

# newsletter

No. 87  
of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY Jan 1985

## Charles Booth's Poverty Survey of London

Tues January 29th, 7pm  
Holborn Library, Theobalds Rd WC1

An enquiry set on foot in 1886 by Charles Booth, wealthy London businessman, into the poor of Tower Hamlets, led to the production of a Poverty Map of London. This valuable social document (which has recently been reprinted by the London Topographical Society) forms the basis for our January talk by Kevin Bales. The map covers the whole of central London and goes as far north as Leighton Road in Kentish Town and as far west as West Hampstead. It was issued at the same time as Booth's major work which was eventually titled 'Life and Labour of the People in London'.

Our speaker is an expert on the collection of Charles Booth material now housed at the London School of Economics. Booth left 392 notebooks concerned with the Survey and much other material.

### ANOTHER ORWELL PLAQUE

The enterprising Ham and High and the Hampstead Plaque Fund saw off 1984 in style with yet another Orwell plaque - this one at 77 Parliament Hill, N.W.3 where Orwell lived for six months in 1935.

### THE HISTORIAN

Recently the Historical Association has begun publishing an attractive magazine called The Historian. The new edition features The Great Fire of Westminster 1834, Cartoonists and General Elections, Parliament in the Middle Ages etc. It is an interesting house journal and it is obtained by being a member of the Historical Association - membership entitles you to other things as well, such as discounts, meetings, visits etc. The cost of individual membership is £12.50 and the address is 59a Kennington Park Road, S.E.11.

## The Saving of Highgate Woods - our February talk

Thurs, Feb 21st, 7.30pm  
Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution  
South Grove, N.6.

The saving of what today are called Highgate Woods and Queen's Wood near Highgate underground station, was a protracted battle. Unusually, the City of London bought one wood and the other was bought by a fledgling local authority. Both of these purchases broke new ground.

Peter Barber, our speaker, is soon to publish a book on the fascinating stories which led to the purchases and also the local animosities which were stirred up in the process.

### Advance Notice

Please note the following meetings in your diary:

Mar 21st, 7.30pm, Swiss Cottage Library  
John Schofield on the Building of Medieval London

Apr 24, 7.30pm, venue to be determined  
Christopher Wade on 'Buried in Hampstead' a talk at the conclusion of the survey of Hampstead parish graveyard.

May 22, 7pm, Holborn Library  
Rosemary Weinstein on the Huguenots in London

Jun 12 at the Prudential Assurance building in Holborn. Annual meeting and talk

### Exploring Living Memory

The Exploring Living Memory Festival and Exhibition 1985 will be held from the 8th to 24th February at the Royal Festival Hall. It will be open 10am to 10pm. It will show a variety of displays, old photographs, memorabilia, and written and recorded reminiscences. Its themes include street markets, street parties, immigrant communities, Camberwell workhouse, women's memories of Islington. Camden libraries are contributing Music Hall and Theatre in Holborn.

# Memories of Flora Masson

## -Part one

Deirdre Le Faye has come across a book called Victorians All published in 1931. It is written by Flora Masson and many of her reminiscences concern Hampstead. Her father was David Masson (1822-1907) journalist and biographer of Milton. After some years of newspaper work in Scotland he came to London and through the friendship of Carlyle was introduced into London journalism and he became the founder and editor of Macmillan's Magazine in 1859. His Life of John Milton runs to 7 volumes.

'I can remember my father, David Masson, sitting at a writing-table in his study, writing with a quill pen that sometimes made a scratching noise. A rifle stood in one corner of the room; a sword was slung against the wall; books were piled on the floor; and sometimes - but that was a very serious occupation - he was cleaning his rifle and we could investigate a fascinating coat that hung over a chair - a coat of soft dust-grey, within indigo blue at the collar and wrists: a coat adorned with the silver buttons of the London Scottish of that day.

My father was then a man nearing forty, and it was a good many years since he had come to London, at four-and-twenty, resolved to make a living by his pen. Friends he had made, almost at once: Carlyle and his wife, in Chelsea; John Stuart Mill and the Mill family, in Kensington Square; Mazzini the patriot refugee ...the Thackeray family.

Coventry Patmore, then one of the Librarians in the British Museum, took my father in the summer of 1847 to call on Mr and Mrs Charles Orme in Avenue Road, Regent's Park. My mother - their eldest daughter - was then a child; and the household consisted of the parents, their young family, and Mrs Orme's two sisters. One of the sisters, Emily Andrews, had just become engaged to Coventry Patmore. She was the 'Angel in the House' of his poem.

(1854 Hampstead Directory lists Charles Orme at 16 Avenue Road. It was renumbered c1859. In 1873 Charles Orme is listed at 81 Avenue Road. DleF)

In this Avenue Road household my father found a little circle of literary friends. He always remembered meeting Emerson there one evening, when Emerson was on his second visit to England: and he remembered that, on this particular evening, Emerson's conversation turned to the subject of the gender of Deity, and that he told his

audience how an American lady had been much troubled on this point, and how he had persuaded her to find spiritual satisfaction in the idea of an all-comprehensive It.

My mother, the little eldest daughter, was in the room at the time; but she was too much of a child to remember any of Emerson's talk. She was, however, a little hero-worshipper; and very early next morning, before any of the household were astir, she stole downstairs and peeped into the deserted drawing-room, where the chairs were all standing as they had been left the night before, with the chair on which the American guest had been seated in the midst of the circle. It was the work of a moment for the child to turn this chair upside down, and with a big pin she scratched Emerson's name on the wooden bar underneath its damask seat; then she stole upstairs again. For a while, childlike, she cherished her romantic secret; and then afterwards forgot all about it. Long years afterwards, when she was herself on a visit to her parents in the old home, and was sitting with a little circle about her in the old drawing-room, the talk happened to fall on the evening Emerson had spent there, and she suddenly remembered what she had done.

"I wonder," she said, looking about her at the chairs in the room, "which chair it was - I do believe you will find the name on one of them."

One by one the chairs were examined; and sure enough, on one of them was found the name, scratched in the childish writing - but the little hero-worshipper had spelt it EMISON. And Emison, in our family, the great American writer remains to this day.'

### PRIMROSE HILL FLORA AND FAUNA

Mrs Eva Tucker is interested in information on Primrose Hill, especially its flora and fauna.. Anyone who can help should write to her at 63b Belsize Park Gardens.

### THE NEW HAMPSTEAD TROWEL

You will be pleased to learn that the Royal Free Hospital, alerted by Bernard Taylor after seeing the item in our last Newsletter, have bought the commemorative silver and enamel trowel which was used to lay the first stone of the New Hampstead Hospital in 1902. This will now be part of the Royal Free archives.

## LARDNOR DENNYS

Amongst the graves uncovered as a result of work at Highgate Cemetery is that of a retired naval officer named Lardnor Dennys, who died on 18 November 1864 aged 73. His grave is a few feet from that of his eldest brother Nicholas, a once prosperous vintner in the City of London who was ruined when the demand for fine wines which he stocked fell off.

Lardnor must have been born between Nov 1790 and Nov 1791 and according to the 'Trafalgar Roll' joined the navy as a midshipman in January 1805. In October of that year, when he was fourteen, he took part in the battle of Trafalgar in HMS Achilles, one of the ships in Admiral Collingwood's column. The Achilles suffered some casualties and a fellow-midshipman of Lardnor's was killed.

After Trafalgar most of the naval engagements that took place involved frigates blockading the French ports or protecting British merchant shipping from French raiders. In 1806 Lardnor Dennys served in the squadron under Sir Samuel Hood which captured four French frigates off Rochefort. In 1809 he took part in shore operations in the ill-fated expedition Walcheren Island under the Duke of York. He was also engaged in operations at Cadiz in 1810. In 1812 he was promoted, and as the lieutenant of HMS Horatio took part in the capture of two Dutch islands. He was subsequently awarded the naval medal and clasp.

In 1815, when the war ended, Lardnor, along with many other naval officers who, for lack of Parliamentary influence, had been unable to get promotion to Post-Captain, was placed on half pay. This was very small and he had a large family. In 1852, however, he was awarded a small pension from Greenwich Hospital, and in 1853 was given the rank of 'Commander RN (retired)'. The creation of this rank probably represents a belated public recognition of the services of these naval officers.

C.G. Dennys

## Highgate Memories

Amanda Cory-Wright has written re John Richardson's book on Highgate:

'I would like to confirm that the name 'Voel House (used on 18 South Grove) came from the Owens, who lived there. The Voel ( Y Foel in Welsh) was the name of his house in Llangeinwen, Anglesey, where my great-great-grandfather Hugh Owen, the educationalist (1804-1881) was born. It was his son,

also called Hugh Owen, who lived at 18 South Grove, whose daughters, whom I knew well, lived there until the last one died in 1957, the same year as I came to live in the area. My connexion with the Owens is that my great grandfather, Francis Cory-Wright, married the first Hugh Owen's daughter, Jemima Owen. My grandfather Dudley Cory-Wright, was born at Northwood, Hornsey Lane in 1872. Francis Cory-Wright was born in 1838 at 15 Upper Islington Terrace but I'm not sure whether that exists now. He married Jemima Owen from Richmond Crescent in Barnsbury, so we have quite a strong connexion with Islington and Highgate.

## GEORGE SCHARF

Peter Jackson writes:

I am writing a book on George Scharf, the Bavarian artist (1788-1860) who, among other things, drew the charming and well-known set of lithographs of the Zoo which he published in 1835. As he lived for the last half of his life in Camden, I thought it might be of interest to fellow members to have details of his lodgings.

In 1830 he left his first London address (3 St Martin's Lane) and took a house for himself, his wife, two sons and his sister-in-law at 14 Francis Street (now Torrington Place). This must have been a charming residence with a view from its back windows of an early 18th century farm house and a tree-lined 'ride' leading to it from Tottenham Court Road. This farm house was bought in 1840 by John Harris Heal, son of the founder of the famous furnishing business of Heal & Son Ltd - a business which was destined to expand throughout this whole block and lead to the demolition of that part of Francis Street which included George Scharf's house.

In 1848 the family moved to 1 Torrington Sq which has now vanished beneath London University buildings. When the lease expired in 1856 the family broke up.

