

# newsletter

No 189

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Jan 2002

## Walter Sickert and the Camden Town Affair

Thurs. 17 Jan, 7.30pm  
Theatro Technis, 26 Crowndale Road, NW1  
(5 mins walk from Mornington Crescent tube station)

Walter Sickert (1860-1942) is the artist most readily associated with Camden Town – his paintings and drawings of the area, particularly of the Bedford music hall, are well known. Our publication, *Streets of West Hampstead*, has him at 54 Broadhurst Gardens in Hampstead in 1885, the year he married Ellen, daughter of the Free Trade campaigner Richard Cobden. It was not a successful marriage – they were divorced in 1899. He appears to have left Broadhurst Gardens in 1894, and we find him at 13 Robert Street, off Hampstead Road in 1898, a year before he went abroad for a prolonged period, particularly to Dieppe and Venice. He came back to London in 1905, and from 1908 was at 6 Mornington Crescent where he was, perhaps uncomfortably, very close to the statue of his first father-in-law, erected in 1868 on a site now in front of Mornington Crescent underground station.

Sickert took an exceptional interest in a Camden Town murder, which has led to much speculation, especially of late. His Camden Town days, and in particular his relationship with the Camden Town 'affair', is the subject of our talk by art historian Rebecca Daniels on the 17th of January – please note, the date given in the last *Newsletter* was incorrect!

Our venue is a new one. The building used to be the Old St Pancras Church hall, but is now the home of the Theatro Technis, a Cypriot arts and community centre. Take a look at the outside as you enter. It was built in 1897 and had a small statue representing St Pancras himself over the doorway. This, unfortunately, was stolen in 2000, but has been replaced by a replica carved by Jim Staines, unveiled in June 2001.

## A New Publications Secretary

Roger Cline has kindly volunteered to take on many of the functions of the Publications Secretary – we are most grateful. He will be assisted in this by Sheila Ayres, the outgoing Publications Secretary.

## George Gilbert Scott junior

Thurs. 21 February, 7.30pm  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
(The Forum Room)  
235 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2  
(Bottom end of Gower Street)

There is a change of plan for February – the talks for February and March as advertised in the last *Newsletter* have now been transposed. So, in February, we shall welcome the well-known architectural writer Gavin Stamp for what will surely be an invigorating talk on George Gilbert Scott junior, who followed the same profession as his famous father. Scott succeeded his father as architectural consultant to Christ Church, Hampstead, where he built the west porch in 1876 – he was himself a resident at 26 Church Row. Scott junior's major church in London was St Agnes, Kennington, but this, unfortunately, was bombed during the last war.

Gavin Stamp is a senior lecturer at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art, and chairman of the Twentieth Century Society. His book, *An Architect of Promise: George Gilbert Scott junior and the Late Gothic Revival*, is published by Shaun Tyas, Donington, Lincs. He has also recently published books on the work of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson and Edwin Lutyens.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these talks into your diary:

21 March: (change of date since previous *Newsletter*: Robert Stephenson on Kensal Green cemetery. At Burgh House.

18 April: John Bowman on the Relief Sculptures seen on the outside of buildings in the City. At Burgh House.

17 May: John Nicholson on the building of the Farringdon Road and the construction of the Holborn Viaduct. At the St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, off Gray's Inn Road.

20 June: (Annual Meeting): Robert Thorne on the history of St Pancras Station and the Midland Grand Hotel. At the offices of Alan Baxter Associates, Cowcross Street, EC1 (change of venue).

18 July: Patrick Frazer on The Ways (father and son) of Hampstead – printer, lithographers, author and artist. At Burgh House.

## Subscriptions Due

The annual subscription of £10 is due on 1 March; if you do not pay by standing order or if you have not already paid in advance, please send your cheque to the membership secretary, Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH. If you are not sure whether you are due to pay by cheque, send one and Roger will only present it if an alternative payment is not received by early in March.

## Medieval Jewry

The Museum of London Archaeological Service has recently been excavating a site in Milk Street in the City, that has netted a considerable prize.

From the Norman Conquest until 1290, when all Jews were expelled from England, there was a sizeable Jewish community of money-lenders and merchants living in the City of London between Milk Street and Old Jewry. Though there is a great deal of documentation for this, there is very little archaeological evidence. So when an early 13th-century stone-lined ritual bath, or *mikveh*, was found at Milk Street, it caused much excitement in Jewish communities both in London and further afield. Indeed, this is one of only two medieval *mikvaot* known in England.

The bath had been constructed below floor level of a cellar as a subterranean feature, and it took the form of a small apsidal-ended cistern, lined with greensand ashlar blocks. Surviving to a depth of about 1.5m, it was nearly 1m long and 1.4m wide. It was entered from the north side by a flight of seven stone steps.

The function of a *mikveh* is to provide facilities for spiritual cleansing by total immersion, often before an act of worship. Therefore the presence of a *mikveh* here suggests that one of the upper rooms of the house would have been converted into a private synagogue. It is known that the house on this site was owned until 1290 by Moses Chespin.

The *mikveh* was dismantled and it is hoped that a suitable site can be found on which it can be rebuilt.

## OLD NEWSLETTERS

Anthony Moss, moving house, has old *Newsletters* and other papers relating to the Society to donate to the first comer who will pay the postage.

He has *Newsletters* dating from the first one in May 1970 up to No. 124. He cannot guarantee that they are complete. He also has papers relating to the first Annual Meeting in April 1970. Anyone interested should contact him at Rose Cottage, High Street, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9AA (01494 868667).

## Rosslyn Park Football Club

The well-known rugby football club, Rosslyn Park, began in Hampstead. We are reminded of this in a letter from Charlie Addiman, who is writing a history of the club to mark its 125th anniversary. He writes:

‘Members of the Rosslyn Park cricket club, no records of which survive, founded the rugby club. We know that they were allowed to use the grounds of Rosslyn House by the then owner, Charles Woodd. Among the original rugby club in 1879 was a youth by the name J. Woodd, so I am working on the assumption that he was related to Charles and possibly was the conduit which allowed them the use of the ground. By cross-referencing our original membership list with the 1881 Census I have established that most of the original players were 16-18 years old when our club was formed. My working assumption is that the cricket club itself was in its infancy and of little consequence – just a few youths getting together to play scratch matches when they could.

The original minute book records a decision to play in “navy blue shirts with a white maltese cross of four inches in the middle”. It is not known why the Maltese Cross was chosen. We know that it was a masonic symbol which was used by the Barons Rosslyn for many centuries, including the 1st Earl of Rosslyn who was also the 21st Baron. However, he left Rosslyn House nearly 80 years before the club was formed. In any case, the footballers had wanted to call their club “Hampstead FC” but could not do so because such a club already existed, so it seems unlikely that there was any active wish to use Rosslyn family insignia for its own sake (in which context the cross would have needed to be red anyway). I have guessed that what might have happened is that the Earl of Rosslyn had a white stone Maltese Cross built into the fabric of the house or grounds, and that it was from the players’ observation of this whilst playing cricket there that the badge was chosen. However, I have been unable to locate any extant photographs of the house in order to follow up this theory. Can anyone throw any light on this?

We know that the club hired the White Horse pub at £5 per annum for a changing room and to store the goalposts, and that the pitch was on South End Green from October 1879 to March 1881 (when the club moved to Gospel Oak). We have the original press cuttings of every match played, along with some manuscript entries, but I would be very keen to see photos of the pub and the ground at that time if such exist. Also we have no idea why the club chose to leave the ground at that time.’

If any member has information please contact Mr Addiman at 24 Burton Lodge, SW15 2HT (Tel 020 8874 6638). This *Newsletter* would also welcome any items you have on this.

## Where were you in 1953?

Carlton Television is looking for people who lived/ worked in the Kentish Town area in 1953. They are particularly interested in a factory in Weedington Road, NW5 which produced pencils given out to local school children to mark the Queen's coronation. If you think you can help please contact Liz MacEwen at Carlton Television on 020 7670 1214.

## Book Reviews

*London's Arcadia: John Nash and the Planning of Regent's Park*, by Prof. J. Mordaunt Crook. 36pp plus two throwout maps, obtainable from Sir John Soane's Museum for £4.50, or by post for £5.25. Apply to the Museum Secretary, Julie Brook, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2A 3BP.

The planning and building of Regent's Park was one of the most momentous building developments in London. It was on a scale and of an ambition not previously seen in the capital and was a determined attempt by the Prince Regent to move London, architecturally, into the top echelon of European cities. The most comprehensive account of the area and its development may be read in Dr Ann Saunders' book *Regent's Park* (first published in 1969), but Professor Crook's account, which was the fifth annual Soane Lecture, given in 2000, is a valuable addition.

The author describes Nash as a catalyst in this scheme between government departments and private developers, though he came late on the scene. Its origins lie with the Office of Works which was largely responsible for the appearance of the British Museum, Somerset House, the National Gallery and other major buildings. The basis of the redevelopment of Marylebone Fields, then Crown Land, was the need to make some money after wartime expenditure, and when the leases of that land fell in in 1811, the stage was set.

Professor Crook then relates how the various strands, the proposals and the opportunities, including the Regent's Canal, all revolved around John Nash, buoyed by the confidence and spending ambitions of the Prince Regent.

*Kilburn and Cricklewood*, by Marianne Colloms and Dick Weindling. Published by Tempus in their Images of England series. 128pp paperback, price £10.99.

