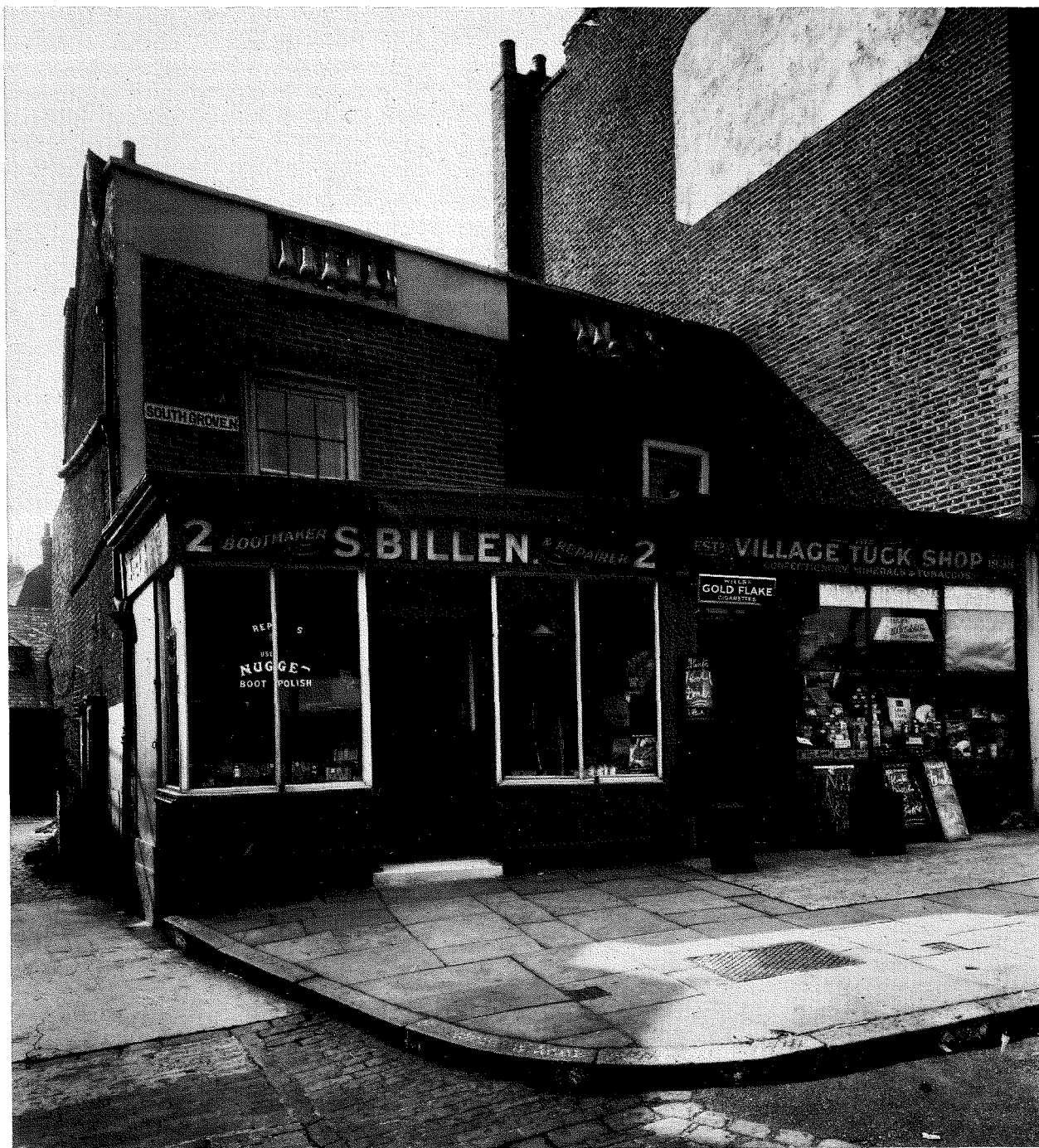
September 1835 to December 1838, in the Dilke/Brawne side of the building.

