

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 153

Jan 1996

## Seeing the new Centre

*Thursday, 18th January, 7.30pm*  
*Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1*

At last, its open! The new Camden local studies and archives centre, which replaces the local history sections at both Swiss Cottage and Holborn, occupies what used to be the reference floor at Holborn library. It contains a much-increased space for readers, a special room of microfilm readers and one new reader with a printer attached. There is also a display area for exhibitions, bookshop space for publications – those of the Council, the Society and independent publishers – and a general local history information board. There are many more books on the open shelves and there is a good run of London directories freely available. Behind the scenes there is more (accessible) space for archive stock plus two strong-rooms and a much more spacious office than the staff have previously enjoyed.

So, we have arranged a special guided tour for members around the centre and around the archives. Not only can you see the facilities but, no doubt, some of the treasures of the collection will be on view.

For a trial period, copies of the Society's *Newsletter* will be available free to the public there. We hope that this may bring in more members – hence the membership details on the back page for the next few editions.

Just to remind you of the opening hours of the new Centre:

Monday 10-7, Tuesday 10-6, Wednesday closed, Thurs 10-7, Friday 10-1, Saturday 10-1 and 2-5.

The official address of the Society is now that of the Local Studies Centre in Theobalds Road. Communications to the Secretary and the Treasurer should be sent there.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society, c/o Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA.

The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 8PL (Tel: 0171-607 1628, Fax: 0171-609 6451), to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, and the Treasurer is Roger Cline, c/o the Theobalds Road address. The Editor of the Camden History Review is Peter Woodford, 1 Akenside Road, NW3 5BS (0171-435 2088)

## The Voyseys

*Thursday, 8 February 7.30pm*  
*Burgh House, New End Square NW3*

John Brandon-Jones is our speaker in February and his subject is an architectural family close to home. The most famous Voysey is, of course Charles F.A. Voysey, pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement, whose Annesley Lodge at 8 Platts Lane is a marvellous example of that period of architecture. This was built in 1895-96 for his father, the Rev. Charles Voysey – one of the three Voyseys to be dealt with in the talk – who was defrocked by the Church of England for preaching that there was no Hell and therefore no Hellfire. The third Voysey is also a Charles – Charles Cowles Voysey, an architect who specialised in municipal buildings between the wars – Watford and Cambridge town halls were built by him.

Our speaker, a distinguished architect himself, worked for Cowles Voysey for some years. He also had the distinction of being christened by the Rev. Voysey. He therefore has an intimate knowledge of the family and their work which should make for a fascinating evening.

## Advance Notice

Talks for the rest of the year are as follows:

*Mar 21:* Mark Aston celebrating 100 years of cinema. This will be at the Local History Centre, Theobalds Road, as St Pancras Church House will not be available during March.

*Apr 11:* Michael Holroyd on George Bernard Shaw's local connections, in particular his service on St Pancras Vestry. At Burgh House.

*May 16:* George Cruikshank on the Middlesex Music Hall, Drury Lane. At St Pancras Church House.

*June:* The Freud family; at the Freud Museum, Maresfield Gardens NW3. Annual meeting.

*Jul 18:* Margaret Davies on the Midland Grand (St Pancras) Hotel. At St Pancras Church House.

*August:* Outing to Claydon, Bucks.

*Sept 19:* John Richardson on Covent Garden. At St Pancras Church House.

*Oct 17:* Ann Saunders on Regent's Park; at Burgh House.

*Nov 21:* Michael Ogden on Old St Pancras church; at St Pancras Church House

*Dec 5:* John Allan on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road; at Burgh House.

## Unseen and Unwanted

Members will see that on page 1 we give notice of a talk in December on Erno Goldfinger and his famous houses in Willow Road, one of which has recently come under the administration of the National Trust. There is until 14th January an excellent exhibition, called *Unseen and Unwanted*, at Burgh House on inter-war architecture in Hampstead.

The exhibition's title is taken from a 1935 Hampstead Protection Society poster voicing the strong local resistance to avant-garde architecture, which some people felt was ruining Hampstead. It was typified by the Isokon flats in Lawn Road, which were 'at the heart of iconoclastic Hampstead'. The anti-Modernist lobby included planners such as Blomfield and Unwin, and the later Hampstead MP, Henry Brooke.

The exhibition is in two main sections. The first, about 2 Willow Road and the Goldfinger Art Collection, is part of the National Trust's appeal for funds to buy the remaining objects of his unique collection, which will eventually be shown *in situ* at No. 2, where Goldfinger lived and which he designed himself in 1939 in the face of keen local opposition.

The second, larger section introduces the full spectrum of Hampstead buildings of the period. Included are houses in Hampstead Garden Suburb, the King Alfred School, the John Barnes store, the Keats House Library, the Bull and Bush and the Odeon cinemas.

### A CAMDEN CALENDAR

It is January and time for calendars. We recommend again the splendid calendar produced by Camden Local Studies which consists of thirteen colour reproductions of historical views of Camden. It costs £6 and may be obtained from Camden libraries.

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members: Prof. R.C. Alston, Mrs M. Ballard, Mr & Mrs H. Bermingham, R.C. Braithwaite, Ms Joan Brownlee, Peter Cadogan, Mr & Mrs John Clute, Mrs E. Eccleshare, Mrs C. Hall, Mr & Mrs R.J. Hunt, Gandha Key, John Lynch, Edward McNamara, Mrs Miriam Norrish, Miss E. Rodgers, John Rolfe, Mrs C. Sanders, Miss E.M. Stokes, Ms Margaret Walsh, Miss L. Warden and Ms J. Lee, Mrs M. Zutschi, and the Royal Veterinary College.

### TOURING THE THEATRE ROYAL

Members may like to know that it is possible to join tours backstage of the Theatre Royal, Haymarket. Tour times are Wednesday 12.30pm, Thursday 5pm and Saturday 12.30pm. Tickets are £12 (which includes 'an exclusive souvenir'); these may be obtained at the box office.

## New Publications

*Hampstead to Primrose Hill*, by Malcolm Holmes. 128pp, £7.99, paperback.

This book is one of the Alan Sutton series of photographs of towns and neighbourhoods of Britain. With roughly two photographs a page, it is an extensive trawl through areas of London that already are probably a bit visually exposed. However, our guide is Malcolm Holmes and he draws on his intimate knowledge of the Camden collection to show us pictures not reproduced before. For example, there is a wonderful picture of Thomas Barratt, which I hadn't seen before, in his ready-for-fishing gear, and a very nice one of the Metropolitan Railway Finchley Road station proudly announcing that you could book through to the railway's Wood Lane station 'the only station right in [the White City] grounds'. The corners of Hampstead are sufficiently dealt with but the Primrose Hill and Chalk Farm section is very short and belies the title.

*A Walk along ancient boundaries in Kenwood* by Malcolm Stokes. Published by the Hornsey Historical Society, price £2.00 plus 30p p&sp, obtainable from the Society at The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane N8 7EL

This new guide from the Hornsey Historical Society, nicely illustrated by Peter Garland, takes the walker on a journey from Hampstead Lane at the Highgate end of the Kenwood estate, picking out the old boundary stones between parishes on the way. The old boundaries are largely redundant now, with the amalgamation of St Pancras and Hampstead into Camden, and the realignment of the borough boundaries along Hampstead Lane in recent times. The old boundary between Camden and Haringey/Barnet once went past the front entrance to Kenwood House. This ancient line marked the route of the old Hampstead Lane which Lord Mansfield, occupier of Kenwood, was permitted to divert in the years 1793-6 so that traffic did not pass his front door – its modern result is the wide curve of road between Highgate School playing fields and the Bishop's Avenue. Despite the administrative redundancy of old boundaries they are, as Malcolm Stokes notes, of 'great historical significance, for they mark half forgotten features, banks and ditches, and so on, created in this landscape perhaps a thousand years ago but almost lost in the late eighteenth century'.

This is an interesting guide, full of information about stones and ditches. The Hornsey Society is to be congratulated on producing a guide which, unusually for local history societies, looks beyond its own parish borders.

John Richardson

# Camden Anniversaries 1996

## 100 YEARS AGO

The original Polygon buildings in Somers Town, in which William Godwin and Mary Wollstonecraft lived, were in 1896 demolished and replaced by a new Polygon. This, too, has since been replaced.

The Maple's furniture store in Tottenham Court Road, previously a collection of single-unit shops, was rebuilt as one store.

St Luke's, Kidderpore Avenue, designed by Basil Champneys, was opened.

## 150 YEARS AGO

St John the Evangelist, Charlotte Street was opened. Designed by Hugh Smith in a Romanesque style, it was roundly condemned architecturally. The building was badly damaged by a flying-bomb in 1945 and demolished some years after.

As a response to the numbers of homeless and poor in London, a soup kitchen was opened at 357 Euston Road at the instigation of Isaac Negus Jackins. It was still operating in 1902.

## 200 YEARS AGO

The suppression of bull-baiting at West End, Hampstead is noted in the Hampstead Vestry minutes.

## 250 YEARS AGO

The Lamb's Conduit, just south of the Foundling Hospital estate, which served parts of the City, was demolished. An engraved stone now marks its site.

## People

Anniversaries of people connected with Camden:

## 1946

John Logie Baird, inventor of television, d1946. (Lived at 84 Lawn Road)

John Maynard Keynes, economist, d1946. (Gower Street, 46 Gordon Square, 38 Brunswick Square, 21 Fitzroy Square and 10 Great Ormond Street)

Paul Nash, artist, d1946. (3 Eldon Grove and Queen Alexandra Mansions, Judd Street).

Christopher Nevinson, artist, d1946. (born Keats Grove, died Steeles Studios)

Ernest Rhys, writer and editor, d1946. (Hunt Cottage, Vale of Health)

H.G. Wells, writer, d1946. (Fitzroy Road, 181 Euston Road, Theobalds Road, 12 Mornington Terrace, 7 Mornington Place, 17 Church Row).

Eleanor Rathbone, feminist, d1946. (26 Hampstead Lane).

## 1896

Richard Carline, artist, b1896. (47 Downshire Hill, 17 Pond Street).

Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, singer, b1896. (8 Holly Place, 104a Gower Street).

Arnold Ridley, actor, b1896. (Brookfield Mansions, Highgate West Hill)

Oswald Mosley, Fascist leader, b1896. (5 Gordon Square).

