

# newsletter

No 105

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jan 1988

## Hatton Garden - our January Talk

Thurs, Jan 21st, 7pm  
Crypt of St Etheldreda's church, Ely Place, EC1.

Hatton Garden and its surroundings was once the estate of the Bishops of Ely and in more ways than one the occupants played an important part in national events. The palace of the bishops was replaced by Hatton House in c1576 by Sir Christopher Hatton, favourite and Chancellor of Queen Elizabeth. By 1659 John Evelyn was remarking in his diary on the foundations being laid across the gardens to form a new street. Nowadays, of course, it is the centre of the diamond industry, but it was at No 57 that Sir Hiram Maxim made his first automatic gun which by 1884 could fire 600 rounds a minute.

Our speaker is Malcolm Holmes, Camden's Local History Librarian, and the talk will be illustrated by many slides. The crypt of St Etheldreda was built in 1251 and incorporates even older walls which may be Roman. The church was bought by the Roman Catholics in 1874.

## THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND TRANSPORT GROUP

The Group, led by David Thomas, has been looking at sites in Kentish Town owned for years by Birch and Company, an old-established coach company. Just round the corner members have also researched the Winsor and Newton factory in Spring Place and the nearby old horse depot of Walton Hassell and Port, the grocers.

The Group will be meeting next on Jan 18th at Holborn Central Library, Local History Section at 5.45pm for more research work. Members wishing to join the Group should contact David Thomas at 36 Pearman Street, SE1 7RB (928 8702).

## Bishopsgate in February

Wed, Feb 17th, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street, NW1

Our February talk is about an area of London outside Camden which, in Tudor times, was the place for wealthy merchants to live; it is now sadly run down and beset by rebuilding. Who better to talk to us about it than an old friend of the Society, David Webb, librarian of the Bishopsgate Institute. Visitors to the V & A will be familiar with the facade of Sir Paul Pindar's house which was once in Bishopsgate and is now in the Museum. Behind Bishopsgate itself is Spitalfields, the subject of much controversy and renovation at the moment. And at one end of the road is Siefert's National Westminster tower, the tallest building in London.

Those who haven't been to the Bishopsgate Institute are missing one of the free treats of London - an excellent London library with an important collection of prints and drawings.

## Camden Libraries - the Cuts

As members will be aware the Libraries department of Camden is one of those most affected by the cuts envisaged by Camden Council in the present situation. In particular the local history department, and Keats House, are under threat.

Your committee has considered the matter and while accepting the inevitable - that some sort of cuts will come - we feel that this side of the Council's activities is threatened by a disproportionately large decrease in funding. We have therefore circulated a leaflet to library users, influential bodies, and anyone else we think might be interested in the fate of the local history department, and also written to the appropriate committee Chair regarding the department and Keats House.

The leaflet 'Camden's Local History Library - A thing of the Past?' has been widely

quoted in the press, and people have been asked to write to both the Chair of Leisure Services and to the Director of Libraries and Arts with their views. By the time you read this Newsletter the decision, one way or another, will probably have been made, but members should be aware that the cuts as threatened will probably mean that no queries from the public can be dealt with over the telephone, and that all activity on exhibitions, publications and oral history will cease. Opening hours will be reduced as a result of the proposed 50% reduction in local history staff.

We have pointed out in our letter to Councillor Green that the reduced staff will have to concentrate on the preservation of old material and the collection of contemporary items so that gaps shall not hamper future generations of researchers. With such a priority the staff will be under great pressure in servicing callers at the library - the number using the collections has increased over 4 times since 1974. We have also made the point that Camden's local history service is probably the best in London at the moment.

## **BORDER HAPPENINGS**

The Islington Archaeology and History Society has the following talks in the months to come:

20 Jan: Oliver Green of the London Transport Museum, on 125 YEARS OF THE LONDON UNDERGROUND

17 Feb: A Presentation by FLASHBACK, the Islington Local History Project

16 Mar: Marjorie Caygill on THE STORY OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

20 Apr: Dr John Bold of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments on THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

All meetings are at the Camden Head, Camden Passage, N1 beginning at 8pm

The Hornsey Historical Society programme is:

10 Feb: Bob Ellis and Gareth Evans on RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT ST MARY SPITAL

9 Mar: Linda Poole on THE HISTORY OF JONES BROTHERS, HOLLOWAY ROAD AND THE JOHN LEWIS PARTNERSHIP

13 Apr: Frank Sainsbury on THE STORY OF NEWHAM

Meetings are at Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, Crouch End, at 8pm.

## **The Highgate Prophet - Part Two**

In Newsletter No 97 we published a print of William Powell, a man often called the Highgate Prophet, and asked for information about him and his sobriquet. Some detail of him, showing him to be both energetic and eccentric, appears in a 19th-century edition of Notes and Queries (date not known at time of going to press). It was contributed at the time by a Mr Everard Home Coleman of 71 Brecknock Road.

'Powell held a situation in the Treasury but he was unfortunately lucky in gaining a prize of £500 in a lottery, from which time he neglected his official duties and never ceased wandering after lottery speculation. He soon lost not only the £500 but his situation which he was permitted to resign upon a very small pension. He lived in Sloane Street at the expense of some friends until Aug 15, 1803 and was buried in the burying-ground, King's Road, Chelsea at the age of sixty-four. For several years in all seasons and weathers he walked early in the morning from Sloane Street to the foot of Highgate Hill, then, raising his hand to heaven as if in the act of devotion, would start off in a run, and never stopped or looked back till he had reached the top; but if stopped, would return to the spot whence he had started, and recommence his running till he had accomplished his purpose. When asked the cause of this practice, he replied that when he ceased to ascend the hill in that manner the world would be no more. This gained him the appellation of the 'prophet'.

## **THE CHALON COLLECTION**

The Dictionary of National Biography includes an article on the painter Alfred Edward Chalon (1780-1860). It says: 'Chalon had made a large collection of his own and his brother's drawings and paintings. In 1859 he offered them to the inhabitants of Hampstead, together with some endowments for the maintenance of the collection; but the scheme fell through. He then offered them to the nation, with a similarly unsatisfactory result.'

I would be grateful if anyone has further detail of his Hampstead dealings (or residence?). Presumably, he must have had some connection with the place.

John Richardson

## HEART TRANSPLANT IN HAMPSTEAD

An Exhibition at Burgh House, which opened recently, reflects the upheaval and excitement in Hampstead exactly a hundred years ago, when the Town Improvements were at last completed.

The part of the Town which needed Improvement was the heart of the Village to the west of today's underground station. At that time the continuation of Heath Street towards Swiss Cottage was no more than narrow passages surrounded by small and sometimes squalid courtyards; carriage travellers from the newly-built Fitzjohn's Avenue going into Hampstead had to travel through Prince Arthur Road to the High Street to get into Heath Street.

The debate as to how to overcome this traffic problem in the heart of Hampstead raged on for years. Should there be a new artery grafted on to the heart or should there be a by-pass down Perrins Lane? You can find out how this problem was solved by visiting the Exhibition, which runs until March 27th.

Related to this will be four illustrated talks by the curator of Burgh House, Christopher Wade, on 'The Streets of Hampstead'. These will be at Burgh House at 2.30pm on each Friday in February. Admission is 50p.

## SUBSCRIPTION CHANGE

Subscriptions are due on 1st March, and a renewal notice is enclosed. We regret that this year we are having to make an increase of £1, to cover rising costs since the last change in 1985. We hope you will agree that this is still very reasonable and good value for your money.

The new rates are:

INDIVIDUAL £6

SENIOR CITIZEN £5

JOINT MEMBERSHIP £6.50

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP £6.50

Membership includes free entry to all talks, the receipt of the Newsletter every two months, and the Camden History Review when published. The next edition of the Review will probably be sent out with the next Newsletter in March.

The Treasurer looks forward to receiving your renewal promptly, so that money does not have to be spent on reminders and chasers: if you are not intending to renew, it would be much appreciated if you could let him know.

## The Origins of King's Cross

An article in Notes and Queries of 1861 on the origination of the name of King's Cross for that part of Camden, is strangely at odds with the accepted version. It implies that the area was called King's Cross by the developer of land on the south side of the road without reference to the statue across the road. In fact the writer, a T.N.C., doesn't mention the statue at all.

'King George IV had just ascended the throne [in 1820], when my grandfather, William Forrester Bray (sometime proprietor of the Brighton Herald), with the assistance of Mr Dunston, late Governor of St Luke's, Old Street, Mr Robinson, solicitor of 32 Charterhouse Square, and Mr Flanders, a retired tradesman, commenced building on some pieces of freehold ground, at a notorious place for thieves and murderers known as Battle Bridge. It was a speculation of £40,000 and soon my grandfather had the satisfaction of seeing 63 houses erected; some of which were situated in the thoroughfares afterwards named by him - Liverpool St, Derby St, Hamilton Place and Chichester Place. More houses were afterwards erected, but in consequence of the notorious popularity of the name of Battle Bridge, the new buildings would not let. The result of this was that my grandfather had an interview with the other freeholders, to enable them to change the name to a better one. One wanted the new built locality to be called St George's Cross. Another wanted Boadiccea's Cross in memory of that great battle from whence it derived its name. But neither of these names being agreed on, and my grandfather being the largest builder there, he proposed that, in honour of George IV, who had just assumed the Crown, it should be King's Cross.'

An account of the building of the statue which appeared in No 61 of this Newsletter recalls that in 1830 (the year George IV died) the builders of the statue approached the Vestry for permission to build it; at that stage it was to be called, according to the Vestry minutes, St George's Cross. The name was quickly changed to King's Cross, no doubt to raise funds from a sympathetic public to mark the death of the King that year. In other words, this account says that the name of the statue came first and that of the area second.

The key to this apparent divergence might be that the promoter of the statue and the ground freeholder of the land that Mr Bray was building on was one and the same person, a Mr Guinette. Perhaps he ensured that the statue and area had the same name.

## Hammerbeam Roof to Go

A spectacular and unique octagonal oak hammerbeam roof in West Hampstead is soon to disappear. It's in the gothic Shomrei Hadath synagogue on Finchley Road, built originally as a Congregational church. The building is to be gutted and turned into flats in 1988.

It was built in 1894 - the architect, Sir Henry Spalding, who lived locally. He designed quite a number of Hampstead's larger residences as well as the Public Baths in Finchley Road in 1897, where Sainsbury's now stands. He described his new Baths as 'gay neo-Tudor, with very steep gable and fanciful, elaborate timber cupola.'