There is some disagreement over the date of his birth, but if he gave his correct age in the censuses of 1851 and 61 he was born in 1805 or late 1804, so he first exhibited at the Royal Academy in his teens. Those who know his large picture of Queen Victoria opening the Great Exhibition of 1851, which hangs in the Victorian Furniture Gallery at the Victoria and Albert Museum, may have noticed the exotically dressed Chinese in the foreground who got in by mistake. He was thought to be at least an ambassador but turned out to be 'the Chinaman Hee Sing who happened to be present on the occasion' according to the picture's key.

It would be a great pity if Henry Courtney Selous, an artist with so many Camden connections, were to lose the name of his street through a misunderstanding.'

THE BOOKSTALL AT MEETINGS

We are looking for volunteers to run the Bookstall at meetings held at Swiss Cottage and Holborn libraries. The books will be stored at the libraries, so all the volunteers are required to do is to arrive about 20 minutes before the meeting, and be prepared to stay for a few minutes afterwards. If you could help, please telephone Michael Chambers on 435 6817 or Roger Cline on 722 6421.



Nos 2 and 3 South Grove, Highgate in 1945, one of the many pictures of Highgate featured in John Richardson's new comprehensive history of the Village which will be published in October.

newsletter

No 79

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

SEP 1983

The Marylebone Pleasure Gardens – our September talk

Tuesday, September 20th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3

For our September talk we have a lecture on a subject outside our borough for a change. Ironically, the celebrated Marylebone Gardens first became a place of public entertainment under the puritanical Commonwealth, but it was not until the 18th century that they achieved the sort of fame associated with Vauxhall and Ranelagh Gardens. Their subsequent history is a colourful one and we look forward to this talk.

Victorian Churches in Camden

Thursday, October 13th, 7.30pm
Swiss Cottage Library, N.W.3.

The church building programme of the Victorian era was dramatic. Sometimes developers built a church as an attraction and only then built most of the rest of the housing estate around it. Sometimes the area was built before the energies of the residents brought a church into being. Whatever the chronology there is no denying that an enormous number of churches was built at the height of the church-going boom and many of them, of course, are now empty, demolished, converted, or relatively unused.

Camden has a good collection of Victorian churches, some of distinction. Mr Fairfax has made a special study of them and his talk will be of great interest to Camden residents.

NEW MEMBERS

New members include:

Mr and Mrs W. Aylmer-Pearse, Ms A.E. Buxton, R.J. Gamble, Mrs L. Hulse, Miss L. Lemert, G. Lowe, Mrs M. Morcom, B. Morgan, Miss P. Smith, Mrs A. Swain, Miss P Taylor, S. Taylor, Mrs K. Tillotson, Mrs L. Wallhead.

Advance Notice

Meetings to put in your diary:

8 Nov, 7pm, Holborn Central Library
Samuel Pepys and Camden, by Rosemary Weinstein

8 Dec, 7pm, Burgh House, Hampstead.
John Linnell by Dr Peter Brandon followed by a Christmas party

28 Jan, 2.30pm. Visit to St John of Jerusalem at Clerkenwell

9 Feb, 7pm, Holborn Central Library
Scrope Davies by T.A. Burnett

A Free Book!

In 1979 the Diamond Trading Company published a history of St Andrew's Holborn - the first such book. They had commissioned the distinguished historian Caroline Barron to write it, and what emerged was a lavish 144pp book, splendidly researched, designed and printed. It was not sold to the public but only given away by the Company as a private publication. Some months back the Society wrote to the Diamond Trading Company to ask if we might republish the work as there was a lack of a publication on that area of Camden to sell. What we received instead was a handsome gift from the Company of about 150 copies which we are not allowed to sell but are permitted to dispose of in furtherance of the aims and well-being of the Society. We would like to express our appreciation of this gift.