George Sharf jnr, the elder son, took a house, 1 Eastcott Place, Camden Town, for himself, his mother and aunt.

George Scharf snr found lodgings in a first floor front room at 37 Prescott Street, Camden Town. He wrote in his journal, 'It is a very pleasant situation with a garden..' It was a stone's throw from the Newberry Arms public house which is still standing at 40 Malden Road, N.W.5. Here Scharf records paying 1s 10d for a pint of gin.

If any of your members can throw any light on George Scharf's residence in Camden or have any of his original drawings I should be delighted to hear from them.

(Address: 17 Blandford Road W.5)

## LONDON HISTORY WORKSHOP CENTRE

We have received a copy of the London History Workshop Newsletter. This organisation, as members may know, majors on working-class and feminist history and the Newsletter gives details of a number of interesting projects, seminars and meetings within their programme. Details from them at 42 Queen Square, W.C.1

## More Bars and Gates

The photograph reproduced on this page, kindly supplied by Mr Goodall, is of Oakley Square showing the lamented east side and St Matthew's Church, and also the little lodge which is still there and awaiting a wealthy buyer at the time of writing. However, the main interest is the fact of the gates across the square designed to prohibit traffic through to the Duke of Bedford's less fashionable estate. The photograph which is reproduced by kind permission of the National Monuments Record is dated 1893. The legislation 'London Streets (Removal of Gates) Act' was passed in 1890

## Essay Competition

Winners of the 1984 Essay Competition were Mrs E. Baker (1st prize), Norah Spowart (2nd prize) and Miss G.Y. Potter (3rd prize). We were very sorry to hear that Mrs Baker had died last August.

## THE HOUSE OF JOHN LEWIS

M.A. Effendowicz of the John Lewis Partnership is trying to obtain a photograph of Spedan Tower in Branch Hill, Hampstead. The house was built c1888, probably for John Lewis the department store owner, was deserted from 1928-36 when it was bought by a Mr Brentimeyer and was used by the War Office and then de-requisitioned in 1949. It was bought by the North West Regional Metropolitan Hospital board in 1951 for use as a nurses training hostel and was then bought by Camden in c1970 for housing development. It has since been demolished.

If anyone has a picture or knows the location of one please contact the enquirer at 'The Gazette' Office, John Lewis Partnership, 4 Old Cavendish St, W.1



# newsletter

No 88  
of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY Mar 1985

## The Building of Medieval London

Thursday, March 21st, 7.30pm  
Swiss Cottage Library

John Schofield, a Field Officer with the Museum of London, has recently published his authoritative 'The Building of London from the Conquest to the Great Fire'. This is the most up-to-date account of the development of London in that period and is a must for any London enthusiast.

We are fortunate that he will be our speaker in March when he will deal with the theme of his book.

## Advance Notice

Please note the following meetings in your diary:

May 22nd, 7pm, Holborn Library  
Rosemary Weinstein on the Huguenots in London

Jun 12 at the Prudential Assurance building in Holborn. Annual Meeting and a talk by Robert Thorne on Waterhouse the architect.

## TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF HOLBORN LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY

First, the bad news - Holborn Local History Library will be closed from the 25th to the 30th March. However, the good news is that this is in a good cause in that a new Local History Room, more convenient for use, is being constructed there. The other good news is that work is beginning on the improvement of facilities at the Archive Store at John's Mews, Holborn. The Society has recently made representations to Camden about the difficulties of using this valuable archive store and we are pleased that our voice, no doubt amongst others, has been listened to so quickly.

## Buried in Hampstead - our April talk

Wednesday, April 24th, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square N.W.3

For some years now a group of CHS members have worked on the quite considerable task of identifying and recording all the graves in the old Hampstead churchyard. Their work is almost finished, although a publication will, we hope, be produced. Our April talk, introduced by Christopher Wade, deals with the work of the group and is not so much a talk as a collection of contributions from those members.

So, congratulations to the collective and we look forward to the story of the techniques used and the surprises and new information which they uncovered.

## Publication News

If you have been waiting to buy a Camden Town Walk, or a Primrose Hill to Euston Road, you will be pleased to know that they are back in print. The Walk has been completely revised and now sells at 50p. Primrose Hill has some minor revisions while reprinting and sells at its original price of £2.70.

Some of our publications are not being reprinted, at least for the present. These include Roman Camden, Medieval Camden and Camden History Review No 1. There are a few copies around still and so, for example, if you want to make up a complete set of Reviews, act now. We still have a few binders for the Reviews, at a bargain price of £2.00. All Reviews are £1.50

Roger Cline

## TOPHAM AND SON, A FAMILY OF ARTISTS

At Burgh House, from Mar 2 to April 28, an Exhibition discovers two popular artists of the last century, whose works are scattered round provincial galleries, and who lived for many years in Hampstead.

F.W. Topham (1808-77) exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1832 for nearly forty years. His pictures were much in demand in his time and at high prices. As a result he was able to build himself a grand house in Hampstead, No 4 Arkwright Road, now part of St Goderic's Secretarial College.

His son, confusingly called F.W.W. Topham (1838-1924), was a well-known water-colourist and genre painter who lived at 16 Prince Arthur Road. His dramatic picture 'Rescued from the Plague' was shown at the Barbican Art Gallery recently. His wife, Helen, was daughter of Mark Lemon the first (joint) editor of Punch.

The Exhibition includes not only samples of their works but playbills and photographs showing the Topham association with Dickens and his amateur theatrical guild.

Many of F.W. Topham's descendants inherited his artistic flair and a number became professional or amateur painters themselves. So the Exhibition includes items from six generations of Tophams, the latest being Marianne Topham, a professional artist, whose father Romer Topham, is himself a talented amateur as well as owning and managing with his wife Diana, the award-winning Ebury Court Hotel in Westminster.

The catalogue for the Exhibition will include an introduction about F.W. Topham by his great-grandson, the noted writer and journalist, Tom Pocock.

## RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions were due on 1st March. A renewal notice was enclosed with the January Newsletter, so if you have not yet paid, please do so NOW. We regret that the rates have had to be increased this year to meet increases in the costs of printing and postage. They are:

Individual £5.00

Joint (two people at same address) £5.50

Senior citizens and full-time students £4.00

Societies and Institutions £5.50

Cheques, payable to the Camden History Society, should be sent to the Treasurer, Miss Helen Lefroy, 2 Doughty Street, W.C.1.

## LONDON SURVEYED

At the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E2, is an exhibition to mark 90 years of the Survey of London series. All London historians, professional or amateur, have many good reasons to be grateful to these volumes - there are now over 50 titles. Many areas remain still to be done - Hampstead and Islington among them, but we must be grateful that St Pancras and Highgate were done in such detail and, indeed, these volumes introduced new levels of scholarship and detail into the series.

The first publication, a monograph on a single building, the Trinity Almshouses in Mile End Road, in 1896, helped to save the buildings from destruction.

The Survey was originally a voluntary work, carried on by an industrious group of scholars, architects and enthusiasts for London history. It was supported at the outset by the London County Council who in 1909 provided the means for the researching and writing of alternate volumes. In 1952 it took over full responsibility and the GLC have commendably carried on this work.

The Exhibition, which shows the development of architectural drawings in this period, is on from 1st March to 30th April.



George Bernard Shaw, amongst other things a Vestryman for St Pancras, is here depicted at a Fabian summer school in 1922. From a fascinating set of postcards obtainable from the Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth Street, S.W.1

## Flora Masson (continued)

We reproduced in the last Newsletter an extract from a book called 'Victorians All' published in 1931. Her family had strong Hampstead connections and when her father first came to London he was taken under the wing of Mr and Mrs Orme who lived in Avenue Road, near Swiss Cottage. A further extract continues the story:

Mr and Mrs Orme took a great and immediate liking to my father. His literary enthusiasms interested and stirred them. He told them about Aberdeen and Edinburgh; about Scott, and Burns, and the Disruption - all the things about which they knew so little, because they were things that happened north of the Tweed. And to him, feeling rather solitary, living in rooms near the British Museum, and just beginning an uphill literary life in London, it was a rich new experience to be welcomed so warmly into this happy English home.

It was an early Victorian home. Every morning Mr Orme, the soul of sunny punctuality, used to tap the weather-glass, and set off into town. There were no trains or tubes into the City in those days. The fact that he had returned home in the late afternoon, was very often announced by the sound of the garden roller crunching the gravel paths in the square garden behind the house; a garden, and especially the gravel paths in it, of which he was extremely proud.

Mrs Orme, who had married him when she was sixteen, was in 1847 not only the mother of young children, but the presiding genius of the home. Indeed, she seldom left it. When, as the years passed, those she loved "went wide in the world", she was content to follow them by writing to them....The piano in the drawing-room was often open, but there was no music lying on it: for she had, in a wonderful degree, the gift of improvising her own and everybody else's accompaniments. Her music-master, for piano and organ, had been Charles Wesley.

In the early 'fifties the two young pre-Raphaelites, Holman Hunt and Thomas Woolner, were often at the house. In the early 'fifties Rosaline Orme, who was a child when my father first came to the house, was seventeen. When she was eighteen, and he was a newly appointed professor at University College, they were married in the old Parish Church of Hampstead.

(Recalling her own childhood Flora Masson recounts details of one of the local milk suppliers):

A great brown cow came slowly and heavily townwards along the middle of the road, from the direction of the Swiss Cottage; and walking by the cow was a milkmaid, wearing a pink cotton sun-bonnet and carrying her milking-pail and stool. We took a deep interest in the "country coo." Once we saw a neat parlour-maid opposite to ours, and present her jug to be filled. That was a thrilling moment when the cow stopped, and the milking-stool and pail were put in action and then - the little ceremony over - cow and milkmaid proceeded slowly on their way towards the park gates and Baker Street.