Spalding obviously had a penchant for 'fanciful cupolas'. The blueprint for the Congregational Church, to be on the corner of Finchley and Burrard Roads, sported not only a distinctive cupola but also elaborate crowns to the four towers. Rather than use the whole of the oblong site for the church, part was intended for a school, plus a hall 'easily partitioned into classrooms, parlours and kitchens, plus a two-bedroomed caretaker's house.

Alas, finance didn't eventually run to such ambitions. The £11,000 budget allowed only one additional hall and hardly any roof 'embroidery' at all, certainly not a cupola. Perhaps too much money was swallowed up by the roof's impressive carved hammerbeams. Why this medieval style of roof at all?

Henry Spalding had a specific, practical aim, but he achieved it aesthetically. He created an 1100-seat building as an octagon so that all members of the congregation on the main floor and in the galleries, could be within range of the preacher's voice. Also, they had a view of pulpit and altar unobscured by 'objectionable columns of iron and steel'.

To me, the interior of the roof is breathtaking. That this soaring, dignified beauty is to be destroyed is difficult to accept. But I cannot see how flats can be inserted into the building without. I hope I'm wrong. At least, the facade is to be retained.

"The place has an atmosphere of awe, reverence and peace not found in modern houses of God", says Jonathan Winegarten. He is president of the Shomrei Hadath Synagogue and son of its founder, Moshe. He admits to having a deep, personal attachment to the building and will leave it with many regrets. "It has different moods", he explains. "I love it when it's full of people and also when I'm alone there. At twilight it has a calming and mysterious atmosphere."

The original Congregational church was funded by the Hackney Ecclesiastical College which itself was rebuilt on an adjacent site in 1886. The church was not a success in the neighbourhood. The *Daily News* in 1903 reported that while the Lyndhurst Road church attracted nearly 900 to both morning and evening services, the Finchley Road church drew only 162 to its morning service (of which 40 were children), and 210 in the evenings. Much larger congregations were also seen at Emmanuel, West End Green and St Luke's, Kidderpore Avenue.

By the outbreak of World War Two the congregation had dwindled to 30 and services were suspended, and in 1945 the building was abandoned. In 1946 Moshe Winegarten, a jeweller who lived in Platts Lane - an area with many orthodox Jewish families - saw the old church as ideal for a house of Judaism. The Federation of Synagogues was persuaded to buy it.

So began a second religious era. Like the first it began with love and enthusiasm - but as families moved away the congregation diminished. Today, 41 years after it became a synagogue, the financial burden has proved too heavy and the small school hall is to be rebuilt as a new synagogue. As for the main building, the developers cometh.

Joan Clayton

## THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. It is edited by John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7, to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Jane Ramsay, c/o CHS, Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. The Treasurer is Chris Sanham, 44 Mansfield Road, NW3 and the Editor of the Review is Dr John Gage, c/o Swiss Cottage Library as above.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 106

Mar 1988

## Death, Dissection and the Destitute

Thurs 10th March, 7.30pm  
Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution  
South Grove, Highgate N.6

It was commonly believed in the 19th century that resurrection would be withheld from anyone whose body was eventually used in the Anatomy Schools. Hence the horror of body-snatching, and hence, also, the financial gain of those who indulged in the grisly occupation. At the beginning of the century the corpses of criminals were granted to Anatomy Schools, thereby imposing a double penalty on the wrongdoer, but there were not enough corpses to satisfy the demand. This shortage gave rise to scandalous thefts from churchyards, including that of St Pancras, where armed guards were posted at one time.

In 1832 the Government quietly passed the Anatomy Act which provided that the unclaimed bodies of destitute people from workhouses could be used, and from that stemmed a long period of fear and anguish for the poorer classes and which provided much of the resentment at having to go into a workhouse.

Dr Ruth Richardson has recently published a much-acclaimed book on this theme and we are the first to have her speak on the subject. The book is closely packed with much information on a little-known area of social history, together with accounts of death customs in the 19th century. It is likely to be a fascinating and authoritative talk.

We have chosen a larger hall than usual for this talk and we have invited also our colleagues from the Hornsey Society to attend.

## William Tayler's Diary: our April talk

Thurs 14th April, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3.

The subject of Dr Ann Saunders' talk is the Diary kept in 1837 by William Tayler, who supervised the household of a St Marylebone widow. His account reveals in great detail how the family spent their time, and how they treated their man below stairs, who was paid 40 guineas a year.

William Tayler, the son of an Oxfordshire farmer, actually kept the Diary to improve his handwriting, but he was also a competent water-colourist. His job was, with the aid of three maidservants and an odd-job man, to look after the widow and her daughter.

Members will know that our President is always entertaining and this talk promises to be part of the tradition.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put the following events in your diaries. We apologise for the short notice of the March meeting: we were unable to find a speaker until quite recently.

25th May, 7.30pm. Probable venue St Pancras Church House, Lancing St, NW1.  
John Gage on BLOOMSBURY

18th June (a Saturday!), 6pm. At Sarum Chase, West Heath Road. Annual meeting and talk on a subject related to the building.

19 Jul, 7pm. Wellcome Institute.  
Janet Foster on Medical History sources.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE!

A Renewal notice and details of the revised subscription rates were enclosed with the last Newsletter. Subscriptions are due on 1st March. If you have not yet done so, please renew now, and save us the time and cost of further reminders!

# The Somers Town Cotton Mill

Very little can be discovered about the Somers Town Cotton Mill and records are sometimes confusing. Unless papers are in private hands or turn up unexpectedly, much information has to be a matter of deduction. Hard facts are few and the main source is trade directories.

Certainly the firm which owned the Cotton Mill, Haynes and Douglas, were stayers - lasting in London until 1884 and, apparently, until 1962 in Stockport, Greater Manchester. Early in the 19th century there were about one dozen establishments calling themselves cotton mills in or round about London, though it is not certain exactly what they did. By 1835 there seems to have been only four in London, mostly concerned with the spinning of candlewick yarn, according to the records of the Factory Inspectors.

Two historic books on cotton manufacture, reissued by the John Cass Foundation, have no mention of Haynes and Douglas. One book speaks of legislation forbidding the employment of children under ten rather disapprovingly, observing that the poor could not often afford to educate their children, who might as well be occupied. It was observed that improvements in machinery made it possible to manage without the dismissed children, that a child of ten should be able to work twelve hours a day and that the Rhenish Prussian mills worked 15 1/2 hours daily.

To return to Haynes and Douglas. They were for many years in Sols Row on what was then called Tottenham Court Road, but now part of Hampstead Road, just north of the junction with Euston Road. This district has been developed and redeveloped so often that it is quite unrecognisable even to those who knew it in the 'fifties. However, there is still a public house called the Sols Arms tucked into the corner of a block known as Stephenson House. An old map shows space for the cotton mill behind the pub, but inspection of the site reveals nothing. However, it is fairly certain that this is where it was.

The business was not always known as Haynes and was only Haynes and Douglas for a short time. The first reference to the 'Cotton Manufactory' on the site number variously given as 3, 12 and 13 Hampstead Row, was under the name of John Leech in 1794 (Kent's London Directory). A beam engine from Boulton and Watt was installed. It seems to have been a fairly powerful machine for extensive operations. The Sun Alliance Insurance records, which have

survived, do not show a policy for this firm in the years when one would expect one to have been taken out. However there is one for a John Leech of Adams Row, a household policy, taken out in 1805.

Haynes and Douglas came to the site in 1806. Haynes was of a well-known local family, a William Haynes being noted as a local apothecary in 1796. By 1820 the firm were known as Haynes and Pickard, cotton manufacturers and merchants. By 1841, they were George Haynes, engaged in cotton rush manufacture. What this was is uncertain, but could well have been a substitute for rushes for matting.

Later the firm appears as George Haynes, wick merchant and manufacturer of 45 Hampstead Road - possibly they moved or buildings may have been renumbered. In any event, they seem to have been in or near the same place for many years.

Curiously enough, in view of the earlier reference to child labour, there are no references in either the St Pancras or Foundling Hospital records to apprentices being sent to Leech's, or Haynes and Douglas. The workhouse sent dozens or more of children to cotton manufacturers in the 'Counties of Chester and Lancaster', but the Foundling Hospital seems to have tried to find rather better jobs for its inmates. However, there is one note of a George Walter being sent to Daniel Pidgeon, who was engaged in cotton manufacture at Tottenham Court.

George Haynes and Co removed to Stockport in 1884. There is or was a Hampstead Cotton Mill shown in an 1890s map, with a Hampstead Lane and a Hampstead House nearby. It is understood that the business closed in 1962, but no records exist in local libraries, the Business Archives Council or the National Register of Archives.

Joan Barraclough.

## THE LAMAS LIBRARY

The library of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society has now been incorporated with that of the Museum of London. Members of LAMAS and those of societies affiliated to LAMAS (which includes the CHS) are welcome to use both collections for reference, but reading space is limited and an appointment should be made. Opening hours are 10am-6pm, Monday to Friday. Books may not be borrowed but a photocopying service is available. For appointments please telephone 600 3699 ext 221.

## Flinders Petrie in Hampstead

**Flinders Petrie: A Life in Archaeology** (1985), by Margaret S. Drower, tells us something of the part Hampstead played in the life of the man and his family. The story opens in September 1894 when Flinders, 41 and a bachelor, moved to a surprising address: Lily Lodge, Tranquil Vale (the Vale of Health). 'Tranquil' was presumably Petrie's own name for the Vale, a heartfelt reference to previous lodgings where every morning he was woken at three by sparrows. Lily Lodge appears to have been part of the house now known as Heath Hurst, the first on the right coming from the main road. Flinders was Professor of Egyptian Archaeology at University College and from the Vale it was a short walk to the horse trams at South End Green, which took him to Gower Street.

At eight o'clock one morning, late in November 1897, he married Hilda Urlin, 26-year-old daughter of an Englishman who had long practised as a barrister in Dublin. They were in their travelling clothes and, leaving twelve Urlins to enjoy the wedding breakfast and drink their health, they went straight from the church in Kensington to Victoria Station en route for Egypt and Petrie's usual winter dig.