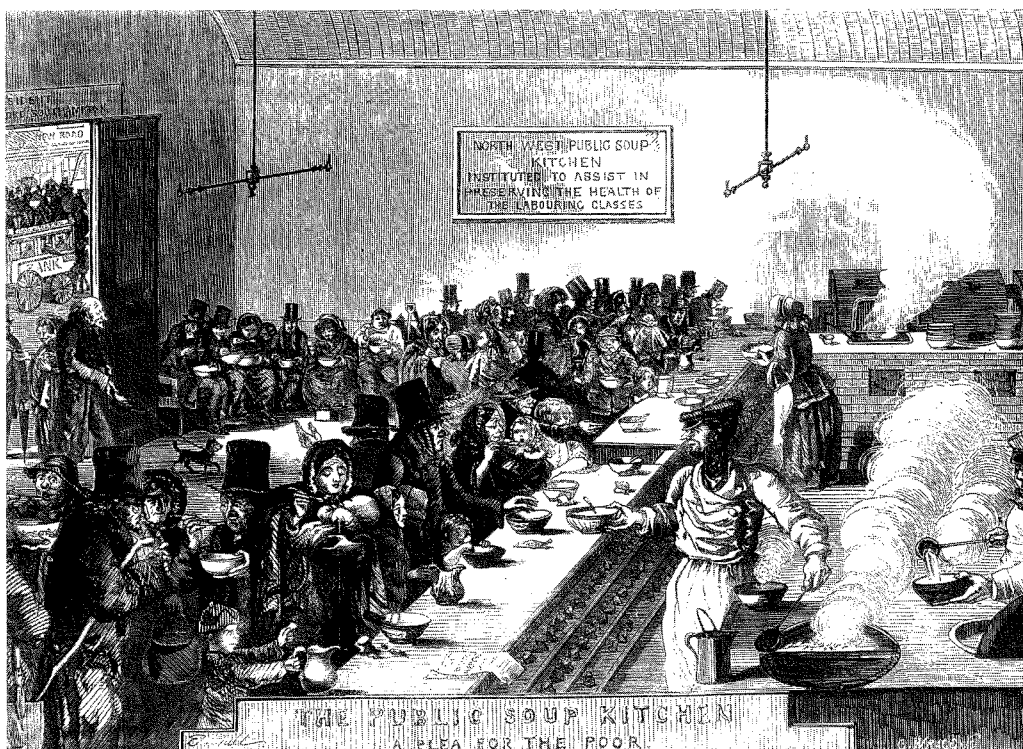
G.A. Sala, writer and editor, d1896. (64 Guilford Street, 46 Mecklenburgh Square).

George du Maurier, writer, d1896. (Great Russell Street, 28 Hampstead Grove, 27 Church Row, 4 Holly Mount).

William Morris, artist and writer, d1896. (Red Lion Square, Queen Square, 1 Gordon Street, 41 Great Ormond Street).

Coventry Patmore, poet, d1896. (Elm Cottage, North

*The Euston Road Soup Kitchen, opened in 1846.*



End and 8 Grove Terrace, Kentish Town).

Jose Rizal, Filipino patriot, d1896. (37 Chalcot Crescent)

Paul Verlaine, poet, d1896. (Royal College Street).

Augustus Harris, theatrical impresario, d1896. (80 Guilford Street).

#### 1846

Randolph Caldecott, artist, b1846. (46 Great Russell Street).

Kate Greenaway, artist and writer, b1846. (39 Frognal)

#### 1796

Dr William Marsden, hospital founder, b1796. (23 High Holborn and 65 Lincoln's Inn Fields).

David Roberts, artist, b1796. (38 Fitzroy Square).

### THE VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

As a native of Holborn I do so much echo the last sentence of your item called 'Hackney Visited' in *Newsletter* 152. However, are you aware that Camden Borough Council no longer contributes to the work of the VCH, and therefore, quite reasonably, the parishes of those authorities who actually cough up the cash are likely to take precedence over those who do not? We may, alas, need to live to a fairly ripe old age to see volumes covering St Pancras and Holborn.

Patricia Clarke

## Round-up

Society research groups meet dealing with Kentish Town, Bloomsbury and Hampstead Cemetery. Members wishing to join any of these groups should write for details to our Secretary, listed below.

The Society's next publication will be a book about Agar Town, renowned as one of London's infamous Victorian slums, but which the author asserts was not as bad as is made out. It has been decided to distribute this title free to members.

Peter Woodford, editor of the *Camden History Review*, is anxious to acquire more contributions for the edition to be published next Autumn. Please contact him at 1 Akenside Road NW3 5BS (0171 435 2088).

## Joining the Society

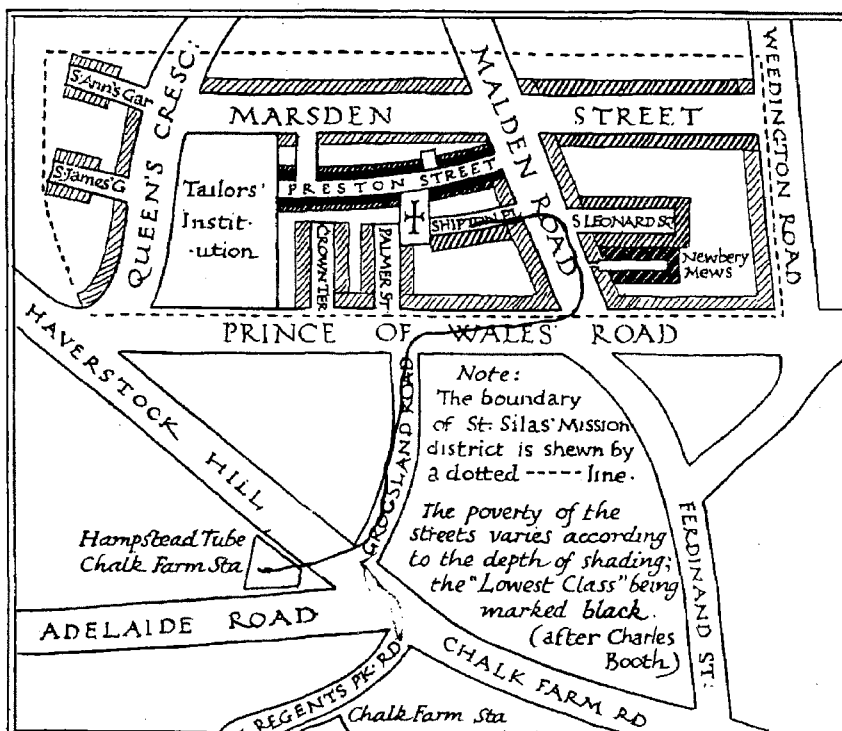
It costs £8 a year\* to be a member of the Camden History Society. There are monthly talks, walks or outings and a bi-monthly *Newsletter*. Members also receive free a copy of the *Camden History Review* which is published, at the moment, annually.

Please obtain a membership application form (often obtainable at libraries) from the Society's Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

\*Concessions available. See application form.

## A Missionary Position

Peter Barber has sent in this most unusual postcard. It advertises the location and area of activity of the St Silas Mission in West Kentish Town, drawing upon the researches of the Charles Booth 'Poverty' map. It is selective in its landmarks – the well-known Mother Shipton pub on the corner of Prince of Wales Road and Malden Road (now the Fiddler's Elbow) is not shown, and neither is the large classical church on the way to the Tailors' Institution (now used by the Drama Centre) – no doubt because this was Wesleyan. The St Silas shown on the map is the old mission church, whose foundation stone, laid by Lady Wilfreda Biddulph in May 1884, is still displayed. The mission was replaced by St Silas the Martyr in 1912, an architectural hotch-potch of a building, designed by E.C. Shearman. It is still there, though hidden away from the world amid a housing estate, and still functions.



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## Cinema 100

*Thursday, 21st March, 7.30pm*

*Local Studies Centre, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road WC1*

Members will almost certainly have learned by now that the country is celebrating one hundred years of cinema. In this event Camden has more than a passing interest since one of cinema's pioneers, Cecil Hepworth, lived in both Canteloves Road and St Paul's Crescent in Camden Town. Another nearby pioneer was William Friese-Greene, who lived at 136 Maida Vale in a house formerly occupied by the family of the young John Pocock – the schoolboy whose diary the Society published in 1980.

Mark Aston of the Local Studies Centre has been busy in the last few months gathering material on Camden cinemas. He has found about fifty, including a garden cinema in Prince of Wales Road. A number of old cinema buildings still exist, converted to other uses, such as the two in Kentish Town Road facing each other at the junction with Prince of Wales Road, and the old Delancey in Camden Town.

Our speaker also hopes to include details of various films shot in Camden and film personalities who lived in the borough.

The venue, please note, is the new Local Studies Centre at Holborn Library. Normally, we would have met at St Pancras Church House but that building was converted for the winter months to provide shelter for homeless people. We shall be back there in May.

## Shaw and the Vestry

*Thursday, 11 April, 7.30pm*

*Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

George Bernard Shaw had many Camden connections. There were several Camden homes, especially in the old St Pancras parish, and he was a member of the Hampstead Historic Society, an organisation that had nothing to do with local history, but was a sort of inner political sanctum of the Fabian movement. In 1897 Shaw, rather unwillingly, became a St Pancras Vestryman and when St Pancras acquired borough status two years later he continued as a councillor. All told he served six years, though leaving little mark on

St Pancras politics. Indeed, his most lasting achievement in local government was the establishment of the Municipal Mutual Insurance company, which was subscribed to by most local authorities as a way of making considerable savings on insurance premiums.

Shaw's political career, including his St Pancras service, was against the background of wholesale change in London. The old vestries disappeared and the borough councils were formed, and the LCC, formed ten years earlier, was trying to establish a new order of political management in the capital. It was a fascinating time and Shaw's career at this time is the main focus for our talk in April, to be given by Shaw's biographer, Michael Holroyd.

There is a limited capacity, due to floor loading, at Burgh House – the maximum is 64 we understand. Attendance at the meeting will thus be a first come, first seated arrangement, and we apologise in advance to any members who may not be able to gain admission.

## Advance Notice

Talks and events for the rest of the year:

*May 16:* George Cruikshank on the Middlesex Music Hall, Drury Lane; at St Pancras Church House.

*June 25:* AGM and talk by Erica Davis on the Freud family and Museum, at the Museum in Maresfield Gardens.

*July 18:* Margaret Davies on the Midland Grand (St Pancras) Hotel; at St Pancras church House.

*August:* Outing to Claydon, Bucks.

*Sept 19:* John Richardson on Covent Garden; at St Pancras Church House.

*Oct 17:* Ann Saunders on Regent's Park; at Burgh House.

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*Dec 5:* John Allan on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road; at Burgh House.

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL

Those members who do not pay by banker's order or who have not previously paid are reminded that subscriptions are due. A form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*. It makes our Treasurer's life much easier if your response is prompt!

## Book Review

*Agar Town: The Life & Death of a Victorian 'Slum'* by Steven L.J. Denford.

This publication, distributed with this *Newsletter*, is an Occasional Paper published by the Society. Its presentation is a credit to its editor, Dr Peter Woodford, and to Ivor Kamlisch, its designer.

Most credit, however, to the author, for bucking accepted wisdom and legend. Agar Town, built in the 1840s and 1850s on open land to the east of St Pancras Old Church, became and remains a byword for a Victorian slum, and especially an Irish slum – its many inhabitants, it was said, having migrated from the clearances of the St Giles Irish rookery area when New Oxford Street was constructed. No-one before, when faced with the descriptions in *Household Words* and other journals, has questioned the veracity of them. Yet Denford, using the 1851 census return, establishes that very few Irish indeed lived in Agar Town, with even fewer of the younger inmates born in St Giles. Thus, the 'suburban Connemara' portrayed by *Household Words* in 1851 must certainly be questioned. Also Denford seeks to show that the bulk of the residents were quite respectable, though poor, people with jobs, very few of them in receipt of poor relief. Expecting costermongers and the like, the peruser of the census will find police constables, plasterers, an historical engraver and piano makers. He or she will not find numerous households crushed into the tiny houses, though large families, such was the fertility and desire for children in those days of early mortality, were squashed into small houses. A family of eight in a two-roomed house would not be unusual, but then again it was not unusual in other poor areas of London which are not tarred with the 'slum' reputation. Other evidence reveals modest gardens around the modest dwellings and in fact some Agar Town houses were rated higher than other dwellings for the working classes in London.