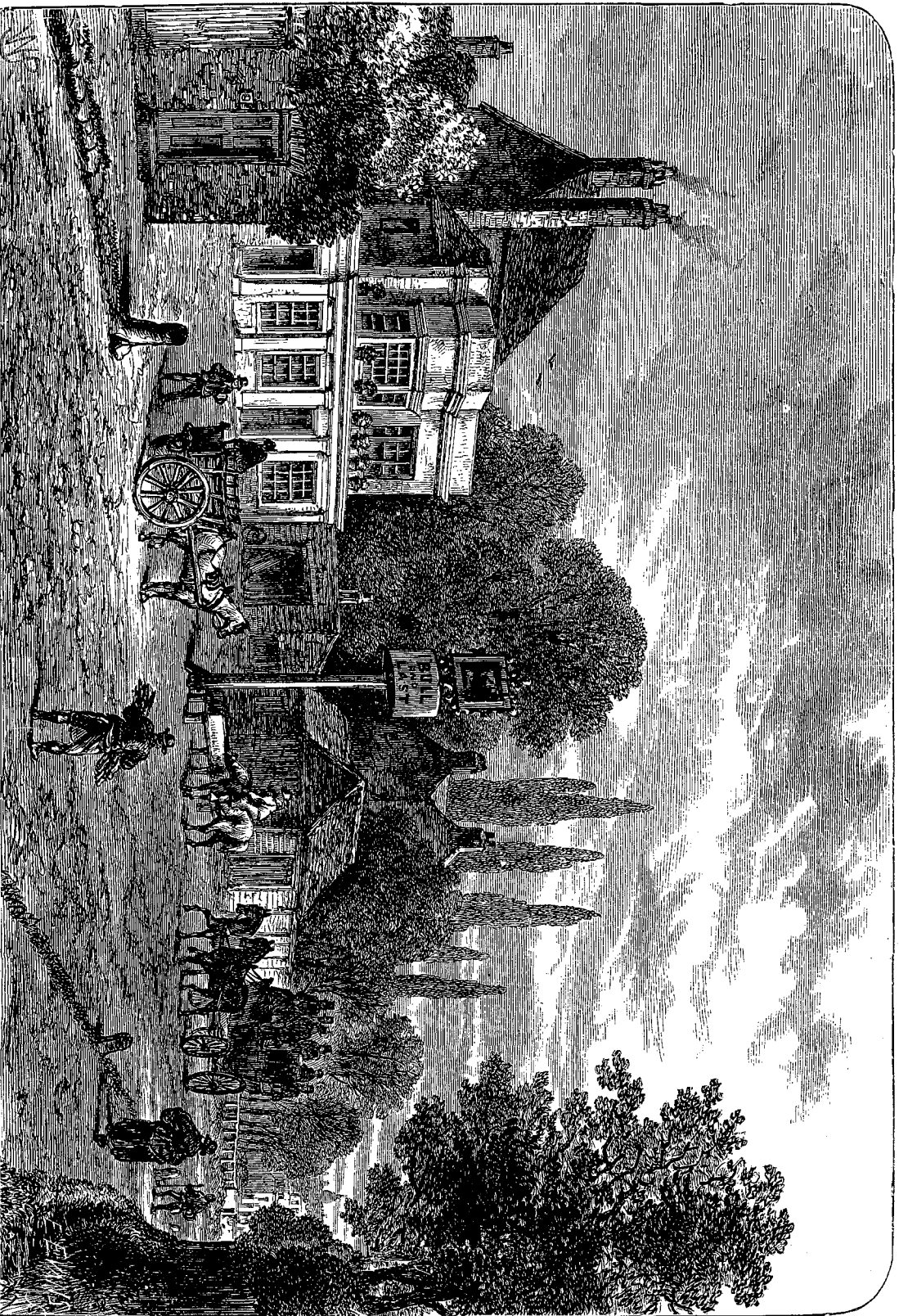
(The author refers to trips into Town but then goes on to outings to the surrounding countryside)

After all, the long drives into the City happened only seldom. Our El Dorado lay in the opposite direction - up the road, past the Swiss Cottage, and out towards Finchley, Hendon, Golders Green, and Hampstead Heath. The Swiss Cottage was then a dairy, with long, thatched roof and quaint little windows, in one of which was always a basket of eggs. And just beyond the Swiss Cottage the fields began, with the buttercups and the hawthorn hedges, and the ponds where we watched the tadpoles absorbing their tails for the purpose of turning into frogs. Aspens still trembled at the corner of Child's Hill Lane; Golders Green was still a Green, surrounded by white posts and swinging chains. Down Hendon way the old Cock and Hoop Inn was still in existence, with a stagnant pond in front of it, and a painted sign over its doorway - the Cock triumphant in a Golden Hoop.

Not long ago, finding myself in the Finchley Road, I made a little pilgrimage to look for the Cock and Hoop. I remembered the old days when we used to bowl our own hoops past its door, under its sign, looking up at the Cock and laughing as we ran by. But I found myself in a new and strange world; a world of streets and shops. A young policeman was standing at a corner, and I appealed to him.

"Cock and Hoop?" He stared as if I had stepped out of another century - which indeed I had. "Ah!" he said; 'that's like my grandfather! He belonged down hereabouts - never done talking about it! He thought the world of that old pub!"

(To be continued)



A general view of Kentish Town in 1820, from Old and New London. The view shows the Bull and Last pub which is at the corner of Woodsome Road in Highgate Road.



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No. 89

May 1985

## The Huguenots

Tues, May 28th, 7pm  
Holborn Library, Theobalds Rd, W.C.1

Please note, first, that the talk has been changed from May 22nd to May 28th, but the venue is the same.

Over 40,000 Huguenots came to England following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685 which ended the toleration of Protestants in France. An influx of Huguenots had already come to England in the reign of Elizabeth. France's loss was England's gain and the industry of the Huguenots soon led them to be established in the higher reaches of English commerce.

An attractive folder called the Huguenot Heritage Trail 1985 may be obtained from the English Tourist Board which has a number of trails with Huguenot significance in various parts of the country. In London you are taken to the French Church in Scho, Spitalfields, Wandsworth and Greenwich. This folder can also be obtained at the Museum of London who are staging a major exhibition on the theme of the Huguenots as from May 16th.

Our talk on the Huguenots is to be given by Rosemary Weinstein, an expert on the period, of the Museum of London. With a bit of delving you may well find that you too have a Huguenot name or ancestors.

## NEW LOCAL HISTORY ROOM AT HOLBORN

The new Local History Room at Holborn Library is now open and, as a result, there is a new telephone number - 405 2706 ext 337.

## BYRON HOUSE RECALLED

Mr C.J. Spittal of 162 Church Road, Frampton Cotterell, Bristol BS17, is trying to contact either Mr or Mrs Robert Cochran Allan who, between 1946 and 1962, were in charge of Byron House School in North Grove, N.6. Can anyone help?

## The Annual Meeting

Wednesday, June 12th, 6.30pm  
Prudential Assurance Building, 142  
Holborn Bars, E.C.1

The Prudential building in Holborn was mainly built at the turn of this century by Alfred Waterhouse. It is not all that much liked by some purists, but it is, however, a Camden landmark and a building that you wish you have an excuse to see. Well, you all now have a very good excuse because we shall be holding our annual meeting here. In addition, Robert Thorne a member of the GLC Department dealing with Historic Buildings, an entertaining speaker, will be talking to us about Waterhouse.

The business meeting is at 6.30pm and in this connection you are invited to make nominations for any of the offices of the Society. The present office-holders are:

PRESIDENT: Dr Ann Saunders  
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper, Professor Henry Loyn, R. Michael Robbins.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Helen Lefroy  
EDITOR OF REVIEW: Dr John Gage  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

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

Nominations should be sent to Jane Ramsay at Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Rd, NW3 by May 31st.

## **LEG-OF-MUTTON PEARLS**

After closing his High Street jewellers' shop for the last time on Christmas Eve last year, Peter Knowles-Brown gave the Burgh House Museum some handsome souvenirs of his family's ninety-three years in Hampstead. Chief among these were the pearls from the Leg of Mutton Pond near Golders Hill Park. The story goes that the pond was drained about 1906, when the Tube railway was being tunnelled nearby, and Peter's grandfather walked across the pond mud to find several freshwater mussel shells. Some of these contained tiny pearls and, being a jeweller, he mounted a few on to a brooch. The pearls are now on show in the Wells Room together with other Knowles-Brown gifts and loans, including the opticians' sign, which used to hang outside their shop. In the same room you will find the Ham and High's last metal cast, used for the front page of the last edition produced by the hot-metal process in 1984. Before presenting it to the Museum the Editor, Gerry Isaaman, had the cast conveniently flattened.

## **FAMOUS WOMEN IN CAMDEN**

'Camden has been the home of more outstanding women than any other locality in the country,' claimed Flora Cullerne Bown in her introduction to the exhibition **FAMOUS WOMEN IN CAMDEN**, first seen at the Central Institute, Lonford Street, last year. You have a chance to see if you agree with this claim because the exhibition, which has been touring the borough, finds its way to Burgh House in a new and revised version from May 4 to June 30. Over forty women from the last three centuries 'and some of the men who figured in their lives' will be featured in this lively exhibition.

## **NEW HISTORY OF ST JOHN'S, DOWNSHIRE HILL**

St John's, Downshire Hill, Hampstead, is one of the few remaining proprietary chapels in the Church of England. It is also one of the most attractive Regency buildings in the district. A history, written for the 150th anniversary was recently revised and reissued. Copies are obtainable from Miss Joan Barraclough, 17 Old Court House, North End Way, N.W.3. The price is 75p plus 24p postage.

## **Keats House Jubilee**

The 9th of May next year will see the Diamond Jubilee of the opening of Keats House in Hampstead. In 1921 the House was rescued from impending demolition by the Keats memorial Committee using money raised mainly in the United States. The purchase was made in time to celebrate the centenary of the death of John Keats in Rome on 23 February 1821. The Keats Memorial Committee handed over the House in 1924 to the Hampstead Borough Council, who agreed to maintain it in perpetuity as a memorial to Keats and to provide a library for the study of Keats and his poetry.

The House was officially opened to the public on the 9th May 1925 by Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch. The first resident curator was Fred Edgcumbe who seems to have done everything from the cleaning, the gardening, and the cataloguing and display of the exhibits, to showing the visitors around.

He retired in 1940 by which time the stables that were in the garden had been demolished and the Heath Branch Library built in 1931. At the north end of the library was the Keats Museum. Originally all the interesting material was in the Keats Museum and the House only displayed books, furniture and paintings. After the Second World War, the House, which had been partially damaged by fire and blast bombs, was repaired with a grant from the Pilgrim Trust and the manuscripts, etc were placed in the House and the Keats Museum became the Keats Memorial Library, which now contains nearly 8000 volumes.