It is a publication much admired by historians and, of course in the circumstances, very scarce. We are therefore offering a free copy to any member who purchases CHS publications over the value of £5 or who introduces a new member to the Society. This offer holds while stocks last. Enquiries as to publications should go to Roger Cline at 34 Kingstown Street, N.W.1. New members should be introduced via our Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

Publications People wanted

Michael Chambers is having to resign, unfortunately, as our editor of Publications due to pressure of outside commitments. He will, however, see through the next edition of the Camden History Review.

Your Council is to experiment in dividing up the responsibilities of the editor so that more people are involved in publications. We would like to hear from members who are interested in the mechanical and editorial aspects. If you feel you can help and would enjoy, say, typing, design, editorial, proof-reading etc please get in touch as we have in mind allocating, perhaps, different projects to different groups of people. From this we hope that sufficient people will emerge to form eventually a publications committee.

Please get in touch with our Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3

THE END OF ONE STORY

When St Pancras Borough Council came to an end in 1965 a commemorative booklet was published which traced the highlights of the history of that Council and the happenings in the borough. About 40 mint copies of this 64pp book have recently been donated to the Society for sale to members. They may be obtained at the Society's bookstall at meetings, price £1.

OTHER SOCIETIES

The Hornsey Historical Society are offering as their Christmas card this year a Chatelaine view of Highgate School and the High Street, 1750. It is printed in sepia with a gold border with Christmas greetings inside and an explanatory note on the illustration. This may be obtained for 20p each or £1.90 for 10, with envelopes from the Sales Manager, Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N.8. Add 25p extra for postage for 10 cards and a further 18p for each extra pack of 10.

On October 12th the talk at the Society is 'Fifteen Miles of the Great North Road' by Dr Arnold Lynch. It is at Hornsey Central Library, Haringey Park, Crouch End. at 8pm. On November 9th at the same venue the talk is on Alexandra Park Theatre.

On October 25th the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution will be having a talk on the history of Coutts Bank by its archivist Veronica Stokes. This starts at 8.15pm.

THE LAMAS CONFERENCE

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are to hold their Local History Conference on 19th November. The papers to be delivered are:

'London in the Blitz 1940-41' by Dr C. Wood, Dept of Sound Records, Imperial War Museum.

'Deptford Dockyard and Victualling Yard' by Mr C.W. Harrison

'London's Barracks: Restoration to Reform' by Mr A.M. Glass

'London in the Civil War' by Rosemary Weinstein

The conference begins at 11.30 and finishes at 5.30. The cost, including tea, is £2. Admission is by ticket only and this may be obtained from H.E. Robins, 3 Cameron House, Highland Road, Bromley, Kent.

THE CROSSROADS CLUB

We have received the following letter from Mrs Patricia Lander:

'Could anyone please tell me anything about the 'Crossroads Club'? I understand the Club was in existence at 88 and 90 Alexandra Road from 1920 until 1940 and was a home for married or unmarried pregnant working girls, without their own parents, who needed 'mothering' and support and advice in caring for their babies. I would like to hear from anyone who knows which charitable body ran the club and also from anyone who was personally involved with the running of the Club.'

Mrs Lander's address is Orchard Cottage, Teston Road, Offham, West Malling, Kent.

WRITING LOCAL HISTORY

Members may be interested to know of a one-day course entitled 'Writing Local History' under the auspices of the University of Oxford. It is on Saturday, November 26th at Bulmershe College, Woodlands Avenue, Earley, Reading and the course tutor will be David Dymond, formerly editor of The Local Historian and whose published works include 'Writing Local History: a Practical Guide'.

The fee for the course is £6 including coffee, lunch and tea (with a reduced rate of £4.40 for retired pensioners). Please apply to The Tutor in Charge, Woodley Hill House (Bracknell College), Eastcourt Avenue, Earley, Nr Reading. (Reading 61621)

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3. It is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N.7 to whom contributions should be sent.

Music of the Heath

Hampstead Heath has through history been a place where music can be heard; rustics danced jigs and other country dances to the accompaniment of pipes and fiddles and often a lone shepherd could be heard playing his pipe. Strolling players wandered round the Heath and nearby streets with such instruments as cornet, euphonium, accordion and banjo. Hampstead Square, in particular, seemed to attract these characters and as late as 1931 a local resident complained of their nuisance.