What is true is that the houses were built on 21-year leases, which did not encourage much expenditure on their quality, and that roads were not made up until the last years of Agar Town's existence, due mainly to a long-standing washing of hands of responsibility by St Pancras Vestry and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the freeholders. Drainage was poor and the sewerage system hardly apparent. Certainly the southern part was cheek-by-jowl with the Imperial Gas Works, whose later gasholders still dominate that area, and certainly later the settlement was close to the burgeoning goods yard attached to King's Cross station. It was also, on its west very near the overcrowded and unhygienic burial grounds belonging to St Pancras and St Giles-in-the-Fields.

Denford concedes that the area in parts was very poor but he proposes that the area did not deserve its lurid reputation. His view is that it acquired this partly because at the period of its existence there were nu-

merous campaigns to force governments and people alike to do something about the awful and squalid lives led by poorer people, fraught with disease, and Agar Town was a convenient example to paint in stronger colours. Furthermore, the Midland Railway had a particular interest (as did the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) in Agar Town's demonisation, because the Midland Railway wished to raze it without let or hindrance so that they could take their line down to the Euston Road. The railway company was, it was implied and believed, doing everyone a favour.

This is the fascinating story that Denford unfolds. Also useful is a pre-history of the area, in particular details about William Agar (who had no responsibility for the area's development), a seemingly irascible lawyer who lived at Elm Lodge, a handsome mansion roughly on the site of the Camden Garden Centre.

The book is well illustrated with maps and the few pictures of that area available.

John Richardson

### RETAIL BUTCHERS

Mr D.C. Whyman is engaged on a comprehensive study of retail butchers' shops in Camden from the 1840s to the present, and asks for any information (anecdotal or factual) that readers may have to be sent to him at 11 Mortimer Road, Hatfield Peverel, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 2ES (01245 380054). The research includes ancillary trades such as pork butchers, tripe dressers, ham and beef dealers, horsemeat dealers and slaughterhouses. An article concerning butchers' shops in Kentish Town is scheduled for the next issue of the *Review*.

### A HAMPSTEAD MISCELLANY

The next exhibition at Burgh House will reveal a collection of Hampstead Museum treasures, some of which have not been displayed before. They include a large 18th-century drum owned by the Hampstead Volunteers, and many small paintings of the locality which are rarely seen. The exhibition, entitled 'A Hampstead Salmagundi' (the word came to mean a miscellany of objects it seems) is on from 2 March to 30 June.

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## An Iron Church

The illustration reproduced here, dated 1872, shows the temporary church near the bottom of the future Fitzjohns Avenue. Posters on the door suggest that the place is closed and has been superseded by Trinity (later Holy Trinity) in Finchley Road, opened 9 July that year.

Facing west, the church (with 350 seats) had its south side roughly on the southernmost tip of the Tavistock Centre, although more to the west so that the porch would now project into Fitzjohns Avenue. The view-point seems to be towards the back of the right-hand part of No. 3, on the north corner with Maresfield Gardens. Plate 83 of Christina Gee's *Hampstead and Highgate in Old Photographs* (1974) shows the rear of the church, seen across Belsize Lane from the back of 53 Belsize Park.

On the left of the photograph is part of the listed terrace of 79-93 Belsize Lane. To the right, the bay window (partly hidden) is at the back of 52 Belsize Park, with 53 (also semi-detached) further right. The low building with a window, to the right of the lamp-post, is probably part of the coach-house and accommodation (an L-shaped structure, now 101 Belsize Lane) for Campbell House, 28 College Crescent.

In recent years the church has been described as a mission hall. For a short period it functioned mainly as such but otherwise its status was that of temporary church, as may be seen from census returns, maps, street directories (1873), a history of Trinity (1890) and the minister's gravestone (1900).

Recent practice appears to date from *The First Hundred Years: A Brief History of Holy Trinity Church 1872-1972*. This on p.1 has "Trinity started as a brick built mission

hall standing in a field near Swiss Cottage, surrounded by a rough paling fence...." It goes on to tell of the arrival in 1865 of the Rev Henry Sharpe and (p.5) to recall his work among the navvies constructing the Midland Railway, a notable local feature being the Belsize Tunnel (see p63 of *The Streets of Belsize*). The inference seems to be that the building was put up in 1865 specially for the navvies, in which case it could certainly be regarded as a mission hall.

In fact, there had long been a place of worship on the site. According to Barratt (*Annals* III, 94) a "small timber temporary church" was built about 1842. The Hampstead vestry referred to it on 30 January 1857 as the "felt" church: a wooden structure might well be clad in that material. On Stanford's map of 1862 the church, still "temporary", appears to have the form shown in the photograph. A likely date for rebuilding was 1859, when it first appears (as a landmark) in the rate books.

The front of the church seems to be "brick built" but, in its obituary of Sharpe on 28 July 1900, the *Ham & High* describes the structure as a "thatched-roof iron church". Iron churches were advertised for sale in *Crockford's Clerical Directory* from the second edition (1860); thatching was left to the customer. A church of this type may have appealed in the present case as a quick and not too expensive response to the challenge from St Peter's, opened nearby in 1859.

*Crockford's* for 1892 shows that Sharpe, a curate at Peterborough, was ordained priest in 1857. Next year he went to Canada as incumbent of Holy Trinity on Wolfe Island in Lake Ontario, near the outlet which feeds the St Lawrence River and barely a mile from the American shore; here he and his wife Sarah started their family with two boys. In 1864-65 they were back in Peterborough.



Work on the tunnel began on 27 January 1865. The following December the Bishop of London licensed Sharpe as a diocesan home missionary; presumably it was only then that, in succession to another clergyman, Sharpe was appointed chaplain to the navvies. About that time he arrived at 2 Heath Cottages in East Heath Road, below Squire's Mount. At some stage the temporary church, just inside the Manor of Hampstead, was made available by the lord, Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson.

The navvies must have departed long before September 1867, when goods trains started to run through the tunnel; but Sharpe, now as minister, stayed on to care for the increasing local population. Formalities appear to have been overlooked: it was not until July 1870 that the Bishop licensed him to officiate in "a building known as the temporary church". In 1872 Sharpe became the first vicar of Trinity. Meanwhile he had moved in 1866-67 to what became 12 Belsize Road (rebuilt) and in 1869 to 11 College Crescent (demolished).

In September 1873 the former temporary church reopened as Trinity School. This moved to its present site in October 1876, whereupon the old church was dismantled so that work could be completed on Fitzjohns Avenue, ready for traffic by 2 December.

Nothing is known of the early days of the temporary church. In the 1840s it stood isolated in the fields, its nearest neighbours Belsize Farm (at the bottom of Daleham Mews), the toll house on the south side of Belsize Lane (west of the mews), and Swiss Cottage. Probably it was served by clergy from the parish church; Sharpe does not seem to have had any predecessors as minister. On the other hand, perhaps from the beginning, it had a resident caretaker.

In the same enclosure as the church there was a cottage, of which a sloping roof can be seen at the right of the photograph. By 1851 this was occupied by John Bull, a "Pensioner from Chelsea" born about 1790. A shoe-maker, he enlisted in the Coldstream Guards at the end of 1813 and saw action at Bayonne in south-west France. He then moved north and was present at Waterloo, which for pension counted as two years extra service.

Bull was discharged in 1836 because of age and rheumatism but he was still in the cottage shortly before demolition in 1875-76. He might be the man standing in the porch; and the two children could be those of his widowed sister – they were all living with him in 1871, his wife having died some years previously. Bull might also be the man in the 1875 photograph on p.63.

Roy Allen

## TRACING OLIVER HEAVISIDE

David Sealey is working on a doctorate, whose subject is the Camden-born physicist, Oliver Heaviside, and wonders if members have more information on his earlier life.

'Heaviside was born at 55 King Street, Camden Town (now Plender Street) in 1850 and was educated at his mother's Dame School and then at the Camden House School, under a Mr F.R. Cheshire, an Associate of the College of Preceptors. This much seems fairly clear cut, but the rest of the biographical literature on Heaviside's youth, however, seems essentially cemented in speculation and it is with this in mind that I am attempting to establish, as far as it is reasonably possible, the actual circumstances of his Camden youth. I am however highly reliant on Heaviside's personal writings and so, to establish some sort of independent view I have scoured the local historical literature for information on the Camden House School, Mr Cheshire and Rachel Heaviside's Dame school. I have failed (except for one small reference in the local history journal to Rachel) to uncover any information, and I would be extremely grateful for any assistance or guidance you may be able to offer.'

Mr Sealey's address is 16 Milnthorpe Close, Walton, Liverpool L4 4QN, though any details from members would be welcome in the *Newsletter*.

*Editor's note: A Frederick Cheshire appears in the St Pancras Vestry minutes on 6 May 1857 relating to a rate assessment on 8 Camden Terrace. More interestingly, a Frederick Cheshire is in the same minutes, 7 July 1869, claiming a rate reduction for his 'schools attached to his house at 168 Camden Street'. Camden Terrace was actually in Camden Street and the name was abolished in 1863 when Camden Street was renumbered throughout, taking in the numerous terraces and groups of cottages. No. 168 was in the northern part of Camden Street, above the Camden Road between Bonny Street and Jeffreys Street.*

## NEW MEMBERS

Recent new members include Tony Baron, Peter Collins, Lindsay Fry, Miss V. Judge, Mike Pentelow, Mr and Mrs D.H. Rosenbaum, Roger Ward, The Reform Club.

## Joining the Society

It costs £8 a year\* to be a member of the Camden History Society. There are monthly talks, walks or outings and a bi-monthly *Newsletter*. Members also receive free a copy of the *Camden History Review* which is published, at the moment, annually. Please obtain a membership application form (often obtainable at libraries) from the Society's Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

\*Concessions available. See application form.



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 155

May 1996

## A Music Hall in Drury Lane

Thurs, 16 May, 7.30pm

St Pancras Church Hall, Lancing Street NW1  
(opposite Eversholt Street entrance to Euston Station)

People viewing *Cats* at the New London Theatre in Drury Lane, are reading their expensive programmes on the site of an old-established London music hall – the Middlesex. This began in the seventeenth century as a place of entertainment, but by 1847 it was called the Mogul Saloon and was the Middlesex from 1851-1911, before it became the Winter Garden after the 1st World War. This latter building, which many members will recall, was a typical Frank Matcham affair, built for Oswald Stoll in that last flourish of theatre building before cinema began to herald the demise of music hall. It had, in fact, the largest street frontage of any theatre in London and a capacity for 1,800 people. The Winter Garden was demolished in the 1960s and the present complex of offices, shops and theatre designed by Sean Kenny erected in its stead.

Our talk, though, by theatre historian Graeme Cruikshank, is on the days of the Middlesex Music Hall, and this promises to be a lively and interesting evening.

## The Annual Meeting for couch potatoes

Tues, 25th June, 6.30pm

Freud Museum, 20 Maresfield Gardens NW3

Our Annual Meeting this year is combined with a talk and a visit to the Freud Museum in Hampstead. We begin with refreshments at 6.30pm, the business meeting is at 7pm, and Erica Davis, the Curator of the Museum, will talk about the Freud family at 7.30pm. This house was briefly the home of Sigmund Freud just before his death in 1939, and was later used by his daughter, Anna Freud, who opened here her Child Therapy Clinic.

## A visit to the Russells and the Verneys

Saturday, 3rd August

A leaflet is enclosed with this *Newsletter* so that you can book your coach seat to Chenies and to Claydon –

impressive houses, both in Buckinghamshire. Chenies was for many years one of the Russell family homes (Chenies Street off Tottenham Court Road is named from it), and the Verneys lived at Claydon. The Society's outing this year is being organised by Malcolm Holmes.