In 1965 Hampstead Borough Council was absorbed into the new borough of Camden and administration of the House passed to the Libraries and Arts Department. From being open only 3 days a week with a resident curator in 1925, the House is now open 7 days a week and has a staff of 9. From 1026 visitors in the first year, there are now regularly between 25,000 and 30,000 a year.

Admission to the House is free, but the service is under threat from rate-capping.

An exhibition dealing with the history of the House is now on show there.

Christina Gee  
Curator

## Flora Masson (continued)

Here is a further extract from a book called 'Victorians All' written by Flora Masson whose childhood had strong Hampstead connections. It deals first with the philosopher Herbert Spencer who often visited their house:

Our attitude to Herbert Spencer was one of friendly detachment. We knew - for we had been told - that he was a very clever man, who wrote books, especially one which was about the proper way to educate children. He certainly looked at us as if he thought we were worth noticing, and if he asked us a question he waited for the answer, as if he thought it might be worth hearing. Nobody in the Avenue Road household would ever have thought - in Herbert Spencer's presence - of asking for "half a cup more tea." If an unwary guest happened to do so, we were prepared for the brilliant Spencerian dissertation on accuracy of expression; on the folly of speaking of "half a cup" when in fact it was a whole cup half full.

For a time Herbert Spencer lived in a house of his own in Avenue Road, and on one of our visits to London (in later years) we lunched with him there. With his old-world courtesy and hospitality he talked quite tenderly of the old days, and he insisted, I remember, on producing at lunch some rather precious "gaudy ale". And once again, when I was in London, he took me - with a fine disregard of all club rules - into the billiard room of the Athenaeum.

It was for us a great event when we moved into a house in the Finchley Road; one of a row of villas looking straight on to the hayfields, with a strip of half-reclaimed land by way of garden behind it, where we found one or two white raspberries and plenty of frogs. I do not think there were any houses beyond that little row of villas, which has long since been demolished to make room for one of the Metropolitan railway stations.

Thackeray died on Christmas Eve 1863 and sometime on Christmas Day my father received a hurried note - sent by hand - from Mr Edward Levy (later Lord Burnham) the proprietor of the Daily Telegraph. The note was found, long afterwards, among my father's papers. It asked him to "do for us today a leader on the present condition of English Literature, a propos of the Death of Thackeray." And there was a postscript: "The bearer will walk about the country till you tell him to return for copy."

Our family annals have handed down the story of that little Printer's Devil, and how he spent his Christmas evening in our house in Finchley Road. He may, in obedience to his employer, have taken a walk about the wintry Hampstead or Kilburn fields, but he most certainly came back long before my father had finished his leader on the condition of English literature. It was quite late at night; my father was still writing; my mother sitting with him, listening to the familiar quill on his paper, when the parlour-maid looked into the study. "Please ma'am," she said, "the Devil has been sitting by the kitchen fire all the evening, and cook says, hadn't she better give him some hot supper now?"

It must have been soon after we went to live in the Finchley Road that Mazzini and Mr Stansfield (afterwards Sir James Stansfield) came to call on my father and mother. Both were old friends. My father's friendship with Mazzini dated from the days before Mazzini was one of the Triumvirs of Rome. My father had been for a year or two the first secretary of the Society of the Friends of Italy; Mazzini had been present at the marriage of my parents in the old Parish Church of Hampstead; had signed his name in the vestry afterwards, and then slipped away from the church door. Ten years later, much that the real "Friends of Italy" had worked so hard for was - or was being - accomplished.

(Concluded)

### HAMPSTEAD ANNUAL

Alan Farmer is collecting a set of the Hampstead Annual and he needs three volumes - 1897, 1901, 1906-7. If any member has any of these to sell please contact him at 4 Keats Grove, N.W.3

### BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

The Burgh House Book Sale is on Sunday, June 2nd from noon to 3pm, admission 10p. Christopher Wade is in charge and if you have any books to donate please take them to the House during opening hours.

# The Annual Outing

The Annual Outing this year takes us to the Chilterns. We shall be visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum with its collection of old buildings of different periods and the National Trust property of Waddesdon Manor nr Aylesbury. The house is a French Renaissance style chateau built in the late 19th century. It has a superb collection of French decorative art of the 17th and 18th centuries which includes furniture, carpets, porcelain etc. There are also paintings by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Romney. Those who are already National Trust members should remember to bring their membership cards to avoid paying an entrance fee.

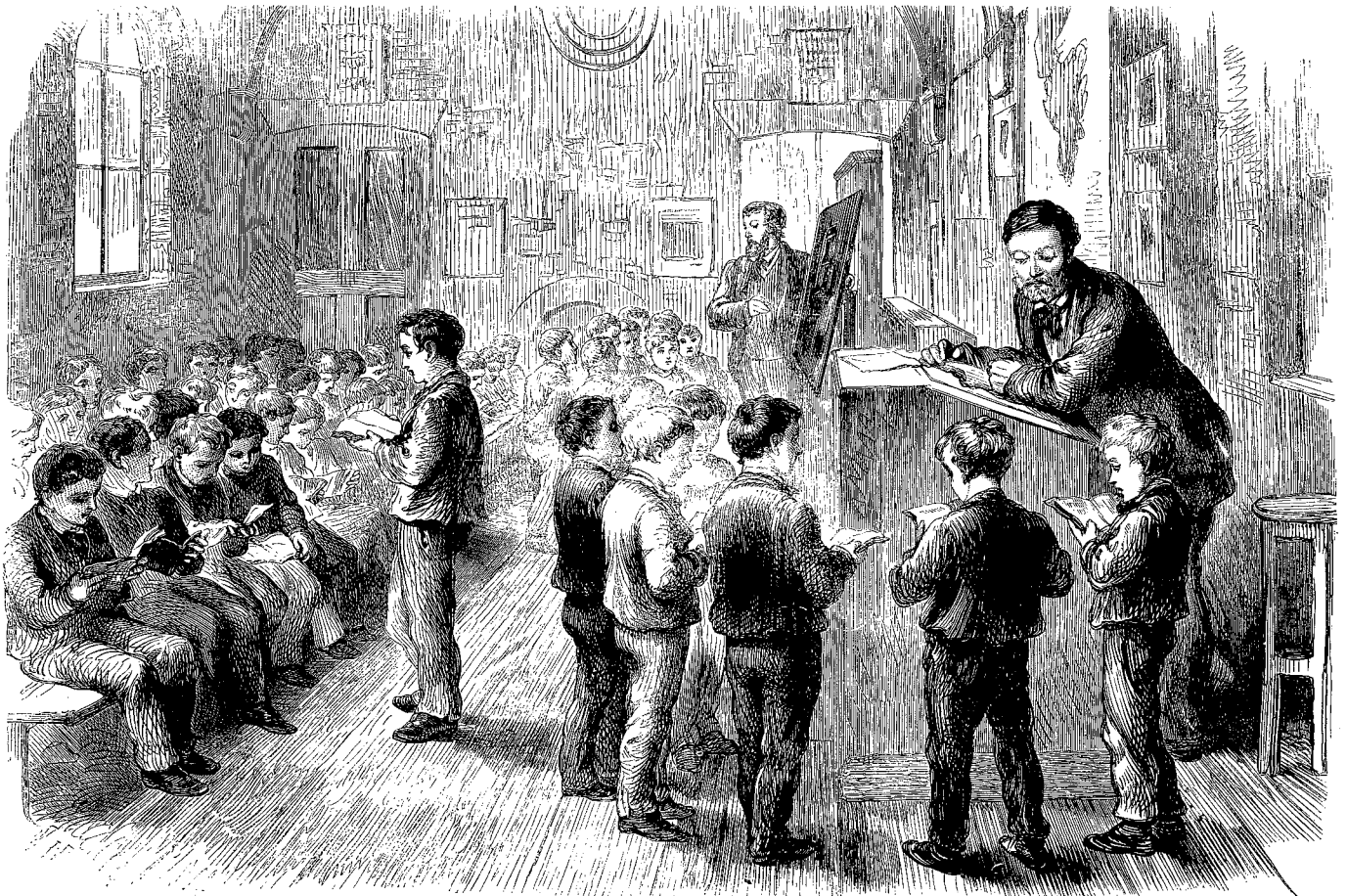
Lunch will be at West Wycombe (please bring your own if you do not want to rely on local restaurants) and there will be

time to visit, if you wish, the Hell Fire Caves during the lunch break.

All in all, a full day and well worth going. Please complete the application form attached.

## THE BOYS' HOME, REGENT'S PARK ROAD

Featured in the Society's publication 'Primrose Hill to Euston Road' which has recently been re-issued is the story of the Boys' Home, Regents Park Road - its full title in 1865 was The Boys' Home for the Training and Maintenance of Destitute Boys not Convicted of Crime. The illustration below shows the interior of their new school room and comes from the Illustrated London News of April 2nd 1870.



NEW SCHOOL-ROOM, BOYS' HOME, REGENT'S PARK-ROAD.

# newsletter

No. 90

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jul 1985

## Last call for the Outing

Saturday, July 20th  
Leave at 9am

There are still some seats left in the coach for this year's annual outing. As detailed in the last Newsletter we are going to the Chiltern Open Air Museum and to Waddesdon Manor. A form was enclosed with the last Newsletter - if you have mislaid this and want to go please contact Mrs Gee at Keats House, Keats Grove, N.W.3 (435 2062)

### LEFT OVERS

Everyone seems to have enjoyed the Annual Meeting though some murmurings were detected about the cost of refreshments, which we would like to explain. At some Annual Meeting venues we are allowed, and are able, to do our own catering so that members need only pay a reasonable price for drinks consumed while the Society pays for the food. This was not possible at the Prudential who insisted that their own catering staff did the job, which was not unreasonable.

The Society was charged £210. We charged the 70-odd members £1.50 each, so you can see that even at that price the Society lost a lot of money.

We feel sure that you would wish the Society to continue to have its Annual Meeting at distinguished buildings in the borough, but we do have to accept that every now and then we have to charge members for catering - the accommodation almost always comes free.

Incidentally, a beige umbrella was left behind after the Meeting. Will the claimant (hopefully only one) please telephone Helen Lefroy on 242 4319.