The Hampstead fair has always been full of life and music, especially from the mechanical roundabouts, waltzers and other rides. The rides are more modern now but the music has a familiar sound.

Musicians and performers of various kinds were attracted to the fair and so were sellers of poems and tunes. Morris dancers with blackened faces and bells on their ankles led by a character on a hobby-horse, appeared. There was a fool and a sword dancer, accompanied by music from a pipe and tabor. Also recorded are Spanish and clog dancers. In addition to the advent of the Fair up until the 1st World War annual carnivals with bands were held on the Heath and a German band toured the streets.

The Heath has also been portrayed by composers. One of the earliest to do so was the 17th century John Playford who was unusual in that he was also a music publisher and a bookseller. His first musical publication 'The English Dancing Master' is dated 1651 and 'Hampstead Heath', an old English country jig, for recorder and pianoforte accompaniment, is included and is still in print today.

'The Belsize Ballad' was another composition, sung to the tune 'Ye Beaux of Pleasure' c1722. Abiell Whichello, an 18th century, composer, had a ballad published called 'Hampstead'.

In the 18th century singer Nancy Dawson retired to a Hampstead villa. She had made a fortune and become an overnight success in 'The Beggar's Opera' in 1759 taking over when he became ill - from the man who danced the hornpipe:

'Her easy mien, her shape so neat,
She foots, she trips, she looks so sweet,
Her every motion's so complete,
I die for Nancy Dawson.'

She was commemorated in now-demolished Dawson Terrace. Her villa, and Moll King's three houses, appear in Hogarth's picture 'The March to Finchley'.

Musicians used to play in the park and gardens of Belsize House. After a while it became disreputable and provided some of the material for 'The Beggar's Opera'. With its libretto by Hampstead resident John Gay and music of popular Irish, Scottish and English tunes of the day, including a few operatic melodies, it was the first ballad opera to be produced in England; and a different kind of opera in that it needed to be performed either by singers who had to speak or actors who had to sing.

In 1804 M. Holst wrote 'Passer le temps' (or 'Hampstead Cottage') for the pianoforte, about a lady at Belsize and set to the Belsize Minuet. Watkin Williams wrote the song 'Hampstead is the Place to Ruralize' in 1863.

Paul von Klenau, (1883-1946) a Danish composer much influenced by Delius, lived for a time in London and he composed a scherzo Bank Holiday Souvenir of Hampstead for the orchestra. Elgar, who lived in Severn House, Netherhall Gardens from 1912-21, was very much influenced in his compositions by the Heath and one of his great pleasures was to walk to Judges' Walk and watch the children enjoying their donkey-rides and sailing their boats; he inscribed at the end of his work 'The Music Makers' are the words 'Judges' Walk'.

IN 1936, in 'Careless Rapture' Ivor Novello portrayed the fair at Hampstead Heath, and James van Heusen, who was born in America in 1913, and wrote music for films in the 40s, wrote 'The 'Ampstead Way', a Cockney dance-song for the film 'London Town'.

Phyllis Tate, born in 1911, has composed several works with a London flavour and portrays Hampstead Heath as a rondo for roundabouts in her orchestral suite 'London Fields'.

Georgina Potter

SOMERS TOWN GROUP

For a number of reasons the group which was researching the history of Somers Town has not met for some time. The Society is anxious to revive this study group as we are very keen to have a publication devoted to the area. We therefore invite interested members to contact our Secretary so that we can revive the project.



A postcard of the W.H. Smith branch at Swiss Terrace, Swiss Cottage. The date of the postmark is 1914 but underneath a magnifying glass it is possible to read that one of the placards outside the shop, for the Daily Telegraph, announces the resignation of Sir Edward Clarke. Can anyone identify the event and date?

newsletter

No 80

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1983

Pepys and Camden – our November talk

Tuesday, 8th November, 7pm
Holborn Central Library, Theobalds
Road, W.C.1

This year a number of events mark the 350th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Pepys, whose diary has served to delight many and whose entries have lightened many a fusty thesis. Rosemary Weinstein of the Museum of London, and a member of this Society, is to give a talk on this entertaining man and his relationship with parts of Camden. An enjoyable evening looks to be in view.