## Advance Notice

Talks and events for the rest of the year:

July 18: Margaret Davies on the Midland Grand (St Pancras) Hotel; at St Pancras Church House

August 3rd: Outing to Chenies and Claydon, Bucks

Sep 19: John Richardson on Covent Garden; at St Pancras Church House.

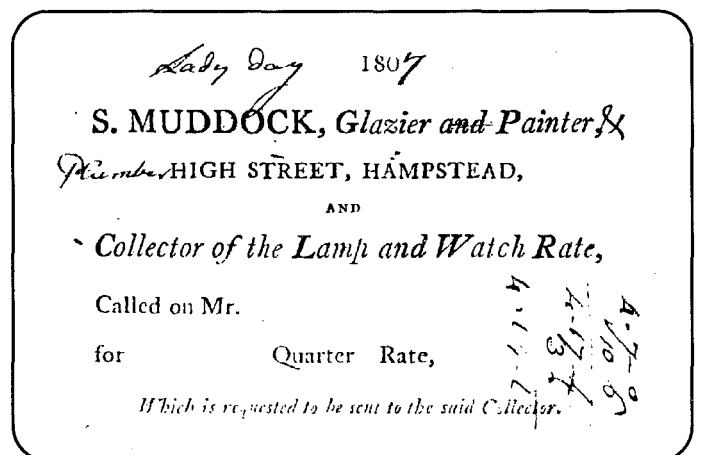
Oct 17: Dr Ann Saunders on Regent's Park; at Burgh House.

Nov 21: Michael Ogden on Old St Pancras church; at St Pancras Church House.

Dec 5: John Allan on Erno Goldinger and Willow Road; at Burgh House.

## THE RATING SEASON

April is the cruellest month, for it is then apparent what the local rates will be for the forthcoming year. Residents in the 19th century had not only a local poor rate but special taxes such as Lighting and Church Rates to contend with. Reproduced below is a calling card from S. Muddock, glazier and painter (and plumber) of Hampstead High Street who, in his spare time, collected the quarterly rate to pay for street lighting and watching.



## Review

*Hampstead Parish Church. The Story of a Building Through 250 Years* by M.H. Port. Available from Mrs East, Parish Clerk of Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row NW3. £5.50 to include p&p.

A brisk pace, an elegant style, and a quiet relish for the absurd, combine to make this story of the past 250 years of Hampstead Parish Church immensely readable, and to mask the solid scholarship which underpins every phrase.

In quite a brief space – 35 pages, or about 20,000 words – we have not only a picture of the development of the church services, the people involved, and, vital as in all parishes, details of the money and where it came (or did not come) from; but also a close account of the buildings, the architects, materials, adaptations, repairs, plans for alterations, extensions, and rebuildings, the problems of the tower, the danger of subsidence, the case for expansion – with discreet occasional highlights on personalities – “a disputatious pluralist”; “demon of the Heath”; “a great India merchant”. And the tale of the passing of the 1827 Act of Parliament makes gripping reading – and all too familiar reading, for evidently Parliamentary affairs have not greatly changed.

The stability of the church tower recurs through much of the story. As one walks under the tower into church day by day, it is instructive to remember that well over 100 years ago expert advice – from Lewis Vulliamy, the architect of St Michael’s, Highgate – was that the tower was “advancing towards its final ruin”. Indeed the uncertainty of extending the building at the tower end was perhaps the underlying principal reason why, at evensong in the summer months, we are today dazzled by the setting sun streaming through the altar windows, for – since the Victorian extension completed around 1880 – Hampstead Parish Church faces the west, not the east.

An elaborately detailed account of the sequence of plans for this late Victorian extension makes specially good reading, as it is embellished both with illustrations of the various new buildings proposed, and also with quotations from the controversy about them, which rise to comic heights over Cockerell’s 1876 design – “a nave in poor imitation of Muswell-hill [Alexandra] Palace, with a tower apparently caricatured from.... Wren, surmounting an apse which.... seems intended to be Romanesque. The new aisle is to be roofed with a series of curious swellings .... [like] a confectioner’s jelly mould”. In fact, F.P. Cockerell seems to have survived this onslaught for the building as it is today includes Cockerell’s western extension. During this century, restorations by Temple Moore have created a serene setting for daily worship; John Brandon Jones created the crypt room beneath Temple Moore’s vestries, and this now houses a nursery school; the Willis organ is to be restored; and engraved glass doors are soon to be installed in memory

of Lady Rosemary Goodison. Of course, an account of this length must omit much of interest: one detail charged with something of the essence of the church’s story is that, when at the end of the Great War a memorial was planned, and the Trustees jibbed at the cost of carving the first names, instead of only the initials of Hampstead’s lost men, the architect, L.T. Moore, Temple Moore’s son-in-law, quietly put them in at his own cost; and there they are to this day.

Stella Greenall

## The Cinemas of Camden

In March Mark Aston gave a talk to the Society marking the 100th anniversary of Cinema. It was a comprehensive history of the cinema buildings past and existing in the borough, and it was accompanied by a very helpful list of all those that have so far been traced. This may be obtained from the Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library.

From 28 May until 6 August an exhibition on the same theme will be at Holborn. It will recall those 50-odd cinemas through period illustrations, newspaper advertisements and other material.

Camden Council has also published an attractive brochure to mark the Cinema 100 events. Entitled *Camden Celebrates Cinema 100* it contains a list of films which contain Camden scenes. At the same time illuminated posters are appearing at bus shelters depicting Camden cinematic scenes.

## Things Past

In February, John Brandon-Jones gave a lively talk to the Society about three generations of the Voysey family, the most famous of whom was C.F.A. Voysey, well known as a pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement, architect and wallpaper designer.

Voysey hated being associated with the Modern Movement, as he considered houses needed roofs and chimneys, and he claimed to be the last disciple of Pugin. Although his architectural work was much influenced by his early work for Seddon and Devey, his wallpaper designs show the influence of Pugin, whose Houses of Parliament he much admired.

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Voysey built Annesley Lodge in Platts Lane, in 1895 for his father, the Rev. Charles Voysey. (As the family was descended from Wesley, all the Voyseys were named Charles.) The Rev. Charles caused a sensation when he was defrocked and expelled from his living in Yorkshire in 1870 for heresy, publishing his views on the Doctrine of Hell and questioning the divinity of Christ. The family moved to London, where the young Charles attended Dulwich College; the drawing master there considered he had no artistic talent.

The speaker illustrated the talk with drawings of the many fine houses designed by Voysey, who cultivated friendships with editors of journals to draw attention to his work. The third family member was Cowles Voysey, who changed his name from Charles, and was an architect who specialised in municipal buildings between the wars, building Watford and Cambridge townhalls. The speaker worked for Cowles Voysey for some years, and his talk was enlivened by personal knowledge of the family and their work. He was even blessed as an infant by the Rev. Charles.

In April, Michael Holroyd, the distinguished biographer of George Bernard Shaw, gave us an entertaining talk on Shaw's career as a St Pancras vestryman and councillor at the turn of the 19th century. Shaw seems to have enjoyed his time in public service - a good antidote to his other activities, and he attempted to put into practice Fabian principles. However, he left no enduring mark on the policies of the St Pancras council.

## VICTOR NEUBURG

Brigitte Gorez is writing a thesis on the poet Victor Benjamin Neuburg, who was born in May 1883 in Islington. He spent the last years of his life in St John's Wood (64 Springfield Road) and he died in May 1940 at 84 Boundary Road. She is trying to find out in which cemetery he was buried. Members who have information should contact her at 38 Rue Faider, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium.

## Sequel to Agar Town

Much interest was aroused by the Society's publication *Agar Town: The Life and Death of a Victorian 'Slum'* by Steven Denford, reviewed in and sent out with the last *Newsletter*.

CHS member Edward Fosbrook, churchwarden of St Michael's, Camden Town, writes from his present home in Highgate that his great-great-grandmother Martha Fosbrook lived in Agar Town and his great-grandfather Henry George Fosbrook was born there. When Agar Town was demolished they moved to Camplins Cottages, Camden Street, and the Fosbrooks formed a fairly large Camden Town family until recently. Mr Fosbrook will doubtless be relieved by Steve Denford's rehabilitation of Agar Town from a slum to a 'relatively poor district'!

Kit Ikin has come across the following from proceedings of the Select Committee on Open Spaces (Metropolis) which heard evidence from Sir Thomas Maryon Wilson in 1865 during his protracted attempt to build on his Hampstead land. The extract below is of 29th May, and is part of the questioning of Wilson.

Examination by the chairman, John Locke:

6070 What do you mean by turning [the Heath] to account?

- *I might build an Agar Town there upon 21 years lease.*

6071 Will you explain what you mean by an Agar Town?

- *I have never been to Agar Town but we know very well that some property has been turned to account there by building cottages for poor people upon short leases.*

Examination by John Cox:

6076 You told us that you thought you might build an Agar Town; do you know what an Agar Town is?

- *No.*

6077 Can you give the Committee any sort of description of an Agar Town?

- *No.*

6081 Have you now any serious thought of converting either the Finchley Road property of the Hampstead Heath property into an Agar Town?

- *It would depend upon circumstances. If I am not able to build upon my inclosed land, I shall build upon the uninclosed.*

6106 I am desirous of obtaining from you, if possible, your definition of what an Agar Town is.

- *My definition of it would be, a town built of small houses, with a 21 years' lease.*

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The London Canal Museum has need of volunteers for a variety of tasks in creating displays, documenting artefacts and helping to run the Museum. The Museum is at an interesting waterside location near King's Cross at 12/13 New Wharf Road N1 9RT. It is open 10am - 4.30pm every day except Mondays. Volunteers please contact Malcolm Tucker on 0171-272 7160.

## ARCHITECTS AT THE ROUNDHOUSE

Members will probably know that the Royal Institute of British Architects is hoping to purchase and convert the Roundhouse in Chalk Farm Road for a new library to house its Special Collections. Capital costs will largely come from Heritage Lottery Fund money, but other funding is required for conversion and running costs. RIBA is seeking donations for this enterprise, either as outright gifts or in the form of donations. Not only will it bring into Camden one of the most important library collections in the country, but it will secure the future of one of our most famous buildings. Details of how to contribute may be obtained from James Bettley, The British Architectural Library Trust, 66 Portland Place W1N 4AD

## Review

*Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin 37*

Editor: Ruth Phillips. £2.50 + 60p P&P

from *The Old Schoolhouse*, 136 Tottenham Lane N8 7EL  
Hornsey's annual Bulletin is just out. The Society is one year younger than the CHS, but the Bulletin has reached no. 37 because it began life as a quarterly Newsletter and graduated into this more permanent form in 1981. While smaller in size and perhaps less ambitious in scope than our own Review, the Bulletin has similar aims: to reflect the history of a wide area (Wood Green, Harringay, Tottenham, Crouch End, Muswell Hill, Highgate) in articles ranging from the scholarly to the anecdotal.

The balance of this issue swings towards the latter, with some splendid examples of oral history: reminiscences of Edna Burgess on Bounds Green Farm; the memories of Margo and Ivy Forge – who lived from 1905 in a big house in Hornsey Lane; Growing up in Crouch End and Wood Green in the Depression; and, in the Letters section, recollections of Campsbourne schooldays.