On return they settled in at Lily Lodge but in 1899, after another season in Egypt, they had to move and 'they found convenient board and lodging once more in a small Regency cottage facing Hampstead Heath, at 12 East Heath Road'. There is now, and was then, no house of that number; doubtless they were in 14 or 15, the National Trust cottages below Squire's Mount.

The Petries soon felt the need for a home of their own and in 1900 they rented 8 Well Road. Here their two children were born, John in 1907 and Ann in 1909; the boy went to University College Preparatory School in Holly Hill. In the spring of 1918 the family moved to 5 Cannon Place; this has a blue plaque to Sir Flinders, as he was from 1923.

Among their friends in the 1914-18 war was Professor Masaryk, a refugee in a boarding house in Holford Road and later President of Czechoslovakia. From 1909 to 1933 Flinders was President of the Hampstead Scientific Society and took his duties seriously, although at times his refusal to have a telephone at Cannon Place must have been a problem.

Flinders and Hilda left England in August 1934 to settle in Jerusalem, he never to return (he died there in 1942). John and Ann moved into a small house in the Vale of Health which, being near the Hampstead source of the Fleet, they called Upfleet; it still bears the name. This was to be the family home for over twenty years.

John disappointed his father by not following in his footsteps as an archaeologist. A disjointed army career came to an end in 1940 when, as 2nd Lt. Petrie, he was taken prisoner during the withdrawal from Dunkerque. After release in 1945 he got married, took a degree in mathematics and taught at a school in Godalming.

Ann was fluent in Italian and spent the war in the Intelligence branch of the Foreign Office, going out to the Mediterranean. In 1946 she joined her mother in Jerusalem but the following year they came home to Upfleet, where Hilda set about preparing a backlog of works on Egypt for publication. Ann, who wanted outdoor life, worked in a market garden with friends. Lady Petrie died in 1957 and Ann left Hampstead for the Thames Valley and a market garden of her own.

Roy Allen

## The Camden Cuts

We are grateful to all those who took the trouble to write to Camden Council in protest at the proposed cuts in the funds available to the Local History Library. We have received copies of many of the letters sent and you will be pleased to learn that the proposed cuts have been softened and, indeed, are still under negotiation. However, new and much restricted opening hours take effect until further notice. The new hours at Swiss Cottage Local History Library are as follows:

Mondays: 9.30-5pm (Closed 1-2pm)  
Tuesdays: 2-8pm  
Wednesdays: Closed all day  
Thursdays: 9.30-5pm (Closed 1-2pm)  
Fridays: Closed all day  
Saturdays: Open only once a month (Details please telephone)

Holborn Local History Library is available by appointment only.

In connection with Holborn members may wish to know that the enormous collection of St Pancras Vestry minutes, dating from 1718, has just been lodged at Holborn. They are being microfilmed at the moment but are available for researchers by appointment.

## **COURIERS FOR LINCOLN'S INN**

Some of Lincoln's Inn's historic buildings will be open to the public this year, and Captain Carver, the Under-Treasurer, is looking for people who might be willing to organise tours and take visitors around, from Easter onwards, in the mornings only, between 9.30 and 11.30am. Some remuneration will be provided. If you are interested, please contact him at the Treasury Office, Lincoln's Inn, WC2 3TL, or telephone 405 1393.

## **CONFERENCE ON LONDON'S POPULATION**

The Local Population Studies Society are holding a Conference on Saturday, 26th March on the theme of 'The Population of London in the Century Before and After 1688'. Speakers will deal with London history of the period and also parish registers and Bills of Mortality. The conference fee is £10; the venue is Senate House, Malet Street. Those interested should contact Mrs Grace Wyatt, 302 Prescott Road, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancs.

## **LAMAS HAPPENINGS**

LAMAS (The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) has set up a London Region Local History Committee. It hopes to publish a directory of London history research and if you are engaged in a project please send details of topics, areas and dates covered to Miss Ann Winser, 25 Godstone Road, St Margarets, East Twickenham, Middx, TW1 1JY. Please write by the 31st March latest.

The idea is to enable members throughout the region to discover if anyone is working on the same or similar topic so that there could be co-operation rather than overlapping or duplication. For example, those working on the history of education in their own area might well benefit from the work of someone researching the same topic in another locality.

## **THE CHALON COLLECTION**

The last Newsletter queried the reason why the artist Alfred Edward Chalon had offered his and his brother's collection of drawings and paintings to Hampstead Vestry in 1859. (The gift was declined). Christopher Wade points out that in Barratt's *Annals of Hampstead* it shows that the Chalons were friends of Constable and visited him in Hampstead. Constable, in a letter dated 20 Jan 1834, refers to the Chalons as being in Hampstead for six weeks. Jacob Simon, Curator of 18th-century portraits at the NPG writes to say that his gallery has a number of the Chalon drawings in their collections, mainly portraits of theatrical personalities.

## **PAID RESEARCHERS WANTED**

As members will be aware the staffing of Camden's Local History Department is to be drastically reduced. This means that the remaining staff will concentrate on collection and preservation and relinquish other responsibilities such as researching those enquiries which are received from people unable to travel to the library. It is proposed that money will be available to pay free-lance researchers to deal with these enquiries and Malcolm Holmes, the Local History Librarian at Swiss Cottage, is anxious to compile a list of competent researchers who could deal with various aspects. The researchers would be paid for their work but details are not yet available.

## **Anniversaries**

The following are local anniversaries this year:

### 50 years (1938)

The new main building of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, was opened.

### 100 years ago (1888)

The Hampstead Baths and Washhouses in Flask Walk, were opened by the Wells and Campden Trust soon after the Town Improvements were completed.

The same year Hampstead Vestry opened the public baths in Finchley Road, on the site of today's Sainsbury store.

Churches consecrated included Holy Cross, Cromer Street, WC1, St James's, Sheriff Road, (architect Blomfield), and St Joseph's, Highgate Hill.

In the same year West End Station on the London North Western line was opened. The Northern Heights Footpath Association was founded. Details of its subsequent history would be welcomed.

### 150 years (1838):

Regent's Park was partly opened to the public

### 200 years (1788)

The Fitzroy Proprietary Chapel (which later was rebuilt as St Saviour's church) in Maple Street, was opened.

## **ARCHIVE ACTION**

Alarmed at the cuts and reduced facilities London-wide which affect local history researchers, a Greater London Archives Network is being established to represent the users of record offices in the London area. The CHS will be sending representatives to the inaugural meeting at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, WC1 on 23rd March at 6.30pm.



# newsletter

No 107

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 1988

## Bloomsbury - our May talk

Wednesday, 25th May, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street, NW1

Say the word Bloomsbury and two reactions may be anticipated. One would be a lively interest in the Bloomsbury set and another would be an ill-disguised boredom with the whole lot of them. However, the area itself has much of interest and is hardly ever examined. John Gage, who edits the Camden History Review, has been researching the area for some years and this talk will contain his preliminary findings and thoughts.

## The Annual Meeting at Sarum Chase

Saturday, June 25th, 6pm  
Sarum Chase, 25 West Heath Road, NW3

Our Annual Meeting this year is at the spectacular location of Sarum Chase, a most individual mansion, part 'thirties, part mock-Tudor and part a number of other things. It was built for himself by the architect Frank Salisbury (hence Sarum).

The stepped, landscaped garden to the rear leads up to Telegraph Hill, site of the beacon which was part, before the invention of modern telegraphs, of a chain of message indicators placed at strategic high points around the country. It would, indeed, be fascinating to have a talk on this system one day if a speaker could be found.

However, the subject of the talk after the Annual Meeting is Frank Salisbury and his architectural circle, and it is being given by Alan Powers of the Thirties Society, who has conducted a number of tours around this strange house. We must hope for good weather so that the gardens can be viewed. Also, we hope that the refreshments, which we have to charge for, will include strawberries.

Please note that in order to secure this speaker we have changed the date of the meeting from the 18th to the 25th. The business meeting is at 6pm and the talk begins at 6.30. Refreshments are after the talk.

You are invited to nominate for the posts listed below. If you are unable to nominate in writing before the meeting it may be possible to take proposals on the evening, provided that you have already secured the agreement of the nominee. Please note that the important post of Treasurer is to be filled, as Chris Sanham is standing down.

The present officers are:  
PRESIDENT: Dr Ann Saunders  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Anthony Cooper, Professor Henry Loyn (who is retiring this year), R. Michael Robbins.

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Christopher Sanham (who is retiring this year)  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: John Gage  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Carmel Egan

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

## OPEN DAYS AT HIGHGATE CEMETERY

Members are reminded that guided tours still take place daily on the hour at Highgate Cemetery. Until September these will be between 10 and 4. There are also special Sunday open afternoons, from 1-5pm, on Jun 5, Aug 7, Sep 4 and Oct 2. A good place to go to if you haven't been for some time - an ideal place to take house visitors as well.

## Advance Notice

Please note these events in your diary:

19 Jul: Janet Foster on Medical History, at the Wellcome Institute

21 Aug: Annual outing. Details in this Newsletter

29 Sep: Peter Jackson on the work of George Scharf. At the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution..

17 Oct: Kate Arnold Forster on the history of the Pharmaceutical Society. At Paragon Hill School, New End, Hampstead.

16 Nov: Alan Godfrey on London maps

30 Nov: Talk and visit to the Panoramas of London Exhibition at the Barbican

9 Dec: Christmas Party, at Heath Branch Library

25 Jan: Talk on the BBC Sound Archives, at the Children's Library, St Marylebone.

## The Annual Outing

The Society will be visiting on 21st August the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902-36. The house, Bateman's, at Burwash in Sussex was built by a local ironmaster in 1634. Memorabilia of Kipling abound - his study and other rooms are as he left them, and his Rolls Royce is still in the garage. We then go on to a fine country house called Firle Place owned by the Gage family.

Please book early, using the form enclosed with this Newsletter.

## Ancient Ditch at Primrose Hill

Cherry Lavell writes:

It is not often that I have managed to spot any archaeological deposits around Primrose Hill, so it seems worth mentioning that there is what looks like an ancient field boundary ditch at the rear of a building plot in Berkley Road between Chalcot Square and Regent's Park Road. (Historically of course the area is Chalk Farm, but it is more often called Primrose Hill these days, probably because it sounds better to the estate agents.) The building plot, just NW of Chalk Farm Baptist Chapel, is No 2 Berkley Road. Anthony Cooper tells us, in the CHS book on the Primrose Hill area, that this site was bombed during the war, so this is its third incarnation at least.