Publication News

Unfortunately the next edition of Camden History Review which would normally be distributed with this Newsletter, has been delayed. It is hoped to have it ready by the Christmas Party on December 8th, in which case it will be handed out to members present. Otherwise it will be sent to them in December.

Members will remember that in the previous issue of the Newsletter we offered, free, a copy of the lavish history of St Andrews Holborn if a member bought publications from the Society over the value of £5. Roger Cline, who handles publication sales for us, points out that the Society has stocks of John Richardson's new book on Highgate, price £15, which would make an excellent present at Christmas. The purchaser will be able to soften the purchase price blow by being given, at the same time, a copy of the Holborn book! The Highgate book may be obtained at the Society's bookstall at meetings and the purchaser should then discuss with whoever is in charge of the bookstall the matter of the Holborn book and how to obtain it.

John Linnell and the Christmas Party

Thursday, 8th December 7pm
Burgh House, New End Square, N.W.3

John Linnell, the landscape artist, born in Bloomsbury in 1792 and occupant of the Wyldes, Hampstead by 1826, is the subject of our December talk. Our speaker is Dr Peter Brandon, Head of Geography at the Polytechnic of North London. Another Camden connection is that Linnell knew William Godwin of St Pancras and gave lessons to Godwin's daughter, the future Mary Shelley.

After the talk the Society is having its Christmas party. Members are entitled, of course, to attend the talk but we are afraid that we have to make a charge for the party. Tickets for this part of the evening may be obtained by returning the form enclosed with this Newsletter

Advance Notice

Saturday, 28th January, 2.30pm
Visit to St John's Gate, Clerkenwell.
Visiting party limited to 45. Tickets
available in advance from Horace
Shooter, 27 Flaxman Terrace, W.C.1

Thursday, 9th Feb, 7pm.
Holborn Central Library.
Talk on Scrope Davies, friend of Byron
and Shelley, by T.A. Burnett of the
British Library

DOMESTIC INTERIORS

Helen Long, who has recently joined the Society is engaged in PhD research into the small domestic interior in London 1870-1910, concentrating on aspects such as plasterwork, joinery, heating and lighting. She would be grateful if any member has particular items of information on this and in addition would be very interested in seeing any houses with original detail such as cornices, fireplaces etc. Any members who can help please write to her at the Faculty of Art, Barnet College, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts.

Book Review

HIGHGATE: Its History since the Fifteenth Century, by John Richardson. Pub. by Historical Publications, Oct. 1983, price £15

A popular theme recently among publishers has been to produce books on the villages of London. To an outsider the villages that are portrayed today often seem artificial and swallowed up in London's urban sprawl, with little left of the heartland of the village which provided the locality name.

Highgate, however, has maintained a great deal of its village atmosphere with an abundance of historic houses that have survived and a strong social and cultural life. It is also one of the areas with a long oral history tradition often of a more reliable nature than I have found in many other places.

John Richardson's book has captured the essence of this village life through the centuries up to the present time. The changing face of the area has been carefully recorded in detail yet at the same time presented in such an interesting and attractive way that even a casual browser can become absorbed and enticed into reading more than intended. The well documented text is supported by a large number of excellently reproduced illustrations many of which come from the author's own extensive collection, and is assisted by a series of particularly clear maps showing the location of the properties being described. My only regret here is that few historic maps of the locality have been included. The text is made all the more readable by using an appendix for the detailed listings of the occupants of the houses.

I particularly enjoyed the chapters on the shopkeepers, where reminiscences are skilfully woven into the narrative, and the inns, 49 of which have been traced in Highgate many of them relying upon passing trade. In 1780 it was recalled upwards of eighty stage coaches stopped every day at the Red Lion alone.