One of the advantages of picture and caption books is that it is possible to print at long last something about areas not previously covered. Cricklewood, so far as I know, has not been featured extensively in any book, and Kilburn has been generally neglected. The compilers of this book are both CHS members – they also collaborated in producing *Kilburn and West Hampstead Past*, published two years ago.

The two areas have been home to some notable residents. These include Joe Loss, the bandleader, at Kendall Court on Shoot-up Hill, Ken Livingstone in Gascony Avenue and Kingsgate Road, the violinist Max Jaffa at three addresses in Cricklewood. Also in the music world, the composer Eric Coates once lived above a shop in the Kilburn High Road from where he boarded a 'rickety horse-bus' to study at the Royal Academy of Music. More recently Alan Coren has made a great thing of being a Cricklewood resident before his recent move to Regent's Park, though it would be interesting to know if other residents of Ranulf Road regard themselves as being in Cricklewood rather than West Hampstead. No doubt the estate agents will have the last word.

The book is a timely reminder of the wealth of illustrative material there is of London areas, and the authors are to be congratulated on bringing together this collection of pictures of two London areas that usually miss the publishing boat.

JR

## Pictures of an era

Aidan Flood's entertaining talk to the Society in December on the photographic surveys of Camden was much enjoyed. He did not deal with the unsystematic activities of manufacturers of picture postcards who, nearly 100 years ago, photographed many of Camden's streets – or at least those where they thought the residents were well off enough to buy quantities of cards. The cards often contain evocative scenes, of streets with few vehicles, of children and animals playing, of traders delivering their goods. Sometimes cards would be produced for an occasion such as a church procession. Sometimes they would be group photographs – football teams, Salvation Army bands, school classes. They are generally the only views we have of the period, with the exception of the photos taken when the Northern Line was being constructed beneath St Pancras and Hampstead. We reproduce two on the next page. One is of the well-kept St Martin's public gardens in Camden Town, formed when the burial ground was closed. These gardens along with others in the crowded parish of St Pancras were the only available open spaces for local people and were a source of great pride. They were not then the vandalised public spaces they are today, farmed out to the cheapest contractor to maintain. Remaining graves and tombstones were left unmolested.

The view of the out-patients' department at the New Hospital for Women – later called the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital – shows that the tedium of hospital waiting rooms was just as bad then with, no doubt as happens still today, at least twenty people booked for the same appointment time.



*St Martin's Gardens in Camden Town, c.1905.*



*The out-patients' department at the New Hospital for Women, Euston Road, probably before the 1st World War.*

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 8PL (Tel: 020-7607 1628, Fax: 020-7609 6451, E-mail: richardson@historicalpublications.co.uk), to whom all contributions should be sent.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (020 7586 4436), and the Treasurer is Marion Bennathan, 24 Murray Mews, NW1 9RJ. The Membership Secretary is Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH. The Publications Editor and the Editor of the *Camden History Review* is Dr Peter Woodford, 1 Akenside Road, NW3 5BS (020-7435 2088).

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 190

Mar 2002

## Kensal Green Cemetery

*Thurs 21 March, 7.30pm*

*Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

Kensal Green was the first of the large private cemeteries opened in the Greater London area to counteract the gross overcrowding of parish churchyards. Only some years later was legislation passed to allow local vestries to open their own cemeteries, and St Pancras was the first local authority in London to take advantage of this.

But Kensal Green, together with Highgate and Norwood, remained the most prominent of the up-market cemeteries, and their very existence helped to encourage the rather morbid interest of the Victorians in the whole process of burial and funerary monuments. There was also a sub-plot related to Kensal Green, the opening of which in 1833 coincided with a robust Gothic Revival in church buildings, and there was considerable disagreement within the cemetery company as to whether its design should be classical or Gothic. In the end, classical won the day but only after a great deal of acrimony.

As with Highgate, many famous people have been laid to rest in Kensal Green. They include Harrison Ainsworth, George Cruikshank, Thomas Barnes, George Birkbeck, Blondin, Marc Brunel, Decimus Burton, Wilkie Collins – and that is getting just so far as 'C' in the alphabetical list.

The creation of the cemetery was a significant happening in the history of London's facilities and the talk in March, by Robert Stephenson, should add greatly to our knowledge of this fascinating aspect of London history.

## Sculptures in the City

*Thurs. 18 April, 7.30pm*

*Burgh House, New End Square NW3*

Relief sculptures on buildings tend not to be noticed except by the very observant. There are indeed quite a few in the City of London, and these are the subject of our April talk, given by John Bowman. It is an unusual subject and will be backed up by numerous illustrations.

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

*16 May:* John Nicholson on the building of the Farringdon Road and the construction of the Holborn Viaduct. At St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens, EC1.

*20 June:* (Annual Meeting) Robert Thorne on St Pancras Station and Hotel. At the offices of Alan Baxter Associates, Cowcross Street EC1.

*18 July:* Patrick Frazer on the Ways (father and son) of Hampstead, printer, lithographers, author and artist. At Burgh House.

*19 Sep:* Launch of the new CHS publication, *The Streets of St Pancras*. Venue to be announced.

*17 Oct:* Michael Ogden on the work of the School Board for London, in St Pancras. Venue to be announced.

## Email addresses wanted

Members who have an email address are asked to send an email to woodford@dircon.co.uk. Peter Woodford will pass these on to Roger Cline, our Membership Secretary, and to the Chairman, but also retain a file of them so that you can be notified by this means if there are last minute changes in the programme you need to know about.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

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## ESTATE LOCATION

In a review of Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms' book on Kilburn and Cricklewood in the last *Newsletter*, the reviewer asked if residents of the Ranulf Road area thought of themselves as being in West Hampstead rather than, as Alan Coren would have it, in Cricklewood.

Gordon Cadden writes to say that the residents of the Ranulf Estate enclave do not define themselves as living in either. They prefer to describe the area as South Hampstead (which it is not). Many people reading Coren's *A Year in Cricklewood* would probably imagine the poor chap living in a bedsitter off the Broadway, or in a small terraced house, at least. It is interesting to note that estate agents connive in the deception and also describe the Ranulf Estate as South Hampstead.

## SAVE ST MARTIN'S

The church of St Martin in Gospel Oak was described by Pevsner as the 'craziest of London's Victorian churches'. Its founder was John Derby Allcroft, who financed the whole cost of the building in 1865. The architect was Edward Buckton Lamb, an original if controversial architect. He set about fashioning the church with little attention to contemporary orthodoxy, disregarding the fashionable Decorated style in favour of the Perpendicular which was then very much out of fashion. The church is now listed Grade I.

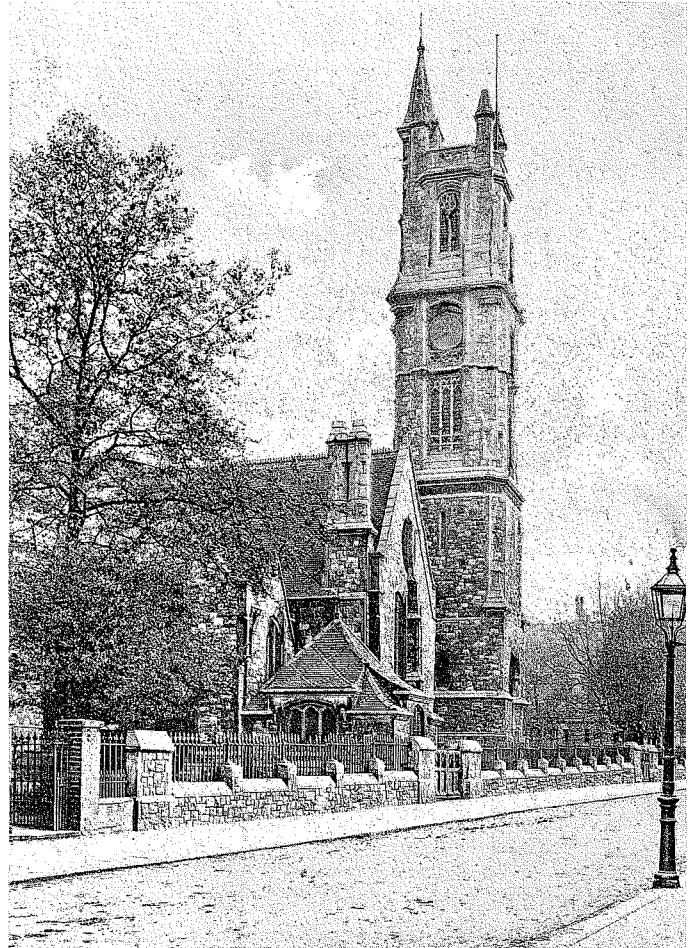
However, after 136 years the building is now in bad shape and in want of repair. Many of the roof tiles need to be replaced and the complex roof structure overall has to be renovated. Much of the Kentish ragstone is seriously corroded.

It is thought that repairs could cost £300,000 and the church has issued an appeal fund. Those able to help to renovate this remarkable building should send their contribution to 'Save St Martin's Appeal', at St Martin's Vicarage, 26 Vicars Road, NW5 4NL

## OPEN HOUSE 2002

London's annual fest, Open House, which allows people to visit up to 500 buildings, is this year to be held on 21/22 September. More details will be featured in a future *Newsletter*.