The ditch in question was visible at the far end of the plot, and was neatly sectioned by the work for the new foundations. The fill of the ditch showed as variegated brown soil against the yellow clay of the subsoil; the ditch itself was about 1 1/2 - 2 feet across and about 1 ft deep, just about what one would expect for a field boundary. The whole area was fields until mid-19th century, and if any

of the contemporary maps are accurate enough it might be possible to pinpoint this ditch exactly.

## Buried in Hampstead now an Exhibition

The beautiful Hampstead Parish churchyard is a unique survival from medieval times. Apart from its fine collection of Georgian chest tombs and curious epitaphs, it has a remarkable assembly of local and national celebrities.

At Burgh House, until June 26th an exhibition marks the work of the Camden History Society group in recording the gravestones of the churchyard and which culminated in our publication *Buried in Hampstead* - also the title of the Exhibition.

On display are the Society's maps of every grave and an index of approximately 7000 names, plus some unusual pictures from the Camden archives.

Members may like to read also the review of the publication which appeared in the March 1988 edition of the *Genealogist's Magazine*.

**Buried in Hampstead:** A Survey of Monuments at St.-John-at-Hampstead by Camden History Society reported by Christopher Wade and photographed by Terrence Nunn. Camden History Society, 1986. 96 pp., illus., chart, index. Card covers, A5. £3.95.

Churchyard recording used to be the province of the learned local historian or the incumbent. Lacking the family historian's breadth of view and indeed enlightenment, these worthies tended to omit the humbler monuments as being without merit. Not so the Camden History Society. At the outset they did a great deal of 'homework' in order to make the best use of available sources. During the recording they fielded a large team of enthusiastic specialists and willing workers. They dug deeply and widely in their local history sources, using background - and foreground - material to decipher, reinforce and elaborate their findings. Not content with this, because the yard at St. John-at-Hampstead was the last resting place of national figures, they used *Who's Who*, and doubtless the *D.N.B.*

After the recording was completed they made copies, indexes, maps and digests of their material and deposited these where they would do most good, thus helping to ensure their survival (single copies of any work are always at risk). They photographed almost all the 2,500 monuments and a selection of these are displayed in the book, along with the descriptions of many others. In short, they have completed, as far as is possible, a total recording, typed, indexed and deposited.

The introduction, explanatory chapters and bibliography show clearly that the Camden History Society is not content with any superficial recording - they have every reason to be proud of the result. I make no apology for the pun: 'They left no stone unturned'.

John Rayment

# Memories of Flask Walk Baths

As recorded in the last Newsletter, the Baths and Washhouses in Flask Walk, Hampstead, were opened one hundred years ago.

They feature in a memoir by Horace Wheatcroft and his cousin, Eric Eve, who both lived at 10 Flask Walk around the 1920s and who sent an account of their boyhood days to the Hampstead Museum at Burgh House.:

'No. 10 Flask Walk, like most other dwellings in the area, had no bathroom or hot water. We had a tap in the back yard from which my mother filled a watering can for use in the kitchen, and the only other tap we had was in the cellar over a stone sink and this was where we washed.

At the end of Flask Walk near New End school were the Hampstead Baths and Wash-houses where Eric and I were sent every week, usually on a Saturday morning. The ground floor of the building was divided into cubicles, each cubicle having a sink and wash board etc. Hot water was provided and I have vivid memories of my mother pounding the washing on the scrubbing board. Upstairs there was a similar arrangement except that each cubicle contained a bath and was shut off with a numbered door. After paying our twopence we sat on a wooden bench and awaited our turn. The man in charge of all this was called Tom and he had a large brass turn-key which controlled the amount of water going into each bath. It was a very noisy place and Tom was always telling everybody to "Hurry up". From within the cubicles came the shouts of "More hot water please Tom for No 2", or "A bit more cold for No.4 please". After stepping out of the bath we would shout out "Finished No 2" and in Tom would come with a bucket and brush and after emptying the bath with the key from outside, he would proceed to scrub round the bath making it ready for the next customer. The twopence that we paid was for second class but first class was available for fourpence and included a mirror on the wall and a hair brush. We rarely went first class because I did not go much on the hair brush!'

## HISTORY OF ROSSLYN LODGE IN ARCHIVES

Roy Allen has deposited a history of Rosslyn Lodge, now 12c Lyndhurst Road, and the headquarters of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, at Swiss Cottage.

## THE COPE FAMILY

The Rev. David Hinson has asked if any members could throw any more light on his forbears, the Cope family, who lived at the Archway corner of Holloway Road, where the London Co-op stands. Isaac Cope was a bootmaker. He used to fetch his leather from the City, carrying his awl up his sleeve as a means of protection from the Burkers [men who murdered so as to procure a corpse for the anatomy schools] in the country roads of Kentish Town and Highgate. He died in 1837. His wife bore him eight children and they lived in what was known as 'the old wooden house' on the site described above, with two other families.

If any one has any further information re the Copes or the site, which is outside Camden of course, please write to the Rev Hinson at 1 Bridge House Estate, Ferryhill, Co. Durham.

## A PATMORE PLAQUE

Ian Anstruther has recently purchased Elm Wood, a house next door to the Hare and Hounds at North End. This house is on the site of Elm Cottage, once the home of the poet Coventry Patmore, and his wife Emily. Mr Anstruther wants to put up a plaque on the house to mark their residence there and has suggested the following wording:

'Emily, wife of Coventry Patmore, the 'Angel in the House', died in a cottage on this site, 1862.'

If any member has views on the matter please contact him at Barlavington Estate, Petworth, Sussex, GU28 0LG.

## ANGLO-GERMAN FHS FORMED

Roy Bernard writes to inform us that an Anglo-German Family History Society has been formed. Membership is already over 160. Most of London's areas had large German communities before the 1st World War, especially east and south-east London. At this time there were ten German churches, a German Hospital and at least two daily newspapers in the German language. [There was also a German Gymnasium near King's Cross. Ed.]

The interests of the members generally involve tracing their German ancestors, most of whom came to settle in England in the mid 19th century.

Mr Bernard's address is 39 Long Lane, Cookham, Berks.

ST. PANCRAS,  
**Somers Town Presbyterian Church,**  
 174, OSSULSTON STREET, N.W.  
 Rev. Z. B. WOFFENDALE ... .. Minister.

**Saturday Night Popular Entertainments.**

**Programme of GRAND  
 ENTERTAINMENT**

To be given in the LECTURE HALL of the above Church on  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 20th, 1909, at 8 p.m.**

— BY THE —

**WELCOME CONCERT PARTY.**

OPENING HYMN.

PIANOFORTE SOLO—"Popular Airs" .....	Mr. WILFRID J. GWYNN
OPENING CHORUS—"Welcome" ... ..	THE TROUPE
SONG—"Somewhere" ... ..	Mr. F. BOWIE
SONG—"Yes, I don't think" ... ..	Mr. E. MORGAN
SONG—"My Ain Folk" ... ..	Miss J. CARRICK
CONCERTED ITEM—"Whoppers" ... ..	TRIO
SONG—"Gifts of Nature" ... ..	Mr. J. TABOR
SONG—Selected ... ..	Mr. F. PHILLIPS
SONG—"The Butterfly and the Rose" ... ..	Mr. F. BOWIE
CONCERTED ITEM—"Daring Deeds" ... ..	QUARTETTE

**CURRENT EVENTS.**

**Rev. Z. B. WOFFENDALE, Chairman.**

PIANOFORTE SOLO—"Impromptu in D" ... ..	Mr. W. J. GWYNN
SONG—"I used to sigh for the Silvery Moon" ... ..	Mr. J. TABOR
RECITAL ... ..	Miss GOODCHILD
SONG—"Good-Bye" ... ..	Miss J. CARRICK
SONG—"The Agitator" ... ..	Mr. E. MORGAN

Concluding with a Sketch, entitled—

**"COURTING UNDER DIFFICULTIES."**

W. F. CHAPMAN.

*(By permission of the Publishers, Messrs. Abel, Heywood & Sons, Manchester.)*

CHARACTERS—

MR. TOBIAS SMIPHY ... ..	Mr W. J. GWYNN
MAUD (His Niece and Ward) ... ..	Miss M. E. GOODCHILD
JENKINS (His Servant) ... ..	Mr. E. MORGAN
TOM PERCIVAL (In love with Maud) ... ..	Mr. F. C. PHILLIPS

CLOSING HYMN.

**Piano by Messrs. BOYD, Ltd., 19, Holborn, E.C.**

**Admission by Programme - 2d.**

**Next Week—Mr. CUTHBERT and HIS YOUNG FRIENDS**

**(See Programme).**

REV. Z. B. WOFFENDALE preaches in the Church every  
 Sunday at 11 a.m. and 6.45 p.m.

## A Somers Town Evening

We reproduce here a leaflet advertising a Saturday Night Entertainment at the Somers Town Presbyterian Church in 1909. The Rev Z.B. Woffendale (does anyone know what the Z stood for?) looms large in what appears to be a very long evening.

## CAMDEN CHANGES ITS MIND ON VCH

One of the more serious consequences of the cutbacks being made by Camden Council was that the support for the Victoria County History series was to be abandoned. The VCH does indeed survive on the combined funding of local authorities and the cancellation of the Camden contribution, which might possibly have led to other London boroughs following suit, would have had serious repercussions. Ironically, this happens to be the year when we hope to see the volume on Hampstead published.

However, Camden has now found the money!

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 108

Jul 1988

## Medical History and Camden

Tues 19th July, 6pm.

Wellcome Foundation, Euston Road, NW1

This talk by Janet Foster was, due to family reasons, cancelled at the very last moment in 1987: we are very pleased that we have been able to reschedule it. As we said in the Newsletter at the time, the area of Camden has seen many medical developments. It has been home to numerous teaching hospitals in which new treatments have been tried, and some of the country's most famous establishments, such as the Royal Free, the Eastman Dental, the University College Hospital, the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, and so on have been situated in the borough since they began.

Ms Foster will be talking about the Sources of Medical History in Camden, drawing upon the resources of the Wellcome Foundation for what promises to be a fascinating talk.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER STARTING TIME

## The Summer Outing

Some seats are still free for the Society's summer outing to Rudyard Kipling's house and to Firle Place in East Sussex, on Sunday, 21st August. A booking form was enclosed with the last Newsletter and if you want to go please apply SOON.