Its coverage is particularly strong for the 18th and 19th centuries and effective use has been made of census returns, rate-books, vestry minutes and a wide range of other sources, many of which were often not available to some of the earlier historians. The information is very much up-to-date at times, including the devastating fire at Moreton House in July 1983, but generally the coverage of 20th century

events is, perhaps of necessity, more selective.

From the evidence he has gathered John Richardson has corrected a number of errors and traditions in other sources and has advanced a number of interesting theories of his own which may arouse interest and comment from other local historians.

The location of Highgate on the edge of three boroughs clearly presents problems for any local historian as it requires various sets of administrative archives and maps to be consulted. The area covered by this book extends from Kenwood to Hornsey Lane and from Highgate Woods to the foot of Swains Lane and generally excludes description of the areas in Islington except for aspects like Archway Road and the hospitals on Highgate Hill.

There are a number of small errors which do need correction or where the text needs a little more amplification to avoid doubt. There are several dates in various sources for the demolition of Andrew Marvell's house; in the text it is shown as 1867 while an illustration caption records it as 1868. There is a metal plaque, not a stone one, in the wall of Waterlow Park marking the site of the cottage. While there is an account of the founding of the clinic in Chester Road by a Mr and Mrs Kohnstamm, the name on the building and in directories has been Konstam for a long time. The caption on the plan for Highgate Cemetery does not make it clear that the layout was not the one adopted although there are similarities. Throughout the volume the footnote references are very full and it is a regret that the bibliography is not as similarly informative. Many people will wish to use this work as a starting point for their own research and it is unfortunate that dates of more items are not given as it could have been an invaluable guide to the availability of records for the appropriate periods.

It is always easy for any reviewer to look at any local history book and find similar errors and points to criticise but these are minor compared to the importance of this work to local historians and the general reader. It has gone a very long way towards remedying the deficiencies in other histories of Highgate in an authoritative way but at the same time resulting in a work which is a delight to handle and read.

Malcolm Holmes

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Highgate is doing well for publications this year. Apart from John Richardson's history of the village, reviewed elsewhere, two other attractive publications are now available.

The first is Rural Highgate a nicely observed description of various parts of Highgate such as the Woods, Kenwood and the Cemetery recorded in the form of several walks. It is well illustrated by line drawings by Oliver Cox and it is compiled principally by Dr Joan Schwitzer, chairman of the publishers, the Hornsey Historical Society. It may be obtained direct from them at 60p plus 15p postage, at The Old Schoolroom, 136 Tottenham Lane, N.8. It is admirably informative, concise yet very readable and well worth the money. Congratulations to the Hornsey Society.



Holly Village

One of the illustrations from Rural Highgate

Also there is a Highgate Calendar, an A3 size format, with 12 leaves and cover end pieces, all drawn by Ann Usbom with text by Tim Ades. The illustrations include the almshouses in Southwood Lane, Millfield Cottage, Pond Square and the Gatehouse. It is very handsome and makes a good Christmas present. It is available from at least 15 shops in Highgate and at Lauderdale House, price £2.95.

Westfield College are publishing a centenary history to be called 'Castle Adamant in Hampstead'. Its projected price is about £7.50. If any member would like to reserve a copy please send an application, without remittance, to the Principal's Secretary, Westfield College, N.W.3 7ST

An interesting book has been published by the Bedford Square Press which is called Building Control: National Legislation and the Introduction of Local Bye-Laws in Victorian England. It deals, basically, with the growth of local planning controls, many of which were long overdue by the 1840s as builders built almost anything, anywhere they wanted.

The book may be obtained from the distributors Macdonald and Evans Distribution Services, Estover Road, Plymouth PL6 7PZ for £3.95 plus 50p p/p.