## The West Heath Dig

Thursday, August 22nd, 7.30  
Swiss Cottage Library

Our colleagues, the Hendon and District Archaeological Society, have for some years taken a major part in the dig on the West Heath. The results have taken the history of Hampstead way back beyond the millennium and it is high time that we had a talk which brings together, by way of a summary, just what the conclusions are about the site. Margaret Marre, archaeologist, is our speaker.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Sept 26th, 7.30, St Pancras Church Hall,  
Lancing Street, N.W.1  
The St Pancras Housing Society

Oct 23rd, 7.30, Polytechnic of North London  
Christopher Rolfe on D.H. Lawrence

Nov 20th, 7.30, St Pancras Church Hall,  
Lancing Street, N.W.1  
John Richardson on St Pancras Vestry

### AVAILABILITY OF RATE BOOKS

As some members know, the rate books for Camden, stored at Holborn, have been unavailable for a while. This is because building work has been going on at St John's Mews where the books are stored and it has meant that the books have had to be stacked as best as possible. They are, however, covered with dust and dirt as the whole electrical system in the building has been changed. This means that the books now have to be thoroughly cleaned and rearranged - a daunting task - on shelving again. Malcolm Holmes and his staff hope that by the beginning of August the situation will be remedied.

### MILLENNIUM APPEAL

Next year, just in case you have been oblivious to the early publicity, is Hampstead Millennium year. In this connection an appeal is being organised to renovate the charming parish church in Church Row. Apart from any donations the church would welcome help in running events in connection with this. If any member is feeling generous either with money or time, please contact John Read on 435 4300.

# The Annual Meeting

Those who attended the Annual Meeting had the pleasure of seeing something of the Prudential Building extravaganza. Most people were fascinated by the plaques in one of the corridors to indicate that one part of the building was in Camden and the other in the City. In fact we had our meeting and refreshments in different boroughs. The deputy mayor Cllr Mary Cane was entertaining as so too was our guest speaker on Alfred Waterhouse, the architect of the Prudential building and much else besides. Robert Thorne was the perfect speaker for an Annual Meeting and we are fortunate that he is also with us for the Christmas lecture.

Officers and Council were elected as follows:

PRESIDENT: Dr Ann Saunders  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper,  
Professor Henry Loyn, R. Michael Robbins

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Helen Lefroy  
EDITOR OF REVIEW: John Gage  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

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

The only position not filled was that of Auditor. Pat Russell retired after a great many years and the Society wish to thank him for all his work - we shall be making a presentation on your behalf to him. In the meantime we do not, at the moment, have an auditor. If any member knows of anyone who could be prevailed upon please let Helen Lefroy know on 242 4319 or at 2 Doughty Street, W.C.1

## LOCAL HISTORIANS RESEARCHED

Vincent Beasley of the Islington Local History Project is compiling a directory of local historians and organisations and their fields of research. The obvious advantage is to do with matters of co-operation and non-duplication. Any member who is engaged in specific research is invited to send him details at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson School, Penton Street, N.1.

The information he requires is name, address, telephone number, topics currently under research, topics already researched and published work.

# A new book on Constable

It is good to know that our annual Review is read and appreciated by that distinguished art historian, Graham Reynolds. In his recent weighty and pricey (£140) publication in two volumes 'The Later Paintings and Drawings of John Constable' Reynolds comments on the fact that the house called The Grove, Hampstead, which was painted several times by Constable, has since changed its name. He writes: 'The name 'Admiral's House' was adopted in 1917 on the mistaken assumption that it had been occupied by Admiral Matthew Barton (1715-1795). Felicity Marpole has shown in 'A Romantic House in Hampstead' (Camden History Review IX, 1981, pp2-3) that this is not the case. The nautical alterations to the original structure were made by Frederick North (1749-1811).'

The author should be told 'for his second edition' that Lieutenant North's christian name was not Frederick but (surprisingly) Fountain. He may also like to know that our Hampstead Churchyard Survey has found the grave of Constable's doctor, Herbert Evans (1802-77), who appears in Plate 756. Was this portrait and that of the doctor's mother painted, one wonders, to defray the doctor's fees? Our Survey has also recorded an inscription for the Hooke family of Windmill Hill, which may be relevant. Hooke's Cottage, where Constable and family lodged in 1825, has never been identified.

Everyone should try to beg or borrow a copy of this wonderful work (oh, for a copy to review!) and be grateful to Graham Reynolds, Paul Mellon and Yale University Press. There are over a thousand plates, many in colour, and the reproduction is superb. Local historians will find many recognisable Hampstead views, a number of unidentified subjects and a few assumptions which seem mistaken. Sticking my neck out, I would say that several views of the Spaniards and Heath House are probably of the so-called Old Court House (before 19th-century alterations), and that Plate 308 cannot be Constable's house in Lower Terrace. But I know we should not expect topographical accuracy when we consider what liberties Constable took with that big house in the middle of West Heath - and the equally impossible windmill nearby. Nobody should quibble at this artist's licence

Christopher Wade

# The Village House

Those familiar with the Kentish Town Rolls (soon to be re-edited and published by the London Topographical Society and the London Borough of Camden), or simply with that portion of them contained within our own Kentish Town Packet, will have already identified Village House, alias 304 Kentish Town Road, alias la Leverton Place. It is a classic early 18th-century three-storey brick house, which now stands on the edge of a cobbled alley with the main road traffic swirling past, but originally stood to one side of the large open courtyard of the Assembly House inn, in its earlier, rural, incarnation. When J.P. King, the artist of the Rolls, was making his panorama in the late 18th century, the house was occupied by a Captain Finch, but by the early 19th century it had been handed on to a Captain Borthwick. This gentleman, according to a newspaper of 1818, 'represented himself as a professor of music, of great talent and celebrity, to article a young lady to him for seven years, upon the understanding that he was to provide her with board and lodging, perfect her in music and dancing, and, at the expiration of the term, she was to be brought forth in public, and the emoluments of her performance were to be divided between the teacher and her friends.'

However it was discovered, after this contract had been signed, that Captain Borthwick (whose rank may also have been imaginary) had no other pupils, that 'his respectability did not answer the expectations of Mrs Jones' (the girl's mother) and that indeed, what a surprise, 'his ultimate designs on the young lady were of an improper nature.'

Village House was described by King as 'very pleasantly situate, with a commanding view to and fro'. The view to the back over the one-time fields running up to Highgate is now obscured by the buildings in Fortress Road (which have also swallowed the house's back garden) but in front it still looks straight down the timeless curve of Kentish Town High Road. Moreover, as you drive north up the High Road towards it, the house is once again a landmark and a pleasure to see, for a new owner has rescued it from years of dereliction and has restored its twelve-paned Georgian windows.

This owner, Mrs Diane Gentle, has also lovingly renovated the interior with appropriate fireplaces, paint and furniture - not to mention modern plumbing. Originally the house must have been self-sufficient in its water supply for the builders uncovered a large well down at basement level: was it, I wonder, sunk

when the house was built, or is it (as I suspect) a relic of an earlier dwelling on or near the same site? A bricked-up night soil slot in the house's one-time garden wall, on the alley leading into Falkland Place, provides further evidence of our ancestor's self-contained sanitary arrangements.

The late 19th-century shop-extension which partially obscures Village House's facade at street level, which used to be a newsagent and was for a while run by Mrs Gentle as a cafe, is presently unoccupied. I understand it is to become offices - but how nice if it could be demolished, and the restoration of the house to its original appearance thus made complete.

Gillian Tindall

## David Gentleman's London

David Gentleman's London, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.95

After David Gentleman's Britain in 1982, we now have a book of pictures and commentary of the Capital; since David Gentleman is a local resident, Primrose Hill and Camden Town are well represented. There are 40 black and white and 280 colour illustrations, some of them making a double page spread. The spread on the title pages shows my favourite view of London, from the top of Primrose Hill; there are the deserted boules pitches and gymnasium, the crowded children's playground, the dogs, the illegal cyclists and the strollers bending into the wind and the hawthorns bent by it. Even the out-of-scale building cranes remind us of the ever-changing skyline. Another spread shows the hill partly in June with the tall lush grass and a sky threatening a shower.

This is not just a book of pretty pictures. The untidiness of modern commercial London is illustrated and emphasised in the commentary. St Giles's Circus is renamed Seifert Circus, shown against 'clogged traffic, shored-up ends of terraces and inaccessible fountains of its ornamental pool': the tatty single-storey shops in the Tottenham Court Road are illustrated, and the modern street layout of Fitzroy Square castigated for being ill-matched to the graceful buildings. The markets of Camden Lock and Inverness Street, although untidy themselves, are sympathetically drawn in words and pictures.

I have so far found only one mistake, where captions have been interchanged - but such mistakes even happen in CHS publications!

My own favourite pictures are a Piper-like view of the tree-lined sweep of Gloucester Crescent and an amusingly captioned Prudential building between two Mirrors.

Roger Cline

# Book Review

Invitation to Archaeology by Philip Rahtz. Paperback by Basil Blackwell 4.95, hardback, £14.50.

It is always fun to review a book that deserves the widest possible audience, and here is an archaeologist whose love for his subject bubbles off the page like champagne. Philip Rahtz came to archaeology late in his career (like so many of us, including this reviewer), but soon made up for his late start by a keen intellect coupled with a quite phenomenal energy. Not the least of his many contributions to archaeology has been an impish sense of humour and an inability to ascend (or is it descend?) into pompousness. Hence, even apart from the chapter on Fringe Archaeology which contains some of Rahtz's best jokes, the whole book has an enviable lightness of touch which means you will probably want to read it in a couple of sittings.

Perhaps some will find it rather too undisciplined, since Rahtz's overt framework can only loosely control his tumbling thoughts. However, those who want tight discipline can find it in many another work; this one, although it has the serious purpose of attracting 'anyone wanting to know more about archaeology, but unwilling to read a serious textbook', is assuredly meant to enliven the reader's Sunday afternoon. (Indeed, the author has told me it is a deliberate attempt to reach those who have enjoyed the Michael Wood or David Attenborough programmes on television.)