The organisers now publish a diary leaflet listing architectural exhibitions and events in London. The 10 issues a year may be obtained for a subscription of £13.50 (proceeds towards the Open House event) from London Open House, POBox 25361, NW5 1GY. One such exhibition features, photographically, the same front room in each house of an Edwardian terrace in Crouch End. This is at the Museum of Domestic Design & Architecture, Middlesex University, Cat Hill, Barnet (020 8411 5244) Tues-Sat 10-5 and Sun 2-5, admission free.



*St Martin's church, Allcroft Road, NW5*

## THE LONDON MAZE: Opening up the Capital's past

The Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre (assisted by the Camden History Society) will be helping you to find your way through 'The London Maze' on Saturday 23 March at the Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate EC2 from 10-4. This local history fair has been arranged by the Library Association Local Studies Group. Our stall will be one of twenty run by different organisations including the Family Records Centre, London Metropolitan Archives, Guildhall Library etc. There will also be a programme of talks and local walks. Admission is free, but the walks will cost £5.

## MARIE-LOUISE von MOTESICZKY

Bryan Diamond writes:

The latest issue of *Jewish Quarterly*, no 184, has at pp 29-33 an article by Laura Philips about the artist Marie-Louise von Motesiczky, who came to England in 1939 and lived in Compayne Gardens and then from 1959-1996 at 6 Chesterford Gardens, Hampstead: the house is part owned by a charitable trust and still contains 280 of her paintings and other possessions. It is open to the public by appointment (7794 3994).

Her self-portrait is in the current National Portrait Gallery exhibition.

## Barbara Scott

We have heard with much sadness of the death, after a long illness, of Barbara Scott. Barbara was a keen and long-standing member of the Society. She was a member of the group that re-researched for our publication *Primrose Hill to Euston Road*, her own patch being Camden Lock and down Camden High Street.

She was well known in many Hampstead activities, such as the Hampstead Museum and the Heath and Hampstead Society. One of her most visible achievements was the restoration of the chalybeate fountain in Well Walk to celebrate the centenary of the Heath and Hampstead Society.

## The Railways of Camden

The next Occasional Paper to be published by the Society is currently at the press. *The Railways of Camden* traces the history of passenger and goods travel in what is now the London Borough of Camden from the first arrival of steam locomotives at Chalk Farm to the latest developments in the electrified lines and Underground trains that criss-cross the borough. Local residents watched in wonder as the major rail termini of Euston, King's Cross and St Pancras appeared and luxurious hotels for the weary traveller, including the gigantic Midland Grand Hotel, arose beside them. Then suburban rail lines multiplied, and the suburbs themselves burgeoned, stimulating the creation of underground lines to relieve the resultant overwhelming surface traffic. All this is chronicled by Keith Scholey, an experienced writer on railways and their associated coal drops, goods and locomotive yards. He depicts a fascinating pageant that will be of absorbing interest to railway buffs and social historians.

It is expected that the Paper will be on sale at the end of March. Copies will be available of course at Society meetings, but they can also be had by post by writing to Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place WC1H 9SH. The price is £6.95 plus £1.20 postage. Make cheques payable to the Camden History Society.

## The Tottenham Rolls

There were two principal manors in the old parish of St Pancras – Cantelowes and Tottenham. Both stretched up to Highgate village, the former to the east and the latter to the west, either side of the Highgate Road, Kentish Town Road axis. Cantelowes extended south to roughly Agar Grove, while Tottenham went down nearly to Oxford Street. When the *Survey of London* volumes dealing with St Pancras were published just before and just after the last war, the authors transcribed the Cantelowes court rolls and were able to give a very detailed history of the changes in land ownership since medieval times. Oddly, the authors did not seem to know of the whereabouts of the Tottenham rolls which appear to have been then with St Paul's Cathedral Library, but more lately have been with the Guildhall Library and the London Metropolitan Archives.

So, the information in the Tottenham rolls – much of it in Latin – has never seen the light of day, and several years ago the Society decided that these should be transcribed. The project was launched and sustained with the aid of a grant from Arthur Andersen & Co, although in the last two years it has been funded entirely by the Society. It required an expert in the handling of delicate and sometimes difficult-to-read parchment rolls, who was familiar with the terminology of manor courts and, indeed, of medieval Latin. The Society acquired the services of Pauline Sidell for this.

The earliest roll she transcribed was for 1306, stored at the Guildhall Library, but she also discovered rolls for 1308 at Bruce Castle, Haringey (where presumably some Tottenham records had become mixed up with Tottenham archives), and for 1313 at the British Library. The medieval rolls extended to 1378. There was then a long break – the next extant roll being of 1595 at the LMA and these ran continuously through to 1733. After that date the records could be transcribed by a competent amateur, she feels, and the project has now finished.

These transcriptions will eventually be typed up properly and indexed and, no doubt, someone might be interested in going on from 1733.

## Pots at the Inner Temple

Stewards at the Inner Temple in the 17th century were understandably concerned at the cost of replacing broken pottery. Accidents were one thing, but the use of drinking pots as missiles in horseplay was another. Such happenings may well explain the discovery of nearly 200 complete but broken jugs during recent excavations there.

In addition to green-glazed jugs, a rubbish pit there contained candlesticks, chafing dishes (for keeping food hot on the table) and a bed-warming pan.

In their sanitary habits the inmates of Inner Temple appear to have been behind the times. Whereas most London households were by then using chamber pots, the Temple residents had to make do with an antiquated, medieval type of stool pan.

The site was also notable for the number of mid- to late 18th-century hair or wig curlers, no doubt brought in by servants or suppliers to service the barristers' and judges' wigs.

There were also some Delftware ointment jars, but otherwise nearly all the pottery had been made by potters around Farnham and Guildford, with whom the Inns of Court are known to have placed regular contracts.

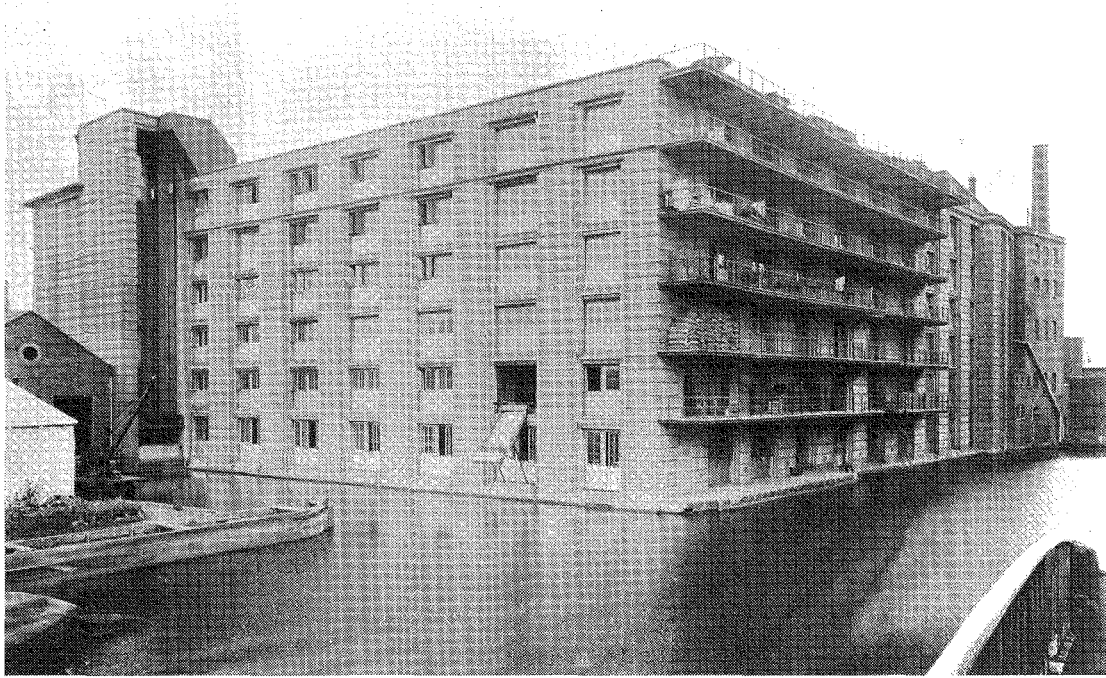
## Gilbey at Camden Town

The famous wine and spirit importers and distillers, W & A Gilbey was founded in a small way in 1857. So successful were they that in ten years they were able to purchase the premises previously known as The Pantheon in Oxford Street, the site of which is now occupied by Marks and Spencer.

More expansion followed, for the company took 20 acres of land at the Camden Town goods yard, then owned by the London & North Western Railway - the

Gilbey premises included the Roundhouse. At this site the company installed a gin distillery – their gin became possibly their most famous product, and had extensive warehousing. Later the architecturally interesting administrative block at the corner of James-town and Oval Roads, designed by Chermayeff was added.

The illustrations below come from a book called *Half-a-Century of Successful trade* by Sir Herbert Maxwell, being a history of the Gilbey company, published in 1907. It was kindly lent to us by Roger Cline.