## BELSIZE PARK THEN AND NOW

Burgh House are staging an exhibition illustrating Belsize Park Then and Now. It runs from July 9th until September 25th. Please check opening times by telephone first.

## In this Issue

- ★ PAGE THREE: A report on the very successful Annual Meeting at Sarum Chase
- ★ PAGE TWO: A preview of the exciting prospect of a long-awaited Local History Centre for Camden
- ★ PAGE THREE: Roy Allen finds that accepted wisdom about Rosslyn House is mistaken
- ★ PAGE FOUR: Horace Shooter tells us more about the Rev. Woffendale.

## Advance Notice

21 Aug: Annual Outing. See previous and this newsletter

29 Sep: Peter Jackson on George Scharf's London at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution

17 Oct: Kate Arnold Forster on the history of the Pharmaceutical Society. At Paragon Hill School, New End, Hampstead

16 Nov: Alan Godfrey on London maps

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9 Dec: Christmas party and talks at Heath Branch Library

25 Jan: Talk on the BBC Sound Archives, at the Children's Library, St Marylebone.

## LITERARY WALK AROUND BLOOMSBURY

Dillons, the bookshop, has just published a six-page walk around literary Bloomsbury. The route sets out from the shop, down Gower Street into Bedford Square, past the British Museum and back up into University land, pointing out those houses peopled by famous names, or those which have featured in books. Copies of this enterprising publication may be obtained at the shop.

## Wimbledon Past

Now that you have recovered from the excitement of watching Edberg beat Becker in the atmosphere of hype and money that today signifies Wimbledon, you may like to be reminded of the rather less streamlined days of the championship between the wars. One of the customary events after each Wimbledon then was a party thrown by Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield at their home, Witanhurst, at the top of Highgate West Hill. It was almost like a royal garden party, and here, everyone who was important in the tennis world, usually including the winners, would gather in the sumptuous house and grounds, and between them play another tournament.

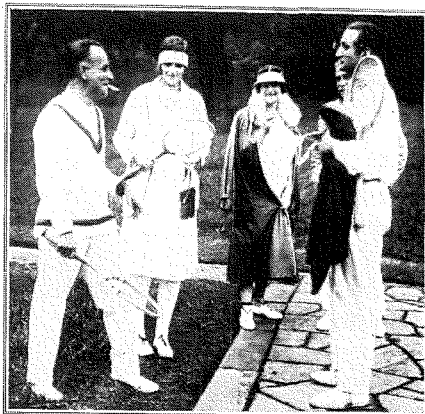
The illustration below is from The Tatler in 1926. Presumably, the Princess with the hat on is not anticipating a very strenuous game!

This picture, reproduced by courtesy of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, is part of a new collection of Highgate illustrations from a book by John Richardson. It is hoped that it will be published in hardback form in about October this year.

SIR ARTHUR AND LADY CROSFIELD'S TENNIS PARTY.



MR. CAZALET AND LADY LINLITHGOW



COLONEL MAYES, LADY MARY ASHLEY-COOPER, THE COUNTESS OF MAR AND KELLIE, AND MR. MISHU



PRINCESS OBOLENSKI



COUNTESS RABEN AND MR. F. R. SCOVEL



LADY WARD

Sir Arthur and Lady Crosfield's annual tennis party at their house at West Hill, Highgate, which they give in aid of the North London Tennis Welfare Fund, was as big a success as ever. It is always held immediately after Wimbledon, and most of the "stars" appear. There is also usually an American tournament in which everyone plays. The Marchioness of Linlithgow, who is with Mr. Cazale, is a daughter of Sir Frederick Mithel, Bart. Colonel Mayes is about the best-known man in the lawn tennis world of England; Lady Mary Ashley-Cooper is Lord and Lady Shutesbury's daughter, and Lady Mar and Kellie is Lord Shutesbury's sister.

## The New Local History Centre

At the Annual Meeting the Mayor referred to the plan to establish a Local History Centre at Swiss Cottage. This exciting prospect, it seems, is now more than a pipe dream. The developers of the Odeon cinema site, as part of their deal with the Council, are to provide the Centre free of charge, at a peppercorn rent. The Council, of course, will have to pay for the running of the Centre. It is hoped that the entire local history collection will be housed here with the exception of the archive material at Holborn which consists of rate books, paving board minutes etc, but it is hoped that by the time the Centre opens these will have been microfilmed and therefore they will be available in this form at Swiss Cottage.

Also to be provided is a meetings room. This opens up the possibility of the Society being able to establish, with the co-operation of Camden Council, some kind of meetings base for the Hampstead area and where it will be possible to have refreshments at meetings, so that members may socialise a bit more after the talks.

We must keep our corporate fingers crossed that all this comes about. Certainly it is good news for Malcolm Holmes and his colleagues.

## Fire Over Hampstead

Christopher Wade writes: Hampstead's contribution to the Armada saga 400 years ago was its signal beacon up by Whitestone Pond, where the flagstaff now stands.

The Burgh House summer exhibition 'Fire Over Hampstead', which opens on July 9th, shows how Hampstead was part of a vast network of beacons (a system which began in the early 14th century), used to warn the militia and others of the Armada's approach. As Macaulay put it:

Southward from Surrey's pleasant hills  
flew those bright couriers forth;  
High on bleak Hampstead's swarthy moor  
they started for the north.

A 'Fire Over England' Working Party has arranged for over 400 beacons to be lit on July 19th all over the country. Hampstead will be ablaze that night but (for administrative reasons?) not on the old beacon site but on Parliament Hill.

Our small Armada display at Burgh House, which includes a model of Hampstead's beacon flashing towards Harrow, runs until 25th September.

# The Origins of Rosslyn House

"Wedderburn bought the place as Shelford Lodge and renamed it Rosslyn House". So, more or less, runs the traditional account of the house in Belsize acquired in 1793 by Alexander Wedderburn, Lord Loughborough, later the Earl of Rosslyn. The facts are otherwise.

Lord Loughborough was Lord Chancellor until 1801, when he was forced to resign although as the Earl of Rosslyn. A year later he sold house and land to Henry Cooke of Highgate, a merchant. The sale was covered by Deed 231 at Swiss Cottage Library and this document recites earlier leases on the estate.

One of these, dated 1793, refers to the house as a message "formerly called Mulys since the Grove House". Mulys derives from Mrs Mules, the occupant in 1714; and the Grove was the prominent avenue of Spanish chestnuts that led up to the house (behind Nos. 26-27 Lyndhurst Road) from Rosslyn Hill. Another lease, dated 1797, describes the message as "formerly called... the Grove House but then ... known by the name of Shelford Lodge". Nowhere is there any mention of Rosslyn House. It seems clear that what Wedderburn did was to introduce the Shelford name, not discard it.

Shelford was a Nottinghamshire property of the Chesterfield family, who owned the head lease on the entire Belsize estate. Evidently Wedderburn, in 1793 still only a baron but with his eye on an earldom, seized the opportunity to pay a compliment to his new landlord, the Earl of Chesterfield.

From 1803 to 1809 the house was occupied by Robert Milligan, father of the West India Docks. Port of London records show that the first stone of the docks was laid in 1800 "by the concurring hands" of Lord Loughborough, William Pitt (Prime Minister), the Chairman of the dockyard company, and Milligan (Deputy Chairman). It was probably Milligan, with grateful memories of the 1800 ceremony, who changed the name from Shelford Lodge to Rosslyn House. The earliest record of the new name seems to be in a letter of April 1808 from him to the parish vestry, written at 'Rosslyn'.

A bronze statue of Milligan, by Westmacott, used to stand at the entrance to the docks. It had to be moved during the last war and it is now on display in a former warehouse.

Wedderburn took his title from Roslin, near Edinburgh, but he anglicised it to Rosslyn; despite this, 'Roslyn' long prevailed in local street names. Charles Woodd, the last occupant of the house, was a stickler for one 's' and in 1893-4 the Ordnance Survey duly marks Roslyn House alongside Rosslyn Lodge. Woodd must be turning in his grave, or rather his family tomb; this, in the old churchyard, has Rosslyn.

Roy Allen

# The Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting, at Sarum Chase, was generally reckoned to be one of our better ones. In a large measure this was due to the location and the weather and the fact that after the talk we were able to walk out into the landscaped gardens in the sunshine, pausing only to pick up strawberries and cream and a glass of wine. Alan Powers gave an entertaining talk on various artists and architects associated with the original owner of the house, Frank Salisbury, and the Mayor, Cllr Budd, made an encouraging speech to the Society.

The officers elected were as follows:

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

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Post vacant  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: John Gage  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Horace Shooter  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Carmel Egan

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Eric Brassington, Christina Gee, Philip Greenall, Diana Rau, Gillian Tindall, Rosemary Weinstein, Ann Winser.

As you will see, we still need a Treasurer. It is not an arduous job, but it is important. Volunteers please?

## The Somers Town Presbyterians (continued)

Horace Shooter has sent us some detail regarding the Somers Town Presbyterian Church featured in the last Newsletter and the exotically named Rev. Z.B. Woffendale.

'The Reverend Zephaniah Banks Woffendale was the son of Richard Woffendale and was born on 4 December 1833 at his father's house, 71, Falkner Street, Manchester. His father died suddenly on 4th April 1836, aged 55; his mother then moved the family to the Kendal home of her childhood where her father was a master tanner (Zephaniah Banks). Z.B. Woffendale stayed in Kendal until he was 14, when his mother was offered a clerkship for her son in the London Railway Clearing House in Seymour Street (now part of Eversholt Street). At the age of 16 he made the acquaintance of Mr John MacGregor, the Christian barrister and founder of the Open Air Mission, and began to make an appearance at street corners in Somers Town as a preacher. He had many followers and with some helpers hired the Cabinet Theatre, Liverpool Street, King's Cross. Mr Andrew Wark, a wealthy London stockbroker and an elder of the Regent Square Presbyterian Church, paid the rent of the theatre and eventually bought it.