But what, after all, is archaeology for? Rahtz takes great pains to show that it is 'important to people and society, it is immensely stimulating and educational, and will enrich the life of anybody who becomes involved in it'. He explains what the aims of archaeology are, what kind of people take it up and how they pursue it (illustrating this with an absorbing sketch of his own career from underemployed photographer to university professor). He has a quite illuminating chapter on the various reasons why this or that nation sees fit to employ archaeologists to recover the past (often for quite nakedly political motives). But most of the book concentrates on British archaeology since that is what Rahtz knows best (and it is a pity that the book's designers did not read the text - probably were not given the chance to - since they have decorated the cover with the blazing gold of Tutankhamen, a character not even alluded to in Rahtz's rapid world tour.

Much of Rahtz's own contribution to the discipline has come from the study of 'ethnoarchaeology' which he defines as 'how

to avoid boring holidays' though it really means observing different life-styles around the world so as to help in interpreting the puzzling objects and structural traces found by the archaeologist. Hence, among Rahtz's many holiday tasks of this nature was one which involved leaving his sun-soaked hotel balcony and walking to the next valley where several farms deserted thirty years ago still remain for the interested archaeologist to plan, photograph and record in all their broken and abandoned, yet still intimate, detail. Ten minutes' walk from one of the most popular tourist hotels on Spain's southern coast, then, is a scene which for many people would instantly bring archaeology alive.

Rather sloppy proof-reading and an idiosyncratic index are the only faults I can find with this book. If you wonder even lazily whether you might find archaeology interesting, do try reading Rahtz (and do not be fobbed off with a twenty-year-old book of the same title by one Deetz!)

Cherry Lavell

## BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

D.H. Lawrence had such a strong love-hate relationship with Hampstead (weren't all his relationships like that?) that we simply must celebrate the centenary of his birth this year. So, though it is only five years since we commemorated the demi-centenary of his death, we are reviving our exhibition 'D.H. Lawrence and his Hampstead Circle'. This chronicles the author's many visits to his friends in Well Walk, East Heath Road, Holly Mount, Heath Street - anywhere he could find a free bed - and his traumatic stay in the Vale of Health in 1915. His house there was his only London home and has a blue plaque to show for it. The supporting cast includes Katherine Mansfield, Bertrand Russell, H.G. Wells, E.M. Forster, Aldous Huxley and half the Garsington set. It's all well worth another view. The Exhibition will run from July 6th until September 22nd (Weds - Suns, 12-5)

Another exhibition at Burgh House from July 20th is one of watercolours of Highgate and Hampstead presented by the Highgate Watercolour Group - 18 artists in all.

Also, from September 28th, there will be an exhibition on the Allinghams of Hampstead. The poet, William, died at Eldon House, Lyndhurst Road in 1889, but his wife, Helen Allingham, the popular artist, lived on there until 1926. Burgh House curators are looking for new material for this show - anyone who has Allingham material should contact them on 794 2752.



# newsletter

No. 91

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1985

## The St. Pancras Housing Association – Talk and Exhibition

Sep 26, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street,  
N.W.1

The St Pancras Housing Association is sixty years old this year. Some members may have seen the fascinating television documentary on the Society some months back in which film taken in the early days of Father Jellicoe's mission to rehouse people from the slums of Sames Town, was used extensively. The Association is still thriving and has a very large archive of material on the early days of such housing schemes. Our speaker is the Rev. Philip Dyson, and his talk should be very interesting indeed.

At the same time an exhibition depicting the history of the Association, devised by the Local History staff of Camden, is touring the southern part of Camden. It is at St Pancras Library, Euston Road 5-28 Sept, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road 7 Oct-1 Nov, and Queens Crescent Library, N.W.5 6-30 Nov.

### CANALSIDE WALK REPUBLISHED

The familiar yellow leaflet on the canal walk from Camden Lock into Westminster and Little Venice has been brought up to date by our member David G. Thomas. David has also written a companion leaflet covering the walk eastwards from Camden Lock to Kings Cross.

The walks explore the industrial archaeology within easy reach of the canal and each one should keep you happily occupied for at least two hours. The yellow walk leaflets are available at the Society meetings, local libraries and some bookshops for 10p each. They can also be ordered from 28 Willoughby Road, N.W.3 or from 34 Kingstown Street, N.W.1 by sending the cost with a stamped addressed envelope.

## D H Lawrence – our October talk

Oct 23, 7.30pm  
Polytechnic of North London, Prince of Wales Road, N.W.5

D.H. Lawrence, the celebrated author, was born a hundred years ago. To mark the centenary, Burgh House has restaged its exhibition 'D.H. Lawrence and his Hampstead Circle', and we are having a talk by Christopher Rolfe on Lawrence's life and connections with Camden. Members will remember Mr Rolfe's entertaining talk on H.G. Wells some years back.

## Somers Town – a new publication

Camden is launching a new publication on September 18th – Somers Town: A record of Change. It is written by Malcolm Holmes and it will be reviewed in the next Newsletter. The price is £1.95 from libraries and bookshops, or else by post from the Local History Department at Swiss Cottage for £2.30 (cheques to the London Borough of Camden).

Father Jellicoe (see our talk on the St Pancras Housing Association) described the subject of this book as follows:

'Somers Town is really a gigantic theft. Overcrowding and poverty are here being used by the Devil in order to steal from the children of God the health and happiness which are their right.'

The book deals with the building of Somers Town, the immigrant populations, then the fading grandeur and the slums as the railways dominated the area. It also deals with the station hotels and the goods markets and depots. Then came the early model dwellings, the architecturally admired LCC estate, the St Pancras Housing Association schemes and, since then, a gradual recovery from the nightmare of Father Jellicoe's day.

# Bloomsbury School Memories

We have received some recollections of schooldays at the West Central Collegiate School written by Mrs Annette Hewitt.

Our member, Mr J.A. Allen, introduces them:

These are the recollections of a pupil who from 1911 to 1919 was at one of the last, if not the last, Dame schools in Central London.

The West Central Collegiate school commenced in 1858 in Mecklenburgh Square and moved in 1915 to 41 Great Ormond Street, opposite the Hospital for Sick Children, where it continued to function until 1939. The premises, with its attractive Queen Anne doorway, fortunately survive.

The writer, Mrs Annette Hewitt, (nee Rohr) was born in New North Street (off Theobalds Road) where her grandmother had a general grocers called 'The One o'clock Shop' because it stayed open until that time in the morning. Subsequently the family moved to New Oxford Street where her father managed De Bry (of Paris) a famous patisserie chocolaterie, and later the family moved to Great Ormond Street.

Mrs Hewitt knew well the musical Barbirolli family, then living in Marchmont Street. Prof. Barbirolli, grandfather of the conductor Sir John, taught her mother and aunt the piano. Mrs Hewitt's brother attended the Holborn Estate Grammar School where Sir John Barbirolli and his younger brother received their early education.

Mrs Hewitt's mother whilst in Bloomsbury became acquainted with Vera Brittan and Winifred Holtby who shared a nearby flat. Vera Brittain has written that her Bloomsbury period was one of the happiest of her life.

In 1919 Mrs Hewitt attended a shorthand/typing class at Pitman's School, Southampton Row, and subsequently became part-time secretary to Vera Brittain whilst free-lancing as a shorthand writer with Hansard and, subsequently, the House of Lords. From her duties at Westminster, in spite of her advanced years, Mrs Hewitt only recently retired, Lord Shinwell hosting the farewell party.

Mrs Hewitt recalls the West Central Collegiate:

This school was in Mecklenburgh Square and was run by a Miss Eliza Gould, a very patrician lady who always wore a white lace cap. She was very regal, not unlike one's impression of Queen Victoria, whom she resembled very much indeed. She had an extremely white parchment-like skin and her imperious manner instilled fear in me always. She had

a cane which she used often and with great strength, on boys and girls alike. The school was a large Victorian house and when I first went there at the age of seven there were three teachers - Miss Gould only took religious instruction, deportment, and generally ruled the establishment. For a while there was also a male teacher - a German, Herr Gravenlager, who fell in love with one of the three other teachers, a Miss Morris, and usually for the whole hour of our supposed German lesson and conversation, these two (if Miss Gould were well out of the way) would sit on the stairs talking and flirting until the noise in the classroom became too loud. Then Miss Morris would put her head round the door and say 'Hush, children, Mr Gravenlager and I are discussing your next German lesson.' One or two bolder spirits (not me, for I was always more timid and a conformist) would open the door slightly and report the progress of the lovers - 'He's got his arm round her...they're kissing...' This situation was brought to an abrupt end when Miss Gould got to hear of it and Mr Gravenlager suddenly disappeared, never to be seen again.

We started school with a roll call and had to reply 'Early please for school' when our names were called. Then followed prayers (all kneeling on the bare boards) with only Miss Gould presiding. Then there was a hymn and we dispersed to various classrooms.

When I first went there the school was flourishing - uniformed nannies used to call for older brothers and sisters, with younger members of the family in prams. I shall never forget the feeling of shame when our daily 'char', Mrs Jackson, was one day sent to fetch me at dinner time. She came in the customary costermongers' dress - a black shawl and a man's cap. Her presence was noted and remarked on by the nannies and one remarked on our poverty. I wept when I got home and begged that Mrs Jackson should never be sent again to get me. Luckily, my mother understood. How strange this bit of snobbery sounds these days.

We had dancing classes (extra) and a Mr Ripaldi used to call about twice a week. We used to have an annual prizegiving and Concert. Miss Gould would compose songs and playlets for us - usually fairy stories. The last year in Mecklenburgh Square she was already failing in health and after the prizegiving the Concert was a terrible fiasco; it went on for about half an hour and then Miss Gould got up and announced to the parents that due to under-rehearsal the evening would have to be concluded. It was a pathetic evening.

Shortly after that (the next term) we had a notice to say that the school was being

moved to Great Ormond Street and that Miss Gould would be taking a few boarders from overseas. The house was much smaller and we now had only two assistant teachers. Soon Miss Gould's health failed completely and she went to a Home in Brighton. About ten years later I saw her on the front there in a bathchair and she remembered me as 'the timid one who could have done better'.

The whole atmosphere changed with her retirement. The teachers who took over, the Misses Kemp, were truly provincial and many pettinesses arose from their old-maidish attitudes, often right down to injustices on the pupils. I was pleased to leave in 1919.

