

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 147

Jan 1995

## Memoirs of a Coroner

*Thurs 19 Jan, 7.30pm*

*St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street, NW1*

One of the lesser-known buildings of St Pancras is the Coroner's Court tucked away behind St Pancras Gardens, near Old St Pancras Church and it is here that Douglas Chambers has acted as coroner for a number of years. The coroner is one of the oldest offices in English law and yet his functions are not fully understood by the general public, nor are the powers of an inquest. Mr Chambers will be our speaker in January to tell us something about his job and to recall some of the more interesting cases over which he has presided.

## Pre-fire Churches in the City of London

*Thurs 16 Feb, 7.30pm*

*Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

The Great Fire of London in 1666 destroyed much of medieval London. In particular it made necessary the demolition of the old and vast St Paul's cathedral, larger even than its successor. But we lost, too, many fine medieval churches - it was immensely sad to lose another in recent years with the IRA bombing in the City. The upside of all this was, of course, the flowering of Christopher Wren's genius and energy, so that beautiful though the medieval churches may have been, there can be no quarrel with their replacements.

Dr Ann Saunders has been doing much work on the pre-Fire churches and her talk on the subject in February promises an illuminating and entertaining evening.

## The Anniversary Dinner

Numerous members have indicated that they wish to attend the Society's 25th Anniversary Dinner, which is being held on Friday 12th May. Christina Gee, the organiser, would now like to finalise the restaurant but she needs a better idea of numbers. Will those who would like to go, who have not already contacted her, please telephone her during the day on 071-794 6829. It is likely that the cost will be £25 per head inc. This is a very special event in the history of the Society and we hope that as many of you will join in as possible.

## Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

*Thurs 16 March:* From Primrose Hill to Euston Road - talks by the researchers of our new publication on this area of Camden.

*Sat 25 March:* Walk around St Giles-in-the-Fields conducted by Ruth Hayes

*Thurs 6 April:* David Sullivan on The Westminster Corridor

*Fri 12 May:* Anniversary Dinner

*Thurs 18 May:* Dorian Gerhold on Road Transport before the Railways

*Thurs 15 Jun:* Annual Meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Finchley Road

*Thurs 20 Jul:* Christina Gee on John Keats

*Sat 5 Aug:* Outing to Stowe

*Thurs 21 Sept:* Richard Tames on the history of Soho

*Thurs 19 Oct:* Helen Lawrence recital of Camden associated music

*Thurs 16 Nov:* Dr Colin Cunningham on Alfred Waterhouse

*Thurs 7 Dec:* John Allen on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road

Fuller details will appear in the appropriate *Newsletter*.

## The Medieval Manor of Hampstead

David Sullivan has recently published a much acclaimed and thoroughly researched book on the early medieval lands belonging to the Abbey of St Peter, Westminster, which he called *The Westminster Corridor*. The estates stretched up from Westminster all the way to Hendon, straddling the Edgware Road, and included Hampstead. He is now mounting an exhibition on the theme of the book at Burgh House, in which the many colour maps, plans and illustrations may be viewed, as well as a comprehensive text to guide you round the exhibits. This fascinating assembly will be on view at Burgh House from Saturday 14 January.

As you will see from the list above, David is also talking to us on 6 April on the same subject.

## 'From Primrose Hill to Euston Road'

The Society is publishing at the end of January a completely revamped edition of *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road*, our street guide to the south-western part of Camden. Building on the old publication edited by Anthony Cooper, a new group has compiled such a large amount of new material that there is 20% more text. The book retails at £5.95.

The final paragraph of the book sums up the area: 'Truly, this must be one of the most interesting and varied parts of London, with its rich mix of elegant residential, commercial and industrial buildings, served by restaurants, pubs, cinemas and theatres, and lived in and loved by a multitude of artists and musicians, writers and philosophers.'

As with other CHS street surveys, the reader is led along a series of walks (each starting near a Tube station or bus stop) along streets whose historical features are pointed out and whose previous history is described, together with notes on former residents, shopkeepers or occupants. Further research has established new facts and corrected a few earlier errors.

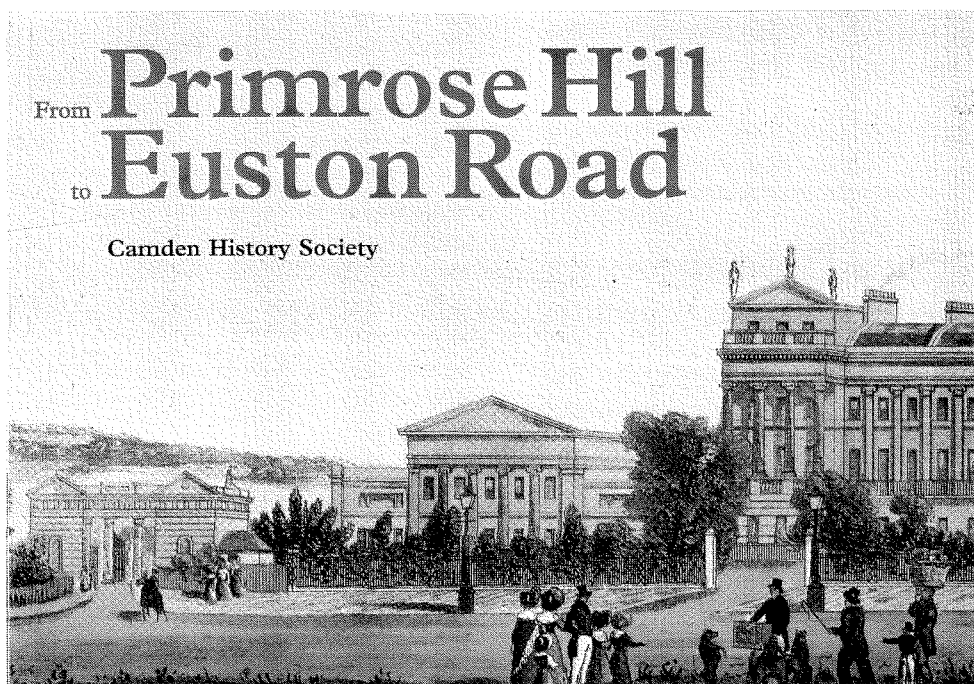
The first immediately obvious difference from the previous edition is the colour cover, which is a reproduction of part of Richard Morris's 1831 hand-coloured panoramic view from inside Regent's Park – for the area of Camden covered by the book includes the eastern edge of the Park on which the noblest of Nash's terraces stand – showing Primrose Hill sloping down to Gloucester Gate at the top of what is now Parkway. To counteract any impression that the area is all sweetness and residential light, the title page carries a sketch of Euston Tower and the Prudential Building on the Euston Road, at the southern end of

the area, while amongst the numerous illustrations are pictures of present-day Camden Lock and of shopfronts in Camden High Street last year and 100 years ago.

The words 'Camden Lock' today conjure up the image of a rather festive street market, but this book traces the lock's history from the time when it was an important hub in the transport system, by canal or rail, from the industrial Midlands to the Thames and hence the wider world. In doing so it throws historical light on the significance of names such as the Interchange building, now housing smart television studios but built to enable the interchange of goods between rail and canal, and The Stables, the brand-new name of one entrance to the yet to be opened supermarket on Chalk Farm Road, where at one time as many as 440 horses were stabled (and some were hospitalised) close to the railway where they worked.

Development of the Euston Centre since the 1960s has obliterated a number of streets which are now shown in a new map, one of a number specially drawn for the book by computer. Many street names have changed over the years, so former and present street names are listed in display panels. Another panel shows the Christian names and dukedoms of George III's family by which many roads and terraces were originally designated, and a third set names each of the post-war blocks of flats that replaced the bombed houses in Nash's 'service area' between Albany Street and Hampstead Road.

Congratulations are in order to the research team and those responsible for the production of the book. The researchers were Roger Cline, David and Ruth Hayes, Barbara Scott, Stella Smethurst, Esther Whant, Peter Woodford, Robin and Sonia Woolven. The design was by Ivor Kamlisch.



## Puzzle Corner

Readers will remember that we are trying to identify an illustration published in *Newsletter 145*. David Widdicombe suggested an answer in the last *Newsletter*, but David Hayes has an alternative:

I agree with David Widdicombe's suggested date for the picture. The drawings in the *London Perambulator*, and other books by the same author, are usually 'historical' rather than contemporary with the publication: many are dated around the turn of the century.

I fear, however, that his suggested location for the picture does not tally with the evidence of the 1894-5 O.S. map. The land between the railway and the Stables/Riding School (1) was occupied by what looks like a terrace of six houses (2), each with a small garden or yard at both front and rear. On the 50-inch map it is identified as 'Park Place West'. The tunnel portal was opposite the centre of this terrace, which is thus what would be visible from Mr Widdicombe's viewpoint. Former Stanhope Terrace (3), suggested as being that on the right of the picture, would in fact be hidden behind Park Place West. The terrace in the drawing appears to be on the *opposite* side of the roadway crossing the bridge. In any event the site in question would not have been part of Nash's Park Village East, as the land here is on the wrong side of the Crown Estate boundary. The real giveaways, however, are the shadows in the picture - if we are looking west, the sun must be shining from the north!

My hypothesis is that the bridge in the picture is that

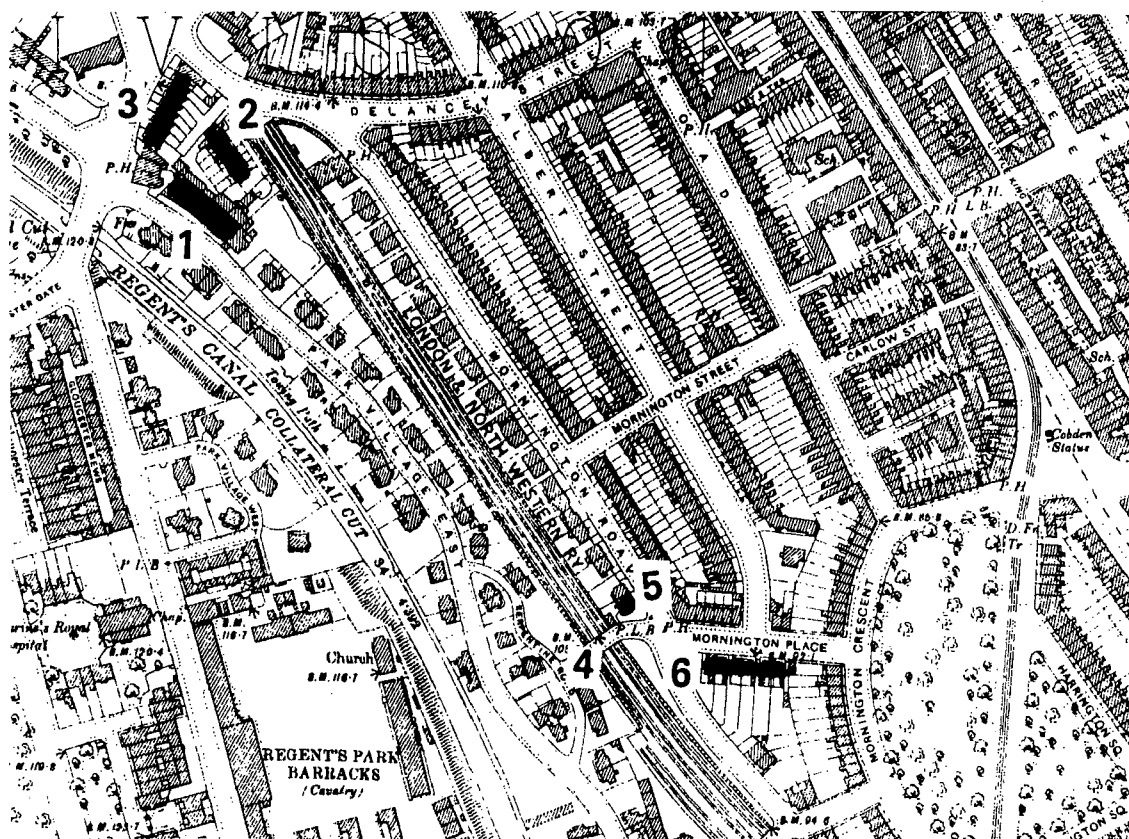
further south which once linked Serpentine Road with Mornington Place (4). It was demolished when the railway was widened c.1900, and replaced by the present Mornington Street bridge further north. We are, I suggest, looking east across the railway to No. 84 Mornington Road (5), the southernmost of 26 semi-detached villas on the west side of what is now Mornington Terrace. *Primrose Hill to Euston Road* describes them as having been 'quite grand'. All were swept away, like the bridge, in the railway widening. Regrettably, Swiss Cottage appears to have no illustrations of this west side of the road.

The terrace on the right of the picture will be that on the south side of Mornington Place (6), whose alignment appears to be about right. Its end looks to me to be somewhat rounded: interestingly, the boundary wall of the present-day council flats which replaced the terrace is similarly curved.

## FAWCETT FLOODED

The much-used Fawcett Library archive of feminist and Suffragette material has been forced to close after flooding during a storm in August. It is housed in a basement of the London Guildhall University. Fortunately, only minor damage occurred, but much time has to lapse before documents can be demoulded - not an easy task as a lot of material is printed on poor paper.

The library is named after Millicent Garrett Fawcett, sister of Elizabeth Garrett Anderson. It contains well over 45,000 books and pamphlets, many Suffragette banners and the Josephine Butler archive.



# Camden Anniversaries 1995

## 250 Years

The old parish church of Hampstead in Church Row was demolished, so that building of the existing church of St John's could begin.

The Middlesex Hospital was founded, then in Windmill Street.

The first wing of the new Foundling Hospital in Guilford Street was opened.

The Royal College of Physicians in Lincoln's Inn Fields was founded.

## 150 Years

Christ Church in Endell Street was opened, designed by Ferrey.

St John's Highgate Road, the parish church of Kentish Town, was reopened after rebuilding and enlargement. The building is now used by an alternative lifestyle group.

The New Hall and Library of Lincoln's Inn were opened, designed by the Hardwicks.