In 1869 the pastorate of the Regent Square Mission church in Middlesex Street, Somers Town, became vacant and was offered to Mr Woffendale; he in turn gave up his job at

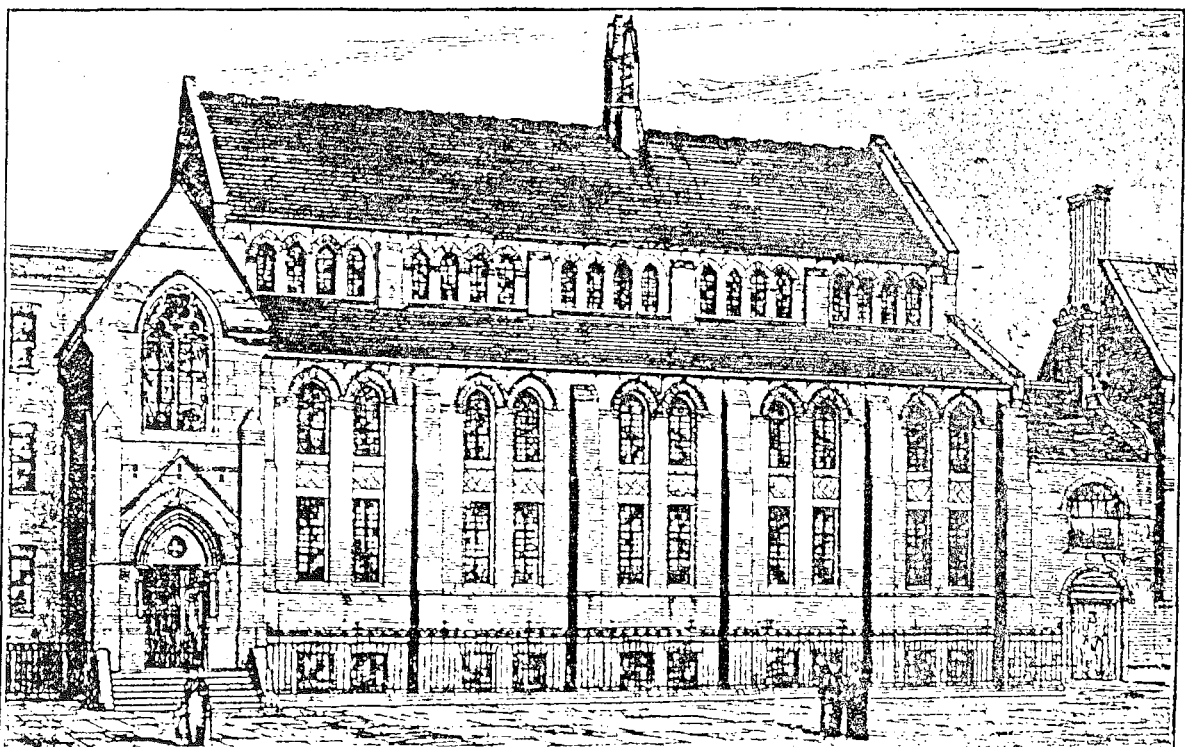
the Railway Clearing House against the advice of the head of his department. This was in 1870. He attended the Presbyterian Theological College from 1873-5. During that period the Middlesex Mission moved to Goldington Crescent and Mr Woffendale was ordained here on 31st May 1876. His congregation grew and a new church was built at 174 Ossulston Street (at the corner with Hampden Street), and opened by Dr. Dykes on 24th March, 1882. The site from Lord Somers cost £3,000. Woffendale resigned 2nd Feb 1910 after 40 years service and he died at his son's home on 14th July 1914. He was buried in Highgate Cemetery.

### Roger Cline on Regent's Park

Roger Cline is talking to the Community Holiday Association at Fred Tallant Hall, Drummond Street, NW1 on Thursday, 12th July at 7pm. His subject will be Regent's Park, with the emphasis on the 20th century, so as to complement Dr Ann Saunders' book. Admission is 50p and members of the Society are welcome.

### THE SOCIETY

This Newsletter is edited by John Richardson. All contributions should be sent to him at 32 Ellington Street, N7. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. Contributions to the Camden History Review should be sent to Dr John Gage, 21 Lambolle Road, NW3.



SOMERS TOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—SOUTH VIEW.



# newsletter

No 109

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Sep 1988

## George Scharf's London

Thursday, 29th September, 7.30pm  
Highgate Literary and Scientific  
Institution, South Grove, N.6.

George Scharf, the celebrated artist came to London from Germany in 1816, bringing with him an advance knowledge of the skills of lithography that was to make his work unusual for the period. The first painting he ever did in London was one of Islington from the New River but he intended to make his living as a portrait painter.

He was successful in London, at least in terms of commissions and sales, but he was hopeless at business and consistently undercharged for his work. As a result he ended his days in poverty, at that time living in Camden.

Our speaker is Peter Jackson, well-known London expert and collector who is also chairman of the London Topographical Society. His book, *George Scharf's London*, appeared in 1987 and is well-worth buying for the commentary and the many illustrations - copies will be on sale at the meeting.

We have extended an invitation to members of the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution to join us on the evening, and so it might be wise to arrive in good time.

## Friends of Keats House Launch

As members will know the cuts in Camden's expenditure have reduced the opening hours of Keats House as well as putting a question mark over the future of the building. It is obvious now that the House needs the support of those who feel that it should have a secure base and to this end the Friends of Keats House are to be launched on Sunday, 30th October, at 11.30am at the Everyman Cinema in Hampstead. There will also be a Keats Hampstead walk afterwards.

## The Pharmaceutical Society - our October talk

Monday, 17th October, 7.30pm  
Paragon Hill School, New End, NW3.  
(Opposite The White Bear)

The Pharmaceutical Society, which now has its headquarters in Lambeth, was founded in 1841 by Jacob Bell, owner of a well-known pharmaceutical business, who also established the *Pharmaceutical Journal*. From 1841 the premises of the Society were in a splendid building in Bloomsbury Square which was vacated when it was thought that the extension to the British Library would require its site.

Our speaker on the history of the Society is its archivist, Kate Arnold Forster, and we have chosen a reasonably appropriate new venue for this talk - the old New End Dispensary building, from which medicines were given to the poor. Nowadays Ralph Wade has converted the building into a successful school.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

16 Nov: Alan Godfrey on London maps. At the King of Bohemia, Hampstead High Street, at 7.30pm

30 Nov: Talk and visit to the Panoramas Exhibition at the Barbican Centre. Ralph Hyde is the speaker. Beginning at 6pm.

9 Dec: Christmas Party and talks at Heath Branch library

25 Jan: Talk on the BBC Sound Archives, at the Children's Library, St Marylebone.

16 Mar: Talk by Michael Foot MP, on Poets on the Heath. At Rossllyn Hill Chapel, 7.30pm

### CHRISTMAS STORIES WANTED

Christopher Wade (794 2752) is looking for more speakers who can give a 10-minute historical talk at our December meeting. Please phone him!

## Sweet Water for London - the New River Campaign

Come over the borough boundary with me for a minute, to the Angel area of Islington. How many people going to Sadler's Wells Theatre realise that they are walking past one of the few windmill stumps in London? It can be seen, battered and mended, from the Amwell Street entrance to Thames Water's premises. It is only the first storey of a wind pump, used from 1707 to about 1720 to pump water from the Round Pond at the New River Head up to the reservoir in what is now Claremont Square. Just behind it is the tall structure of the 1768 beam engine house, long emptied of its old rocking monsters and given over instead to a couple of modern water pumps which roar gently among a marvellous mixture of electronic and steam-age gauges. Incidentally, they also have a 15th-century stone conduit-head removed from our very own Bloomsbury.

All this and much more (of which I can only give a taste here) came out at a meeting organised by the New River Action Group which is campaigning to conserve the natural environment and historical buildings of the New River. This was an artificial waterway, originally 38 miles long, cut in the early 17th century from near Ware in Herts to bring 'a fresh Streame of running Water to the Northe parts of the City of London'. Now that Thames Water is surrounding London with a huge new multi-million pound ring water main in deep tunnels, the New River will become redundant in the early 1990s, and the Action Group has very sensibly involved itself in the early stages of planning the future of the watercourse and its associated structures.

The most privileged part of the day was a visit to the Oak Room in Thames Water's offices: this room, with its dark oak panelling and marvellous Grinling Gibbons carvings of fish, crabs, rushes, keep-nets, herons and other watery subjects, was installed in the New River Company's offices in 1693. (But note that our President's invaluable 1984 book says 'possibly by Gibbons himself': Thames Water are fairly confident, of course.) The room also has a breathtakingly three-dimensional plaster ceiling with a central painting of William III. Extraordinary to relate this room has survived two complete dismantlings and removals: firstly to the new Austen Hall buildings of the 1920s, for what was by then the Metropolitan Water Board, and secondly during the war when it was

removed for safety. If the present building were to be demolished this 'demonstrably movable artefact' (so says the Angel Improvement Trust's booklet) could be moved yet again - though one wonders how many times oak panelling and plaster ceilings can be safely taken apart and reassembled! Thames Water opened this room for public view one day last year and were apparently amazed at the interest shown (though to me it is even more amazing that large firms still need these demonstrations of the extent of public interest in historic relics). Incidentally, our guide seemed to think that few of the old water company archives survived, so if anyone knows anything useful please tell TW's archivist.

Various fascinating publications about the New River's history can be obtained from the New River Action Group (c/o Hon Sec. Audrey Lennox, 74 Bramley Road, N14). Or get hold of Michael Essex-Lopresti's **Exploring the New River** at a well-spent £4.80. Thames Water has handouts on the Oak Room and various publicity leaflets about their conservation policy and the like.

Cherry Lavell

## The Review Reviewed

Members who were at the Annual Meeting will know that your committee has been considering the future of the Camden History Review. Quite simply, it does not sell enough copies outside of the membership and through bookshops to repay its cost. In particular it is very difficult to get bookshops to stock a previous Review once a new one is published. Also, the A4 size and the lack of a spine does not endear it to booksellers.

We are looking at a number of alternatives for the future and we should be interested to have the views of members. Two of the suggestions are as follows:

a) Abolish the title so that it does not appear to be a magazine. We would then publish thematic productions such as 'Edwardian Camden' for example; these would not then 'date' and could be stocked indefinitely. These titles would be produced in an A5 format with a spine.

b) Combine with other local history groups in north London to produce a north London history journal. This would, of course, have less Camden material in it, but it would have a much larger selling base.