The issue opens with the second in the series on Hornsey's Historical Houses, this time Grove Lodge, Muswell Hill, which changed from a family home to a Red Cross HQ during World War II. There is a history of Highgate School and Part I of the story of Hornsey Toll Gate in what became Turnpike Lane. Also included is Andy Attenburrow's riveting description of the making of HHS's successful video *Our Northern Heights*, a project we may sometime imitate. And there is a delightful article, adapted from *The Lady*, about the first public women's football match at Alexandra Park in 1895.

### OPEN DAY AT THE CEMETERY

Each year the Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery hold an open day at what many people consider a superior establishment to its rival in Highgate. This year the Open Day is on Saturday, 6 July, from 11am to 5pm. Many events still have to be finalised, but they will include conducted walks, nature trails and talks by stonemasons. Some tours will be thematic, and explorations of the catacombs will be a special attraction.

If you wish to attend, just turn up on the day. (Tube: Bakerloo line to Kensal Green, or No. 18 bus to the cemetery gate.)

### PUTTING UP ACADEMICS

Some members with room to spare in their houses may be interested to know that an agency specialising in providing short stay accommodation for visiting academics and business men is looking for more rooms in Camden and Islington. Visitors generally stay for 2/3 nights but some stay longer if this is agreeable. Details may be obtained from Helen Brown, Alexandra Accommodation Agency, 18 Grosvenor Road N10 2DS (0181-8832 0487)

### A HIKE FOR HISTORY

Our President, Prof. Christopher Elrington, is to engage in a sponsored walk through the shire counties of England on behalf of the *Victoria County History*. This will be held between 30 July and 21 September.

Members familiar with the *VCH* will know that it is an invaluable resource for anyone involved in local history study – but its work is still far from complete. No volume, for example, covers St Pancras or Holborn. At the moment, funding is inadequate and in many areas, such as Camden, it has been withdrawn altogether.

Therefore, funds need to be raised somehow. Christopher, who until recently was the General Editor of the *VCH*, is to walk through all the shire counties of England – a distance of 1,100 miles – and he invites anyone who is sympathetic to sponsor him or to join him for as long or short a stretch as they wish. He begins at Tintagel Castle in Cornwall on 30 July and is due to amaze the inhabitants of the Edmundbyers youth hostel in Durham on 21st September. A leaflet inviting sponsorship and giving more details is being prepared: please contact him at 34 Lloyd Baker Street, WC1X 9AB (0171-837 4971).

### A PLAQUE ON YOUR HOUSE!

Marian Kamlish notes that the new building recently completed on the site of the early Bedford Theatre, for former residents of Arlington House, is to be known just as No. 88. The proposal that it be called Walter Sickert House, from the artist's close association with the theatre, was rejected by the residents as they did not wish to live anywhere with the word 'House' in it. It is interesting to follow the way in which locational words have their day and are then dispensed with – Court is another that is now unpopular since, like House, it smacks of institutions or local authority housing. Sickert will, however, be commemorated by a plaque on the building, together with a brief history of the site.

## Joining the Society

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of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 156

Jul 1996

## Saving the Midland Grand

Thurs 18th July, 7.30pm

St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street NW1  
(opposite Eversholt St entrance to Euston station)

For years the future of Gilbert Scott's masterpiece, the Midland Grand Hotel in the Euston Road, has been undecided. It has been cleaned on the outside, and made virtually watertight, but anyone who has seen the interior will know that that is just the beginning.

Oddly, the fortunes of the Grade I listed building, are now tied up with the viability of the Channel Tunnel link which is planned to come into St Pancras station. It may be that the proposed heavier use of the station will have benefits for the empty building in front of it, but at the moment no-one has plans for the renovation or conversion of the latter. And no renovation can begin until the point of it is apparent.

Other questions arise from the intrusion of the tunnel link, of course. The station will have to be doubled in length to accommodate the trains, necessitating the removal or relocation of the familiar Victorian gas-holders to the rear, and Pancras Road, between St Pancras and King's Cross stations will probably be closed altogether.

It would be possible to restore the main, grand rooms of the hotel building in isolation from the rest of the hotel (leaving at least another 600 rooms to do). These then could be opened to an admiring public. But at some time the decision as to what to do with the rest of the building has to be made because otherwise the viability of the building itself – Grade I or not Grade I – will be called into question.

The ownership of the building has recently been transferred to the consortium which is to build the railway link, but no condition was attached to the sale: it doesn't have to do anything at all with the old hotel. Indeed, if the consortium has not evolved a plan soon after the railway link opens, it is permitted to put the building up for sale. Therefore, a proposed use for the building, let alone renovation and conversion, could be a very long way off.

Our speaker in July is Margaret Davies, a director of COTAC, an architectural organisation which has done a lot of work – including some restoration – in the hotel and has virtually taken the building under its wing.

She will be describing the building itself and its problems in what promises to be a fascinating evening.

The Society hopes that it might soon arrange a tour of the hotel for members. At the moment this is rather difficult, for the owners insist on each member of a tour party being insured for £5 million.

## A full coach

The coach for our August visit to Chenies and Claydon is now fully booked.

## Advance Notice

Please note that the talks planned for September and October (as notified in previous *Newsletters*) have now been switched, although the venues and dates remain the same.

Sep 19: Dr Ann Saunders on Regent's Park; at St Pancras Church House.

Oct 17: John Richardson on Covent Garden; at Burgh House.

Nov 21: Michael Ogden on Old St Pancras – church and area; at St Pancras Church House.

Dec 5: John Allan on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road; at Burgh House.

## The Best Playground in the World

In 1745 the Foundling Hospital (established in Hatton Garden in 1742 by Thomas Coram) first moved into a new, and quite monumental, building planted in 56 open acres in north Bloomsbury. In time most of those acres were to be built upon to provide a continuing revenue for the hospital, but the area around the main building was left open as a playground for the hundreds of foundlings who spent their earliest days there. The institution moved out in 1926 and put the building and its playground up for sale – there was talk at the time of moving the Covent Garden market there. However, it was saved for the use of children on the initiative of, among others, Lord Rothermere, who established what became the Coram and Harmondsworth Playground there – these still flourish today.

Seventy years on, an exhibition entitled *The Best Playground in the World* will be on show at the Local Studies Library, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1 from 12 August to 28 September.

## The Annual Meeting

A very successful Annual Meeting was held *in the open air* at the Freud Museum in June, such was the weather. It was followed by tours round the house itself.

In his address, the Chairman commented on the new arrangements in the Prints and Maps Collection at the Greater London Record Office. He pointed out that previously a member of the public who wished to find illustrations actually went into the room where the collection was stored and spoke to the curator. Now, the visitor sits in a sterile search room staffed by library assistants, consults an index card, writes a portfolio number on a request form, and waits for the portfolio to arrive on a trolley. There is no contact with the curator, no interchange of information, no opportunity to browse. It is now all highly impersonal and not at all to the advantage of the user.

Officers and Council were elected as follows:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Christopher Elrington  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr. Ann Saunders, Gillian Tindall  
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
TREASURER: Roger Cline\*  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Peter Woodford  
PUBLICATIONS SALES: Christopher Wade  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Michael Ogden  
PUBLICITY: Vacant  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

THE COUNCIL: Peter Barber, Ruth Hayes, Ivor Kamlisch, Sue Palmer, Barbara Scott

\*Roger wishes to stand down as Treasurer as soon as a replacement can be found.

## The Girl at Stanley School

Mrs Angela Evans, who lives in Swansea, writes: I enclose a photograph of a painting by Joseph William Topham Vinall (1873-1953) entitled *Empire Day, the Recessional*. Vinall was art master at Stanley Girls' School, Netley Street, St Pancras, and a number of his paintings (including the one in the photograph) were shown at the Royal Academy in the early years of this century.

The painting depicts a classroom of pupils at the Stanley School in 1909. My particular interest in it lies in the fact that the figure in the foreground is my mother, Elizabeth Mackenzie. At the time my mother was aged just 14, and besides a large and small print of the painting, Mr Vinall gave her a box of chocolates for sitting for him. Incidentally, my mother assured me that she did not usually go to school in a velvet dress with a lace collar, but wore it that day at Vinall's special request!

I have tried to track down the original painting through the Royal Academy, the Greater London Record Of-

fice, Camden Local Studies and Netley Primary School in William Street, which it was suggested was the successor to Stanley School, but without success. The trail has been obscured by the passage of time, and much redevelopment of the area since the last war. The painting may have been sold or kept by Vinall and his family, or just thrown out at some stage.

Can any of your members suggest any other lines of enquiry? Any further information about Stanley School would be welcome. I know that girls were taken on to the Junior and Senior Oxford Exams, the latter the equivalent I suppose of GCSEs - I have my mother's certificates.

(Mrs Evans is at 2 Ridge Acre, Derwen Fawr, Swansea SA2 8AP. Tel: 01792 207653)



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## Researching Tottenhall

About a year back the Society received a grant of £500 from the Arthur Andersen Foundation to buy or acquire items of local historical interest which might be donated by the Society to Camden's Local Collection, so that they were available for public use. The first use of this money was the purchase of large coloured photocopies of the bomb damage maps held at the Greater London Record Office – very useful in researching the war time period.

To use up the remainder of the grant we have commissioned Pauline Siddel, archivist to the Grocers' Company, to begin the transcription of the Tottenhall Court rolls, the earliest of which (14th century) are in the Guildhall, and the main run (17th century) are in the GLRO. Oddly, these rolls have never been transcribed and seem to have been missed by the compilers of the *Survey of London* volumes covering St Pancras. The Society is also putting up a matching amount of money, and we have applied to the Andersen Foundation for a continuation of the grant so as to see the project through.

Tottenhall manor is that area of the old St Pancras parish to the west of the north-south road that is Highgate West Hill-Highgate Road-Kentish Town Road-Camden High Street-Tottenham Court Road. Ms Siddel will be extracting names and topographical detail, at the same time expunging the repetitious legal verbiage. Work begins in July.

## Parking around Burgh House

Some members have expressed a certain nervousness about parking their cars around Burgh House while attending meetings. The Hampstead parking scheme is a mystery except to frequent users, with a mixture of scratch cards, pay and display machines, residents' permits etc. Christopher Wade has kindly tried to put our minds at rest with the following information and map:

The map shows that there are parking spaces (over 50 of them) within a few minutes walk of Burgh House, and after 6pm they are free of charge.

Key to map:

B: Burgh House

1: Pay and Display spaces at north end of Pilgrims Lane and Downshire Hill

2 & 3: Pay and Display spaces at north end of Well Walk and Well Road.

4: Pay and Display spaces and two Voucher Parking spaces at the corner of New End and Well Road.

5 & 6: Pay and Display spaces at north of Hampstead Grove and east of Upper Terrace.

7: Voucher parking spaces in Gayton Road south.