## Ellis in Blunderland

London Under London - a subterranean guide, by Richard Trench and Ellis Hillman. John Murray, 1985. £14.95

The subject of this book is fascinating - what goes on beneath the surface of our city, much of which we know nothing about or give little thought to. The book has chapters on the Underground in wartime, including its use as air-raid shelters, the lost rivers, the sewers, the piped utilities, the Thames tunnels, the general history of the Underground, government tunnels and odds and ends.

The book is well produced with plenty of illustrations, but the captions and text leave much to be desired. Of the authors Richard Trench is a journalist and Ellis Hillman a lecturer and enthusiast, his enthusiasms extending to the Lewis Carroll Society as well as Subterranean London. The combination of these abilities should provide a readable account of a technical and historical subject. What we get is a series of tall stories, loosely based on historical and technical fact, but far too loosely for anyone who wants a serious reference book.

To give some examples of inaccurate accounts from my own railway knowledge: in describing what is now the City branch of the Northern Line there is an account of the building of Bank station under St Mary Woolnoth. We are told that this meant that there is an angel over the entrance to Bank station on King William Street. A nice story, but it doesn't happen to be true. We are told that at the time of extending the line to the Bank, the development of electric traction caused the promoters to switch from cable hauling to electric traction, implying that cable hauling had already been in use on the line. In fact the decision to use electric traction was made while the line was being constructed. Incidentally,

the cable system which was originally to be used was the Hallidie system already used on the Highgate Hill tramway

We owe the Edwardian north-to-south tubes to Charles Yerkes, the Chicago financier who rescued the original schemes from financial disaster. These were the Great Northern, Piccadilly and Brompton Railway, the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway, and the Charing Cross, Euston and Hampstead Railway. The book refers to one of these as the 'Bakerloo, Piccadilly to Brompton and Hampstead line; now part of the Northern Line'! The authors get it right later on but then say that Yerkes joined the City and West End branches of the Northern line whereas this didn't happen until 1924, Yerkes having died in 1905. Yerkes is alleged to have taken over the Central Line, whereas the Central London Railway didn't become part of the Yerkes system until well after his death.

Don't rely on the book for geography, either - Crossness, the south bank outfall of the interceptory sewer system, is said in two picture captions to be on the northern bank of the Thames at Beckton. The index gets the page locations of the references to Crossness wrong, too.

What I would like to see to cover the subject is a series of articles on the various parts of underground London by more expert authors with, perhaps, a co-ordinating editor. But the present volume has probably made that not feasible for the time being. In the meantime we can make do with 'Under London' by F.L. Stevens (1939), 'London Beneath the Pavement' by Michael Harrison (1961) which also suffers from some lack of accuracy, 'Beneath the City Streets' by Peter Laurie which describes government tunnels, 'Rails Through the Clay' by Jackson and Croome and 'The Lost Rivers of London' by Nicholas Barton (available at Society meetings) the best on its own subject.

Roger Cline

### THE LEFTWICH FAMILY

Mrs A.L. Coe writes that she is interested in the Leftwich family who were ice merchants in Camden Town during the last century, and had their large ice-well constructed beside the Regent's Canal. She is also interested in her own ancestor, Robert Bullard (1779-1860) whose son Henry (1815-?) was a dairyman in Camden Town. Any information regarding either of these interests should be sent to her at Flat 12, Ashmede, 56 West Cliff Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH4 8BE.

## MAURICE WITHERS

Maurice Withers, managing director of Gnu City Press, and who handled the printing of each edition of this Newsletter since it began in 1970, has died. He was very well known in the London print trade, not the least for his remarkable energy. He was still working a long working week when he died in his mid-70s. In the seventeen years I knew him he did not once, to my knowledge, take a holiday or even the time off to have one. He was kindly and generous, sometimes impetuous in his decisions, but always helpful if there was a deadline to meet. Certainly the times he produced this Newsletter in 24 hours were numerous. He prided himself on managing the fastest printing firm and in this he was probably justified. He will be much missed.

JR

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FOUNTAIN?

The Times of March 10, year unknown but probably 1926, carried this letter to the Editor from W.R. Sickert:

Sir, Someone said to Whistler in my hearing, "Well, Jimmie, let bygones be bygones". To which the master, dancing with glee and shaking his fist: "That is just what you must never let them be". Let the words 'Mornington Crescent, Endsleigh Gardens and Lady Burdett Coutts's fountain' be retained on our roll of remorse for ever, as, what the Germans call Ein abschreckendes Beispiel.

Mornington Crescent and Endsleigh Gardens had at that time recently been built over by the Black Cat factory and the Friends Meeting House, but what fate befell the fountain?

R.C.

## RED CAP RAILWAY CLUB

Roger Cline writes: Among the London Clubs listed in the United Telephone Company Telephone Directory of 1885 is the Red Cap Railway and Shipping Intelligence Club at 6 Camden Road, N.W. Presumably the Red Cap relates to the Mother Red Cap pub nearby - did the club meet there to swap spotting information?

## GRAVEYARD REVISITED

Hampstead Parish Church has asked the CHS members involved to repeat their entertaining talk on the Graveyard Project for church members and anyone else who might be interested. So, if you missed it the first time round or want to hear it again, Christopher Wade and colleagues will be talking at the Hampstead Parish Church crypt room, on Tuesday, October 22nd at 8pm.

## THE ALLINGHAMS AT BURGH HOUSE

The exhibition about William and Helen Allingham mentioned in the last Newsletter, will run at Burgh House from 28 September to Christmas. While William's poetry is increasingly forgotten (apart from 'Up the airy mountain') Helen's artistry is more and more acclaimed. A reprint of her 'Happy England' is coming out this autumn following the successful re-issue of her 'Cottage Homes of England' and a full-scale biography is being researched. Burgh's curator, Christopher Wade, is still looking for a picture of the Allingham's house in Eldon Grove, Hampstead and any evidence of their local interests. If you can help please telephone him on 794 2752

## FLEET ROAD SCHOOL MEMORIES

W.E. Marsden, Reader in Education at the University of Liverpool, is collecting material on Fleet Road School during the 1879-1903 period. He is after material especially relating to the celebrated headmaster of the time, W.B. Adams, and anything on the school magazine. If any member has anything of interest please contact him at the University at 19 Abercromby Square, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX

## MIDWEEK

Some members have indicated an interest in having mid-week daytime outings. Unfortunately none of our present voluntary officers is able to arrange these due to other commitments but if a member is willing to organise such outings we would be happy to give them our support. If you think you can help, please write to our Secretary, Jane Ramsay, at Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, N.W.3.

## LAWRENCE AT BURGH HOUSE

The Burgh House Trust has published an excellent pamphlet about D.H. Lawrence and his life and friends in Hampstead to go with the exhibition there. It is called D.H. Lawrence and his Hampstead Circle and is available at the bookshop at the House for 50p. Better still, go and see the exhibition as well.

## SURVEY OF LONDON CHANGES OWNERS

On 21 January the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Environment, Lord Avon, announced that responsibility for the Survey of London would be transferred to the Royal Commission when the GLC was abolished.

(From the Annual Review of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, 1985)

# newsletter

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Nov 1985

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

## History of the St Pancras Vestry – Our November Talk

Nov 20th, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing St, NW1

The St Pancras Vestry, forerunner of a borough council of some fame, was itself no stranger to news headlines. It managed one of the most difficult parishes in the country, beset by extremes of population increase, poverty, railway despoilation and a limitation on its powers of government. It quite often failed to manage at all, and was bedevilled by scandal, corruption and misfortune. St Pancras merits the attention given to it by a succession of scholars researching London government because it was at the centre of most of the crucial social debates in the metropolis.

John Richardson, our speaker, has recently completed extracts from the Vestry minutes from 1718 to 1889 which are contained in about 70 hand-written volumes of 700 pages each. The extracts themselves extend to over 1800 typed pages, and these will soon be available for use in the Local History Collection at Swiss Cottage. Meanwhile, come and here his talk summarising the stormy and spectacular career of the St Pancras Vestry.

### MORE SECONDHAND BOOKS

Camden History Society is affiliated to the London and Middlesex Archaeology Society (LAMAS), which recently combined its library with that of the Museum of London and sold off surplus copies. Some of the books of Camden interest (and some with a wider London interest) have been bought for our Society and will be available from the book-stall at some future meetings.

The books include A Book of Bloomsbury by Fordon and Deeson (1950), Hampstead in the pocketbook Fascination of London series edited by Sir Walter Besant (1902), Regent's Park and Primrose Hill by A.D. Webster (1911), a history of Rowton Houses (including our own Arlington House) by M. Sheridan (1956), and the Burrows guide Hampstead Past and Present 1946-7. We also have a copy of the long out of print More Streets of Hampstead.

## The Future of Historic Buildings in London

Wed, Dec 11th, 7pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

The future care and administration of Greater London's historic buildings should concern all of us now that the abolition of the GLC is certain. Broken up will be a department which managed and maintained many of these buildings, and which was excellent of its kind. We have therefore invited one of its officers, Robert Thorne, to talk about the future. Members will remember that Robert gave us a marvellous talk on Waterhouse at our Annual Meeting this year.

## A New Book on Hampstead

The first harbinger of Hampstead's 1986 Millennium is a new book by John Richardson called Hampstead One Thousand. It is to be published on November 15th or thereabouts in time for Christmas present time! It is published by Historical Publications Ltd in association with the London Borough of Camden and costs £7.50. It is similar in format to the successful 'Hampstead Heath' book by Alan Farmer published last year and is profusely illustrated with colour and black and white. A review will appear in our next Newsletter.

In association with the Society, the London Borough of Camden will also be reprinting the 1886 Street Directory for Hampstead and Highgate and separately, it is hoped, a street map for the year. This is one of the most interesting of the street directories for the area and will be entertaining and interesting for everyone involved in Camden's history. It will be published in December, if all goes well, at £5.95 and will sell at libraries and bookshops.

# Book Review

The Making of Cromwell Avenue: A History 1485-1885. By Gail Waldman, published by the Cromwell Area Residents' Association. Price £2.75, available from the author at 48 Cromwell Avenue, N.6

In recent years, schools, the mass media and a proliferating number of local history societies have encouraged people to research into the history of their immediate localities. Much fascinating and significant work has been produced in the process. When I saw this booklet I was hopeful it would fall into this category. Given the obvious restraints on the budget, it is reasonably well produced and certainly well illustrated. I was, perhaps, a little concerned at the 1485 in the title, and the number of photographs and architectural drawings but, to balance these there were several interesting reproductions of old maps and photographs of extracts from the Winchester Hall Estate sale brochure of 1880.