Model dwellings were erected in Pakenham Street by the Society for Improving the Condition of the Labouring Classes, designed by Henry Roberts.

Miss Buss opened a school for boys and girls, run on Pestalozzian principles, in Clarence Road, Kentish Town. This predated her more famous school, the North London Collegiate School for Girls.

Emmanuel School in Mill Lane was founded.

Hampstead Workhouse was rebuilt at New End

The French Protestant Episcopalian church in Bloomsbury Street was consecrated; designed by Ambrose Poynter.

The flagstaff at North End Way, Hampstead was erected.

The King's Cross statue, from which the area takes its name (it was previously called Battle Bridge), was taken down.

## 100 Years

A public library was opened by Hampstead Vestry in a private house in Priory Road. This was later moved to a purpose-built building in Cotleigh Road.

Lincoln's Inn Fields were opened to the public.

## 50 years

A number of churches were bombed in the final months of the year. These included the National Scotch Church in Regent Square, St John the Evangelist in Charlotte Street was hit by a flying bomb, St Saviour's in Maple Street, and Whitefield's Tabernacle in Tottenham Court Road – Whitefield's was probably the last significant building in London to be destroyed by bombing in the war.

## People

Anniversaries of notable people sometime associated with Camden addresses.

Lord Alvanley, politician and lawyer, b1745 (Frogan Hall)

Ove Arup, civil engineer, b1895 (Fitzroy Park).  
Robert Bakewell, agriculturalist, d1795 (Downshire Hill).

R.H. Barham, writer, d1845 (Great Queen Street)  
Sir Charles Barry, architect (b1795) (Hatton Garden, Ely Place).

George Basevi, architect d1845 (Fitzroy Park).  
James Boswell, biographer, d1795 (Great Queen Street).

Thomas Carlyle, writer, b1795 (Woburn Walk, Frederick Street, Ampton Street, Tavistock Square).

Sidney Colvin, scholar, b1845 (Mount Vernon).

Walter Crane, artist, b1845 (Argyle Square).

Thomas Donaldson, architect, b1795 (Bloomsbury Square, Bedford Way).

Lord Alfred Douglas, poet, d1945 (Church Row).

Friedrich Engels, political writer, d1895 (Regent's Park Road).

Emily Faithfull, feminist, d1895 (Coram Street).

Anna Freud, psychoanalyst, b1895 (Maresfield Gardens).

Hannah Gluckstein, artist, b1895 (Compayne Gardens, Avenue Road, Windmill Hill).

Edward Goodall, artist, b1795 (Arlington Street, Hampstead Road).

Rowland Hill, postal pioneer, b1795 (Cartwright Gardens, East Heath Road, Pond Street, Hampstead Green).

Francis Holl, artist, b1845 (Fitzjohns Avenue, Camden Square, Gloucester Avenue).

'Bobbie' Howes, actor, b1895 (Highgate West Hill).

John Keats, poet, b1795 (Keats Grove, Wesleyan Place, Mortimer Terrace, Well Walk).

Thomas Leverton, architect, b1745 (Bloomsbury Street).

Tobias Mathay, musician, d1945 Arkwright Road.

William Roberts, artist, b1895 (St Mark's Crescent).

Sir William Rothenstein, artist, d1945 (Church Row, Oak Hill Park).

George Scharf, artist, d1895 (Torrington Square).

Sidney Silverman, politician, b1895 (Finchley Road).

Sydney Smith, cleric and wit, d1845 (Doughty Street, Guilford Street, Cartwright Gardens, Burton Street, Mecklenburgh Square, Hunter Street).

Henry Sweet, philologist, b1845 (Heath Street).

Thomas Wakley, medical reformer, b1795 (Bedford Square, Guilford Street)

## HAMPSTEAD TALKS

Christopher Wade will be giving two talks on Hampstead in February at Burgh House. *Early Days* is at 2.30pm on 17 Feb, and *Later Days* on 24 February at the same time. Admission is £2 to each.

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This *Newsletter* is published by the Camden History Society. Contributions should be sent to the Editor, John Richardson, at 32 Ellington Street, London N7 8PL (071 607 1628)

The Secretary of the Society is Jane Ramsay, and the Treasurer is Roger Cline, both c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 148

Mar 1995

## From Primrose Hill to Euston Road

*Thurs 16 March, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street, NW1*

The new edition of *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road* has now been successfully launched. On the 16th March our group of researchers, led by Dr Peter Woodford, will tell us more about their findings and some of the pleasures they discovered on the way. The writer, Claire Tomalin, made the main speech at the launch of the book. In so doing she thought that a good project for a Millennium celebration was the re-primrosing of the hill. She also wanted to know where the pond was that Shelley, Mary Shelley and Claire Clairmont sailed boats on in 1814.

## The Westminster Corridor

*Thurs 6 April, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

David Sullivan, our speaker for the evening, has for many years devoted leisure hours to the study of medieval Westminster Abbey and its estates. These chunks of land, granted to the abbey of St Peter as from AD971, stretched up from Westminster as far as Hendon, along the line of the Edgware Road, and included areas such as Chelsea, Paddington and Hampstead. It was, as David Sullivan points out in his recently published book, *The Westminster Corridor*, an intrusion into the settled order of things since before that much of London north of the Thames was held by the Bishop of London centred on St Paul's Cathedral.

By the time of the Norman Conquest the little abbey had been transformed into a major establishment by Edward the Confessor, whose patronage of Westminster was continued by the Norman dynasty anxious to claim legitimate credentials to the throne of England.

The development of the abbey lands is a fascinating story and David Sullivan in his book draws together all the evidence that seems to be available for its description. This, and particularly the Hampstead estate, is the subject of our April talk.

## Walk around St Giles-in-the-Fields

*Saturday, 25 March, meeting 2.30pm at  
St Giles-in-the-Fields churchyard*

Ruth Hayes is leading a walk around the area of St Giles-in-the-Fields. This part of Camden, one of the earliest to be settled outside London, is one that has not been thoroughly studied for many years. A leper hospital was founded here in 1101 by Matilda, queen of Henry I, dedicated to St Giles, the patron saint of outcasts and from this, so it seems, a parish grew. The area extends to Shaftesbury Avenue, Seven Dials and the southern fringes of Bloomsbury.

## The Jubilee Dinner

*Thurs 11 May, 7pm for 7.30pm  
Parker's Restaurant, Parker Street, WC2*

Arrangements have now been confirmed for our 25th Anniversary dinner. The distinguished journalist and writer, Simon Jenkins, is to be our guest speaker. Mr Jenkins, a Camden resident, is well-known for his interest in London's history and present development and we look forward to his speech. The ticket price for the evening is £28. This includes aperitifs and a four-course meal with two wines. Please note that we have had to bring the event forward by one day from the date we had previously advertised. There are a few tickets left. Please contact Mrs Gee at Keats House (071-794 6829) if you want to go.

## Advance Notice

*Thurs 18 May:* Dorian Gerhold on Road Transport before the Railways.

*Thurs 15 Jun:* Annual Meeting at Holy Trinity Church Finchley Road, with a talk by Simon Morris on the formation of the Finchley Road.

*Thurs 20 Jul:* Christina Gee on John Keats

*Sat 5 Aug:* Outing to Stowe

*Thurs 21 Sept:* Richard Tames on the history of Soho

*Thurs 19 Oct:* Helen Lawrence recital of Camden associated music

*Thurs 16 Nov:* Dr Colin Cunningham on Alfred Waterhouse

*Thurs 7 Dec:* John Allen on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road

## All about SCOLA

The Standing Conference on London Archaeology (SCOLA) was formed in 1993, by two national bodies and the two county archaeological societies - London/Middlesex and Surrey, in reaction to fundamental changes in the organisation of London's archaeology. These included the devastating reduction of the Museum of London's excavation unit and the introduction of new planning rules governing development on archaeological sites. There was also concern at the introduction of a competitive contractual system which would allow excavation units from all over the country to work in London (coming in cold, without the vast fund of knowledge built up by the Museum of London). Many of us felt that all these changes needed monitoring by an independent body to ensure that London's remaining archaeological deposits would not disappear unrecorded. Despite all that, there has been doubt in some quarters of the need for SCOLA, and reluctance to contribute to the funds it so desperately needs to perform a useful function. So I want to sketch what SCOLA has achieved in its first 15 months.

The first priority was to examine the effects (both intended and unintended) over Greater London of PPG16, the Planning Policy Guidance note governing archaeology on development sites. All the institutions concerned with operating PPG16 were surveyed and the resulting report should be published soon, making an important national as well as local contribution to efficient archaeology. SCOLA also tried to press the Department of National Heritage to widen and deepen its review of archaeological services in London, but without success as the review turned out anodyne and scarcely addressed the real issues. Undaunted, SCOLA is still pursuing this matter with DNH and English Heritage. One thing has become clear: archaeological information is not always reaching the planners, with obviously deleterious results. Moreover, storage of enormous numbers of excavated artefacts and their accompanying research records (the 'archive') is becoming a problem of epic proportions, with no organisation willing to pay the bills (the Museum of London is only accepting materials of City origin).

SCOLA has also been acting as honest broker in Croydon where an important Anglo-Saxon cemetery was discovered on a development site and no one could decide whether it should be rescue-dug or left for future generations; as usual the main problem is money, and even if the decision is for permanent protection it is hard to see how nighthawk looters can be excluded.

Close touch is kept with local liaison groups (consisting of professional and amateur archaeologists, councillors and planning officers) and SCOLA is also helping to arrange the publication of London excavations. And to cap all this it organised a highly successful conference in January on the prehistory of London, at

which speaker after speaker imparted masses of new information to an audience of some 140 people. Our area which had seemed rather bare of pre-Roman settlement is now sprouting sites all over the map, from hunter-gatherers in Uxbridge to Bronze Age trackways over NE London bogs and Iron Age settlements in West and East London.

SCOLA badly needs more institutional members, especially if they can help with funding; individual members can join for the incredibly modest subscription of £5 (telephone SCOLA's Hon. Sec., Patricia Wilkinson, on 0181 472 4785). This is a vital, now-or-never moment to make your contribution to recording and preserving London's past.

Cherry Lavell

## PUZZLE CORNER

In previous Newsletters we had two different suggestions as to the location of a scene illustrated in Bone's *London Perambulator*. One theory was put forward by David Widdicombe, and another by David Hayes. Roger Cline, who posed the question initially and who offered the prize of a copy of the book in question, feels that there is merit in both suggestions though still no certainty as to the solution, but he tends towards the proposal put forward by David Hayes. He therefore proposes to send a copy of the book to each of the members.

## CORRECTION

Your reference to the Royal College of Physicians being founded in Lincoln's Inn Fields 250 years ago (last *Newsletter*) is an error, since they were not and have never been in the Square. The Royal College of Surgeons are, however, in Lincoln's Inn Fields and have been since 1800. They were founded 250 years ago when they split from their relationship with the Barbers to form the Company of Surgeons. This Company became the College about fifty years later.

Roger Cline

## A donation to the Society

The Arthur Andersen Foundation has made a donation of £500 to the Society, to use on behalf of Camden's Local Studies Library. We are actively looking at projects in which this money could be usefully spent. One suggestion is the production of colour photocopies of the bomb damage maps of the Camden area kept at the Greater London Record Office; another is the photography of shop fronts and the buildings above them, and another is photographs of the Heath taken over a number of years at the same viewpoints.

## NEW MEMBERS

Members who have joined recently include: Miss M.L. Grint, Miss E.J. Guyatt, Miss C. Lieber, Mrs S. Lister, Miss Emma Mann, Brian Parkin, Dr B.C. Southgate, R. Stanwell-Smith, Mr and Mrs I. Trackman.

## Memories of war endings

This year will see the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe (8 May 1945) and Victory over Japan (14 September 1945). The Society is offering prizes to members and non-members for essays describing the celebration of these events in any part of what is now Camden. More details are included in a leaflet with this *Newsletter*.

### TIME FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription to the Society is now due. The rate is the same, as the finances of the Society are in a healthy state. A form is enclosed for those who do not pay by banker's order, or who have not already paid. The Treasurer, Roger Cline, would be grateful if you could attend to this promptly, so that he does not have to send out reminders.

## More Research Groups

Spurred on by the speedy work of those members who brought together the *Primrose Hill to Euston Road* publication, we would like to form two new groups. One is for Bloomsbury, an area not previously tackled by the Society. A nucleus of researchers already exists for this and members who haven't done this kind of work before will find themselves with experienced colleagues. The other area is Kentish Town. Our previous attempt to form a group here fell rather by the wayside for lack of support and we would welcome a new start. Those members interested in either group should contact our Secretary, Jane Ramsay, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3.

### MAPS OF HIGHGATE

This *Newsletter* may just be in time to let you know that one of our members, Peter Barber, will be giving a talk at the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution, in South Grove on 7th March, on the maps of Highgate. Time: 8.15pm.