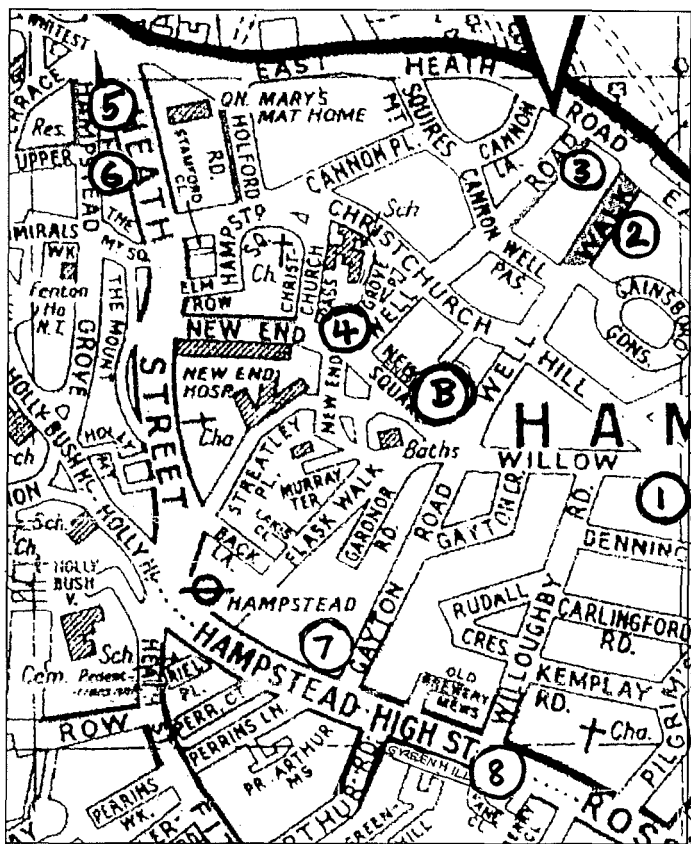
8: Many voucher parking spaces in High Street, Rosslyn Hill and Greenhill.

Voucher Parking controls (normally for shoppers) and Pay and Display apply Monday to Saturday, 9am to 6pm.

There are no restrictions on Sundays.

Residents Parking bays, marked CA-H, are controlled from 9am to 8pm, and are not usable by visitors during those hours except with a Visitor's Permit.

Hope that is all clear.



## OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND

On 14 and 15 September the biggest ever Open House Days event will take place when over 350 interiors of architectural interest, many not normally open to the public, will be accessible.

London Open House participates in a European-wide programme of celebrations of architecture promoted by the European Union and the European Council.

In London the building types on show will include clubs and libraries (Senate House, Holborn Reading Room, Army and Navy Club); institutions (Drapers' Hall, Bart's Hospital, TUC, Walthamstow Town Hall, RIBA); music (Grand Theatre, Hoxton Hall); theatres (Savoy, Lewisham Theatre); ecclesiastic (Carmelite monastery); private houses (Lewisham self-build houses, Jestico House, Peacock House, Nightingale House, Blauel House); architects' studios (Sir Norman Foster's, Jestico and Whiles, Levitt Bernstein, Richard Rogers); commercial offices (Imagination, ITN, Broadgate); government buildings (Somerset House, Custom House).

Advance details can be obtained from London Open House by sending a SAE together with £1 (stamps to the value of £1 accepted) to London Open House, POBox 6984, London N6 6PY.

## Book Review

*Travels of a London Schoolboy 1826-1830*,  
ed. by Tom Pocock  
208pp, 39 ills, hardback, £15.  
Published by Historical Publications Ltd.

This is an improved version of the Society's now out-of-print publication, *Diary of a London Schoolboy*. The diary (preceding Adrian Mole by about 170 years) starts with John Pocock at the age of 11¾ deciding to keep a diary, and this he does during his time in London and, as the new book adds, during his travels to South Africa and Australia as an apprentice Surgeon Apothecary.

The diary gives us a view of life in London, with most journeys covered on foot, as far as Hadley, Greenwich and even Hastings. The travels abroad extend the view to the trials of sea voyages and medical treatment of an age long gone.

The hardback binding and professional production give us good illustrations and a more permanent format. The new edition has the London diary portion very considerably edited, and the revised layout makes it much easier to read than the old edition.

With the addition of the sea voyages and life on the distant continents, as well as the revision of the London diaries, this is a recommended book for your collection.

Roger Cline.

### COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Hannah Gould has written to let us know of an exhibition at University College, Gower Street called *Community Connections*. This explores the links between UCL and Camden. The exhibition runs until the end of 1996 and is open the same hours as the College, i.e. to about 10pm. It is in the North Cloisters of the main building.

### RESTORATION OF A MILL

The largest tidal mill in the country, at Three Mill Lane, Bromley-by-Bow, E3, is being restored. You have a chance to visit this and see restoration in progress every Sunday from 12 May to 29 September, 2pm to 4pm. On 12 May, which is 'National Mills Day', the mill will be open from 11am. Admission on all Sundays is £2.00 (children free). The mill is near Bromley-by-Bow on the District Line. (Tel: 0181-472 2829).

### CORRECTION

The telephone number of the Alexandra Accommodation Bureau, mentioned in the last *Newsletter*, is 0181-883 0487 (and not 8832 0487 as printed).

## One Thousand Editions

The Advertising Department of the Ham & High was in full flow for this leaflet to celebrate their 1,000th edition in 1881. Note the *Steam Printing Works* in Holly Mount.

ESTABLISHED TWENTY YEARS.

THE  
**Hampstead & Highgate Express.**

THE Proprietor of the "EXPRESS" begs to call attention to the fact that on the tenth of January of this year

**No. 1,000**

of the above journal was issued—consequently it is in its *twentieth* year.

The "EXPRESS" has, during many years, had a large and steadily increasing circulation, and is supported by all classes of the community, whose confidence it enjoys. It is only necessary to refer to its advertising and correspondence columns to verify this statement.

As an Advertising medium, therefore, it offers special advantages, as the oldest established local journal of the N.W. district.

G. S. JEALOUS, PROPRIETOR,  
**Steam Printing Works,**  
HOLLY MOUNT, HAMPSTEAD.

## Joining the Society

It costs £8 a year\* to be a member of the Camden History Society. There are monthly talks, walks or outings and a bi-monthly *Newsletter*. Members also receive free a copy of the *Camden History Review* which is published, at the moment, annually.

Please obtain a membership application form (often obtainable at libraries) from the Society's Secretary, Mrs Jane Ramsay, c/o Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

\*Concessions available. See application form.

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 157

Sep 1996

## The Fields Transformed

Thurs, Sep 19, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House,  
Lancing Street NW1

Last year our Vice-President, Dr Ann Saunders, talked to us about the early days of Marylebone Fields, an area of land enclosed by Henry VIII for hunting. In September she will be carrying the story forward - to the Fields transformed into the Regent's Park. This transformation in the early years of the nineteenth century was not an isolated event - Regent Street, leading from Carlton House, was pushed through a typically mixed London array of streets and alleys, as John Nash sought to build an imposing route from the Prince Regent's excessively expensive mansion to the new park on the other side of the New Road. In tandem with this Langham Place, one of the widest streets in London, was constructed to provide both a vista and a majestic approach to Regent's Park. At the same time the Regent's Canal, a hard-nosed commercial venture, was built to skirt the park and provide yet another ornament.

It is an interesting story, which illuminates one of the few periods when a major part of London was being planned.

A coincidence of holidays on the part of those who produce and distribute this *Newsletter* may mean that members do not receive this edition until after this talk. We apologise for this, but hope that people put the talk in their diaries from the advance notice in the previous *Newsletter*.

### PRIZE FOR THE BUILDER

Those members who some time back heard Ruth Richardson's talk on George Godwin and *The Builder* magazine, will be pleased to learn that her very hard work (in association with Robert Thorne) in indexing the illustrations in *The Builder* from 1843-1883 has been awarded the Wheatley Medal of the Library Association and the Society of Indexers. According to Cherry Lavell, this is only awarded to indexes of the highest quality and in some years no award is made at all.

## The Faces of Covent Garden

Thurs, 17 Oct, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Covent Garden was a planned development, built in the seventeenth century, and it derived much of its appeal and attractiveness from that structured beginning. It was, however, fortunate to escape its planned transformation, proposed by the GLC and the London Boroughs of Camden and Westminster in the 1970s, which would have turned the area into a convention and hotel facility.

In between years, Covent Garden had something for everyone. It housed the two principal theatres of London until the law was changed to allow regular theatre to be shown elsewhere in London. It contained the biggest fruit and veg market in the country, an affair that began in a very small way and ran for nearly two hundred years before it was regulated and housed properly. It was, before Soho, the pleasure haunt of London - restaurants, coffee houses, dubious bath houses, brothels, pubs and music rooms abounded. Despite the expansion of the market it was settled by publishers of all kinds and was home to many of the top magazines in the country.

The story of this area will be told by John Richardson, whose book, *Covent Garden Past*, was published at the end of last year.

### Advance Notice

Please note the following talks planned for November and December:

Nov 21: Michael Ogden on Old St Pancras - church and area; at St Pancras Church House

Dec 5: John Allan on Erno Goldfinger and Willow Road; at Burgh House.

### AT HOME AT THE GLRO

The Greater London Record Office is inviting groups to At Home sessions at the GLRO during four days in January, March, September and November next year. These visits are particularly geared to those doing family history research. If any member would like to attend one of these sessions, please let our secretary, Jane Ramsay, know and if there are enough we will try to make up a party.

## Two Houses for One Outing

Two historic houses in Buckinghamshire were visited by Camden History Society members on one outing this year. They were Chenies and Claydon House. The former was the home of the Earls, later Dukes, of Bedford until they decided they needed the more prestigious Woburn Abbey. In 1954, it was sold to a former Anglo-Indian family and is now a family home.

Parts of the house go back to very early times and some of the original timber framing and plaster are exposed. Notably, Catherine Howard is said to have committed adultery there and Queen Elizabeth I to have signed the detention order for Mary Queen of Scots in the house.

CHS members perhaps most enjoyed the lovely furnishings and accessories – quilts the like of which are not often stitched today, wonderful silver dressing-table sets and many Indian treasures. They were also (some of them) given special admission to the burial chapel, which may be the finest of its kind in this country. Who would forgive the lifesize figures of two of the deceased, seeming to be taking their after-dinner naps? Then there were the real old English gardens for plant-lovers.

The second visit was to Claydon House, of great though rather limited magnificence, since first plans bankrupted Earl Verney, who had to pull some of it down. Enough remains, however, to show what may be the finest Rococo work in England. There is much by the little-known Luke Lightfoot, including painted wood, papier-mâché and plasterwork. The ceilings are remarkable, as are the floors and the main staircase. A small family sitting-room could have come from the set of *Sense and Sensibility*.

Parthenope Verney, Florence Nightingale's married sister made her home at Claydon House. She was often visited by one, who was a Hampstead resident, though more often thought of in connection with the Crimea. A small museum commemorates Florence admirably.

In conclusion, the scones were among the best ever enjoyed in the traditional cream tea. Many thanks to Malcolm Holmes, who arranged it all.

Joan Barraclough

## HAMPSTEAD HEATH REPUBLISHED

The late Alan Farmer's book, *Hampstead Heath*, the only comprehensive history of the areas which make up today's Heath, has long been out of print. It is being republished in October by Historical Publications to mark the centenary of the Heath and Old Hampstead Society next year. It is in hardback form only and will cost £15. It will be obtainable at Burgh House and bookshops.

## Where they lived in Hampstead - new edition

Hampstead history has long been awash with famous names, and many later residents and visitors have been anxious to know where they lived. Christopher Wade published his first ABC of celebrities, with their addresses and dates, three years ago, and at the same time he invited additions from the public for a second edition.

Many names were suggested, some of which were not thought celebrated enough, and some were names of current residents, who might not welcome such publicity. But over 50 names were accepted for inclusion, and the second edition now records 216 notable residents (or visitors), with their locations shown on specially drawn maps. In each case the profession or occupation is added, producing a vast preponderance of writers (72) and artists (42), followed by actors (21), musicians (18) and architects (15). There are also five Prime Ministers, two soap magnates, a Pearly King and Queen, a mosaicist and a muppeteer.