*The Bottle Warehouse on the Regent's Canal c.1907*

*The Despatching floor at Camden Town 1907*





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No 191

May 2002

## Farringdon Road and the Viaduct

*Thurs. 16 May, 7.30pm*

*St Alban's Centre, Baldwin's Gardens EC1*

*(The nearest underground station is Chancery Lane. Baldwin's Gardens is the first turning on the right up Gray's Inn Road, opposite a gate into Gray's Inn)*

The construction of Farringdon Road and the building of the Holborn Viaduct were two of the most important London improvements of the 19th century. The Road was built in the 1860s, and the Viaduct was completed in 1869. Both were welcome to travellers and campaigners for slum clearance. The Road, built to a large extent above the course of the river Fleet, was driven through some of the worst slums of London in the area of Saffron Hill and Clerkenwell, and aligned with both King's Cross Road to the north and what became known as Farringdon Street to the south. Construction of the road proceeded at the same time as the building of the parallel route of the Metropolitan line which itself caused the demolition of more slum property.

The Viaduct replaced a bridge across the Fleet which previously carried the line of the Newgate Street/Holborn road. However, the old bridge was much lower than the present Viaduct, which meant that travellers and their horses had to negotiate steep inclines on both sides of the bridge. Costing about £2½ million, and designed by the City's Surveyor, William Heywood, the Viaduct was opened by Queen Victoria on the same day as the new Blackfriars Bridge.

It is a fascinating piece of London history and we look forward to the talk by John Nicholson. The venue is a new one.

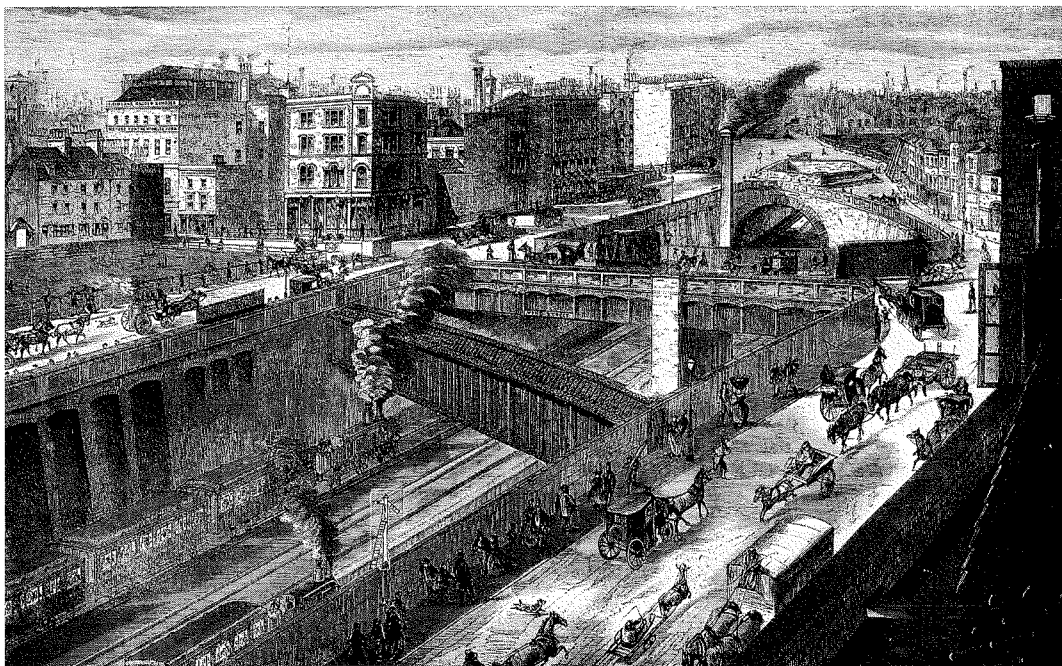
## The Annual Meeting and St Pancras Station

*Thurs, 20th June, 6.30pm*

*at The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, EC1*

*(nearest Underground: Farringdon)*

This year's Annual Meeting will be held, by kind permission of Alan Baxter Associates, at The Gallery,



*A spectacular bird's-eye view of the opening of Farringdon station in 1863. Farringdon Road is to the left, and Turnmill Street is in the foreground.*

their hall opposite their offices in Cowcross Street. This is appropriate for several reasons. Alan Baxter Associates, who are architectural engineers, are heavily involved in the transformation of the old Midland Hotel fronting St Pancras Station. One of their key staff in this project is the architectural historian, Robert Thorne, who is our speaker this evening – members who have heard him before will know that he is both knowledgeable and entertaining. His subject will be the hotel and the station and, hopefully, he will be able to give us the latest news on what has been a saga relating to the regeneration of the hotel and the scheme to bring the direct Channel Tunnel link to St Pancras station. It is, after all, the most important building project in Camden, for it will transform the area completely – already familiar vistas have disappeared and new ones have opened up during the construction works.

We are meeting at 6.30 for refreshments, followed by the business meeting at 7pm, with the talk as usual at 7.30pm.

You are invited to make nominations for officers and members of the CHS Council. The present office holders are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Christopher Elrington  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr Ann Saunders  
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Marion Bennathan  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roger Cline  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford  
PUBLICATIONS SECRETARY: Roger Cline  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Dr Peter Woodford  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Joan Barraclough  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes  
HON AUDITOR: Audrey Nottman  
Council members: Peter Barber, Steve Denford, Ruth Hayes, Michael Ogden, Sue Palmer, Dick Weindling, Robin Woolven.

## An Outing to Charleston and Lewes

*Saturday, 10 August*

This year for our Outing, we have a Camden theme. We make an early start from London to spend the morning at Charleston, in Sussex, the country home of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant from 1916 until the 1970s. Many other members of the Bloomsbury set stayed here and left their mark on the house and grounds, decorating the walls, furniture and ceramics with their own designs. In the gardens are mosaics, sculptures and subtle masses of colour in the planting. We move on to Lewes for our lunch break (picnic or café) and then have a tour of historic Lewes, guided by members of Sussex Archaeological Trust and our own member, Ann Winsor, who lives in Lewes.

You should note that our coach has to park at the top of the lane leading to Charleston, and there is a ten-minute walk to reach the house. The cost will be £25.00 to include morning coffee, entrance to Charleston and tea. A booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*, and you are welcome to bring a friend with you.

## Advance Notice

Please put the following in your diaries. There have been a few changes since the list in the previous *Newsletter*.

*18 July:* Patrick Frazer on the Ways (father and son) of Hampstead, printer, lithographers, author and artist. At Burgh House.

*10 August:* Annual Outing (see above)

*19 Sept:* Natasha McEnroe, on Dr Johnson in London. At the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

*17 Oct:* Launch of *Streets of St Pancras*. Venue to be announced.

*21 Nov:* Michael Ogden on the School Board for London in St Pancras. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

*12 Dec:* Photographing Camden, with a quiz, hosted by Aidan Flood.

## Changes in Tavistock Place: Mary Ward building for sale

The Mary Ward building in Tavistock Place is a Grade I listed building of 1898 by the then unknown architects Cecil Brewer and Dunbar Smith. It owes its listing to being one of the few remaining settlement buildings, providing a home for relatively well-to-do people and recreational and educational facilities for the relatively poor local people, run by the settlement residents in their spare time, assisted no doubt by the intellectuals of nearby Bloomsbury.

Brewer was a cousin of Ambrose Heal and a member of the Art-Workers' Guild, so that the building was furnished in the arts-and-crafts style and much of the furniture still remains (in daily use). It is a very cosy building with three fireplaces in the residents' sitting room (as well as central heating) – each fireplace in larger rooms is by a different Art Worker, such as Lethaby, Guy Dawber and FW Troup. Mrs Humphry (Mary) Ward wrote a popular novel, *Robert Elsmere*, based on the life of TH Green whose Christian ideas formed the basis for the settlement movement – the present library has the THG monogram on the fireplace and doorplates. Mary Ward was a great campaigner; she got the Duke of Bedford to donate the site and obtained most of the money for the settlement from Passmore Edwards who donated busts of great thinkers to the theatre – indeed in the early years the place was known as the Passmore Edwards Settlement.

The building ceased to be a settlement during the twentieth century and is now used by the National Institute for Social Work. You may have taken exami-

nations or attended dance classes there. Having failed to get funding for its plans to make the building more accessible for the disabled, the Institute has put the building on the market. The Mary Ward Trust has been formed and hopes that the new owners will be sympathetic to the building as the Institute has been and maintain access for the public to see the treasures of the larger rooms by regular public hirings, and the rest of the building on Open House Days.

Roger Cline

## A MYSTERY STANDING ORDER

The Membership Secretary, Roger Cline, writes: Building Societies have never got the hang of standing orders and present me with endless problems identifying the source of subscription payments. Does anyone who has received a subscription reminder with this *Newsletter* own up to a building society or bank account with the number P03315203? If so, please identify yourself and the address of the offending organisation so that I can allocate the payment to you and tear a strip off the standing order clerk. (Roger's address is Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH (tel: 7388 9889).

## Victorian Seven Dials

David Webb writes:

I've just finished reading the CHS publication *Victorian Seven Dials*, and there are a few points which you might find useful to note.

The photograph reproduced on p25 'Old clothes shop, Seven Dials', does not date from 1906, as per the caption, but was in fact taken almost 30 years earlier by the pioneer photographer of London street scenes, John Thomson. It originally appeared in Thomson's *Street Life in London*, issued in monthly parts in 1877, and thus very much closer to the date of the text, with notes by the journalist Adolphe Smith. Smith's text, in fact, enables the photograph to be identified as a second-hand clothes shop in Lumber Court, which also doubled as a pawnbrokers.