## Virginia Woolf without a compass

Timothy Saxon has written with a puzzle to do with Virginia Woolf. He quotes an interesting excerpt from her Diary of July 1907:

'Last Sunday, the 6th, to be precise I made an expedition which seems to me to deserve commemoration. The Twopenny tube has now burrowed as far as Golders Green; so that sinking into an earth laid with pavement and houses at one end, you rise to soft green fields at the other; the ashen dark and the chill and the cold glitter of electricity is replaced by the more benignant illumination of daylight. Indeed on Sunday there was a sky and a sun; and the exuberant holiday making of the crowd had some excuse. Well, we all of us got out at Golders Green; which term I take to apply to a dusky triangle between cross roads, which was now occupied by a cluster of idle people sucking like bees at some gaudy and profuse flower. Their little island was a refuge from motor cars which shot past constantly almost shaving slices from the edge, and added a high blast or a low blast, not inappropriately to the tune. Some of us, for I must associate myself with my fellows, saw this too much in the light of melodrama; and chose one of the four roads as our way into the country. But no real country road, as I could not but remember, is raked so persistently by huge barrelled motor cars; nor do strings and knots and couples of brightly dressed people fill all the way, so that you must steer to get past them. But there were fields on either side though one had to violate some instinct which held them forbidden before one crept under the paling...

My way was across a field of long grass towards a slight mound -- O if I could but use the real country names! -- and there were occasional tracks, like those a ship leaves on the sea, to show that bold travellers had gone before me. But while I heard the throb of brass I could not count myself free. Now it is hard to describe the view, for it was indeed of a most singular kind. Golders Green is all red brick; huge factories or railway buildings are specially prominent; then to the North (perhaps) there was another separate hamlet, grouped as real villages are up a hill which was pointed by a Church spire. And between them there was this soft land, undulating with long grass and curving into little mounds, and into one sufficiently steep screen before me.'

What Mr Saxon wants to know is what was the village referred to in the latter part of this excerpt and which church spire was it. As Virginia Woolf is not sure if she had gone north, and as her description of Golders Green as being all factories and railway buildings seems a bit suspect, the solution has so far eluded him. If you have a solution please send it to Mr Saxon at 229 New Bedford Road, Luton with a copy to the Newsletter.

## New Treasurer appointed

Those members who were present at the Annual General Meeting will recall that we were unable to appoint a Treasurer at that time. You will be pleased to learn that Roger Cline has kindly accepted your committee's invitation to take the post. His address is 34 Kingstown Street, NWL. (Tel. 722 6421)

## Katherine Mansfield Celebrated

A new exhibition begins at Burgh House on October 8th, lasting until December 18th. It celebrates the anniversary of the birth of Katherine Mansfield (1888-1923), and is called Katherine Mansfield and the Elephant.

The New Zealand writer who scandalised English society but revitalised the English short story had a prolonged, and stormy relationship with critic John Middleton Murry before she married him in 1918 and came to live at 17 East Heath Road. She was already tubercular and chose Hampstead, as so many had done before, in the hope that its healthy air would cure her. The house was tall and grey and she nicknamed it The Elephant.

Here she held literary court. The T.S. Eliots came to dine. D.H. Lawrence was a frequent visitor. Virginia Woolf wanted her friendship but found her 'utterly unscrupulous'. Lytton Strachey, on the other hand, thought her 'amusing and mysterious'. Lawrence portrayed her as Gudron in 'Women in Love'. Aldous Huxley used her as Beatrice in 'Point Counter Point'.

On Katherine Mansfield's birthday, Friday 14th October, there will be a concert of words and music presented by the Very Hampstead Company, entitled **Katherine Mansfield's Birthday Party**. Words will be provided mostly by the writer and the music will reflect the period of her Hampstead years. Tickets: £3, with wine. There will also be a lecture on November 11th at 2.30 given by Christopher Wade entitled **The Tiger and the Elephant**. (Adm. 50p).

## 'Mr Ketterichs'

John Rocque may be in disgrace over the fields on his map of 1746 ("merely conventional chequer work": F.G. Emmison, quoted by G.B.B. Bull in the London Topographical Society's publications for 1975-6), but he is almost certainly to be trusted on large houses and their occupants - these were his potential customers.

In Belsize he usefully tells us that Rosslyn House (to use its final name) is occupied by Coulson Fellowes, MP and barrister. Belsize House is empty; its days as an entertainment centre are over and the builders are awaited. A less familiar establishment, which nowadays would lie between Rosslyn Lodge (12c Lyndhurst Road) and the former Congregational Church, is "Mr Ketterichs".

Thomas Keteriche was a dealer in animal hides, or perhaps a furrier, and was admitted to the Freedom of the Skinners' Company in 1697, serving as Master for the year starting June 1726. At this time he and his wife Sarah lived in the parish of St Bride's, Fleet Street. They had four daughters and three sons, one of them a clergyman; another, the eldest, was probably the Thomas Keteriche who graduated at Balliol College, Oxford, in 1722 aged 17.

The Keteriches appear to have retired to Hampstead, Thomas senior dying in 1745-46. Sarah was still here in 1767 and presumably stayed on until her death in 1773. The children were well off, with a house in Red Lion Square and estates at Harlington (now near London Airport).

"Mr Ketterichs" was very likely the house that from 1788 to 1798 was run by the Nihell ladies as a boarding school for girls, on Sundays becoming one of the few Catholic chapels near London. It seems to have been demolished in 1802-3 and replaced on a different part of the site by Rosslyn Lodge.

Roy Allen

## BEAUTY IN HISTORY BOOK PUBLISHED

Some months back we had a fascinating talk by Arthur Marwick on the theme of 'Beauty in History'. His book on the subject has now been published by Thames and Hudson.

## ELIOT CENTENARY

This year marks the centenary of the birth of the poet T.S. Eliot. At St Magnus the Martyr Church, Lower Thames Street, EC3, on Wednesday, 28th September at 6.30pm, there will be an Evening with T.S. Eliot. It will consist of two talks, one by Anne Lamb entitled *The Theatre of Faith*, and then an illustrated talk by Stella Mary Newton on her designs for the original productions of *The Rock*, *Murder in the Cathedral* and *The Family Reunion*. There will also be a reading of selected poems by Eliot, and, during that week, an exhibition at the church open from 10-5.

## OTHER SOCIETIES

The Barnet branch of the North London Middlesex Family History Society is having an Open Day on Saturday, 17th September at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, from 10am to 4pm. There will be displays illustrating all aspects of family history, and members of the committee will be on hand all day to answer questions.

Islington Archaeology and History Society meetings in the near future are as follows:

21 Sep: Mrs Lorna Poole, Archivist of John Lewis Partnership, on Jones Brothers of Holloway Road

19 Oct: A presentation of local history work by Flashback, the Islington Local History Project

16 Nov: Ken Gay on the Development of Muswell Hill

14 Dec: Ken Whittaker on the Roman Cemetery sites at Mansell Street

## A TALK ON REGENT'S PARK

Those who failed to work out the non-existent day of Thursday, 12th July advertised for Roger Cline's talk on *Regent's Park Up to Date*, will be pleased to know they can still take the lecture in - on Tuesday, 20th September, 7pm, at the CHA, Fred Tallant Hall, 153 Drummond Street, NW1. A small entry charge is made.

## RESEARCHER WANTED

Kathleen Tillotson, one of the editors of the Pilgrim Edition of the letters of Charles Dickens, has drawn our attention to early 19th-century publications by Edwin Roffe, a local engraver and printer, and Robert Cabbell dealing with St Pancras and Somers Town. These papers, she thinks, are well worth further research and an article and invites any member to do this. Interested people should contact her at 21 Lambolle Road, NW3

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 110

Nov 1988

## New Maps for Old

Wed, Nov 16th, 7.30pm  
King of Bohemia, Hampstead High Street, NW3

Alan Godfrey who runs his business from Tyneside has specialised in reprinting old maps. Furthermore he has managed to retail them, generally at £1.20 per map, very reasonably to the public. For example, there is a new Swiss Cottage area map just out for the year 1894 which is full of interest for anyone living within a mile of it. Other local reproductions include Kenwood and Hampstead of the same year, Kentish Town of 1913, and Holborn of 1873 and 1914 - before and after Kingsway - are of particular interest.

Mr Godfrey is going to give us a guided tour of the problems and successes of his business and copies of all the above will be on sale at the meeting.

Please note the new venue. The King of Bohemia has recently had 'extensive renovation' but we hope that the panelled room is still there.

## The Christmas Meeting and Party

Friday, 9th December, 7pm  
Heath Branch Library, Keats Grove, NW3

Christmas is here again and so is the CHS party. This will be preceded as before with a number of ten-minute talks by members. Christopher Wade has a number of speakers for the evening but needs one more - nothing too serious, and something, of course, that can be squeezed into ten minutes. Please contact him on 794 2752. The talks begin at 7pm and these are free, but we hope members will then stay on for the festive part of the evening which begins at 8pm and includes wine and refreshments. For this there is a charge of £3.50, payable on the night. We look forward to seeing you. Please note the new venue!

## Panoramania at the Barbican

Wed, 30 Nov, 6pm  
Barbican Art Gallery.

As an additional event in November we have been invited, along with two other societies, to a conducted tour of the the Panoramania Exhibition which has just opened at the Barbican Art Gallery. In addition we shall also have the privilege of an introductory talk by the Exhibition's organiser, Ralph Hyde, the Keeper of Prints and Drawings at the Guildhall Library, a handsome reward for following the yellow lines!

We shall meet at 6pm in the Matthew Smith Room (Concourse 9) for Ralph Hyde's short talk at 6.15pm. The tour will commence at 6.45. All members will be charged the reduced fee of £2.50 for the evening.

Camden History Society has been allocated twenty places for this evening. Members should apply, together with their admission fee and a SAE, to Horace Shooter, 68a Marchmont Street, NW1.

Panoramas began 200 years ago when a 360 degree illustration of Edinburgh was exhibited there. Spectators were able to view the canvas from a platform within and view Edinburgh from every angle. The idea spread and soon there were panoramas of other cities including, of course, London. Other names for the fashion cropped up, such as our own Diorama, or cosmoramas, cycloramas. They were, of course, rendered out of date by the advent of cinema.

A wide variety of items are on shown at the Barbican including the paintings, preparatory sketches, prints, handbills, toys and ephemera. It also includes an almost full-scale reproduction of Robert Barker's *Panorama of London* (the original measured 1479ft). There is also a 360 degree panorama of *The Battle of Trafalgar*.

If you can't come with the Society that evening either because it is the wrong night for you or we have run out of tickets, do try to get to the Exhibition another time. It runs until 15th January.