## The Prehistoric Gallery

Museum displays tend to get better and better as curators, while still steeped in knowledge of the objects in their care, acquire a closer understanding of what their amorphous stream of visitors hopes to discover about the past. The new Prehistoric Gallery at the Museum of London, prepared by a team headed by Jon Cotton and Barbara Wood, is a remarkably fine introduction to London's prehistory. Packed into a relatively small space is the cream of the MoL prehistoric collection, all of it carefully set in the context of landscape, society and technology (in that order!). The philosophy of the exhibition is crystallised in the opening statement, 'We have chosen to humanise the past by focusing on specific sites and the needs of individual people, and by giving greater prominence to green and gender issues'. (As to 'gender' issues, the dioramas repeatedly show a woman at the centre of activity - gutting a fish, skinning an animal, trium-

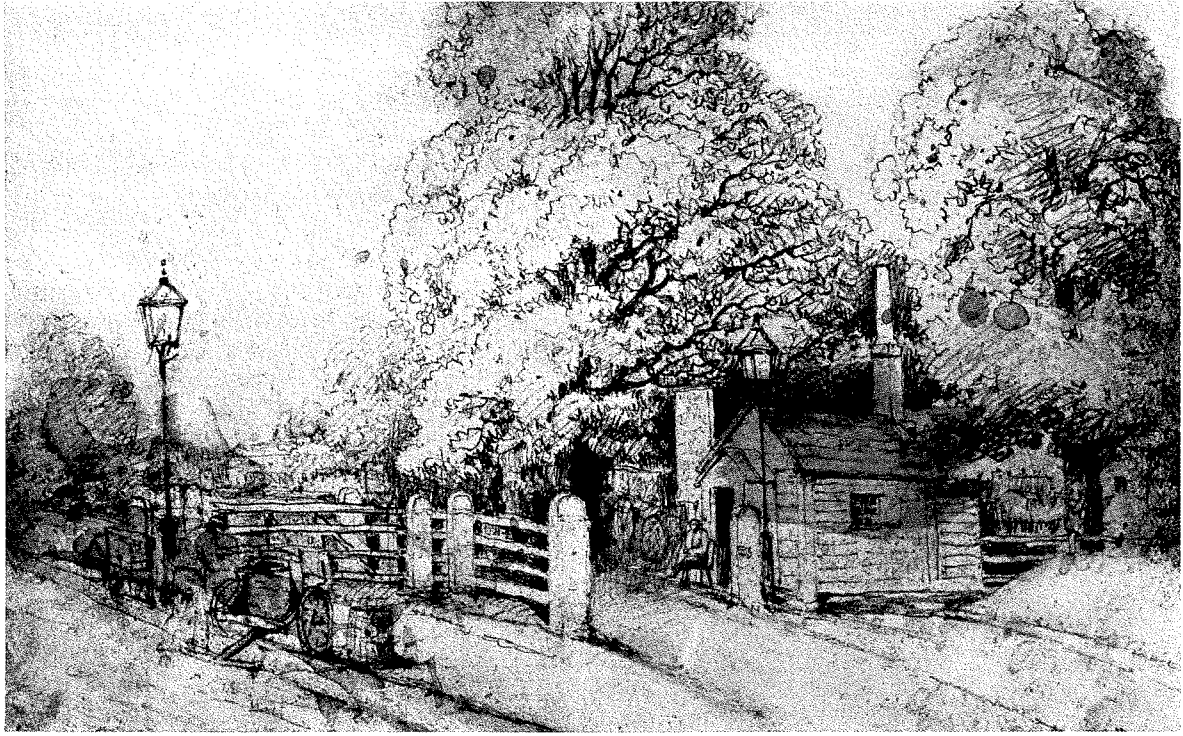
phantly and bloodily brandishing aurochs' horns; possibly over-emphatic, but a long overdue redressing of balance.)

Another emphasis is on 'people like us' - prehistoric people were well endowed with brains and skills, whether cooperating in the hunt, sewing birch bark containers, or smelting and casting bronze. These images deliberately counter the opening panel's provocative pictures of a noble savage, an apeman, and a scantily skin-clad Raquel Welch plus dinosaur, under the question 'How accurate are these portrayals?' Another panel asks 'Can you believe what we say?', explaining how scraps of evidence are painstakingly built up to form hypotheses which the visitor is at liberty to challenge. (In the London context I would have liked more on the accidents of discovery, or the concentration by fieldworkers on particular areas, which bias the picture we receive.) A timechart sets London in its minuscule place in the whole history of the planet.

There follow the key panels (marked with a green handprint) which set out the main developmental stages of prehistory, cutting across conventional period divisions where needed. They have headings like 'Living on the edge' (for the earliest hunters), 'Taming the wildwood', 'Rubbish or ritual?', and are set at three levels of information so that visitors can skim the headlines or dig deeper into the text at will. Deceptively simply arranged, the gallery has a great deal of intellectual depth for the more demanding visitor; for instance, looseleaf binders offer lists of further reading (it would be even better if copies of the lists could be bought). Interspersed between the main panels are site-specific or thematic cases. Children can stand on a step to get a better view of the dioramas, of which there are plenty, while models, replicas and modern analogues illuminate the exhibition. A particular feature is the series of objects to handle, though visitors tend to be too inhibited to do so. To stimulate the imagination you are encouraged to 'hear the elders' songs' and 'smell the woodsmoke', helped by the soundtrack of woodland or moorland birds. Wild honeycomb, berries, nuts, slain animals all bring home the realities of prehistoric life, so the visitor confronted by the final panel, 'Now what does prehistory mean to you?' has no longer the slightest excuse for seeing Raquel Welch and those dinosaurs.

One could make significant criticisms here and there - for instance, there is a point where the order of viewing becomes ambiguous and I found myself among 'Iron Age' objects before I had seen all the 'Bronze Age' - but the general effect is tremendously impressive and I can only urge you to visit, if possible more than once.

Cherry Lavell



## The Kentish Town Toll House

These two pictures come from a remarkable and now rare two-volume book entitled *Turnpikes and Tollbars*, published probably before the 1st World War. It is a remarkable, obsessive and haphazard collection of everything - literature, ephemera and pictures - to do with the author's subject. The top drawing, which was in the author's possession, was of the toll house in Kentish Town Road, just by Caversham Road, in 1849. The bottom picture is a drawing taken from photograph in 1864, when the toll house was demolished. The original of which is stated to be in the 'Chester Road Library, Highgate'.



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 149

May 1995

## Waggon's out of London

Thursday 18 May, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House,  
Lancaster Street NW1

Before the canals and, of course, the railways which altered everything, how was freight carried about? The story of the transportation of passengers by an ever more sophisticated system of coaches has been told many times, but our speaker this evening, Dorian Gerhold, has concentrated on the movement of goods in and out of London by waggon's. What were the vehicles like? Who organised the trade? What did it cost? What were the problems? How important was it to the life of London?

Mr Gerhold has recently tackled this subject in a book and he will be condensing a considerable amount of research for our benefit in this talk.

## Annual General Meeting and the Finchley Road

Friday 16 June, 6.30pm  
Holy Trinity Church, Finchley Road (opposite Waitrose).

Our Annual Meeting is at a new venue – a church in Finchley Road, on a road which is the subject of our talk for the evening. Please note, that due to circumstances beyond our control we have had to move the date of the meeting to the 16th. It is a Friday, but we hope that it will not deter you from coming. We begin at 6.30pm for refreshments; the Annual Meeting is at 7pm and the talk begins approximately at 7.30pm.

Our speaker, Simon Morris, who is Publications Secretary for the London Topographical Society, will talk about the origins and construction of Finchley Road. It was conceived in 1819 by the Eyre family to open up their St John's Wood estate for development; there were many parliamentary pitfalls in obtaining the necessary Act and many delays in opening the road. The project was, however, a disastrous failure from the investors' point of view and ended up in the hands of creditors. Simon's illustrated talk will take members through the exciting vicissitudes after the rigours of the AGM.

Your nominations are invited for the officers and Council of the Society. Those in office at the moment

(all have indicated their willingness to be re-elected) are:

PRESIDENT: Professor Christopher Elrington  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr Ann Saunders  
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Roger Cline  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Christopher Wade  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Sue Palmer  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Diana Rau  
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Peter Barber, Ruth Hayes, Lester May, Michael Ogden, Gillian Tindall, Dr Peter Woodford (editor of the Review), Robin Woolven.  
Any nominations should be sent to Jane Ramsay, our Secretary, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3.

## New Review Editor

We are pleased to announce that Dr Peter Woodford has accepted our invitation to be the new editor of the *Camden History Review*. It was Peter Woodford who recently edited the splendid new edition of *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road*. He has set about the task with great enthusiasm and hopes to restore a better frequency of publication than of late. He invites contributions – his address is 1 Akenside Road NW3 5BS (Tel: 0171 435 2088).

## Outing to Stowe

The Society's outing this year is to Stowe on Saturday, 5th August. Once again it is being organised by Robin Woolven. A form is enclosed with this *Newsletter* so that you can make your reservation in good time.

## The LCC Bomb Damage Maps

The Society has recently received a donation of £500 from the Arthur Andersen Foundation enabling us to procure and deposit with Camden's Local History Collection items which otherwise the borough might not be able to buy at the moment.

Our first purchase (with VE Day celebrations in mind) has been a set of colour photocopies of the War Damage maps of Camden and peripheral areas which were prepared by the LCC's Architects' Department in

1944/45, the originals of which are held at the Greater London Record Office.

The maps (to a scale of 1 : 2,500) were coloured in by the LCC to show the degree of bomb damage suffered by each house (black = total destruction, purple = damage beyond repair, dark red = seriously damaged, light red = repairable at a cost, orange = blast damage not structural and yellow = minor damage) and, in addition, the impact points of V1 and V2 weapons are shown.

The copying has reduced the scale to about 1 : 4,380 or 1" = 365 feet, but individual houses are clearly identifiable so the maps, now on 26 x A3 sheets and currently being mounted and conserved, represent a valuable source of information on what was where in the early 1940s and what damage was suffered as well as explaining gaps (or the presence of more modern buildings) in many street frontages.

A few cautions may be appropriate – for example, only buildings in the County of London area were recorded so don't assume that there was no bomb damage outside the old LCC boundary to the west of the Cricklewood Broadway. However, if you did want information on that area, the GLRO holds Middlesex County Council bomb damage maps for that area to the west although they are of a rather different character to those of the LCC. Also, the LCC was not concerned with buildings for which it had no general planning responsibility so the damage to some public buildings, such as the main line railway stations and Royal Palaces, is not necessarily shown on the maps. Finally some buildings shown as 'totally destroyed' were rebuilt in the post-war period.

Maps are usually fascinating documents and these valuable additions to the archives are no exception. Interested readers might like to compare the information portrayed with that in *the Society's publication, Hampstead at War*. This has just been reissued (to a much higher quality of production than previously) and may be obtained from the CHS Publications, 28 Willoughby Road, NW3 for £4.50 plus 25p postage, or from the Local Studies Library at Swiss Cottage and, of course at CHS meetings. Have it by you for VE Day!

Robin Woolven.

## Celebrating Keats

As you will probably know by now, this year is the bicentenary of the birth of John Keats. Christina Gee, curator of Keats House, will be talking to the Society on Thursday 20 July about his life and particularly about his Hampstead life. We shall be holding this in Keats House itself which is delightful, but the problem is that there is a floor-loading maximum. We therefore have to restrict numbers and members are invited to reserve their places in advance on a first-come, first-reserved basis. Roger Cline has kindly volunteered to take the bookings by telephone. If you

want to be there please telephone him ([preferably during the day when an answering machine is in operation) on 0171-722 6421, leaving your name, telephone number, and the number of reserved seats you want. Unless you hear to the contrary, you will be reserved a seat. If you find, having reserved, that you are unable to attend, please let him know so that members on a waiting list can be invited.

At Burgh House until 25th June is an exhibition entitled *Mostly at Hampstead....*, which celebrates the birth of Keats. It is curated by Mrs Gee together with Christopher Wade. It contains many original watercolours and prints of the Hampstead Keats would have known. There will also be books, letters and other relevant documents.

In addition there are numerous events on the Keats theme taking place between the 11th and 25th June – a leaflet may be obtained from libraries or from Keats House itself. There are walks, recitals, poetry presentations, and talks. The latter include *The London of John Keats* by Dr Ann Saunders, *Keats and Medicine* by Dr Ruth Richardson, and *Regency Gardens* by Mavis Batey, to be held in the garden of Keats House. Bookings for these talks must be made by post or by personal visit.

Did you know, by the way, that you can stay in the Keats Shelley Memorial House in Rome, and also in the Brownings' flat in Florence? These lettings are administered by the Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW (01628 825925).

## New Sights at the Soane

Sir John Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields is one of the delights (and a free one at that) of London. This editor wishes it well but is happy that it is not firmly on the tourist agenda, for one needs to be unhurried and quiet to go round what is one of the most highly individual houses in London.

The Museum has recently opened a new gallery and for the first time it is possible to exhibit a selection of the 30,000 architectural drawings in the Soane collection. His was the first architect's collection to attempt to preserve the best in design for the profession in the future. He assembled surviving drawings by the great Renaissance masters and the leading architects of the 17th and 18th centuries, such as Wren, Hawksmoor, Adam, Dance and Chambers.

Soane (1753-1837) began to collect drawings in the 1790s, focusing at first on the masters he most admired at the time – Piranesi, Clerisseau, Gandy. Later he enlarged his collection to include those necessary for a study of architecture.

The first exhibition runs until 2 September. It is open Tues-Sat 10am to 5pm, with a late evening opening first Tuesday of the month 6-9pm. For information ring Margaret Richardson or Helen Dorey on 0171 405 2107.

## LOOKING FOR THE BASHFORDS

Ian Norrie writes:

'During the course of researching for a forthcoming book on the Dordogne I have come across a walking guide by one H.H. Bashford, published in 1914. It describes how he, his wife and a young man named Justin had an idyllic few weeks in the last full summer before the First World War as Vagabonds in Périgord. The work has great poignance because of this. What happened to these carefree travellers in the terrible years ahead? Bashford, who was a doctor and lived in Downshire Hill, survived and was still writing after World War Two, by which time he had been knighted. I would love to know what happened to Justin who is a vivid character in the travelogue. Bashford's literary executor was a Mrs Margaret Franklin, of Newbury, but she had 'gone away' in July 1983 when his publishers (Constable) last attempted to contact her. Bashford lived first at 18 Downshire Hill, later at No. 50, and had removed to Camden Cottage, 34 Christchurch Hill by 1933. He was still resident there in 1946. Does any reader know descendants of Bashford, or relatives of Mrs Franklin? If you have any information please telephone Ian Norrie on 0181-440 6708.

## VALE OF HEALTH WALK

Christopher Wade is conducting, on behalf of Burgh House, a walk around the Vale of Health on Sunday 4th June, starting 2.30pm at Burgh House. Tickets are £1.