The Highgate Ostrich Farm

Yet again Highgate features in this edition! What has Highgate got to do with an ostrich farm in South Africa? Well, we reproduce as best as possible a leaflet sent to us by Ms Rose Tilly from the South African Tourist Board which advertises Hoopers Highgate Ostrich Show Farm - South Africa's first and finest! Evidently the Hooper family emigrated from Highgate to South Africa in the 1850s and they went into ostrich rearing - the bird became domesticated in about 1850, and of course ostrich feathers were much in demand. Anyone who can throw light upon the Hooper family is invited to write to Ms Tilly at the Tourist Board at 1-4 Warwick Street, W.1.

HOOPERS HIGHGATE
OSTRICH SHOW FARM
SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST AND FINEST

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SPECIAL TARIFF FOR GROUPS AND CHILDREN
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SUID-AFRIKA SE EERSTE EN BESTE

THE RESIGNATION OF SIR EDWARD CLARKE

A number of members have written re the question posed in our last Newsletter appertaining to the old picture of the branch of W.H. Smith at Swiss Cottage. Why did Sir Edward Clarke resign, as shown on the newspaper billboard, and what date was it?

Roy Hidson tells us that Clarke's was a typical Victorian success story of a young man rising from humble beginnings. After a number of lowly posts he became a Parliamentary reporter and after much private study was called to the Bar in 1864. He became a successful barrister being identified with the Penge case (1877), the Baccarat case (1891) and the Jameson case (1896).

He was elected Conservative MP for Southwark in 1880 and held the Plymouth seat (1880-1900). Clarke was chosen to answer Gladstone's speech when he introduced the second Home Rule Bill in 1893. His last major act before retiring from Parliament was in 1899 when he bitterly attacked Joseph Chamberlain's diplomacy in connection with the South African War. He was knighted in 1886 when he became Solicitor General, a post he held until 1892.

When he died in 1931 the Times published a lengthy obituary composed by Clarke himself which he had sent them some 18 years previously. In a covering letter he expressed his belief that the obituary of a man who has reached old age should be written by himself.

Mr Hidson says that Clarke resigned after 50 years at the Bar in 1914 and both the Bench and the Bar entertained him to a dinner presided over by H. Asquith.

However, this is probably not the resignation referred to in the photograph. As A.J. Nicholas and Charles Lee point out he resigned as MP for the City of London in either May (DNB) or June (Who Was Who?) in 1906. As most postcards are about that date, and as it was an event worth putting on a billboard, this is the most likely answer.

NEW MEMBERS

New members include L. Fowle, Ms H. Long, Mrs D. Marriott, Mrs W. Murphy, Miss G. Potter, Miss F. Reeves, Ms P. Sagall, Mr and Mrs D. Tucker, D. Wiltshire and Ms V. Hill.

CONVENIENCES CONTINUED

We have received a letter from the Rev. David Hinson re the picture we reproduced in our Newsletter No 77 which featured not only an old public convenience but 'Old Joe, The Children's Friend' outside Tufnell Park underground station. Rev. Hinson said that he showed the picture to an old resident who remembers 'Old Joe'. He was the man who saw the children safely over the crossings at the intersection there, and he was much liked. This information is supplied by Miss Lillian Painter, who has lived in the area all her life. Rev. Hinson says that the children are dressed in the same style as children who attended Burghley Road School in the first decade of this century, as evidenced by a photograph of those children he has in his possession which features a class taught by his father.

The object in the foreground carried by one of the children is a wide-brimmed hat bedecked with ribbons. The convenience disappeared during the war and its metal structure may have been used for munitions.

HAMPSTEAD REVISED

Christopher Wade is coming to the end of a revised edition of the celebrated 'Streets of Hampstead' published by the Society and High Hill Bookshop. The part dealing mainly with the village area is coming out in a new volume and Christopher asks that any member who has suggestions for inclusion, or else who spotted any errors in the previous edition, should write to him at 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3

THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson and published by the Camden History Society c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3. Contributions should be sent to him at 32 Ellington Street, N.7. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay at Swiss Cottage Library and the Treasurer is Miss Helen Lefroy c/o the same address.

The Essay Competition

The theme of next year's Essay Competition will be Entertainment in Camden. Entry forms and details should be available on a leaflet in Camden libraries next month.