The illustration on p21 is neither undated nor unsourced. It is taken from *Unsentimental journeys: or, byways of the modern Babylon*, by James Greenwood, published in 1867. The plate in question is opposite p.125, at the start of the chapter 'The song bird market'. Again, the date is closer to the original manuscript than might be suspected.

The reference on the opposite page – p.20 – to a "hat commonly known as 'Muller cut down'" – has not been picked up. This refers to the first murder in a railway train in London, which took place in the previous year on 9 July 1864. Franz Muller battered Thomas Briggs to death in a railway carriage just outside Hackney Station, and threw his body onto the railway line. The evidence which led to Muller's arrest and eventual execution at Newgate turned on his identification from a top hat found in the carriage. Muller was found to have taken Briggs' top hat, which

he had cut down to the same height as his own. For many years, a 'Muller' became the recognised nickname for this kind of squat hat.

## THE RANULF ESTATE CONTINUED

I read with interest the comments about my neighbourhood in the last *Newsletter*. Some residents feel a certain identity crisis with their houses lying on the very fringes of Camden, and spilling over into adjacent Barnet. However, I've never heard the streets hereabout described as being either on the 'Ranulf Estate' or in 'South Hampstead'.

In the fifties and sixties estate agents identified the area as 'Hampstead NW2'. In *Toujours Cricklewood* by Alan Coren (1994), he described buying a Ranulf Road house a decade later:

I strolled to the end of the street and saw this big sign that said Cricklewood.

"In a sense, yes," said the agent, when I rang, "but it is definitely Hampstead borders. Walk to the other end of the street, you're in Hampstead." "West Hampstead," I said. "Exactly," said the agent.

Today, some visitors look at a map and say that while we're close to West Hampstead and Fortune Green, we're not really part of them. So far as the postal authorities are concerned, we're Cricklewood, as defined by the NW2 postcode. But for many years past estate agents have decided that all the streets lying between the Hendon Way and Ranulf Road, from the junction with Fortune Green Road and right down to Cricklewood Lane, make up the 'Hocroft Estate'. This description conveniently ignores the fact that the roads in Camden – part of Ranulf Road, Ardwick Road and Burgess Hill – were actually built on land owned by the Burgess family.

But in 2002, the Hocroft it is, to residents and estate agents alike!

Marianne Colloms

## THE LONDON MAZE

On Saturday 23 March the doors of the Bishopsgate Institute opened to reveal the first London Maze. Organised by the London and Home Counties Branch of the Local Studies Group of the Library Association, this was a display on 13 separate tables, of material about and published by a rather larger number of London history related bodies and societies, since several tables generously acted as hosts.

The Guildhall Library was there, as were London Metropolitan Archives, Camden History, Consignia – there will have to be a change of name – Kensington & Chelsea Community History Group (with photos of the Notting Hill Carnival which made for a colourful stall), Westminster, London Archive Users Forum (with GLAN), London at War Study Group, Harin-gey, PhotoLondon and the National Monuments Record.

Nobody knew how many people would turn up, whether we would be ignored or swamped – we feared the former but hoped for the latter and our hopes were rewarded. Over 300 people came and bought books. The day was officially launched by Ann Saunders who eloquently summed up the interest and appeal of local history research in London. Dr Andrea Tanner, Ian Maxted, Dr Cathy Ross and Katherine Burn gave lectures on various London subjects. Tea and coffee were served. Walks round Spitalfields were led by David Webb and William Tyler. David – marathon man – had to repeat his talk, so popular it was.

At the end of the day the London Topographical Society stall had sold £556 worth of publications – Roger Cline had had to leap on his bicycle to bring in more stock – we had one new member signed up and several more were considering joining. The organisers hope to lay out another Maze next year.

Lynne McNab and Ann Saunders

## The Gilbey photographs

Our member, Ann Eastman, writes:

I was very interested to see the two illustrations of Gilbeys in the last *Newsletter*. I have that book too, but a later version published in 1929 and retitled *Three Quarters of a Century of Successful Trade*.

Gilbeys was eventually subsumed by International Distillers & Vintners (now Diageo) and I worked for IDV for 20 years, until 1996, as corporate communications manager. My remit included producing an international magazine, and I was unofficial hoarder of all historical pictorial items (now held in archives in Scotland). At one point, I featured the unpublished memoirs of a long-since dead employee, A.G. Carver.

There are a couple of books about the Gilbeys, one by Alec Waugh and the other by Nicholas Faith. More recently, a member of the Gilbey family had another book written, *Gilbeys, Wine & Horses*, but much to his disappointment, I don't think it was exactly a best seller.

[Editor's note: We hope to publish extracts from Carver's memoirs in the next Newsletter]

## WHY HAMPSTEAD CHURCHYARD?

According to all information, John 'Longitude' Harrison lived in Red Lion Square in Holborn, although for some inexplicable reason he is buried in Hampstead Churchyard. Has anyone ever investigated the veracity of his London address, bearing in mind that there used to be a Red Lion Inn at Rosslyn Hill?

Curious, Hampstead.

## BURGH HOUSE HAPPENINGS

From 5 May to 4 August Hampstead Museum is displaying an exhibition entitled *Hampstead's Royal Connections*, planned to coincide with the Queen's Jubilee.

The Museum has recently received a bequest from Keith Fawkes which includes three round miniature views of the Heath. The artist is I. Lunn, but the Museum knows nothing about the artist or the date of the paintings. Can anyone help? The Museum has also been given a tranche of Mary Hill ephemera.

## A St Pancras Clock?

Mrs Marjorie Parker has sent this photograph of a large marble clock which she thinks may have come from St Pancras station. It weighs 9 stone and 8 pounds and is 3ft in length and 19½ inches high. It measures 11" across the clock face, which is white enamel with Roman numerals. It is inscribed Thompson & Vine, 5 & 6 Percival St. London.

She wonders if any member can positively identify it with St Pancras station.



This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 8PL (Tel: 020-7607 1628, Fax: 020-7609 6451, E-mail: richardson@historicalpublications.co.uk), to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (020 7586 4436), and the Treasurer is Marion Bennathan, 24 Murray Mews, NW1 9RJ. The Membership Secretary is Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH. The Publications Editor and the Editor of the *Camden History Review* is Dr Peter Woodford, 1 Akenside Road, NW3 5BS (020-7435 2088). The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 192  
Jul 2002

## The Ways of Hampstead

*Thurs. 18 July, 7.30pm*

*Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

Handsome and sought-after volumes on the history of London are the three books published at the end of the 19th century called *The Reliques of Old London*. They contain numerous illustrations drawn straight on to lithographic stone by Thomas R. Way. The books were printed by Thomas Way of Wellington Street in Covent Garden. The two men concerned, father and son, lived in Hampstead and are the subject of July's talk to be given by Patrick Frazer.

## The Annual Outing

*Saturday, 10 August*

There are still some seats available on the coach for the Annual Outing which this year goes to Charleston, a house with many Bloomsbury associations, and to Lewes. A booking form was enclosed with the May *Newsletter*. If you have lost the form or want more details, please ring the organiser, Jean Archer on 7435 5490.

## The Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting was very well attended, not so much for the business part of course, but for the excellent talk given by Robert Thorne on the history of the St Pancras/King's Cross railway complex and the current developments. Already many changes have been made in the area, but these are minor compared to what is to come when the long disused acres are brought to productive life.

The Chairman in his report mentioned the varied state of local history departments around London. Whereas some were well staffed, such as that of Camden, others were run very part-time indeed. And yet one or two boroughs had spent a lot of time and energy putting the bulk of their picture collection on to the Internet, but were open only for a few hours for researchers to put information around the pictures.

The officers and Council members elected for the following year were as follows:

PRESIDENT: Christopher Elrington  
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr Ann Saunders  
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson  
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade  
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay  
TREASURER: Marion Bennathan  
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roger Cline  
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford  
PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Roger Cline  
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Dr Peter Woodford  
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Joan Barraclough  
ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes  
HON AUDITOR: Audrey Nottman  
Council members: Sheila Ayres, Steve Denford, Ruth Hayes, Michael Ogden, Sue Palmer, Dick Weindling, Robin Woolven.

Our Treasurer, Marion Bennathan, indicated that because of other responsibilities she would very soon like to give up the post. Volunteers for Treasurer are requested!

## ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put the following in your diaries:

*19 Sept:* Natasha McEnroe, on Dr Johnson in London. at the Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

*17 Oct:* Launch of *Streets of St Pancras*, at St Mary the Virgin church, Eversholt Street, NW1.

*21 Nov:* Michael Ogden on the School Board for London in St Pancras. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

*12 Dec:* Photographing Camden, by Aidan Flood.

*16 Jan:* Brian Bowers on the history of street and domestic lighting in Camden. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

## A Celebration of Highgate New Town

This *Newsletter* may just reach members before an exhibition on Highgate New Town closes (on July 13th). It is on show at the Chester Road library, Chester Road, N19 (closed on Friday, but open Saturday 10-5). Photographs portray the area before redevelopment in the 1860s, the massive rebuilding of the 1970s (still in progress), the Library itself, Brookfield School, and street parties in 1945 and 1953.