## PLANTING PRIMROSES

We mentioned in the last *Newsletter* Claire Tomalin's hope that Primrose Hill could once again be planted with primroses. Hope Chenhall writes:

'My sister Joan (for some years a member of CHS) in her will of August 1992 left £500 for that purpose, as she had been so disappointed as a child to find no primroses there. As an executrix I made this offer known to the Royal Parks Department of National Heritage in Regent's Park, who replied that such planting had been attempted several times but without success for a number of reasons to do with dogs, children etc, but that they would be prepared to try again.

I thought it would be wasteful to throw good money after bad, and therefore got the money spent on another good cause.'

## MEMORIES OF WAR ENDINGS

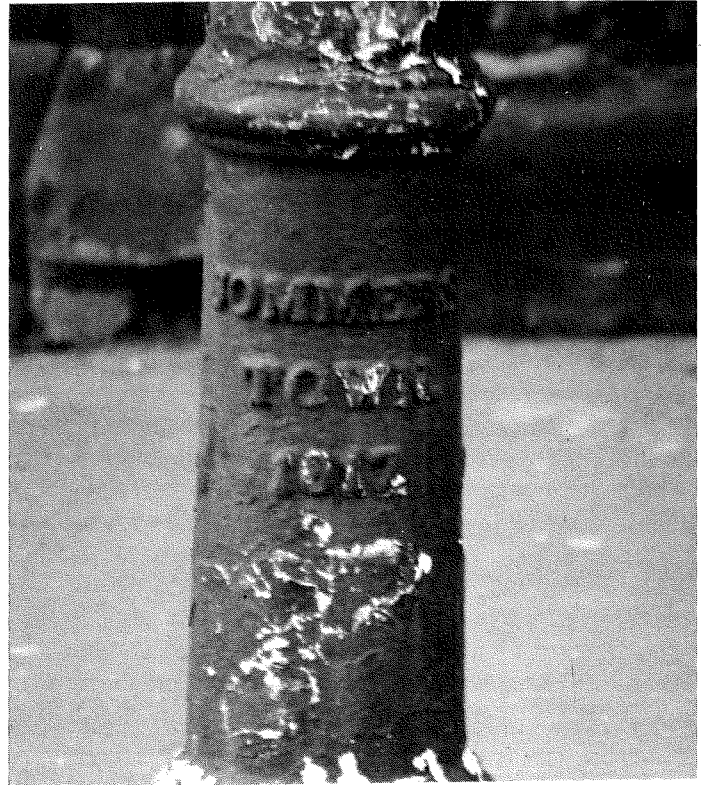
Memories can, I know, play strange tricks after 50 years...but mine tells me that the Japanese surrendered on 14 August 1945 and that the following day, the 15th, was declared VJ day – not 14th September as stated in the March *Newsletter*!

Valerie Colin-Russ

## A Disappearing Bollard

Mr R.J. Hunt writes:

I enclose a picture of a bollard which is located in Pancras Road at the entrance to a blocked up arch under St Pancras Station. In fact, until about a year ago, there were two of these posts, one each side of the former arch entranceway. This bollard is cast with the notation 'Somersetown 1817', which must make it one of the oldest pieces of street furniture in Camden.' Mr Hunt notes that the matching post, no doubt knocked over by a vehicle, did not make a reappearance.



## A STOWE FORETASTE

Those of you who would like a detailed examination of what is on offer at Stowe prior to the Society's visit in August, may like to know that there is a two-day conference there on 22/23 July, organised by the Camden-based Public Monuments and Sculpture Association. The conference is entitled *Stowe '95—how pleasing are thy temples now?* Those attending will have a unique opportunity to view and discuss the great architecture, monuments and landscapes at Stowe in the company of acknowledged experts. Speakers include Marcus Binney, Julius Bryant (late of Kenwood), Patrick Evans, Jonathan Marsden, Trevor Proudfoot, Ingrid Roscoe and Nicola Smith. There will be a tour of the gardens led by Gervase Jackson-Stops, and a tour of the house by Michael Huntingdon. The cost for the full two days is £95 (there are concessionary rates and it is much cheaper if you are a member of the PMSA). Details may be obtained from Miss Leonie Heywood, c/o Joanna Barnes Fine Arts, 14 Masons yard, Duke Street, SW1Y 6BU.



The above pencil drawing in the Local History Collection is causing some puzzlement. It is annotated 'off Well Walk', but it appears not to be The Bear or the Freemasons. Suggestions please.

## PLANTS AT JACK STRAW'S CASTLE

The 1695 edition of William Camden's *Britannia*, in an article entitled 'More rare Plants, growing wild in Middlesex, communicated by Mr James Petiver', tells us in column 337 that two species are to be found 'on the Mote side as you enter into Jack-Straw's Castle'.

This appears to be a contemporary reference to the original earthwork, mentioned by Barratt at *Annals* I, 42; by 1713, according to John Richardson's *Hampstead One Thousand* (p.154), it had given its name to a predecessor of the present tavern. Presumably Barratt could not be more precise because he consulted the 1789 edition of *Britannia* and by then the earthwork had disappeared.

Roy Allen

## INDUSTRIAL WALKS

The Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society has organised a number of interesting walks this summer. They include:

*3rd June:* Waterloo to Bankside, which includes train stations, power station, South Bank lion and Westminster Bridge

*1st July:* Woolwich – the river and Woolwich Arsenal

*5th Aug:* Regent's Canal and Chalk Farm Underground

*2nd Sept:* Clerkenwell – gin and water.

Further details may be obtained from the Publicity Officer, Kathleen Gribble, 39 Friars Road, E6 1LJ. Events are free.

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## SAVING CITY CHURCHES

Those of you who heard Dr Ann Saunders talk to the Society in December on the subject of pre-Fire City churches will know that a lot needs to be done to save and maintain a good number of churches in the City of London. There are ten pre-Fire churches and 23 Wren buildings, as well as five 18th-century and one 19th-century churches to worry about. Members may like to know that an organisation called The Friends of the City Churches exists to ensure that these buildings are preserved intact and that they are introduced to a wider public. They may be contacted at 68 Battersea High Street SW11 3HX (0171-228 3336). Membership is £10.

## PRIMROSE HILL BY PUNCH

Robin Woolven has sent us a parody published in Innes's edition of *Punch's Humorous Songster*, c1850.

I loves that hill, called Primrose-hill  
 On which I've often strolled;  
 And on a Sunday afternoon  
 Down with the gals I've rolled!  
 And then to Chalk-farm strut so gay,  
 Where Peg and I took tea;  
 Of all the spots from town away  
 Why, Primrose-hill for me!

I loves that hill, that Primrose-hill  
 Becos I'll tell you why;  
 It is so werry rural, and  
 As how it's so close by!  
 I loves to sniff the precious air  
 Vot blows so sweet and free;  
 Of all the spots vhere I repair,  
 Vhy, Primrose-hill for me!

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 150  
Jul 1995

## John Keats in Hampstead

Thurs 20 July, 7.30pm  
Keats House, Keats Grove, NW3

This year is the bicentenary of the birth of John Keats. Christina Gee, curator of Keats House, will be talking on the subject of the poet's life in Hampstead. As you will have learned in the last *Newsletter* the event will be in the house itself, which will greatly aid the imagination as the talk progresses. Because of floor-loading problems we have to limit the number of people who can attend this talk. Those who would like to go please telephone Roger Cline on 0171-722 6421, leaving your name, telephone number and number of reserved seats that you require either with him or his answering machine.

## Outing to Stowe

Saturday, 5 August

The coach to go to Stowe was, when we last checked, full, but it is worth telephoning Robin Woolven, who is organising the trip, to get on to a reserve list in case there are cancellations. His telephone is 0171-794 2382.

## Soho Past

Thurs, 21 Sept, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church Hall,  
Lancing Street NW1

Soho has an enduring fascination. It has gone in and out of fashion and its reputation has risen and fallen as commercial forces have dictated. It has changed greatly in the last five years as the work of the Soho Society has borne fruit – the sex industry has been greatly reduced and the number of restaurants has increased. The latest battle is to encourage pavement dining, with which the Society and most citizens are in favour and Westminster City Council against, but it is a further indication that Soho has recovered its old convivial reputation. It just needs quite a few streets shut off to traffic and the transformation will gather speed once more.

Our speaker on the history of Soho, Richard Tames, is a Blue Badge Guide. His book *Soho Past*, published last year, condenses the story from the 17th century to the present day – a feat he will attempt to repeat in our

talk in September. But Soho is essentially about people rather than buildings – though Soho contains much to delight the eye. This is because it has always been a cosmopolitan area, and one that grew into the entertainment and culinary centre of London. Characters, responsible and rackets, have left their mark on the area and Richard Tames, who has a good eye for such people, will present an entertaining talk.

*Please note:* There is a possibility that the distribution of the September *Newsletter* will be too late to advertise this talk. So please take this as notice.

## The Jubilee Dinner

A dinner was held on 11 May at Parker's Restaurant, Holborn to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Camden History Society. Among those attending were several who had been part of the Society since its inception, including Christina Gee, Frank Cole and Malcolm Holmes. Set up by a Steering Committee of Camden Council in 1969, the Society has been chaired since 1970 by John Richardson. The first President was Sir John Wolfenden, with Sir John Betjeman as a Vice-President; by 1971 Christopher Wade was Publications Secretary. The Society since then has staged over 300 events – talks, walks and outings, and it produces a variety of lively publications covering the history of Camden.

John Richardson spoke firstly about the downturn in local history and libraries compared with former times – they are now seen as the 'Cinderella' of council activities. In outer London areas, he observed, there is a greater enthusiasm for local history – at least as expressed by attendances at meetings. This may be due to a closer identification with the area in which people live. However, their meetings in his experience generally featured talks about areas *outside* their own, whereas in Camden the Society has still not by any means exhausted Camden subjects.

Turning to the London scene in general, John Richardson talked about the deterioration of the city and the need for a new central authority. He was not, however, in favour of the restoration of a GLC-type authority, but one that was much smaller, that had very specific tasks, that could act speedily and have an elected and paid mayor who could restore the morale and London identity of those who lived in the Greater London area.



Photographs taken at the Jubilee dinner by Leslie Goulding. Top left is guest speaker Simon Jenkins with Chairman, John Richardson. Top right is Christina Gee, who organised the evening. Bottom right, Christopher Wade in contemplative mood.

Simon Jenkins, the writer of several London books, and former editor of *The Times*, was the guest speaker. He was, he told us, St Pancras born and bred. He spoke of the 'sense of place' of the different parts of the city, with the social geography giving roots and a sense of neighbourhood. He compared choosing a place to live in, containing a whole community, with the 'global village' of the Internet where there is a club of like-minded individuals, but containing none of the difficulties of real life, and where private lives can be lived in detachment. Societies are important for genuine communities, he said, and local history societies are the 'cement of communities'.

### DELIVERING THE NEWS

Members do value the *Newsletter*. However, we are seeking two or three people who can help with putting it in envelopes and sticking on stamps. It involves about 1½ hours effort, once every two months, in the Swiss Cottage area, often but not invariably on Thursday afternoon. If you think you can help please contact Jane Ramsay on 0171-586 4436.

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### THE ARTISTS' CAMDEN CALENDAR

An enterprising Camden publication is a calendar for 1996 which features thirteen colour reproductions of historical views of Camden. Copies may be obtained from Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1X 8PA. The cost is £6.00 plus £1.25 postage and packing for each copy up to three. Cheques should be made out to the Borough of Camden.

## Index to Newsletters 101-150

Illustrations are indicated by an asterisk

ABRAHAM, Gerald 103  
Adultery in Highgate 130  
Alexander, Settimo 134  
Allinghams in Hampstead 122  
Allotments, Fitzroy Park 125  
Allotments, Spaniards Road 125  
Anglo-German FHS formed 107  
Anrep, Boris 146  
Archaeology: ditch at Primrose Hill 107; bones at Somers Town 130; Saxon boundary on Heath 145  
Archway tunnel 125  
Aris family 120  
Arthur Andersen Foundation 148  
Ashley, Henry V. 103  
Ashton family 135  
ASLEF in Hampstead 115  
Ayrtton, Maxwell 103

BAILLIE, Joanna 101  
Bank of England Museum 125  
Barbaulds in Hampstead 115, 121  
Barnes, Edmund 102  
Barrow Hill 127  
Bashford family 149  
Baumer, Lewis 103  
Bax, Arnold and Clifford 134  
Beacon at Hampstead 108  
Beating the Bounds 118, 140, 145  
Beaton, Cecil 134  
Belsize - Clausen picture 125; map of 1714, 134  
Belsize Court 120, 128  
Belsize Deep Shelter 121  
Belsize Farm 144, \*144  
Belsize House 120, 122, 131, 132, 134, \*134, 136, 140, \*140, 142, \*142  
Belsize Lane 102, 120, 128, 136, 140, 144, \*144  
Belsize Lodge 136  
Belsize Village 129, \*129  
Bilton family 115  
Birks, Kathleen 125  
Blake, William, merchant 103  
Bloomsbury Market 115, 116  
Blue Danube Theatre 122

Books noted or reviewed: *'And Grandmother's Bed Went too...'* 111; *All Highgate is a Garden* 117; *A Day out in Hampstead* 143; *A Hampstead Memoir: High Hill Bookshop* 116; *Bloomsbury Past* 140; *British Archaeological Association's Conference Transactions* 127; *Camden Past and Present* 115; *Camden Town 1791-1991* 126; *Camden Town and Primrose Hill Past* 128; *Change at King's Cross* 122; *Cobden and his Kate* 123, 124; *Coventry Patmore's Angel* 132; *Criminal Islington* 114; *Diary of a Nobody* 123; *Flinders Petrie: A Life in Archaeology* 106; *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road* 147; *General Index to the Transactions of LAMAS* 111; *George Scharf's London* 103; *Great Fire of London* 102; *The Greek Cypriot Community in Camden* 127; *The Growth of the Western Side of Hampstead* 119; *Hackney Walks* 128; *Hampstead Town Trail* 137; *Hampstead Cemetery Tomb Trail* 144, 145; *Hampstead Past* 116; *Hampstead Quakers 1907-1914* 144; *Haringey Before our Time* 137; *Heart of a London Village* 128; *The Heath Mount Register 1865-1992* 134; *Highgate Past* 116; *Highgate Village: Four Walks* 116; *Irish in Camden* 120; *Kentish Town: Its Past in Pictures* 139; *The Lady in the Van* 124; *Lauderdale Revealed* 140; *Lines on the Underground* 146; *The Little School: A History of Hornsey's Old Schoolhouse* 146; *Making a Victorian Garden* 143; *Operation Skyscraper* 112; *Palace on the Hill - a history of Alexandra Palace and Park* 131; *Prehistoric London* 122; *Ralph Treswell's Surveys* 101; *The Royal Veterinary College London: a Bicentenary history*