The booklet also shows which personalities have been awarded plaques, 73 in all, and explains the various types of plaque visible on Hampstead walls.

*Where they Lived in Hampstead* is published by the Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 1LT and costs £1.20. Copies are available from the Burgh House bookstall, or by post (for an extra 25p)

## Joining the Society

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## The New Review

Dr Peter Woodford is to be congratulated on producing a splendid new edition of the *Camden History Review* – distributed with this *Newsletter*.

It has as usual a wide variety of articles – the Isokon flats in Lawn Road, Sir Samuel Romilly, tobacco pipe makers in Somers Town and the Scala Theatre are an indication of the range. Steven Denford, who recently wrote the very successful publication on Agar Town has stayed in the same area and written about the early artisans' flats near Old St Pancras Church, and David Sealey writes about an area just up the road in Camden Town. Butchers' shops in Kentish Town is the unusual theme of Desmond Whyman's article, and Jane Cox has chosen that remarkable church in Gospel Oak, All Hallows as her theme. The Editor himself, drawing on his long experience of the Hampstead Music Club, celebrates the fifty years of that organisation. And, to top off cinema centenary year, Mark Aston's chronological table of the cinemas of Camden, is a worthy salute to all those who ventured money in those extraordinary buildings.

## That Lighthouse

Observant people always wonder about the lighthouse-topped building at the corner of Grays Inn Road very near King's Cross: we have had discussion of it before in this *Newsletter*. In fact, unnoticed so far as I am aware, an earlier depiction of this building in 1814 (pictured below) exists in George Clinch's *Marylebone and St Pancras*, published in 1890. It shows

the earlier structure in a circular form, perhaps of necessity given the apex site it was on, and with a peaked sloping roof. It is, without doubt from the barrels outside, a pub, but I have been unable yet to discover the name of it. Perhaps it was called The Lighthouse as a reference to the shape of the building, for it is unlikely that the building was constructed in that way to match such a proposed name. But it would seem likely that on rebuilding the lighthouse flavour was retained on purpose.

Long may it remain in place, but in an area so prone to redevelopment and change in the next ten years its fate must be in doubt.

John Richardson

## LOST ESTATES IN HIGHGATE, HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN

Our friends in the Hornsey Historical Society are to publish a book containing essays on lost estates in their area. Twelve are covered, including Ducketts Manor, Winchester Hall, Park House and Southwood House in Highgate, Woodlands in Muswell Hill and Stapleton Hall in Stroud Green. The Crouch End Academy estate has been researched by CHS Council member Peter Barber.

This book is to be published in November this year at £9, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Society.



## Spending a penny

There were not a great many public conveniences for men in the nineteenth century, though most public houses had them. Facilities for ladies were even rarer and, of course, the pubs were out of bounds to most women. Some insight as to why this should be may be gained from the minutes of St Pancras Vestry, which began considering the matter in 1874. In that year a committee of the Vestry, though reporting on the views of medical men that the want of conveniences for women could lead to serious and often fatal consequences, reminded the Vestry of the hostile public reaction when the Vestry wished to erect an experimental 2-stall urinal for men in Wilstead Street. The medical men, however, were adamant and said that conveniences for women ought to be installed, that parts of them should be free, and that they should have a female attendant.

The Vestry was persuaded and went at the matter with admirable speed, so that a month or two later the Highways Committee reported that it had found a place for a women's convenience – a house at 147 Hampstead Road. It would cost £50 per annum. It is not clear in the minutes what the arrangement with the occupant of the house would be, but early the next year the plan had stalled since it was thought necessary that permission from the freeholder of the house ought to be obtained. The freeholder did not consent and pointed out that the house could by covenant only be used as a private residence and that no extension could be built. The Vestry Clerk pointed out, oddly, that the extension would enhance the value of the property, but the freeholder persisted and offered to sell the property to the Vestry instead. The plan was abandoned.

At the same time the Vestry received a letter notifying it that a company was being formed to provide 'retiring rooms' for ladies and asked for the Vestry's co-operation. The Vestry said that it could not assist a public company carry out the function of a local authority, but would be interested in leasing any premises that the company was able to purchase.

Nothing happened, however, and three years later the Ladies' Sanitary Association wrote to the Vestry to ask it to provide lavatories for ladies, but the Vestry was not encouraging, saying that though they themselves were willing to proceed, owners of property were not co-operative.

Then, in 1880, Alfred Watkyns 'of Paris' asked for leave to erect public conveniences in the parish of St Pancras for both sexes. The proposal was to erect three 'châlets de toilette et de nécessité' constructed partly of iron and of wood, 20' long, 12' wide and 10' high. The lower part was to be panelled to an elevation of 6', above which glass panels contained illuminated advertisements. It was proposed to provide four water closets at each end of the chalet and to use a portion of the building as a 'kiosque' for the sale of newspapers

and also to station a shoe black at each end of the chalet which was to be in the charge of a female attendant. The Company asked for a concession of 30 years at a fee of £10 per annum. The Highways Committee recommended that the experiment began with a chalet on the north side of Parkway, facing the intersection of what is now Gloucester Avenue. However, a protest was received from a Mr Pennington of Park House, Gloucester Gate and other local inhabitants. Apart from anything else, they said, if the chalet were a pecuniary success it would 'have a tendency to diminish that innate sense of modesty so much admired in our countrywomen'. In the face of this the Vestry declined to proceed.

In 1881 the Chalet Company invited the Vestry to view the chalet they had erected in Whitechapel Road, but the Highways Committee felt that public opposition in St Pancras was too strong. By this time the Chalet Company was proposing conveniences in the centre of Tottenham Court Road opposite Whitfield Chapel, the end of Lambs Conduit Street near the Foundling Hospital, by the Cobden Statue, and the old site of Parkway. What the Company was allowed to do was to erect a chalet in Camden High Street at the junction with Parkway and the other roads there, in place of an existing urinal, but it is not clear if this was for both sexes.

Grass roots support for women conveniences surfaced in 1884 when the Vestry agreed to the use of a Vestry room for a public meeting called to gain support for the idea, but again no progress was made and indeed, though it doesn't say so in the minutes, there was opposition to such proposals on a London-wide basis when a letter (contents not divulged) was received by the Vestry from the Central Vigilance Society - a name which normally implies repression. And as late as 1888 a letter was received from the International Hygiene Society urging public conveniences for women and children, which the Vestry merely acknowledged.

The women's conveniences eventually came, and were plentifully provided when the Vestry became a borough, but it is apparent that the reluctance of St Pancras Vestry to provide them was due to public opposition rather than frugality with the rates.

**John Richardson**



# newsletter

No 158

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Nov 1996

## Old St Pancras

Thursday, 21st November, 7.30pm  
St Pancras Church House, Lancing Street NW1  
(opposite Eversholt Street entrance to Euston station)

Of the three component parts of Camden the name of St Pancras is now the least used, except when mentioning its railway station or church. For the parish of St Pancras was, from medieval times, centred not where the old parish church still stands in Pancras Road, but in Kentish Town, and the parish was eventually dominated by that area, and by the residents of Highgate, Tottenham Court Road and Camden Town. The location of the old church, often flooded by the Fleet river, became, as Gillian Tindall pointed out in her book on Kentish Town *The Fields Beneath*, a deserted medieval village, as the population (including the vicar) moved up the road to Kentish Town. Thus, the old parish became very fragmented in its pockets of settlement, facilities and seats of influence and old St Pancras became neglected. The church was used less and less frequently, especially when New St Pancras church was built in the Euston Road, and the horrors of the overcrowded and adjoining burial grounds (of St Pancras and of St Giles) and the brooding presence of one of London's most notorious workhouses, ensured that there was little opposition to the building of Agar Town in the earlier years of the nineteenth century. Nor were too many tears shed when railways took over much of what had been the village of St Pancras.

All this makes for a fascinating story and one that our speaker, Michael Ogden, is well qualified to tell, since he is a churchwarden of St Pancras New Church and a trustee of its Church Lands. The church itself is a subject worth a full talk, since it is regarded as one of the oldest established in London and, without doubt, is on a Roman site.

## Goldfinger and Willow Road

Thursday, 5th December, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Many residents of Hampstead were scandalised in 1938 when the modernist architect, Erno Goldfinger, replaced a modest row of eighteenth-century cottages in Willow Road, overlooking the Heath, with Nos 1-3, a terrace of houses built in a style which the architect called 'an adaptation of eighteenth-century style'.

They were not, and still are not, to everyone's taste, but they have attracted many devotees and are obligatory benchmarks for any architectural student.

After the deaths of Goldfinger in 1987 and of his widow, Ursula, in 1991, efforts were made to retain for the public the house in Willow Road which the architect and his family occupied. It included original items of furniture and fittings, even the linoleum. Yet though the house was acquired by the National Trust it was some years before there was sufficient funding for the house to be opened to members of the public.

The building of that terrace, and the nature of Goldfinger's work and house, are the subject of our December talk, given by John Allan, an architectural writer. The house, incidentally, is open to the public Thursdays-Saturdays, 12-4.30pm, until the end of October. There are guided tours (our Treasurer, Roger Cline, is one of the guides), but there is a capacity for only 12-15 people, so you may find you have to wait for the next tour.

## Indexing the Reviews

Enclosed with this issue of the *Newsletter* is yet another benefit of your membership: the Subject and Contributor Indexes (in one slim volume) for the whole series of Reviews. This has been compiled with almost lightning speed by David Hayes, with his usual meticulous attention to detail.

The Index (we refer to it in the singular to avoid the impression that it is two separate booklets) is provided to members free at this time; subsequently it will cost £1.50 to buy. Along with the Index is a flyer on which you can order the back issues which you are certain to discover, from perusing the Index, you need and which, inevitably, will be missing from your collection – if indeed you received them in the first instance.

This order form, when completed, should be sent to Sheila Ayres at the address given (Flat 1, 22 Daleham Gardens, NW3 5DA (Tel: 0171-794 1735)). Sheila has very recently taken over the mailing of publications from Christopher Wade. Order forms for all of our other publications should also go to her; new order forms for this purpose will be printed and distributed shortly.

# The President's Hike for History

*During the summer our President, Christopher Elrington, undertook a sponsored walk of 1,200 miles, passing through all of the old shire counties of England. The object of the walk was to raise money and win friends for the Victoria County History, the monumental encyclopedia of English local history, which is facing a severe reduction in its public funding. He writes:*

A few people said that it was dangerous for a sedentary 66-year-old to set out to walk 24 miles a day for 50 days, but I did it without suffering more than blisters, the occasional soaking, and some anxiety about being run over, getting lost, and arriving too late for people who had come to meet or join me. The danger now is that given the opportunity I shall become a bore about the Hike, and go on talking even longer than I went on walking.

Some things are worth saying. The first is that I enjoyed the Hike enormously, meeting people, seeing scenery and buildings, the exhilaration of fresh air and physical exercise. Others who joined came for a day or a few hours also enjoyed themselves, remarking that they saw things on foot that they never noticed from a car and that they should get out more often.