## WHY HAMPSTEAD CHURCHYARD?

In answer to 'Curious of Hampstead' in the last *Newsletter*, Christopher Wade writes:

There is ample evidence that John Harrison lived and died in Red Lion Square, but it is an entertaining thought that he chose to be buried in Hampstead because he was a regular at the Red Lion Tavern on Rosslyn Hill.

I tried hard to find out why he (or possibly his family) picked on Hampstead when compiling our survey and book *Buried in Hampstead* (see page 19), and I later queried it with the author of *Longitude*, Dava Sobel, but she had also searched in vain.

My conclusion was that as graveyards in the Holborn area were then either full or fearful, Harrison chose a picturesque hillside in Hampstead – as did many others at the time, preferring, as one said, "a tomb with a view".

PS. Tomb-lovers will be glad to hear that Hampstead Parish Church has just added our graveyard index to their website: [www.hampsteadparishchurch.com.uk](http://www.hampsteadparishchurch.com.uk)

## A HOUSE ON A SHAFT

Bryan Diamond writes:

My flat in Fitzjohns Avenue is built over a capped ventilation shaft of the tunnel opened in 1860 by the Hampstead Junction Railway. The Plan (at HLRO), referred to in the enabling Act of 1853, shows the tunnel 1220 yards long, but not any shafts; the cross-section shows the shaft must be over 100 feet deep. The OS map of 1870 has the shaft in what was then a field; when a house was built in 1912 on the Avenue, the shaft, diameter about 2.5m, emerged behind its garage. A contract (referred to in the sale of the plot in 1912) between Maryon Wilson and the Railway in 1861 presumably related to the shaft. The cap must have been added after coal-fired engines were discontinued in about 1920.

I would like to know details of the dimensions and construction of the shaft, whether any official permission was needed for it, and when it was built and capped.

## The Railways of Camden

Now on sale is our latest publication, *The Railways of Camden*, by Keith Scholey. It traces the history of passenger and goods travel in what is now Camden from the first arrival of steam locomotives at Chalk Farm to the latest developments in the electrified lines and Underground trains that criss-cross the borough. It can be obtained by mail from Roger Cline at Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place WCH 9SH (020 7388 9889), for £6.95 plus £1 p & p or purchased at the Local Studies Library, Theobalds Road or, of course, at our meetings.

## Web Pages Launched

The Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre is pleased to announce the recent launch of its very own web pages. Now from the comfort of your home, office or Internet café you can find out even more about our collection before paying a visit. The web address is: [www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies](http://www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies)

The pages include information about the Centre, a detailed guide to our collections and a list of publications available from our bookshop. They also offer advice on how to use the Centre's resources to trace your family tree, research the history of your house and discover more about Camden's history. Links will also guide you to many other local history, family history and archive websites.

## Accessible Archaeology

With the opening of Mortimer Wheeler House on 7 February, Europe's largest archaeological archive became accessible to the public. The conversion of this Hackney warehouse by the Regent's Canal into a state-of-the-art research centre had taken over a year and cost £5 million. Opening the centre, former British Museum director Sir David Wilson commended it as a model to be followed by other museums; though he also confessed to a slight nostalgia for the old style museum store – the unplumbed basement depths where treasures spilled from decayed chests and where crafty technicians ran illicit cycle-repair businesses.

The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre has over 10km of shelves, stacked with 120,000 boxes which contain over a million finds – the oldest of them being a 20,000-year-old flint tool. Ranging from microscopic plant pollen to sections of a medieval boat, there are finds from all over the 600 square miles of Greater London, including many of the most famous archaeological sites: the Temple of Mithras, the Rose and Globe theatres, and the Roman Amphitheatre.

Societies or colleges can use facilities for finds-processing, and they can book rooms for meetings. The main research room, the Waller Room, takes its name from a benefactor whose generous bequest, secured through the City of London Archaeological Society, paid for many of the public facilities.

Mortimer Wheeler House is also home to the Museum of London Archaeology Service, the Museum of London Specialist Services (experts in archaeological conservation, finds and environmental study) and the Museum of London social and working History Collections.

Mortimer Wheeler House is at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1. It is open Mon-Fri 9am-8.30pm, and on the first and third Saturday of each month 10-4. The telephone is 020 7490 8447. (Website is <http://www.museumoflondon.org/laarc/>)

## The Carver memoirs

In the last *Newsletter* we mentioned that a former employee of Gilbey's, the distillers and vintners once so prominent in Camden Town, had left some memoirs of the firm. Here are some extracts from them, reproduced from the house magazine of IDV (which absorbed Gilbey's), edited by Ann Eastman:

'It was the year 1856, the Crimean War had just ended and two young men, Walter and Alfred Gilbey, were searching for a way to earn a living. On the advice of their older brother, Henry, they decided to start as wine-merchants specializing in colonial wines which had been placed in a favourable position by the reduction of duty compared with foreign wines.

Cellars were taken at the corner of Berwick Street and Oxford Street and the firm of W & A Gilbey made its bow to the British public in February 1857. By 1859 these premises were found to be too small and a move was made to 357 Oxford Street with cellars being taken under the Princess's Theatre opposite. The firm's next bold step electrified both the tradespeople on Oxford Street and the wine trade when it was announced in 1867 that Gilbey's had taken the Pantheon as headquarters [a site now occupied by Marks and Spencer's]. This fine building, originally designed by Wyatt in 1772, was burnt down in 1792 with only the stout walls remaining. It was rebuilt and eventually reopened as a Bazaar and Fine Art Gallery. When Gilbey's obtained the lease, alterations were made transforming it into a grand office with store rooms and cellars below.

Just at this time (1860) a bombshell issued from Mr Gladstone's government, reducing the duty on French wines from 12 shillings to 2 shillings per dozen. This dealt a death-blow to the popularity of Cape wines. The firm decided to allow their customers the difference in price due to reduced duty. This was a splendid advertisement and proved the stepping-stone to still further success.

Taking advantage of the introduction of off-licences for grocers and other traders brought in by Gladstone at the same time, they launched out in 1861 to the town and country grocers and appointed agents in all the principal towns. This proved another striking success, and it was again necessary to move to more commodious premises. The firm secured a large warehouse and cellarage at Camden Town from the London and North Western Railway at Chalk Farm goods yard, including the Round House (an old engine shed) for storing hundreds of casks of whisky, both Scotch and Irish.

### The Pantheon in 1870

The centre portion of the first floor office had stand-up desks with high stools for clerks – all men. At the far end was the spacious board room, semi-circular in appearance with handsome pillars of Corinthian design and a very lofty domed roof. The sample room

and a private office for interviewing agents were to the side while the centre area, immediately in front of the boardroom, was railed off with swing gates in the centre. Here, four large office tables were provided for agents coming to pay their accounts. Many had no banking accounts and brought notes and gold in payment. Agents from distant parts of the country would send up £5 notes cut in half, one half sent first, the second sent the next day and it was one of my jobs to stick the two parts together with stamp paper.

The big banks would not take accounts of small traders at that time until the Lodon & South Western Bank broke down this rule and so enabled the small retail tradesman in a country town to have a banking account.

In 1870 there was no telephone available, but an instrument called a Wheatstone transmitter was installed. It consisted of a circular disc with keys surrounding the outside rim with letters of the alphabet. Contact was made by turning a handle which was kept moving while the message was spelt out by pressing down each key. This rotation operated through a private wire to Camden where a similar instrument received it. A telephone was installed in 1877 by the private firm The Telephone Co. which became part of the National Telephone Co. in 1894. They supplied our first telephonist who became our employee only when the government took over in 1912.

The printing room took up all of the ground floor with machinery – printing presses and cutting and type-casting machines. Here all of the stationery for office and stores was prepared, price lists and millions of circulars were printed, office books were made and bound, and the famous bull's eye window bills, at one time the sign manual of Gilbey's agency, were printed on a colour printing machine.

The room above the printing room was occupied with cork cutting and printing machines worked by girls. Every cork had an impression of a red seal giving the brand of wine. Underneath the printing room was a fine range of cellars, extending under the whole of the building from the entrance in Poland Street to the pavement in Oxford Street. In 1879 they were filled with old ports and clarets of vintage type, and with cases and bottles. However, as it was found that the cellars were too dry and wines did not keep well, they were ultimately removed to Camden Town. Good use was made of these cellars during the War when the inhabitants of the adjoining street (Poland Street) used to come and shelter there during the raids.'

*(Alfred Goodwin Carver, born in 1870, joined Gilbey's at the age of 14 in 1870, as an accountant – he eventually became chief accountant and was succeeded in the post by his son and grandson. He retired in 1930.)*

## ORGANIZING SLIDES

Camden's Local Studies and Archives Centre in Theobalds Road has a large collection of slides which is often used by speakers to illustrate talks. However, the listing of these slides has become rather haphazard and difficult to use, and it would be useful if a member could get them into some semblance of order under the guidance of Aidan Flood. What is proposed is that the list, largely hand-written at the moment, and with many gaps, should be typed out properly on a word-processor and with the facility for users to key in search words so that slides may be found without having to read the whole list. The organiser would reassess the illustrations, elaborating on the content, perhaps adding key-word descriptions such as 'trams', 'pillar boxes' etc.

If any member is interested in doing this valuable work, under the supervision of Aidan, please telephone him at the Centre on 020 7974 6342.