120; *Sources for the Study of Public Housing* 142; *St John's Wood: An Abode of Love and the Arts* 112; *Streets of West Hampstead* 131, 132; *Streets of Belsize* 124; *Tea and Anarchy! The Bloomsbury Diary of Olive Garnett 1890-1893*; *Victoria County History - Hampstead and Paddington* 114; *We think you ought to go* 150; *The Westminster Corridor* 146; *Where they lived in Hampstead* 137

Booth, Webster 103  
Borough Archivist 144  
Braithwaite, R.M. memories of Hampstead and Highgate 125  
Brassington, Eric 133  
'Brickfield Terrace' 123  
Bridge House, Highgate Road 113, \*113  
Brill farmhouse \*135  
British Association for Promoting Co-operative Knowledge 141  
Brodrick, W.J. 103  
Brook Street Ragged School \*136  
Bryceson Brothers 102, 103  
Bull and Bush 101, \*101  
Burton Street 141  
Bus garage, Albany Street 122

CAMDEN ARTS CENTRE 120  
Camden Local History Centre, proposed 108  
Camden Park Road 121, \*121  
Camden Road Presbyterian Church 121, \*121  
'Camden Town 200' 121, 123, 127  
Camden Town's first theatre \*139  
Caraher, Henry 122  
Carey, Robert 137, 138  
Catesby, Maurice 101  
Centre of Metropolitan History 104  
Chagrin, Francis 122  
Chalk Farm - views 146, \*146  
Chalk Farm Tavern 146, \*146  
Chalon, Alfred Edward 105, 106  
Champneys, Basil 114  
Church Row 111, 112  
Cinemas in Camden 150  
Clay pipes 144  
Coade Stone 101, \*101, 118  
Cobden, Richard 124  
Cockerell, C.E. 101  
Cogges church, nr Woodstock 103  
Colville Place 139  
Constable, John: 150th anniversary 101, 102  
Constantine Road 132  
Conway Street 110  
Cooper, Anthony 126, 137  
Cope family 107  
County of London Regiment (St Pancras) 134  
Cox, Anthony 136  
Cresswell's Dairy, Kingsgate Road \*116  
Cressy Road 133  
Crippen and Camden 132  
Crossfield tennis parties 108, \*108, 125  
Crouch End Clocktower centenary 150  
Crump, Miss Anne 129

DALEHAM GARDENS 128  
Daleham Mews 144, \*144  
Daniels family 150  
Davidson, Henry 126, 128  
Davis & Sons 101  
Debenham, Frank 102, 104  
De Fortis, Rev. Paul 130  
Dickens, E.H. 123  
Docklands Museum 118  
Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Road 110  
Dr Williams' Library 118  
Druids on Primrose Hill 128  
du Maurier, Gerald 134  
Dunsford House 124

EARTHQUAKE in Hampstead 128  
Eldon Grove 122  
Elm House, Belsize 136

Englands Lane 135, \*135  
Equitable Labour Exchange 141, \*141  
Eton College Estate 135  
Everett, William, 120, 131, 140  
Everyman Cinema 122  
Exhibitions - *Allinghams in Hampstead* 122; *Beautiful Belsize* 126; *Buried in Hampstead* 107; *Camden Characters* 145; *Fire over Hampstead* 108; *Furnishing the world* 103; *Hampstead Improvements* 105; *Hampstead Past* 117; *Hampstead postcards* 144; *Henry Yevele* 103; *Katherine Mansfield* 109, 110; *Little Palaces* 103; *London: the under ground city* 132; *Peopling of London* 124; *Religious Devils of Hampstead* 130; *Something Old, Something New* 104; *Stanley Spencer* 127; *Streets of West Hampstead* 131; *Sydney Arrobus* 125  
Eyre, Col. Henry Samuel 120

FARMER, Alan 118  
Farrer & Co 142  
Fawcett Library 147  
Fellowes, Coulson 124  
Finchley Road 121; creation of 120  
'Fire engine' Rosslyn Hill 104  
Firemen's cottages West End Green 120  
First World War 104, 125  
Fitzjohn's Avenue 102, 104  
Flask Walk Baths 107  
Fog in Hampstead 119  
Foley, John Henry 128  
Folgate Street (No. 18) 130  
Forster, Matthew 136  
Forum Cinema, Kentish Town Road 120  
Freud's house, Maresfield Gardens 110  
Friends of Keats House 109  
Frognaal Priory 120  
Funeral ticket \*104

GAGE, John 138  
Gaitskill, Hugh 103  
Gayton Road childhood 104  
Gerhardt, Elena 103  
Gertler, Mark 102  
Gillies, Sir Harold 103  
Gissing in Camden 139  
Golders Hill Park 146  
Goldfinger, Erno 138  
Goldington Buildings 132  
Gower Place 139  
Gower Street 120  
'Granny Drippen's Steps' 134  
Gray's Inn Road 139, 141  
Great James Street 124  
Greenall, Philip 126, \*128, 139  
Gregory, Charles 122  
Greville Street 141  
Grossmith family 123  
Grove, The, Highgate 143, \*143  
Guilford Street 120, 132

HALL, George Byndloss 128  
Hall, John George 128  
Hampstead Antiquarian and Historical Society 144  
Hampstead Fair 125  
Hampstead General Hospital 136  
Hampstead Heath Academy 134  
Hampstead High Street 132, \*133  
Hampstead in Canada 140, \*140, 143  
Hampstead Workhouse, use of cats 104  
Harmsworth, Esmond 134  
Harrison family 128  
Haverstock Hill 113, 123  
Hawkins, Philip 119  
Haynes & Douglas 106  
Heath Passage, North End Way 146  
High Hill Bookshop 116  
Highgate Boating Pond 125  
Highgate Cemetery 136  
Highgate Horticultural Society 117

- Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution 113, 125, 136  
 Highgate Prophet 105  
 Highgate - view of London \*130, 132, 133  
 Hollis, John, Duke of Newcastle 142  
 Holly Mount 121  
 Hopscotch Club 150  
 House flies 101  
 Hudd, Walter 121  
 Hunt, Leigh 128  
 Hunters Lodge 120, 132, 136, \*136  
 Huntley Street 139
- INTERNATIONAL Art Circle 121  
 Inverforth House, Hampstead 110  
 Ivy Bank, Belsize 136, \*136
- JACK STRAW'S CASTLE 149  
 Jubilee Dinner 150, \*150
- KARSAVINA, Madame Tamara 103  
 Keats, John 128  
 Keats Grove 141  
 Kelmscott 121  
 Kentish Town National School 143, \*143  
 Kentish Town Toll House \*148  
 Kenwood House - opening ceremony 125;  
 carpet in Adam library 125  
 Keteriche, Thomas 109  
 Kilburn childhood 113  
 King's Cross origins: 105; monument 105;  
 'lighthouse' 127  
 Kite Hill 138, 139, 140, 141
- LADIES' HOSPITAL, Highgate 103  
 LAMAS Library 106  
 Lamb, Edward Buckton 118  
 Lantern Theatre 121, 122  
 Lawn Bank, Keats Grove 103  
 Le Neve, Ethel 132  
 Lefroy, Prof. H.M. 101  
 Leverton, Thomas 142  
 Lewis, John Spedan 134  
 Lincoln's Inn Fields 142, \*142  
 Linley Sambourne House 129  
 Little, John 121  
 Little Theatre 121, 122  
 London Carriage and Horse Repository 141  
 Lyndhurst Road chapel 122
- MACKWORTH Street 139  
 MacNeice, Louis 141, 142  
 Marks, Edmund 144, 146  
 Martinez, Sebastian 140  
 Maternity care in Hampstead 131  
 May, William Charles 102  
 McDonald's premises, Hampstead High Street  
 132  
 Meetings, analysis of Camden History Society  
 145, 146  
 Merton Lane 125  
 Middlesex - reviving the county 135  
 Midland Grand Hotel, St Pancras 123, 133  
 Miller, Martin 121  
 Milne, Oswald 103  
 Monte Video Place, Kentish Town \*103  
 Moody family 117, \*117  
 Moore, Leslie 103  
 Mortimer Terrace 128  
 Morwellham Quay, Devon 110  
 Muddock, S., plumber 101  
 Muddy Lane, gospel Oak 128  
 Museum of London - new Prehistoric gallery  
 148
- NEW END Hospital 110, 131  
 New Jerusalem church, Argyle Square 118,  
 \*118  
 New Oxford Street 132  
 New River 109  
 Newcastle House, Lincoln's Inn Fields 142, \*142
- Newton, E.E. 101  
 Norrie, Ian 110  
 North London Collegiate School 123  
 North Villas \*121  
 Nunn, Thomas Hancock 122
- Obituaries - Eric Brassington 136; Anthony  
 Cooper 126; Anthony Cox 136; Rev. Paul de  
 Fortis 130; Alan Farmer 118; John Gage 138;  
 Philip Greenall 126; Hugh Pocock 101;  
 Horace Shooter 145; Sir John Summerson  
 135; Diana Wade 125, 126, 131; Stephen  
 Wilson 116.  
 Old Grove House 137, 138  
 O'Neill, Daniel 131  
 Ornan Road 128  
 Osnaburgh Street 128,  
 Oval Road 114  
 Owen, Robert 141
- PARK, Thomas 117  
 Parliament Hill 138, 139, 140, 141  
 Patmore, Coventry, 107, 114, 132  
 Paxon, George 120  
 Pearce, Sir Frank 103  
 Pelham, Thomas, Duke of Newcastle 142  
 Pemberton, Sir Francis 143  
 Penn Studio 102  
 Pentland, Lord 103  
 Perceval, Spencer 131  
 Perceval Avenue 150  
 Pocock, Hugh 101  
 Pocock, John Thomas 110  
 Potter, Peter 120  
 Povey, Charles 134, 142  
 Powell, William 105  
 Powis, Lord 142  
 Primrose Hill - parody poem 149; replanting  
 primroses 149, 150; use by army 130.  
 Primrose Hill Road 141  
 Primrose Hill Tunnel construction 137, \*137,  
 138, \*138  
 Priory, The, Hampstead 128  
 Prosser, Richard Bissell 104
- QUEEN MARY'S Maternity Hospital,  
 Hampstead 131
- RAILWAY cutting, Camden Town \*145, 146,  
 147, 148  
 Railway tunnel, Belsize 140  
 Ratebooks on film 118  
*Records of Hampstead* by F.E. Baines, 101  
 Refugee Theatre 121, 122  
 Regent's Canal - photographic survey 137  
 Regent's Park Terrace 141  
 Rentokil 101  
 Rhodes, Thomas 135  
 Rhondda, Lady 103  
 Rickwood, Edgell 120  
 Roberts, Thomas 120, 122  
 Rogers, Jean Scott 116, 117  
 Rosslyn Hill 120, 122  
 Rosslyn House 108, 109, 124, \*124, 126, 128  
 Rosslyn Lodge (12c Lyndhurst Rd) 107  
 Rudall Crescent, Penn House 102
- ST JAMES'S CHURCH, Hampstead Road 150  
 St Mark's Church, North Woolwich Road 103  
 St Martin's church, Gospel Oak 118  
 St Pancras Hotel 123, 133  
 St Pancras Iron Work Co. \*104  
 St Pancras, mayor of 102  
 St Pancras Royalist sympathies 115  
 St Pancras Workhouse \*136  
 St Paul's Crescent 139  
 Saxon London 118, 120, 138  
 Schwabe, Randolph 103  
 SCOLA 148  
 Second World War 121, 130, 146  
 Shaftesbury Avenue 114, 132
- Shomrei Hadath synagogue, Finchley Rd 105  
 Shooter, Horace 145  
 Shop signs 114  
 Shopping in Belsize Village 129, \*129  
 Shopping in Hampstead 112  
 Short-cuts through Hampstead \*133  
 Shorts Gardens 120, 138  
 Siberechts, Jan 143  
 Simpson's school, Englands Lane 123  
 Slinn family 101  
 Soane Monuments Trust 121  
 Soane Museum - new gallery 149  
 Somers, Sir John 142  
 Somers Town Cotton Mill 106  
 Somers Town mural 136, 141  
 Somers Town Presbyterian Church \*107, 108,  
 \*108  
 South End Green fountain 129  
 South End Road 125  
 Spencer, Stanley 127  
 Spring Path, Hampstead 117, \*117  
 Stanfield, Clarkson 101  
 Stanhope, Philip, 2nd Earl of Chesterfield 134  
 Steam roller rescued 119, \*119  
 Store Street 132  
 Street furniture - 114, 115, 149, 150  
 Summerson, Sir John 135
- TATE, Phyllis 103  
 Technical education 143  
 Territorial unit, Camden High Street 134  
 Theatre in Camden Town 139  
 Thompson, John 'Memory' 120  
 Todd, George 120, 128, 136  
 Toll gate, Rosslyn House 126, 128  
 Towner, Donald 103  
 Townsend's Yard, Highgate \*138  
 Triltsch, Arthur 104
- UPPER Park Road 121, 122
- VARNDELL Street 139  
 Victoria, Queen 126, 128, 135  
 Victoria County History 107  
 Viennese Theatre Club 121  
 Von Senger, Hugo 150
- WADE, Diana 125, 126, 131  
 Wallace, Ian 134  
 Warren Street 110  
 Washington pub, Englands Lane 110  
 Waterlow, Sir Sydney 143  
 Watts, Arthur 103  
 Waugh, Evelyn 134  
 Wesleyan Place 128  
 Whiley, Geo. M. gold & silver beaters 102, 103  
 Whitaker, Joseph 136  
 White, Henry 120  
 White, William 126  
 White House, The 128  
 Willoughby, Dobson 136  
 Willow Road (Goldfinger house) 138  
 Wilson, Richard 110  
 Wilson Stephen 111, 116, \*128  
 Wilson, Sir Thomas Maryon 120  
 Wimborne Minster 102  
 Winde, Captain William 142  
 Witanhurst, Highgate West Hill 108, 125  
 Wivell's Billiard Room Camden Town \*139  
 Wolfe & Hollander mascot 101  
 Wollstonecraft anniversary 131  
 Wolsey, Florence 140  
 Woodd, Basil George 140  
 Woodd, Charles 124  
 Woolf, Virginia 109, 110  
 Wright, John 140, 142
- YMCA 124
- ZIEGLER, Anne 103



## The Annual Meeting

The officers and Council of the Society elected at the Annual General Meeting in June are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Professor Christopher Elrington

VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr. Ann Saunders

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade

SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

TREASURER: Roger Cline

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Christopher Wade

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Susan Palmer

ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Diana Rau

COUNCIL MEMBERS; Peter Barber, Ruth Hayes, Lester May, Michael Ogden, Gillian Tindall, Dr Peter Woodford (editor of the *Review*), Robin Woolven.