My route was chosen to go through all the counties within a period of seven weeks. Beyond that, I needed to arrive for overnight stops at places where I could find board and lodging at little or no expense, and I wanted to use footpaths as far as possible in preference to roads, to avoid long stretches in built-up areas, to include sites of historical, scenic, and architectural interest. Most of my board and lodging was very generously and hospitably provided by friends or by friends of friends, and I spent only four nights in bed-and-breakfasts and five in youth hostels. Some of the footpaths were excellent, but a great many were difficult to follow, or under crops, or overgrown, or ploughed out, or simply untraceable. For good and fast going the best route was along very minor roads, the sort that even local residents did not know about because they were not good for cars. Walking on unclassified roads that carried much traffic could be unpleasant, on B roads it was often stressful, and on many A roads the noise and danger were such as to make me and my companions take to untracked fields or long deviations. In arable country there are often not enough footpaths; in woodland there are usually so many that you don't know which one to take.

Avoiding long stretches of built-up areas meant that the streets of Camden did not figure at all in my itinerary. The nearest that I came was Enfield, approached from Great Amwell along Ermine Street. That ought to be a straight track, but the path winds muddily through woodland contained between the straight sides of the Roman road. It passes the rebuilt

ruin of Temple Bar, imposing and forlorn. Further from home, there was a pleasant reminder of the Camden History Society when at Raunds I met Christopher Wade and his son; Christopher walked with me through his native Bedfordshire. Camden moreover played its part in the Hike because I did some training walks beforehand, and most of them took place in Regent's Park and Hampstead Heath. Anyone who saw the first of the BBC Breakfast broadcasts about the Hike may have recognized the Heath in the shots of me sitting on a bench talking and of my boots.

Was the Hike a success? From a selfish point of view, I got much enjoyment from it. Thanks to the generosity of sponsors (including the Camden History Society and several of its individual members) the County History Trust will, when the covenants are fulfilled and income tax reclaimed, have received about £27,000. The publicity in the press and on television and radio will, I hope, spur members of the public to persuade politicians, both MPs and local councillors, that the Victoria County History is something for which they should find proper funding.

**Christopher Elrington**

## Advance Notice

Please put the following in your diary:

*16th Jan:* Jane Cox on the sometimes controversial history of Christchurch, Hampstead. This will be in the vicarage of Christchurch.

## MISSION HALLS

Shirley Neale is collecting information on Mission Halls in Camden – their whereabouts, dates in use, present status (i.e. demolished or, if not, what they are used for), and what organisation or organisations established them. If anyone has such information, especially about the one in Powlett Place/Harmood Street, she would be glad to hear. Her address is 64 Harmood Street NW1 8DP.

## CELEBRATING MOREL

A small exhibition is on view in the interesting church of St Mary in Holly Place, Hampstead, to mark the bicentenary of the arrival in Hampstead of its founder, Abbé Morel. The exhibition is in the Lady Chapel and will continue until 28 November when Dom Aiden Bellenger will give a talk in the church on the subject of the Abbé.

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## That Lighthouse Again

The circular pub at Battle Bridge, pictured in *Newsletter 157*, was, disappointingly, not named the Lighthouse. *London Signs*, Horwood's map of 1799, directories and ratebooks all conspire to identify it as the White Hart Tavern. The group of houses to the right of the pub, in what is now Gray's Inn Road, was known as White Hart Row in the early 19th century.

At some stage after it was sketched in 1814, the pub was rebuilt, still in circular (or semi-circular?) form, but in a grander style, surmounted by a small rotunda. Thus it appears in the 1845 illustration of the half-demolished King's Cross monument (*Change at King's Cross*, p.12). The landlord of the White Hart at the time was James B. Cabburn, while at No. 1 King's Cross was John Francis Cabburn, a maker of 'anti-doloric oils' - a likely explanation for the 'Dispensary' legend just distinguishable on the building. The western end of Pentonville Road was then known officially as 'King's Cross', and it is likely that the pub and No. 1 were one and the same name. By 1859 a display advertisement in the *Post Office London Directory* was extolling the merits of patent remedies available from 'Cabburn's Dispensary' at King's Cross.

In 1862 the second White Hart was demolished, together with the whole of the peninsular site behind, for the building of the Metropolitan Railway. By 1870 what appears to have been a replacement pub of the same name had opened nearby, on the south side of Euston Road, at its junction with Tonbridge Street (where Camden Town Hall now meets its modern extension). This third pub's final appearance in directories was in 1908.

David Hayes

*Editor's note: The licensing records of the White Hart go back to 1721 - the first date of the extant records.*

### NEW PUBLICITY OFFICER

We are pleased to report that Joan Barraclough has been appointed Publicity Officer for the Society. Any ideas, sites for publicity etc, should be sent to her at 17 Old Court House, North End Way, NW3 7ER.

### RAWLPLUGS REMEMBERED

Wall to Wall Television Ltd are preparing a documentary on the early days of Do-it-Yourself. They invite reminiscences of Formica, vinyl wallpaper, early power drills, blocked-off fireplaces and plyboard over panelled doors. If you have memories that you think might interest a TV audience please contact Jonathan Dent on 0171-485 7424 or write to them at 8-9 Spring Place NW5 3ER. Recording takes place soon, so any contributions are wanted quickly.

## HAPPENINGS AT THE MUSEUM OF LONDON

A lot of events are scheduled at the Museum of London before Christmas. They include:

a) an exhibition of finds recovered during the construction of the Jubilee Line extension. These feature a 2nd-century amphora from France and Roman pottery and glassware. The amphora, found in pieces in the Borough High Street area, is the first nearly complete example from the Rhone Valley. The excavations on the site of the new entrance and ticket hall for London Bridge Station have also uncovered structures adjacent to the main road to the Roman bridge. Archaeologists conclude that the road was lined with buildings, probably small shops. Roman street patterns have also been revealed and there is evidence of a large fire which may date to around AD61, when Boudica sacked London. These exhibits are on show from 18 November to 16 December.

b) You are also invited to step inside the Tower Block of the Imagination and meet artist-in-residence, Jonny Boatfield, the creator of this fantastical building. The tower is like nothing you have ever seen before. This strange, high rise building is over three metres high and big enough to walk into. It has flashing lights, a revolving roof that flies open and built-in time travel devices - it can also be a rocket that could zoom off in a puff of smoke. This is viewable (and it sounds as though it will need an accompanying child to keep you safe) from 26 November to 31 December.

### RESEARCHING HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Douglas Keys has been appointed by the parish of Holy Cross, Cromer Street WC1 to carry out some design work at the church. He has been unable to locate any drawings of the building and wonders if any member can help? The church was designed by Peacock in 1887, with a later extension. If you have any information please contact Mr Keys at 19 Goodge Street W1P 1FD (0171-637 0068)

### HATS OFF TO THE DU MAURIERS

The Hampstead Museum at Burgh House is staging an exhibition to mark the centenary of the death of George du Maurier (1834-1896), entitled *Hats Off to the du Mauriers*. This runs from 9 November to 23 March. (Burgh House is not open on Mondays and Tuesdays)

### A LOCAL HISTORY FAIR IN CHALK FARM

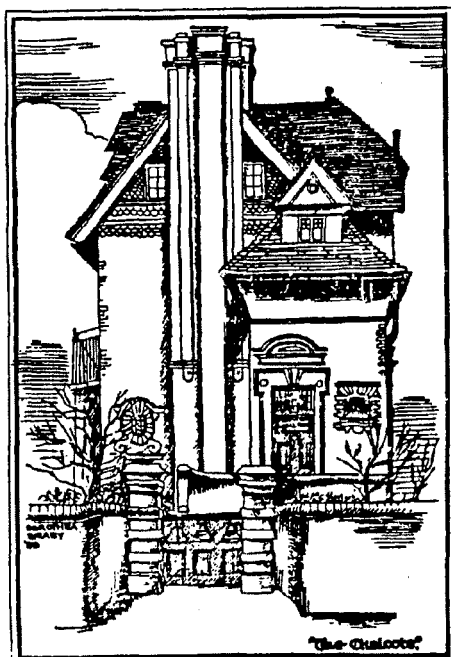
A wide selection of Local History products and publications will be on sale at the Chalk Farm Library in Sharpleshall Street off Chalk Farm Road on Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November. There will also be two talks. The first, entitled *Hogarth and Handel - art and music at the Foundling Hospital*, will be given by Jane King on the Friday between 2.30-4pm. The second, given by Roger Cline, will survey *The Controversial history of Regent's Park*: this will be on Friday as well, at 7pm.

## A House in Englands Lane

The drawing featured here, by Dorothea Braby, dated 1932, appears on a 'memorial Christmas card', 1932, together with some poems by Eleanor Spensley or her bereaved husband, J. Calvert Spensley. The striking 'modernist' appearance of the house at 39 Englands Lane still named 'The Chalcots' and still visible in its original form, strangely situated as it is at the end of a rather dull row of shops at the Primrose Hill Road end of Englands Lane, prompted me to some rather amateurish research – I was convinced that it was built by a well-known architect. The research was kindly assisted by the present owners, who confirm that it is a most comfortable house to live in, turning its back on the street and emphasising the views on the long garden behind. Close study of the title deeds suggests that it was built as early as 1880 by one Richard Groom, d.1905, a pupil of Francis Cranmer Penrose RA, who became Architect and Cathedral Surveyor to St Paul's in 1868. An 85-year lease on the property, then containing a much older house, was sold by Eton College to Springall and Frederick Groom (father and uncle perhaps?) in 1879, who promptly resold the lease to Richard Groom. A complex series of exchanges and subleases thereafter ended in a sale of the lease ten years later to Ashton Crofts Beecheno (what extraordinary names!) and his wife Hannah, with reference to the 'house thereon erected by Richard Groom'.

John Brandon-Jones confirms that it is a forward-looking street elevation for the period, but had never heard of this architect. The RIBA has no record of any domestic architecture by him, only his position at St Paul's. He himself lived in Islington, so he did not build the house for his own occupation. Has anyone any information to add?

Peter Woodford



## TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF THE LOCAL HISTORY CENTRE

The Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library will be closed from Monday 2 December until Saturday 14 December, inclusive, so that a reorganisation of the strongrooms and a stocktaking can take place. It is hoped that this will make many of the archives more easily available to the public.

## Review

*An Illustrated History of the Royal Free Hospital, by Lynne A. Amidaon, edited by Andrew Northern. £12.50, from the Friends' Shop at the Hospital.*

Amazing detail has been worked into this illustrated history of the Royal Free Hospital. It is all in 130 pages, half or more of each occupied with illustrations, historic photographs or engravings and reproductions of portraits and paintings.

Though begun in the then slummy Holborn, the hospital has absorbed many others founded in or moved to Hampstead – New End, the Hampstead General and the Hampstead children's hospital.

The first hospital to admit patients solely on the basis of need without a subscriber's letter or evidence of good character, the Free was also the first to provide women with full clinical training and seems to have been the first to have its own maternity unit. Its founder, William Marsden, was also a pioneer of cancer treatment and research.

Many have been the distinguished workers and helpers of the hospital. The late Queen Mary seems to have taken a warm interest, sometimes paying unexpected visits. It is amusing to read of the numerous guilds, associations and organisations which raised funds for the hospital and to provide extra comforts for patients. Even with their help and that of many very wealthy and generous patrons, the hospital was often in severe financial difficulties.

With the straight narrative there are appendices giving biographical notes on the many distinguished doctors, matrons, administrators who, over the decades, have brought Hampstead's own and only teaching hospital into the forefront of the world's clinical establishments. One must mention the great Dame Anne Bryans and James Robinson, first surgeon dentist and a pioneer of ether administration as an anaesthetic. He wrote a treatise on the subject and the Royal Free used anaesthetics in 1847, when the first had only been given in this country at the end of 1846.

Joan Barraclough