## THOMAS KEARNAN PARKES

On p. 40 of *Bloomsbury Past* by Richard Tames, there is a painting of St Pancras New Church in 1822 by Thomas Kearnan. Ms Sue Drury is very interested in this:

'My great-grandfather was a Thomas Kearnan Parkes. I have knowledge of him in Bromley-by-Bow in the mid 19th century and the family is known to have moved from St Pancras around 1840 and I believe there may be a connection with St Pancras church.'

Ms Drury is therefore keen to establish a link between Thomas Kearnan Parkes and Thomas Kearnan. Can anyone help? She is at 7 Lulworth Rd, Welling, Kent, DA16 3LQ

## A CONSTABLE WALK

The curator of Hampstead Museum will be leading a walk of Constable's Hampstead on Friday 9 August. This walk has proved very popular. It will pass places that Constable lived in as well as viewing scenes that he painted and buildings that he would have been familiar with. Wear strong shoes and meet at Hampstead Underground Station at 11am. The fee is £3.

## BEATING THE BOUNDS

Beating the Bounds of Camden, led by Malcolm Holmes and the Mayor, Cllr Judith Pattison, will take place on Saturday 14 September, in aid of the Mayor's Camden Charity Trust Fund. In all the walk is 16-17 miles, but you can just do stretches that appeal to you. The route will take you past a Romany caravan, an early 19th century Diorama, a deer enclosure, Wyldes Farm on the Heath, the jousting ground of the Knights Templar, homes of Dickens, Coleridge, Priestley, Menuhin, Blake and Hogarth, along Roman roads, and a place where in 1814 people died in a flood of beer.

With panoramic views of London, walks along country paths and the chance to explore narrow lanes, you will see parts of the borough that usually only locals

know well. Frequent stops will be made along the way in some of the old pubs. And at the Flask in Highgate you can be sworn in as a Freeman of Highgate during the ceremony of Swearing on the Horns, a curious custom already established in 1638. The Horns themselves come from a now defunct Highgate pub called the Cooper's Arms, and are lent by the Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.

In the past the custom of Beating the Bounds was carried out by parish officials, the vicar and several older residents, aided by charity schoolchildren, who made sure that boundary stones were still in position and that no encroachments on the parish's territory had occurred. Many of the stones are still in position.

For further information contact Malcolm Holmes on 020 7974 6342, or the Mayor's office on 020 7974 1989. The walk will start from Camden Town Hall in Judd Street at 9am.

## THE BOSTON FAMILY

Terry Boston-Marsh is looking for information on his Boston ancestors who came from Kentish Town and Hackney. He writes:

My great-great-grandparents were William Boston (b1831 in Middlesex) and Elizabeth Knights (b 1840 in Therfield, Herts). The 1881 census has my Boston ancestors living at 15 Durnford Terrace, Kentish Town.

Their children were William John (b.1865); John George (b.1867); Annie Elizabeth (b.1873 - my great-grandmother); Robert Frederick (b.1874); Amelia (b.1875); Martha Mary Ann (b.1878); Florence Emily (b.1880). My great-grandmother was living at 13 Tovey Place, Kentish Town in 1901. She was then 28 years old, a domestic servant and unmarried. She had a baby boy on 5 March 1901 (my grandfather) and registered his birth naming him Sydney Harold Boston. He was adopted shortly afterwards by a family in Kent.

## PUBLIC HOUSES IN BARNET

Until 1 September there is an exhibition at the Church Farmhouse Museum on Greyhound Hill, Hendon of old public houses in Barnet. There were coaching inns like the Red Lion at High Barnet on the old route north from London. Or there was the Five Bells in East Finchley, once frequented by bare-knuckle prize fighters.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society. The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 8PL (Tel: 020-7607 1628, Fax: 020-7609 6451, E-mail: richardson@historicalpublications.co.uk), to whom all contributions should be sent. The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (020 7586 4436), The Treasurer is Marion Bennathan, 24 Murray Mews, NW1 9RJ. The Membership Secretary is Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH. The Publications Editor and the Editor of the *Camden History Review* is Dr Peter Woodford, 1 Akenside Road, NW3 5BS (020-7435 2088). The Society is a registered charity - number 261044



# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 193

Sep 2002

## Dr Johnson in London

Thurs. 19 Sept, 7.30pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

(The Forum Room)

235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2

(Bottom end of Gower Street)

Dr Johnson (1709-84) had many talents, though his chief claim to immortality was his creation of the first comprehensive dictionary of the English language. Born in Lichfield, he came to London in 1737 determined to earn his living by writing, and was soon a frequent contributor to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, and was also responsible for the founding of another magazine called *The Rambler*. The *Dictionary*, even with the aid of eight assistants, took him eight years to complete: it did not make him rich, but it added to his growing reputation.

His life in London is the subject of our September talk, to be given by Natasha McEnroe, curator of the Johnson Museum in Gough Square. Most of his London life was spent in houses around Fleet Street and Covent Garden, though we do have note of him at Priory Lodge, Froggnal in 1748 where he wrote most of *The Vanity of Human Wishes*. He came to Hampstead several times before 1752, partly to allow his wife some country air. He commented: 'One man can learn more in a journey by the Hampstead coach than another can in making the grand tour of Europe.'

## Streets of St Pancras: Somers Town and the railway lands

Thurs 17 Oct 7.30pm

Hall of St Mary's, Somers Town church, Eversholt Street  
NW1

(opposite the side of Euston station)

Our indefatigable streets research group, having polished off Holborn, has turned to old St Pancras. The result of their researches is to be published in October. It deals with the area between York Way and Eversholt Street, bounded on the south by Euston Road and by Crowndale Road on the north. This area includes the medieval village of St Pancras that once adjoined the old parish church. The heavily Victorianised version of that church still sits on a knoll above Pancras Road,

and is now adjacent to the massive engineering works in progress to accommodate the Channel Tunnel rail link. The area has many claims to fame, including a smallpox hospital, the Polygon, the first apartment block for artisans, a German gymnasium, the massive gasworks of the Imperial Company, the Regent's Canal and, of course, two great railway stations.

Members of the group will at our October talk present aspects of their research into this historic area.

### ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

21 Nov: Michael Ogden on the School Board for London in St Pancras. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

12 Dec: Photographing Camden, by Aidan Flood.

16 Jan: Dr Brian Bowers on the history of street and domestic lighting in Camden. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

20 Feb: Roger Bowdler of English Heritage on the decay and resurrection of Camden's burial grounds. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

20 March: Gillian Tindall on Wenceslaus Hollar, 'The man who drew London'. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

17 April: Prof. Gary Crossley, on the History of the Central School of Speech and Drama at the Embassy Theatre, Swiss Cottage. At the Embassy Theatre.

15 May: Visit to the Museum of London's Archaeological Resource Centre at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1

19 June: AGM and Diane Clements on the History of the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street. At Freemasons' Hall.

## A New Treasurer

As mentioned in our last *Newsletter*, Marion Bennathan was anxious to give up her post as Treasurer of the Society, and we are pleased to announce that Angela Bowen has now been appointed our new Treasurer. We would like to thank Marion for all her work during her term of office.

You are reminded, though, that membership subscriptions still go to Roger Cline, our Membership Secretary, at the address on p4 of this *Newsletter*.

## Country Home for 'Bloomsberries'

Charleston was the main destination for this year's Camden History Society outing. The one-time Sussex farmhouse was not the retreat of Leonard and Virginia Woolf as is often believed – they lived at Rodmell, a few miles away. Charleston was rented by Clive Bell and his wife, Vanessa, Virginia's sister. Duncan Grant spent much of his time with them and others of the Bloomsbury Group used it. Maynard Keynes, the economist, rented a room until he married a dancer. This financial help made it possible to keep the house going. It is today maintained by a trust formed when the last of the group died as late as 1978.

CHS members were taken round in groups of eleven by most capable guides. Descriptions were given in great detail of the features and contents of the house. It dates from the time of the first Tudors, walls being of lath and plaster. These were stripped and covered in wallpaper of Bloomsbury design. A bedroom was converted from a former dairy and a studio from the chicken run. All of the three tenants were painters, while Duncan Grant also created some sculptures and was a potter, having lived in Staffordshire at one time.

As might be expected, the contents were fascinating. There were many paintings – one could have wished for them to be better lit – chairs from the famous Omega workshops, a rug and cross-stitch run and a wonderful French bed to mention only a few items. The house was, at first, very primitive and uncomfortable, but electricity and modern bathrooms were installed later. Before leaving, it was possible to have a quick look at a lovely pond and beautiful garden.

A local church, St Michael and all Angels, contains many paintings. These were commissioned by the notable Bishop Bell (no relation it seems) then at Chichester. A brief visit was paid. Informed opinion seems to be that the reredos and a crucifixion were remarkable as were decorations round the pulpit. Everything else was satisfactory but had been done in a conscientious rather than deeply religious spirit.

The afternoon was spent less happily in Lewes. A heavy thundershower came on just when it was time for two guided walks, reducing numbers taking part in these. Nevertheless, it was possible to learn much about Lewes. This is a typical country town with some fine Georgian architecture, antique and book shops. Famous people connected with it included Simon de Montfort, Anne of Cleves and Thomas Paine. At the White Hart Inn, where cream tea was served, a notice at the front door states that Paine expounded his theories there. Paine was an advanced thinker of the 18th century with progressive views, and is credited with having greatly influenced the preparation and issuing of the Declaration of Independence.