## New light on St James's Church

St James's Church, Hampstead Road was once the chapel attached to the extra-mural burial ground there belonging to St James's Piccadilly – the churchyard is now a public garden and a welcome relief in the area from the modern bustle of Euston Station. An interesting addition to the Local History Collection is the Churchwardens' Minute Book. This begins in 1873 and apart from a gap of some 12 years from 1880, records the progress of the church each year until its closure in 1953. At first sight one might think the usual votes of thanks to worthy church people for their services in the past year would be very tedious, but closer inspection reveals the ups and downs of an interesting parish. In the nineteenth century, the treasurer would report that there had been a deficit over the past year but this had been made up by the vicar and so they could start afresh in the forthcoming year without worry – whereas after the First World War it was agreed that the vicar should be urged to accept the proceeds of the Easter Offering rather than allowing it to go to one of the church charities. The vicar in 1920 gratefully accepted the £20 10s 6d as times were very difficult and it was hard to make ends meet. His successors were greeted with an almost annual regret that the offering was less than last year, but the congregations' regard was no less sincere; in 1947 it almost doubled to the grand sum of £2 19s 4d (so 1946 was VERY hard) and the Vicar immediately had a nervous breakdown. The average weekly collection was of the order of £1.

The church had suffered during the war, from incendiary devices mainly, although a water tank had burst and flooded the organ which cost 25 guineas to repair. The suffering was encountered in the form of parishioners being absent on war service and so unable to carry out their duties, the need to move treasures to a place of safety and to pay the surrounding hospital to watch the church for incendiary bombs.

The breakdown of the priest was the beginning of the

end. The bishop would not appoint a successor, although he was impressed by 60 people being in church when he came on a visit. A priest did eventually come, but he soon gave notice of his resignation. A 1951 questionnaire to the Archdeaconry of Hampstead had sad answers: 'Has your church been surveyed and if so what repairs are declared necessary?' Answer: 'No, authorities not bothering.' 'What is your quota?' '£12.' 'What amount did you pay?' 'Nothing, because we receive no help in any way from the diocese.'

The report of the 1953 meeting ends: 'There followed certain items re Demolition, engagement of Solicitors, correspondence with the Town Clerk, Borough Librarian and others were read and a short discussion followed.'

RIP St James's Hampstead Road. Your History has come back to the present Borough Librarian, even if the one at the time failed to collect the records.

Roger Cline

### 8 PERCEVAL AVENUE NW3

The present owners wish to reinstate the front boundary of this house, built in 1915, and ask if there is any documentary evidence of the kind of brickwork, fencing, gates, hedging and planting that would have been used in the original development. If you can help, please contact their architect, Arnold Linden, 54 Upper Montagu Street, W1H 1FP (0171-723 7772)

### THE DANIELS FAMILY OF KENTISH TOWN

Mrs Margaret Parkes, 36a Onslow Street, Huntly, New Zealand is trying to find out more about her great grandmother, Frances Alice Daniels, born c.1839 in either Camden or Kentish Town, and whether there is a connection with the C & A Daniels department store mentioned in our *Kentish Town Packet*. Jane Ramsay has the letter from Mrs Parkes, with more details, which she will pass on to anyone who thinks they could help.

### HUGO VON SENGER

Mrs Meriel Wilmot-Wright of 30 Thurlow Road, NW3 5PH (0171-794 7277) seeks information on Herr Hugo von Senger who 'invented' the Sengerphone, a type of megaphone which Edith Sitwell used in reciting her poetry at the first performance of *Facade*. In one of the numerous Sitwell biographies he is mentioned. He lived in Hampstead, but where?

### THE HOPSCOTCH CLUB

Ted Brittin of 55 Blackbush Spring, Harlow, Essex CM20 3DZ is seeking former members of the Hopscotch Girls & Boys Club that was held in an old meat-store warehouse in Eversholt Street, near Euston Station. It was associated with the Save the Children Fund; the warden was Barbara Maass. He was an infant/junior member about 1946-53, and he has recently acquired a film that was made at the club in 1951, which included many of his old friends.

## CAMDEN CINEMAS

Next year celebrates 100 years of Cinema in Britain. On 21 February 1896, the Lumière brothers' programme opened to the paying public at the Regent Street Polytechnic – the first time the public had paid for cinema in the UK.

To coincide with national celebrations, a forthcoming publication, *Cinemas in Camden*, is currently being researched. Mark Aston of the Camden Local Studies Centre is collecting information for this. In particular, he wants photographs, programmes and ephemera. He may be contacted at the Centre at Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road NW3 3HA or on 0171-413 6522.

## CROUCH END CENTENARY

Three publications by the Hornsey Historical Society mark the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of that well-known landmark, the Crouch End clocktower. This structure was publicly funded to commemorate Henry Reader Williams, a sometimes difficult Chairman of the Hornsey Local Board of Health, who had been influential in the saving of Highgate Woods, Queen's Wood and Crouch End Playing Fields from development. A well-researched pamphlet by Joan Schwitzer, entitled *Crouch End Clock Tower* describes the history of this landmark – 60p + 20p postage. At the same time the Society is publishing another pamphlet on the other Crouch End landmark – *Hornsey Town Hall*. The development of this interesting building, designed by R.H. Uren, and the site around it, is described by Bridget Cherry (£1 + 20p postage). Lastly there is *Crouch End: A Walk* devised by Bridget Cherry and Ken Gay, taking us round the various parts of this late 19th century residential part of Hornsey. This costs £2 plus 60p postage. All may be obtained from the Society's headquarters at The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane N8 7EL (0181-340 8429).

## WE THINK YOU OUGHT TO GO

A new publication from the Greater London Record Office, sheds light on the large scale evacuation of civilians during the last war. Those uprooted, often for the first time, included not only hundreds of thousands of children, but also expectant mothers, blind people and, since it was originally expected that London schools would remain closed for the duration of the war, teachers. *We think you ought to go* examines how the LCC co-ordinated this vast undertaking, coped with the unexpected return of large numbers of children during the Phoney War of 1939-40, the subsequent re-evacuation during the London Blitz of 1940 and again late in the war with the advent of V1 and V2 rockets. The basis for this publication is an account originally written in 1945 by the LCC's Education department, but which remained unpublished. It has been enhanced by photographs and other details available on hindsight.

It is available from the Greater London Record Office, 40 Northampton Road, EC1R 0HB. Cheques for £5.75 (inc. postage) should be made payable to the Corpora-

tion of London. Two events at the GLRO tie in with this book. One is on Wed 19 July (2pm) and the second on Tues 8 August at 6pm. The events will feature two exhibitions, *Bombs Away* and *Thank God the War is Over*, as well as a short lecture on the evacuation. If you would like to go to either of these events please apply to Helen Atkinson at the GLRO.

## ALL CHANGE AT BURGH HOUSE

Christopher Wade has been curator of the Hampstead Museum at Burgh House since its foundation. He has recently retired from the post and Gene Adams will be succeeding him, with Michael Hammerson as Deputy Curator. Burgh House also said goodbye to David Sullivan as its Chairman. David was one of those in the mid-1970s who helped to found the Burgh House Trust and he has been Chairman ever since. His place is taken by Gerard Mansell, a former managing director of the World Service of the BBC and its Deputy Director-General.

Incidentally, Burgh House hopes by the end of the year to have a licence which will allow marriages to be performed on the premises.

The new exhibition at Burgh House *This is our Hampstead*, is the work of two local schools – Christ Church Primary and South Hampstead High School for Girls. It is a visual and textual examination of various parts of the area. This runs from 18 July to 24 September.

## THE SOMERS TOWN BOLLARD

We have had two letters regarding the Somers Town bollard featured in the last *Newsletter*.

Desmond Mann writes that the bollard, inscribed 'Sommers Town 1817' is one of three, the other two being on the north-west corner of Ossulston Street and Phoenix Road, and the other on the junction of Chalton Street and Phoenix Road. Unfortunately the one in Ossulston Street is in a very sorry state, having been knocked over by a vehicle recently. He hopes that the Council will resite it in a less vulnerable place. Roy Allen notes that there is an erratic 'Sommers Town 1817' bollard at the top of East Heath Road near Whitestone Pond.

## PRIMROSES ON THE HILL

Cherry Lavell writes:

I took a photo this spring of one of the groups of primroses which have been planted on Primrose Hill. For their own best health they were placed in the shrub borders alongside Ormonde Terrace on the SW slope of the hill. There are also cowslips, so there may be some interesting hybrids in due course. It is always possible that these plants will seed themselves into one of the patches of long grass, but until such happy time we must be grateful for what we have!

(We erroneously printed the author of the item on this subject in the last *Newsletter* as being Hope Chenhall. It should have been Hope Chenhales. Our apologies.)

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 151

Sep 1995

## A Musical Life in Camden

Thurs, 19 October, 7.30

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

A second event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Camden History Society is a musical evening presented by Helen Lawrence, mezzo-soprano and Philip Mountfield, piano. Helen Lawrence has compiled a varied programme of music associated with what is now called Camden, which acts as a survey of music and musical performance from opera to music hall from the 17th to 20th century. There will be songs and arias by Handel, Gay, Sullivan, Massenet, Elgar, Bax, Bliss, Kern and Goldschmidt.

Helen Lawrence (otherwise known as Helen Marcus, chairman of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society) was born in Hampstead. She has sung at Covent Garden, at English National Opera and at opera houses and concert venues world-wide.

Burgh House has limited seating. Can members who want to attend please telephone Sue Palmer at the Soane Museum on 0171 405 2107 during weekdays (working hours) to book a place? If you do reserve a place and then for some reason find that you will not be able to attend, it would be appreciated if you could let Sue know.

## Advance Notice

Please put the following talks in your diary:

Thurs 16 Nov, 7.30 at St Pancras Church House: Colin Cunningham on the architect, Alfred Waterhouse.

Thurs 7 Dec, 7.30 at Burgh House: Ann Saunders on Marylebone Park.

## A New Review

A new *Camden History Review* is enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter*. It is the first to be edited by Peter Woodford, and it has been handsomely redesigned by Ivor Kamlish. It contains a wide range of very good quality articles. Kit Ikin takes on the received wisdom as to the location of the famous Hollow Elm of Hampstead, Peter Barber delves even deeper into the history of one of the families which occupied Lauderdale House, and Sheila Wilson puts into print her researches into the Gees, who lived at that other famous Camden property, Fenton House. Kevin McDonnell breaks new ground with his analy-

sis of Labour Party Vestry and Council members in St Pancras. Incidentally, on 11 April next year, Michael Holroyd will be talking to the Society about George Bernard Shaw and his time on the St Pancras Vestry. Roderick Braithwaite has been researching his family history and has come across Matthew Forster of Belsize House and an interesting story concerning Sierra Leone. For those who missed it we also have a summary of Donald Gray's excellent talk on that interesting character, Percy Dearmer who, among other things, was vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill. Marian Kamlish enlarges our knowledge of the Bedford Theatre in Camden Town and David Hayes has taken up the challenge issued by Claire Tomalin at the launch of our publication *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road*: locate the Primrose Hill pond mentioned in Claire Clairmont's journal, where Shelley and his companions sailed paper boats in 1814. David suggests several sites and also tells us a bit more about Claire Clairmont. This year is, of course, Keats year, and Christina Gee tells us about his Hampstead years. Robin Woolven has come across a Hampstead by-pass that never was and E.C. Brooks has some fascinating reminiscences of working at Euston and St Pancras stations. All in all, a treat.

## BANISHING LONDON'S SLUMS

This year's theme for the LAMAS Local History Conference is *Banishing London's Slums*. It will be on Saturday 18 November from 10.10am at the Museum of London Lecture Theatre. Papers include one by Alan Cox of the Survey of London on *Public housing in London 1844-1914, Homes for Heroes* (LCC cottage and out-county estates) by Dr Jim Yelling, *Public Housing in the Welfare State*, by Elaine Harwood, and *Films of the Public Housing Movement 1919-30*, presented by Toby Haggith.

Tickets for this event (£3.50 inc. tea and coffee) may be obtained from Local History Conference, c/o 36 Church Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7PX.

## THE RIGHT JACK STRAW'S CASTLE?

Kit Ikin writes:

'I would love to believe that James Petiver (see *Newsletter* 149) referred in 1695 to a moat at our Jack Straw's Castle, but I think it is more likely that he referred to Jack Straw's Castle at Highbury. Another entry in column 337 relates to white maidenhair 'on an old stone conduit between Islington and Jack Straw's Castle'.