Gail Waldman spends about half of her space tracing the history of parts of the area bounded by Hornsey Lane, Highgate Hill, Cholmeley Park and Archway Road from about 1485 to the 19th century. The next quarter of the booklet is devoted to the theme of the title, with sections on the Winchester Hall estate and the Imperial Property Investment Company, and a last section deals with the design of the estate. The sections on the IPIC contain some new information, but they are marred, like the rest of the booklet, by Mrs Waldman's lack of experience in writing or researching history.

There is hardly a mention of Cromwell House and its estate, both of which remain of great importance for the area. Elsewhere, the recent research of others, (though acknowledged) is trotted-out with little attempt at fresh interpretation. No use is made of the Robert Redmayne memoirs housed in the British Library and mentioned in John Richardson's book on Highgate - Redmayne lived for a decade in Winchester Hall and described life there in some detail. In another part of the book Mrs Waldman does not utilise the records of the Imperial Property Company because Haringey council declined to pay a search fee to the Company's solicitors - this is very lame, because those records would yield much important information. Mrs Waldman has not analysed in any depth the building history of the area, or the social and economic trends which may have affected its architecture. She has also made serious and minor errors, such as the

meaning of copyhold tenure, or the spelling of such things as lintel (not lintol), or Dr Schwitzer (not Switzer), and she has managed to refer to the Uniformity and Five-Mile Acts of 1662 and 1665 without mentioning the Church of England.

In short, Mrs Waldman should have allowed herself more time and this booklet would not be a missed opportunity - there is still much work to be done on the area.

Peter Barber

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FOUNTAIN?

The Burdett-Coutts fountain about which Sickert wrote to the Times (see previous Newsletter) is almost certainly the fountain designed by Henry Darbishire and given by Miss Burdett-Coutts to Victoria Park in 1861. Miss Viv Morris of Makepeace Mansions kindly sent me a picture of the fountain and wrote to say she remembers her childhood when she lived in Hackney next door to the park.

We still do not have an answer to the question of why Sickert was driven to write to the papers about the fountain, but I suspect it has something to do with George Lansbury's policy in the 1920s of providing more facilities in the parks for public enjoyment. In our own Regent's Park, he cleared wide areas of trees for football pitches in the centre and the running track by the canal. A paddling pool was provided in Victoria Park around this time and I suspect it may have affected the setting of the fountain sufficiently to have upset artistic feelings.

Roger Cline

## AGAR TOWN BACK ON SALE

In 1935 the Rev. R. Conyers Morrell, vicar of St Thomas', Camden Town published a history of Agar Town, the area south of his church which stretched down to Kings Cross station and which had been covered by railway lands. It had been a notorious area because short-life shacks had been built with few sanitary amenities to house the poorest of London people. His 72-page history, published in paperback form for sixpence (plus 1½d postage) has remained the only history of the area since.

Members may be interested to learn that some 20-30 mint copies have been acquired by Andrew Boyle (Booksellers) Ltd, 21 Friar Street, Worcester. (0905 23893). They are available at the bargain price of £1 each plus postage.

# Flint – The Mysterious Substance

Several CHS members who went on the annual outing - this year to the Chilterns - expressed surprise and interest at the local use of flint as a building stone, so here are a few facts I have dug out on this strange and beautiful material.

For those who know how to work it, flint is amazingly versatile stuff. By striking a suitable flint nodule in the right way (knapping) one can make anything from squared building blocks with a richly glossy surface down to tiny, delicate barbed arrowheads of deadly effect. But almost anyone can strike off a razor sharp flake, as many a bleeding novice hand can testify! Apart from the Chilterns, one of the best places to see flint is Norfolk, where many churches, houses and walls are built with it. Some of these have intricate patterns formed by flint placed among stonework or bricks. Brandon in Norfolk was the last place where gunflints, for old-fashioned muskets, were made; luckily the skills of the gunflint knappers have been recorded on film. Nowadays archaeologists do a lot of experimental flint-knapping and can turn out very convincing Paleolithic axes and the like (one hopes they are all suitably marked '20th century copy!').

Flint lies in roughly horizontal seams in chalk rock. At Grimes Graves in Norfolk you can visit a Neolithic chalk mine, maintained by English Heritage who keep one of the 200-plus shafts in safe condition. Here you can see the 'topstone' flint, which was too near the surface and fractured unpredictably. Further down in the chalk is the 'wallstone', but what the Neolithic miners were really after was the 'floorstone', many feet below the surface but rewardingly close-grained and offering good big blocks to be split as desired. The Neolithic miners (about 2000BC) wanted the flint for making axes, which they traded to farmers who were clearing the virgin forests of these islands to grow wheat and barley (first steps towards the EEC's grain mountain...) A very remarkable trade network therefore developed to pass flint axes to areas where this first-class cutting material was not naturally available.

What is flint, anyway? This question was asked at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, where the stuff was in evidence. Digging around the geological books I find there is still uncertainty about the origin of flint, even about whether it is organic or inorganic in formation. The most favoured explanation seems to be that glassy skeletons of sponges deposited silica on the sea floor, which eventually became compressed and dehydrated into flint bands

within the limestone sediments which formed the chalk. The least favoured theory is that flint formed above sea level by rainwater filtering through chalk rock. One thing is sure: flint contains marine fossils and is variously coloured grey, deep brown, amber or black by the impurities in it. Technically it is a chert, an amorphous silicon dioxide, formed in the Cretaceous or chalk-building period between 100 million and 65 million years ago - a period I cannot even begin to visualise. I prefer to see it as a beautiful, silky-textured and mysterious material which has inspired craftsmen of long ago to their greatest efforts.

Cherry Lavell

Further reading: British Museum, Flint Implements (1968), and Alec Clifton-Taylor, The pattern of English building (1972).

## WAS IT BLUNDERLAND?

William Featherstone writes:

With reference to your article 'Ellis in Blunderland', I am not sure about the accuracy of the rest of the criticism of 'London Under London', except to say that it seemed rather too personal for a journal such as yours. But if one enters Bank station from King William Street, or indeed from Lombard Street, straight before you are three angels, six in all, not quite over the entrance, rather just inside it.

Roger Cline writes:

As Mr Featherstone says, there is no angel over the entrance to Bank Station in King William Street, but only inside it. This inaccuracy caused me to miss the angels when I went to check this point. As for my general criticism of errors abounding in the book may I quote from a review of it published in the newsletter of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society which says the book contains 'plenty of interesting information but sadly it is not all accurate...Wrong again..There are other errors. So what could have been a thoroughly good and interesting book turns out to be one in which one has to check the accuracy of the statements made.' Exactly.

## The Review

With this Newsletter is enclosed the Camden History Review No 13, which comes as part of your subscription. Additional copies may be obtained at meetings or in bookshops for £1.95. Congratulations to John Gage on a handsome production.

## The Holborn Archives

The building works in the Local History Library archive store have now been completed and the Hampstead and St Pancras rate books are once again available for use. Members who want to use these archives should contact Richard Knight or David Richards at Holborn Library (405 2706 ext 337) for an appointment.

## Musical Somers Town

A musical, based on the history of the railways, especially in the area of St Pancras, will be at the Shaw Theatre from Nov 20-23rd. It begins at 7.30pm and tickets are £2.50 and £1.50. It is called 'Straight Lines!' and is presented by a company called Puppet Tree with the New Shaw Theatre Company.

## THE KINGS CROSS CUT

Recently published is a booklet about the Regent's Canal in that stretch of it from Camden Town down past St Pancras and Kings Cross. It is called 'The Kings Cross Cut: a city canal and its community' and is written by Bob Gilbert. It is a handsome publication, profusely illustrated, and is priced £2.50. We shall review it in the next Newsletter. Copies may be obtained from the Thornhill Neighbourhood Centre, Orkney House, 199 Caledonian Road, N.1 (278 9500)

## TERRY NUNN

Friends of Terry Nunn will be glad to hear that he is recovering well from a heart attack while on holiday in Russia. Terry, who did much of the photography for the first decade of our Reviews, is also helping with pictures of the Hampstead Parish gravestones. Apologising for the delay in this, he writes: 'Once I'm back to normal, of course, I'll tackle the rest of the pictures with renewed vigour and the added zest of still being on the right side of the turf!'

## THE HAMPSTEAD MILLENNIUM

Celebrations for this 1986 event begin on December 7th this year with a Grand Auction to raise money for the Appeal Fund. It will be held at Swiss Cottage Baths at 2pm and viewing is from 10-12.

## BURGH HOUSE EVENTS

Two interesting publications are on sale at Burgh House at the moment, relevant to recent exhibitions. One is called D.H. Lawrence and his Hampstead Circle, and the other is 'Helen Allingham (1848-1926)'. More information about Helen Allingham's Hampstead connections came to light while the Exhibition was being compiled and related addresses include Gayton, Thurlow and Denning Roads. Buy the pamphlet and find out - it costs 15p at Burgh House.

## QUEEN MARY COLLEGE CENTENARY

In January Kevin Bales gave the Society a fascinating talk on the compilation by Charles Booth of his famous 'poverty map' of London. Members will be interested to know that in connection with the centenary celebrations of Queen Mary's College in Mile End Road, he is giving his talk again on Nov 27th. Other talks in the same period are 'East London Through the Last Century', 'The East End Music Hall', and 'The Architectural Gems of Tower Hamlets'. Those interested should contact the College for a brochure of events.

## RED CAP RAILWAY CLUB

The Red Cap Railway Club (see last Newsletter) is too early for train spotting - timetabling and timing would be more in line with the date and description.

William Featherstone

## 13TH CENTURY FIND AT ST ETHELDREDA'S

Some 13th century tiles of the Cloister of the Palace of the Bishops of Ely, in Ely Place, Holborn, have recently been discovered in construction work in the area. The tiles, made in Flanders, were coloured yellow and green and some still remain with colouring. It is hoped that they will be displayed through a glass section of the floor about to be built above them.

## THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson of 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, NW3 and the Treasurer is Ms Helen Lefroy at the same address.