## Poets on the Heath

On March 16th Michael Foot MP will be talking to the Society on 'Poets on the Heath'. It will be held in the Rosslyn Hall, Hampstead. Because of the attraction of the subject and speaker we are hoping to use this occasion to attract new members to the Society. We are therefore planning to have available some seats which members of the public may buy on the night on a first-come, first-served basis. Our proposal is that our own members should apply for tickets to this event by **31st January** at the latest - these will admit them free of charge. After that tickets will only be available on the night to both members or the public at a cost of £1.

If the response from members booking in advance is very heavy we may even have to introduce a rationing system before then. We hope that members will understand our reason for doing this - we do want to have space left for visitors on the night who might, we hope, be persuaded to join the Society on the spot.

So, please apply for your free ticket to Roger Cline, 34 Kingstown Street, NW1 enclosing a stamped addressed envelope.

## STUART LONDON AT LAMAS

The London and Middlesex Archaeological Society are holding their annual local history meeting on 26th November at the Museum of London. It begins at 11am and goes on until 6pm with breaks for lunch and tea. This year the theme is Stuart London although officially it is the growth of London from the Armada to the Great Revolution, 1588-1688.

If members would like to go please apply to Miss Ching, 40 Shaef Way, Teddington. The cost is £3.50 including tea. Please enclose SAE.

## INSCRIPTION HELP WANTED

We are informed by the North Middlesex Family History Society that the church of All Souls, Loudon Road, Hampstead is to become redundant. The Society does not have any members living in the area and wonders if CHS members would help in recording the inscriptions in the church, which may be on walls or fittings.

If you feel able to help please contact Doreen Willcocks, Projects Co-ordinator, 27 Manor Road, Barnet, Herts.

## THE REVIEW REVIEWED

Readers will remember that in the last Newsletter two suggestions for the future of the Review were floated. One was to reduce the size to A5 so as to thicken the booklet (giving a spine) to make it more suitable for bookshops and to confine each edition to a theme. The other to combine with other north London societies to produce a more regional publication with a larger selling base and a spread of production costs. (This could also be reduced to A5 size.) There is equal support so far for each suggestion. We hope to have talks soon with other societies on our borders to get their reactions.

## HORNSEY HAPPENINGS

The Hornsey Historical Society meets at the Hornsey Library, Haringey Park, Crouch End, N8 at 8pm. Talks in the near future include:

14 Dec: The History of the Mountview Theatre (Peter Coxhead)

11 Jan: The 'Yesterday's Witness' Films

8 Feb: Dickens and North London (David Parker)

8 Mar: Hatton Garden (Malcolm Holmes)

12 Apr: Saxon London (Bob Cowie)

Any enquiries to the Chairman, Ken Gay (888 8891)

## MORE LISTED BUILDINGS

The Department of the Environment has been busy listing more Camden buildings. They include Lord Leverhulme's old home, now called Inverforth House, on Hampstead Heath. Other buildings in Hampstead include the Washington pub in Englands Lane, the circular wards of the New End Hospital and New Court in Flask Walk. Freud's house in Maresfield Gardens has also been listed and this for historical rather than architectural reasons. Plus about 2 dozen red telephone boxes.

Elsewhere the Dominion Theatre at the bottom of Tottenham Court Road, plus 30-34 Warren Street and 35 Conway Street, join the list.

## John Pocock Revisited

Ken Valentine, editor of the Willesden Local History Society Magazine, has kindly sent us an article which gives further information regarding John Pocock, whose schoolboy Diary was published by the Camden History Society in 1980.

John's father was a builder fallen on hard times who lived in the 1820s first at No 2, and then No 7 Kilburn Priory (now 136 Maida Vale).

The Willesden article reads as follows: 'John's youthful diary is interesting to us because, living only just outside the Willesden boundary, he gives us some intriguing glimpses of Willesden in the reign of George IV. People in those days used to walk immense distances, both on business and for pleasure. One Sunday in August 1828 John walked 20 miles to Limehouse and back, getting wet through in the process. In the following month he went with a fishing party:

"along Harrow Road to the River Brent, a very shallow stream, but we had very little sport, and continued along the river until we came up to the Grand Junction Canal. Here the Brent runs under the canal and I do not remember anything so dark and terrible as the water just here...We returned slowly along the canal, having had a very bad day of it."

Presumably John and his party on their return journey left the canal towing-path where it runs close to the Harrow Road near Kensal Green. Commenting on this passage in an appendix the editors wrongly identify the River Brent with the 'Bayswater rivulet' which was in fact another name for the Kilburn River.

Among John's few references to the tollgates near his house at Kilburn is a mention of the one at Pineapple Place, named after a 'pineapple nursery' near the present Abercorn Place. The phrase which occurs in the book as 'the Metropolitan Road Committees' is apparently a slightly incorrect reference to the Metropolis Roads Commissioners who were appointed by Parliament in 1826 to supersede the turnpike trusts of the metropolis north of the Thames, including those for the Edgware Road.

## Copper Bottomed Outing

Morwellham Quay is worth placing on the holiday itinerary for CHS members. Devon is less often associated with copper than Cornwall with tin, but the Quay, up the Tamar and 23 miles from Plymouth, was once the country's major copper port. Neglected after the mine ran out in late Victorian times, it has now been restored. While less extensive than Ironbridge Gorge, it merits a full day if everything is to be seen properly. There seems to be no public transport, though coach companies run tours. How much time each gives is not certain.

The full itinerary begins with a video, then a visit to the mine deep in the wooded hills about the river. A carefully caged rail carriage, stops from time to time at tableaux (with commentaries, showing the condition of the mine and for the workers). This is best followed by going round the red trail (not very easy to work out). There are cottages, a room where reproduction Victorian clothes may be tried on, lime kilns, a massive wheel, the fascinating assay office with the process explained, boats and the quays themselves.

A ride behind shire horses can follow. This covers some of the drive to his house, laid out by a Duke of Bedford. He spent thousands on this, used it a few times a year, but built several cottages each housing four families for £25 each.

Another video gives an idea of the blue trail. Perhaps a pause for refreshments is needed here also. The blue trail has fewer items but is strenuous. The path is steep, stepped, muddy and slippery in places. Going up past the Victorian farm it ascends and goes round the head of a wooded valley. It offers wonderful views including that of a bent chimney that once carried away arsenic fumes. You can also see an old oak wood, the remains of an inclined railway, the Tavistock Chapel and the mouth of a tunnel which connected Morwellham to mines on the west of Dartmoor, and a millpond.

The port handled manganese, silver, lead and tin as well and was active for nearly 1,000 years.

Joan Barraclough.

## Mansfield Revisited

The exhibition devoted to Katherine Mansfield continues until 18th December at Burgh House. (See the previous Newsletter). Betty Greenhalf has sent us some details about the writer which we hope will inspire those who haven't yet got to the display arranged by Diana and Christopher Wade, to see it before it closes.

'Katherine Mansfield Beauchamp was born in New Zealand in 1888 but was educated in literature and music at Queen's College, Harley Street, London. After her marriage to the writer John Middleton Murry they came to live at No. 17 East Heath Road, a tall grey house, which she called 'The Elephant'. They were here from the summer of 1918 until the winter of 1919 when her doctor told her that she could not survive the winter mists and London fog - she had tuberculosis. She left with her close friend, Ida Baker, for San Remo.

Her stay in Hampstead was short but eventful. She and Murry, with whom she had lived for some time, married in May 1918; Ida Baker kept house for them. The household was supplemented by a small, elderly London 'char' and a tall cockney girl, Gertie, who were both dailies. The cook, who lived in, was sacked for drunken behaviour. There was also a small black and white cat called Charles Chaplin, who despite its name, managed to reproduce two kittens, Wingley and Athenaeum.

Despite the problems of the marriage - amongst which were Katherine's illness, she made a beautiful home here. She loved the dark English houses bespattered with slits and blobs of yellow light. The grey exterior of The Elephant was echoed internally with a paler dove grey. This was intended as an undercoat, but Katherine asked the painters to leave it as the final colour. To this was added lemon, and in Ida Baker's room the curtains were patterned with large golden fruit and pale green leaves. There were flowers and light curtains billowing in the wind as the kittens played in her room, with tiny paws like 'unripe raspberries'. The garden was resplendent with dandelions until Ida mistakenly removed them.

There were short walks on the Heath when she was well enough. There was a Christmas party with a small tree with many lights. She wore a frilly soft dress of plum-coloured silk, embroidered all over with tiny bunches of flowers.

Work was going well, especially for Murry, who had just been appointed editor of The Athenaeum with Aldous Huxley as an assistant; Forster, Eliot, Bertrand Russell and Herbert Read contributed. She wrote three new stories at Hampstead - See Saw, This Flower and A Suburban Fairy Tale.

## Au Revoir to Ian Norrie

Your Society recently played co-host (along with Burgh House and the Heath and Old Hampstead Society) at a party to say thankyou and farewell to Ian Norrie whose High Hill Bookshop has sadly closed its doors. As Ian was quick to point out the 'farewell' was unnecessary as Hampstead would still see him, but he was appreciative of the gesture nevertheless!

Your chairman pointed out that the CHS publications really got off the ground because Ian Norrie put up the finance to begin with. He was referring here to the **Streets of Hampstead** series of books, which was compiled by members of the Society led by Christopher Wade, but published by High Hill. Ian Norrie had also been most helpful over the years in publicising the Society and we send him our best wishes for what may be a temporary retirement.

Incidentally, the Society has taken on board High Hill's stock of 'Streets of Hampstead' by Christopher Wade. Copies are available from the Society at any meeting, or from 28 Willoughby Road, NW3 for £3.

## VIRGINIA WOOLF WITHOUT A COMPASS

Further to the item in the last Newsletter on Virginia Woolf's expedition to Golders Green, Roy Allen suggests that the 'slight mound' was the summit of the hill at Temple Fortune; and, gazing at Finchley across the valley of Mutton Brook she mistook the tower and spire of Christ's College for a church steeple. The parish church is just across the road from the College but its tower is unusually low and was probably concealed by trees and other buildings.

## FITZROVIA CORRECTED

Elizabeth Bell of the Library at the Tate Gallery points out a small error in **Fitzrovia** by Nick Bailey, which was co-published by the Society. On p30 it is stated that the artist Richard Wilson died in Tottenham Street, whereas this happened in 1782 at Colomondie Hall near Llanberis in Wales. He was, incidentally, first cousin of Lord Camden.