## Grounds not for Complaint

Grounds were the main feature of this year's CHS outing – to Stowe in Buckinghamshire. Sadly, the beautiful house has long been stripped of most of its furnishings – the family which owned it having contracted massive debts.

Though there were some lovely ceilings and chimney pieces with a few portraits, it was, as stated, the grounds which attracted interest. Temples, cascades, vistas, a 14th-century church – all were there with a choice of short, medium and long walks. Happily the weather was wonderful – almost too hot, though talks were given in the shade. The group who went with Barbara enjoyed friendly acquaintance and very full information from a most capable guide.

The long-walk members were rather late for tea, but forgiven. Anyone could go alone with the aid of very good maps, some given out by the National Trust, others distributed by Robin Woolven, who with Sonia, organised a day to remember, well up to Camden History Society standards – tea almost too filling for some.

Joan Barraclough.

## VE Day: Celebrations or sober reflections?

The Society's quest for essays and/or photographs of Camden-related celebrations of VE day has not so far yielded an entry meeting the stated criteria, but one Camden resident, Mrs Esta Lefton of Netherhall Gardens, Hampstead, has allowed us to study her carefully hoarded copy of a special issue of the *Palestine*

*Post* (now the *Jerusalem Post*) for 7 May 1945, which has considerable historical interest. She acquired the copy when serving as a nurse in the British Army stationed there. Mrs Lefton, originally Polish, was taken as a child to Palestine before the war and joined the British forces in 1941. After serving in Palestine, Egypt and Italy she was demobbed in 1946 and then moved to London, where she has lived ever since.

The issue is a 2-page broadsheet costing 20 mils, carrying the banner headline **ALL GERMANS SURRENDER**, subtitled **Doenitz Announces Unconditional Capitulation**, over the main story incorporating a forgivably clumsy English translation:

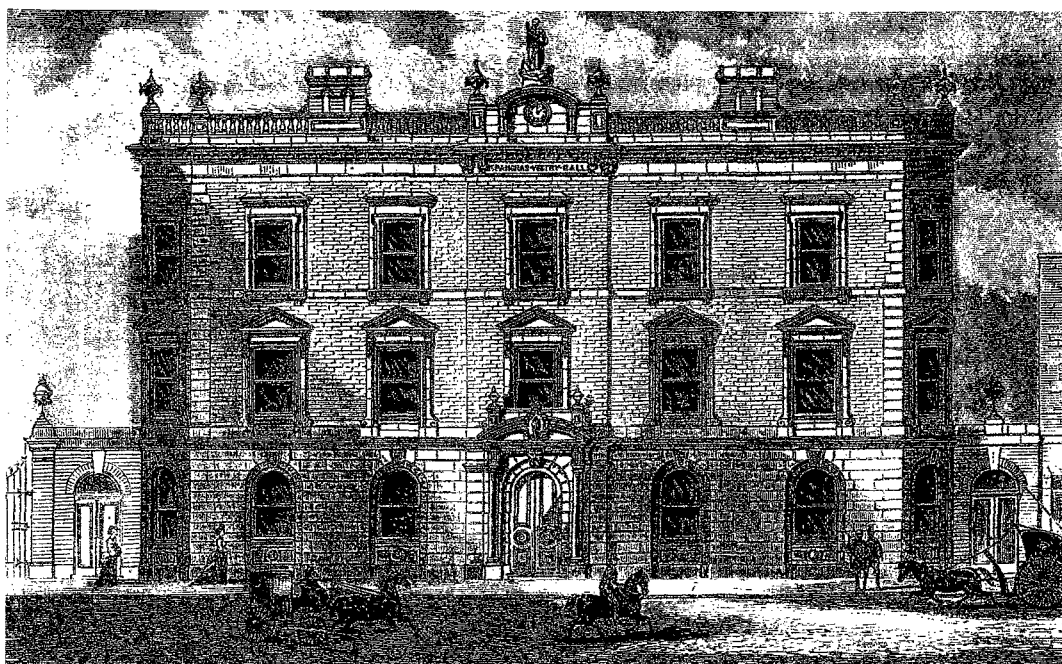
'The German Flensburg radio today reported that Admiral Doenitz has ordered the unconditional surrender of all German fighting troops. Reichsminister Count Schwerin von Krosigk broadcast to the German people:

"German men and women: the High Command of the armed forces has today at the Order of Grand Admiral Doenitz declared the unconditional surrender of all fighting German troops. As leading Minister of the Reich Government whom the Admiral of the Fleet has appointed for dealing with war tasks, I turn at this tragic moment of our history to the German nation. After an heroic fight of almost six years of incomparable hardness, German has succumbed to the overwhelming power of her enemies.

"To continue the war would only mean senseless bloodshed and futile disintegration. The Government which has a feeling of responsibility for the future of its nation was compelled to admit the collapse of its physical and material forces and to demand of the enemy the cessation of hostilities."

Under this main story there are a few details of the announcement on Danish and New York radio and of the signing ceremony at 'a little red school house

The Builder magazine is full of splendid illustrations. This one, from 1875, is the remodelled St Pancras Vestry Hall in Pancras Road in 1875.



which is General Eisenhower's headquarters'. Then there is an analysis of the contribution of long-range bombing to the victory, and a sober statement 'by an English woman' recalling what a comparative stranger had said to her in an air raid the previous March:

"We shan't feel like celebrating much when the war is over. I've just heard my cousin has been killed - last night at West Hampstead. We have all lost too many friends in the blitz, as well as sons and husbands in the fighting."

## DAME CLARA BUTT

Stephen Poulter came across Joan Barraclough's piece in *Newsletter* 100 on Dame Clara Butt and wondered who was working on a new biography of this famous singer, who lived in Harley Road, Hampstead.

'Ms Barraclough also speculated as to whether Clara's daughter, Joy, was still living (in 1987); in fact, Joy Cross died 16 April, 1976.

I am also interested in the life and works of Sir Hubert von Herkomer and I was intrigued to learn that, according to Ponder, when Clara Butt was married to Robert Kennerley Rumford, one of the wedding presents was a portrait of the bridegroom, given by the artist, von Herkomer.

Is there, by any chance, someone amongst your members who might know what happened to the painting, or how I might find out? The couple left Harley Road before Clara's death and I do not know when Kennerley Rumford's second wife died.

I realise that it is most unlikely that you will be able to help but if I do not put the question.....'

(Mr Poulter lives at 20 Lancaster Road, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1QH)

## Shells in the Gray's Inn Road

Mr C. Basham, who lives in Lyme Regis, has written to Historical Publications, the publishers of *Change at King's Cross*, regarding a munitions factory in the Gray's Inn Road. He writes:

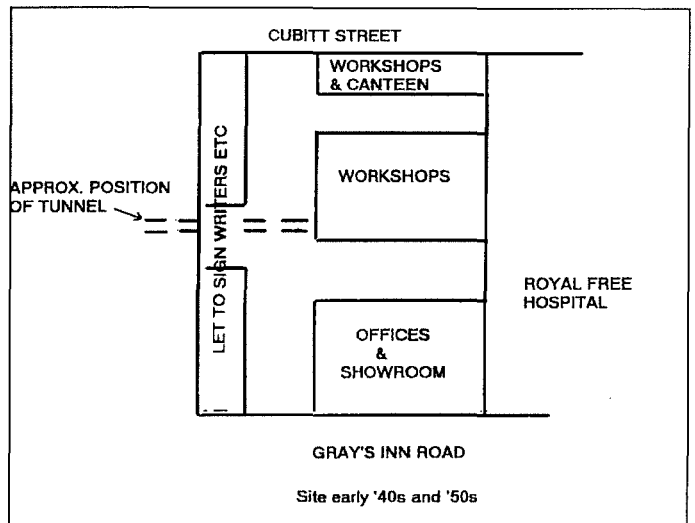
'In the 1940-50s I worked with Holland Hannen & Cubitts services division at 258 Gray's Inn Road, adjacent to the then Royal Free Hospital. The site extended to Cubitt Street.

When extending the heating system from the offices to the workshops an underground duct for heating mains had to be laid the length of the site. It was during excavation that we came across a brick tunnel with rails laid in the floor. This was about 4ft high. This was reinstated where the duct passed across the top of the tunnel.

Some years later I mentioned this to my grandmother, Mrs A. Parsons, of Thornhill Square [Islington]. She stated that this site had been a munitions factory in the 1914-18 war for filling shells. She had worked there as a supervisor. The shells had been transported along this tunnel to King's Cross station for despatch to the western front.

The Royal Free Hospital had been full of wounded soldiers, and they could hear them singing and would join in. Incidentally, she put out a fire when some guncotton ignited by stamping on it, and was later introduced to the Japanese war ministry officials, when they visited the factory, because of her bravery.

I have a small shell as a memento from those filled. I believe that the buildings were subsequently demolished in the 1970s.'



## A NIGHTINGALE IN LAMBETH PALACE ROAD

Members of the London Topographical Society at its recent Annual Meeting, held at St Thomas' Hospital, were also invited to see the Florence Nightingale Museum there. This particular member had never visited it before and was impressed by this survey of Miss Nightingale's career, not only of the more famous bit in the Crimea, but of her work for hospitals once she returned to fame in England. Well worth a visit. Telephone 0171-620 0374 for opening times.

Other medical museums in London include the archives and museum relating to the old Bethlem Royal Hospital (Bedlam), which are at Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent (0181-776 4307), the museum of the British Dental Association at 64 Wimpole Street ((0171-935 0875) and the Old Operating Theatre Museum and Herb Garret at 9a St Thomas's Street, SE1 (0171-955 4791). The latter includes the oldest surviving operating theatre and displays much original furniture and a history of surgery, nursing and herbal medicine at St Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals.

## THE NEW LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE

The bad news is that the Local Studies rooms at both Swiss Cottage and Holborn will be closed from 24th October and will reopen on 7 December. The good news is that they will reopen at the Holborn Library, Theobalds Road in the new Local Studies Centre. The Society will be arranging a visit or two to see the new place and its facilities, but members will be pleased to know that virtually all the records and archives will now be in one place, and can be used in more comfortable surroundings than those we have been accustomed to. More details in the next *Newsletter*.

## SEEING THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

The National Monuments Record, which used to be housed in Savile Row, has moved to new premises at 55 Blandford Street, W1. At the same time the original photographs relating to areas outside London have been transferred to new headquarters at Swindon, but the London collection remains. Researchers will know that the collection was refreshingly open to browsing, and the literature about the new building states that there are 'open access collections of buildings in Greater London'. Let us hope that the freedom to browse is still a feature. (That is one of the problems at the Greater London Record Office photographic collection. You have to state a particular road, whereas if you are simply trying to see what photographs of Camden Town they have got, it is difficult. Seasoned users will know that it is best to state a number of roads across the alphabetical spectrum so that you get a wide range of boxes containing all the area you want to look at! Why can't they just photocopy them all gradually and put them in albums for open access?)

The National Monuments Record also includes maps, drawings, plans, 15,000 reference books on London history, lists of historic buildings and various special collections.

## A TALE OF VALE ROYAL

Peter Ackroyd has not yet applied his vivid imagination to the King's Cross area. He has been beaten to the post by Aidan Dun, in his book *Vale Royal*, recently published. It majors extensively on hidden things, such as the river Fleet beneath St Pancras churchyard (despite so many prints showing it running beside the churchyard). We also have Johnson and Shakespeare bathing in holy wells nearby, and on the site of Claremont Square we have Druids celebrating their rites. In Amwell Street there was Merlin's actual cave, rather than the long-closed pub of the same name. Scornful sceptics should buy the book! (£22.50 including 2 CDs and postage, from Goldmark Gallery, Orange Street, Uppingham, Rutland, Leics. LE15 9SQ).

## EWAN CHRISTIAN

Has anyone information about Ewan Christian (1814-95), an ecclesiastical architect and Sunday School teacher at St John's, Downshire Hill. He must have lived nearby, though possibly too early for mention in the rate books.

The Rev. Dr Munden of Christ Church, Coventry is writing a history of the London College of Divinity and has asked St John's for information. If anyone knows anything of him or where facts can be obtained, please write to Joan Barraclough, 17 Old Court House, North End Way, NW3 7ER (0171-794 2280).

*(Ewan Christian is mentioned in Alastair Service's book, Victorian and Edwardian Hampstead (1989). He built for himself what is now known as Klippar House (50 Well Walk), one of the most distinguished houses in that area. He was also offered the commission to build what became St Stephen's, Pond Street, but declined for unstated reasons. Service also notes a story relating to Christian which Dr Munden will, with delicacy, probably exclude from his history of the London College of Divinity. Christian was an Architectural Advisor to the Church Commissioners and in this capacity rejected some designs by George Gilbert Scott jnr - possibly for the proposed Christchurch in Hampstead - and Scott, who was occasionally mentally disturbed, came to Christian's house, summoned Christian to the front door and urinated on the doorstep. Ed.)*



*Ewan Christian*

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This *Newsletter* is produced by the Camden History Society, c/o Swiss Cottage Library, Avenue Road, NW3. The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, London N7 8PL (Tel: 0171-607 1628, Fax 0171-609 6451, to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Jane Ramsay, and the Treasurer Roger Cline, c/o the Swiss Cottage address.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 152

Nov 1995

## The Work of Waterhouse

Thursday, 16 November, 7.30pm

St Pancras Church House,

Lancing Street, NW1

(road faces Eversholt St. entrance to Euston station)

Alfred Waterhouse has at least two distinctive buildings in Camden – what used to be called the Prudential Building in Holborn (these offices actually stand on the boundary of Holborn and the City and are therefore in two boroughs), and the former Congregational Chapel at the junction of Lyndhurst Road and Rosslyn Hill. The latter has recently been renovated at enormous cost to serve as recording studios and although the new owners were kind enough to offer them as a venue they were not able to guarantee use very far ahead.

However, we do have a talk on Waterhouse, by Dr Colin Cunningham. He will be covering the work of this architect from 1860-1890. He will reveal that, although born into a Quaker family, Waterhouse nevertheless built a number of Congregational churches, and also trained ritualists such as Ernest Geldart (St Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens). He later joined the Church of England and was able to design ritualist buildings such as the chapel at Eaton Hall and St Elizabeth, Redditch.

Dr Cunningham, who is head of Art History at the Open University and chairman of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, is the author of a number of books, including (with Prudence Waterhouse) *Alfred Waterhouse 1830-1905: biography of a practice* (1992).

## The Park before Nash

Thurs, 7 December, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Before Regent's Park there were Marylebone Fields, part of the manor of Tyburn which Henry VIII seized from the Abbess of Barking at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. To the east he also took the manor of Rugmere (roughly Chalk Farm) from the Prebendary of St Paul's, which fell within the parish of St Pancras. From parts of these acquisitions he then formed Marylebone Park, erecting a raised mound along its boundary to keep deer in and poachers out.

This squashed circle of land - a shape clearly visible on today's map – thus became the nearest royal hunting park to London and a tempting tract once development of that part of London became a reality.

However, our talk on the 7th, given by our Vice-President, Dr Ann Saunders, is about Marylebone Fields, before John Nash and the Prince Regent fashioned them into today's Regent's Park.

## Advance Notice

The next few meetings of the Society are as follows:

Jan 18: Still to be finalised

8 Feb: John Brandon-Jones on Three Generations of Voyseys (at Burgh House).

21 Mar: Celebrating 100 years of cinema, by Mark Aston.

11 April: Michael Holroyd on George Bernard Shaw and St Pancras Vestry.

16 May: Graham Cruickshank on the Middlesex Music Hall.

## THE BELSIZE PHOENIX

The closure of the Belsize Bookshop was not only a cause for regret by local residents, but particularly hard on the sales of Camden History Society publications, particularly *The Streets of Belsize*. We were going to issue an appeal to members in this *Newsletter* to find new retail outlets for this title, but we understand that the shop is to be reopened as a bookshop in the not too distant future. We must keep our fingers crossed. In the meantime, we would be interested to know of any useful outlets anyway. Copies may be obtained in the Belsize area at the newsagents, Actionmate, at 175 Haverstock Hill, or else at Burgh House and Waterstones. Any other suggestions, please telephone Christopher Wade on 0171-794 2752.

## THE LOCAL STUDIES LIBRARY

Members of the Society are reminded that the Local Studies Library at Swiss Cottage Library is now closed and has been transferred to Holborn Library, 32-8 Theobalds Road. The new Local Studies Centre there will be opened on 11 December at 10am. The telephone number will be 0171-413 6342.

## The Early Hampstead Census Returns

For most parishes a pre-1841 census is just statistics, grand totals of houses and inhabitants. Hampstead unusually has detailed returns for 1801, 1811 and 1831 but, compared with later years, information is meagre: thus the only personal names are those of householders.

The Local Studies Library has what seems to be a complete record of the census-taking process in 1801 and 1811, starting in each case with a copy of the relevant Act of Parliament. Then, in reverse order, there is (a) the schedule filled in by each householder, or by the enumerator at an empty property; and (b) a tabulation based on these returns, with names and ten columns of figures. These documents do not normally show where a dwelling is located but there are a few landmarks; and the lists all start at Haverstock Hill.

Finally, there is (c) a duplicate of the formal declaration of grand totals, with a rough breakdown of employment; these totals were the only return that had to be sent to London.

Household schedules do not appear to have survived for 1831 but the Greater London Record Office has the next stage, the tabulation. This, a 'draft census', takes the form of ten slim volumes each covering part of the parish with between 99 and 158 entries. There are now twenty-four columns, largely because of a more elaborate breakdown of employment. Many entries give an actual profession or occupation, making this the most useful of the three returns.

The 1831 return is also the easiest to consult, since each volume clearly defines the district it covers. A column, not always used, is set aside for locality or street name.

West End is included in Vol. 10 but the records for Kilburn are missing. All ten volumes may be ordered in one lot as P81/JN1/14/1-10 but they are normally issued piecemeal.

Roy Allen

## Hampstead and Highgate Hymned

Hampstead and Highgate could be said to be well and truly hymned in a new paperback, *London Poets*, from Arrival Press of Peterborough. One poem is in fact entitled *Hampstead*, and there is rhymed comment on road works and inconvenience in *Rise and Fall of Canfield Gardens*. King's Cross is featured as is Highgate past and the fair is not forgotten. Research for our History Society inspired a comment on efforts to discover something about donkeys – with much else coming to light.

This is not, of course, a Hampstead book. All London is featured, more or less, its people and their activities. CHS members should enjoy it all.

The book costs £8.99. It should be available from shops, but Arrival Press are at 1-2 Wainman Road, Woodston, Peterborough, PE2 7BU.

Joan Barraclough

## Things to do in South London

The Globe theatre project is nearing completion and will be officially opened on the late Sam Wanamaker's birthday. In the meantime, many events take place there of an educational nature. First there is a series of lectures given by Dr Ann Saunders on London c1598. The first two lectures will have happened by the time you receive this *Newsletter*, but two more remain: *Shakespeare and Society* on 15 November and *Art and Architecture* on 22 November, both at 7pm at the Globe Education Centre, Bear Gardens, Bankside, SE1 9ED (for details telephone 0171 620 0202).

There is also a series entitled *Whose Folio is it Anyway?*, given by Prof. Thomas Berger, which examines the possible origins of Shakespeare's scripts. These lectures are on the same dates as the ones noted above.

At Rotherhithe it is possible to explore Brunel's Engine House, built by Marc Isambard Brunel to contain boilers which provided the power to drain his famous Thames Tunnel. The Tunnel was the first major underwater thoroughfare in the world. Its construction, between 1825 and 1843, was both an engineering triumph and a catalogue of misfortunes, accidental deaths and financial losses. It was opened as a pedestrian route, but was sold to a railway company in 1865 and now (at least when the line is running) is part of the London Transport underground system between Rotherhithe and Wapping.

An 80ft diameter shaft, dating from 1825, stands next to the engine house. This was used for building the tunnel and was later adapted for the pedestrian staircase. It is now disused but a similar shaft on the north bank of the Thames now forms part of the East London Line's Wapping station. The Engine House, now designated an ancient monument, contains the sole surviving example of a compound horizontal V steam pumping engine, built by J & G Rennie of Southwark in 1885.

The easiest way to get there is on the Underground but that line (at least in October) was closed for renovations to the tunnel. Please check with London Transport first - there are buses instead. The Engine House is in Railway Avenue, SE16 (0181-318 2489). Entrance fee £1.50. Open first Sunday of every month noon-4pm.



## St Pancras Traders

The traders of the parishes around central London are shown in detail for the first time in Holden's directory of 1799. No doubt there were many omissions, but the entries which do appear fill in great gaps in our knowledge of our own areas. The parish of St Pancras fell within the remit of the publishers and below is a selection of entries relating to traders only, though private residents were also featured:

### Adams Row, Tottenham Court Road

John Leech, cotton manufactory  
James Button, broker  
James Tutt, shoemaker

### Assembly Row, Kentish Town

William Hall, wine and brandy dealer

### Bagnigge Wells

Thomas Davies, wine and brandy merchant

### Camden Town

James Stevens, corn dealer

### Charlotte Street

William Launders, attorney  
M. Sterling, apothecary  
M. Phillips, furnishing ironmonger  
Charles Armstrong, surgeon  
Samuel Banstead, tea dealer and grocer  
W and M Crigg, artists  
John Tims, attorney  
William Gray, staymaker

### The Colonnade, Foundling Hospital

Richard Webster, hosier and haberdasher

### Frederick Place, Tottenham Court Road

Thomas Malpas, surveyor  
Charles Budge, baker  
John Buckhand, jeweller  
William Spencer, glass cutter  
Samuel Peel, waterproof leather manufacturer

### Goodge Street

John Snell, taylor  
William Abercrombie, brass founder  
Robert George, cheesemaker  
Richard Caltherup, silk dyer  
William Gardner, tobacconist  
William Moore, turner  
A. Wilson, haberdasher and milliner  
Thomas Curson, carver and gilder  
James Martin, boot and shoemaker  
John Dixon, copper plate printer  
Richard Stonnell, tallow chandler

### Howland Street

William Forset, grocer  
John Richard, watch and clockmaker  
Thomas Rodd, jeweller  
Thomas Daniel, artist and associate of the RA  
Mons. Asp. Swedish envoy  
Benjamin Gooden, attorney  
Edmond Sheppard, bricklayer  
William Parkinson, music master  
John Sheivas, stationer and perfumer

### Paynes Place, Kentish Town

Edward Burch RA, Engraver to His Majesty

### Tottenham Court Road

Francis Calvert, stable keeper  
George Burgess, saddle-tree maker  
John Wragg, figure maker  
John Dale, dealer in tea and British wines  
Joseph Noyes, writing master  
Thomas Allaley, cow keeper  
Hale Dodd, corn dealer  
Thomas Stratton, bookseller  
James Norton, dress merchants  
M. Williams, scavenger  
John Gould, leather pipe and bucket maker  
Isaac Silcock, apothecary and man midwife  
Longman Clementis, musical instrument makers and music sellers

### Warren Street

Lewis Clarence, dancing academy

John Richardson

## CUBITT REISSUED

In 1971 Hermione Hobhouse published *Thomas Cubitt: Master Builder*, a work that was awarded a prize by the Society of Architectural Historians. It sold out and was never reprinted – until now. It is soon to be reissued, and the proceeds will be used to pay for the sculpture of Cubitt (and its maintenance) recently erected in Pimlico.

Cubitt built extensively in Bloomsbury, Islington, Clapham, Belgravia and Pimlico and was commissioned to build Osborne House on the Isle of Wight for Queen Victoria. One of his main building yards (denoted by Cubitt Street) was off the Gray's Inn Road.

The book, richly illustrated, may be obtained at a pre-publication price of £30 (a saving of £5) from the Thomas Cubitt Memorial Fund, 14 Kinnerton Place South, SW1X 8EH. In his review in 1972, Sir John Summerson said that 'This remarkable book tells us much more than we knew before about the growth of late Georgian and early Victorian London, more about the building industry, building technology and building finances of the period. It is no ordinary monograph. The connection of the central figure with his immensely busy and complicated world are so well researched and so thoroughly developed that the book has to be welcomed first as a masterly piece of building history.'

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## Hackney Visited

The Camden History Society has a particular interest in the new volume of the Victoria County History published recently. Members will remember that about two years ago the VCH was in dire financial straits because some local authorities had withdrawn their funding. Staff economies were made and donations obtained elsewhere, including £1000 from the Camden History Society. Our view was that the work of the VCH was too important to be jeopardised by what was hoped to be a temporary shortage of money – the project is a continuous one, needing the experience and skills which should not lightly be dispensed with in times of economy. Fortunately the VCH Middlesex research survived, though in restricted quantity. The first result since the crisis is Volume X of the Middlesex volumes, dealing with Hackney. (Its published price is £60).

For those of you unfamiliar with the VCH volumes, they are undoubtedly one of the main sources of information when undertaking local history research. It may be safely assumed that where archives exist they have been tracked down, and the copious footnotes enable you to follow your own lines of enquiry. The volumes deal with the history of areas from pre-Domesday to present-day, from open fields to cinemas. My own reservations about the VCH format, oft repeated, are the unsatisfactory method of indexing, and the complete absence of sub heads to break up the slabs of text. For example, although quite a bit of space is devoted to Hackney cinemas, there is no index entry for 'Cinemas' nor is there a sub-heading of cinemas under the main Hackney entry. Unless you know the format you would not guess that cinemas come under Hackney village, sub head 'theatres and cinemas'. This is alright if you are used to dealing with the volumes, but if you are new to them these are tiresome obstacles to finding your way around.

The Hackney volume contains the high standard of detail typified in the series. For example, all the many cinemas in Hackney are listed, with their dates and addresses – probably the first time this information has been summarised. This same distinction applies to the numerous chapels and mission halls belonging to minor sects. Hackney had more than its share of these – Agapemonites, German Lutheran (there was a large German community in Hackney), Church of Martin Luther (1887-1941), Christian Tulipeans at the Tulip Hall (!), First Deeper Life Ministry and the Church of the Call Out, whatever that may be.

As always, the volume is concise, exhaustively researched and well-ordered. Its appearance must be doubly welcomed, and volumes dealing with St Pancras and Holborn would be very welcome in our lifetimes.

**John Richardson**

## Memories of VE Day

I was born on 3 November 1941, so by VE Day I was 3½ years old – old enough to know that something important was going on, but not sure what it was.

At the time, I was living with my mother and my younger brother in the middle flat of 20 Shirlock Road. Many of the houses in the street had flags flying from their windows, so I asked why couldn't we fly the flag that my uncle had given us? My mother had two brothers in the Navy, while my father and two of his brothers were in the Army. The flag was a White Ensign. My mother tied it to the top of the broom handle and put it out of the bay window in the front room, keeping it in place by closing the window on it.

On the actual day we children tried to build a bonfire, but the people in the centre houses objected that it might set the trees alight. We moved down to the lower numbers and started to rebuild the fire, but a woman strenuously objected and told us to move it all away. She was sweeping out the front of her doorway and I innocently asked "Aren't you glad that the war is over?" She replied "The war isn't over." I knew nothing at that time about the war in the Pacific.

We eventually got our bonfire. It was built at the top of the street, between the Anglican church and the blank wall of the house opposite. Though small and well controlled by adults, at least it was a bonfire.

The woman who had objected to it had two sons in the Army in the Far East. Both came back, but one lost his leg. My two uncles were in the Pacific, one on board *HMS King George V*, the other on *HMS Howe*. My father's brother was with the 14th Army in Burma, and my father had trained for D-day with the 14th Armoured Brigade at Fort Brockhurst in Gosport, where they had developed the many different tanks called 'Funnies'. Just before the landings 10% of each unit was withdrawn to train for the invasion of the island of Honshu in Japan. My father was amongst this 10% and was therefore training to go to the Far East at the time of VE Day.

**Al Pellegrinetti (who now lives in Canada)**