Joan Barraclough

## William Walton in Hampstead

The dates of the composer William Walton's sojourn in Hampstead, 1935-48, given in *The Streets of Hampstead* (all editions), turn out to have been either a misunderstanding or a misprint for 1945-8. The mystery of his connection with Hampstead has been investigated in this year of Walton's centenary by Gerald Isaaman, and finally cleared up by Malcolm Holmes, resorting to that source of reliable facts, the rate books. According to Gerry's article in the *Camden New Journal* for 4 April 2002, he moved into 10 Hollyberry Lane only after World War II and left it in June 1948, taking some of his furniture with him. His widow Lady (Susanna) Walton is reported as saying that the cottage in Hollyberry Lane must have been tiny, as the furniture in question was minute.

## Leader of the Pack

Those of you interested in the history of Camden Town will be pleased to learn that the Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library has recently acquired a publication detailing the historical development of one of the more remarkable firms to have operated in the area. *Goodall's Playing Cards: The Family and Firm 1820-1922* by Michael H. Goodall (2000) gives an absorbing insight into the growth of the family firm, Charles Goodall & Son. At its peak the firm produced some 2.5 million packs of cards per year and employed over 1000 people.

The company moved to three houses in Royal College Street in the 1830s and built a small factory in the gardens which ran down to the river Fleet. Eventually the site of their enlarged factory buildings was to become a Post Office parcels depot.

## Transported for stealing Camden Town pewter pots

A new member, Gordon Thomas of Lara, Victoria, Australia, has sent us an email to give us details of the conviction and transportation of his great-great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Bumpstead, for stealing pewter pots from the Black Cap and Wheatsheaf pubs in Camden Town in 1830. For stealing these five pots she was transported for seven years with her six children to Hobart, Tasmania. The Old Bailey record of the trial on 15 April 1830 gives the names of the publicans of the Black Cap and Wheatsheaf as Edward (or Edmund) Butt and James Scull respectively.

Licensing records show the Mother Black Cap as far back as 1751, although it might earlier have been called the Halfway House. The Wheatsheaf, on the corner with Plender Street (then called King Street) is first noted in 1792.

The current mock-Tudor edifice, once the Wheatsheaf, has recently been renamed Belushi's of Covent Garden.

## Local Exhibitions

The exhibition depicting the development of Highgate New Town, mentioned in our last *Newsletter*, has now moved to the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre in Theobalds Road. It is there until 24 September.

It will be followed by an exhibition of images of 15 'black history makers' who have lived or worked in Camden. This will be at the Centre from 30 September until 29 October. Opening times are Mondays and Thursdays 10-7, Tuesdays and Fridays 10-6, Saturdays 10-1 and 2-5. Closed Wednesdays.

## Swearing on the Horns

This is to remind members that on 14 September the traditional 'Swearing on the Horns' ceremony will take place at The Flask, Highgate as part of the annual Beating of the Bounds (see last *Newsletter*). The Swearing custom was already well established by 1638 and by 1829 19 pubs in the village upheld the custom using a variety of animal horns under which the oath was sworn.

For further information contact Malcolm Holmes on 7974 6342, or the Mayor's office on 7974 1989. The full walk will start from Camden Town Hall in Judd Street at 9am.

## Our New Website

The Society's new website, which is now up and running, is <http://www.cityneighbours.com/groups/chs/chsnews>

## St Pancras Chambers Open House

St Pancras Chambers (the old Midland Grand Hotel) will be open again this year, possibly for the last time, as part of the London Open House Weekend, when buildings are open free of charge. Last year it was one of the most successful openings in London and 8,497 people visited it.

This year it will be even more special as it will include an exhibition of lighting entitled 'Shine'. This will be a static exhibition by conceptual artists, including Tracey Emin, taking place on the Grand Staircase and other parts of the building's interior. The opening hours will also be very much longer, opening at 10am and last admission 9.15pm, with closure at 10pm.

If you intend to visit you are strongly recommended to arrive early in the day to avoid the long queues that form by 10.30-11am. Volunteers are also needed to help with supervision of the visitors between 9am to 10pm. If you can help for a morning, afternoon or evening, or longer please contact Malcolm Holmes at Camden Local Studies (7974 6242) or on email: [malcolmholmes@camden.gov.uk](mailto:malcolmholmes@camden.gov.uk)

## Menon plaque on the wrong house?

During some recent research for a member of the public, Aidan Flood of Camden Local Studies discovered that the plaque to Krishna Menon, the Indian politician, on 57 Camden Square, is probably on the wrong house. During the time that Menon was on St Pancras borough council in the 1930s and 40s, he gave 165a Strand as his address, but for the years 1938 and 1940 he gave No 7, The Terrace, Camden Square. A search of the voters' list for this time shows him clearly registered at this address. As this house still exists today and has not been renumbered (though it is nowadays called Camden Terrace, Camden Square), it would appear that the plaque was put on the wrong house.

## LOYALISTS IN HIGHGATE

Joan Hardinges is currently researching into some American Loyalists who settled in Highgate during the American War of Independence between 1776 and 1783.

Briefly, Commodore Joshua Loring and his wife Mary (née Curtis) arrived from Boston, Massachusetts, in 1776, followed by their daughter, Hannah Winslow, and family in 1778. Other Loyalists she has discovered in Highgate are Captain Adino Paddock, John Joy, Henry Laughton, Robert Jarvis, John Erving, John Gore, Revd William Felton, and Revd John Troutbeck and their families. Some of these stayed for a short time and others remained for the rest of their lives.

She has researched into the Loyalists' correspondence in the Audit Office Series at the PRO, Thomas Hutchinson's diary, Edward Oxnard's diary, and many other leaflets and books. However, if anyone descends from these families or has any information on these or other Loyalists in Highgate, she would be pleased to hear from them. Her address is 2 Adley Street, Clapton E5 0DY

## ROMAN REMAINS

In June part of the Roman amphitheatre discovered on the site of the Guildhall Art Gallery as late as 1988, was opened to the public. For a building that was once large enough to accommodate as many as the Royal Albert Hall, it is extraordinary that its whereabouts was unknown until quite recently. Indeed, remains of it were only discovered during an excavation that was targeted on the medieval Guildhall chapel.

The amphitheatre remains may be seen Monday to Saturday, 10-5, and on Sunday 12-4.

More Roman material has also been discovered in Southwark where the largest Roman cemetery on that side of the river has been excavated. Some 163 burials have been unearthed, preserved beneath the cellar of a warehouse near America Street. The majority were of adults interred in coffins between the mid-2nd and late 3rd centuries.



The gymnasium at the North London Collegiate School in Camden Road.

## The North London Collegiate School

The North London Collegiate School now resides at Canons, but it began in humble circumstances at 46 Camden Street in 1850. Founded by the young Frances Mary Buss, it sought to educate girls in a broad curriculum and in the event it was Miss Buss and the redoubtable Miss Beale (who founded Cheltenham College) who were largely responsible for the strides made in women's education and their acceptance at universities.

At the time girls of the middle-class received, on the whole, only education deemed necessary to turn them into ornamental wives. Working class girls, on the other hand, were taught only domestic skills. Therefore Miss Buss's project to give girls an education usually only bestowed on boys, was a landmark. And so it was recognised by people as illustrious as Dickens and F.D. Maurice, both of whom did much to support the growth of the school. Locally, her most important supporter was the Rev. David Laing, who, among many other activities, was Secretary of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution which erected premises (still there today) in Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town. Miss Buss also founded the Camden School for Girls and eventually the North London Collegiate moved to new buildings in Sandall Road/Camden Road, while the Camden School went to the then empty Governesses' Institution in Kentish Town.

The above illustration comes from a folder, recently acquired by Roger Cline, of old photographs of the Sandall Road building. It is signed by Miss Buss and is presented to her brother Octavius Buss. Inside the folder is a memorial brochure issued to commemorate her death in 1894.

## The Man who drew London

Scarcely a general or 17th-century history of London is published without an illustration by the Czech artist Wenceslaus Hollar. There are marvellous engravings of the Piazza, Covent Garden, the New River works at Clerkenwell, old St Paul's, many of Westminster, the Tower of London, panoramas and perspectives, all of them beautifully drawn with confident lines. Typical of the charm and strength of his work are the two illustrations of Arundel House in the Strand, home of the Earl of Arundel, Thomas Howard, an early patron of Hollar's work.

Surprisingly little is known about Hollar and it is therefore welcome that a book by Gillian Tindall (a CHS member) is to be published in September, bringing together much of the material that is known about him. She plots his travels on the continent and his work in London in a very readable account of his life.

Gillian will be giving a talk to the Society on Hollar on 20 March.

*The Man who Drew London, by Gillian Tindall. 242 pp, many illustrations, hardback. Published by Chatto & Windus, £16.99. ISBN 0 70116968 0*

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

The Editor is John Richardson, 32 Ellington Street, N7 8PL (Tel: 7607 1628, Fax: 7609 6451, E-mail: richardson@historicalpublications.co.uk), to whom all contributions should be sent.

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The Membership Secretary is Roger Cline,

Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH, (7388 9889)

The Publications Editor and the Editor of the *Camden History Review* is Dr Peter Woodford, 1 Akenside Road, NW3 5BS (7435 2088).

Our website: <http://www.cityneighbours.com/groups/chs/chsnews>

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

# newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 194

Nov 2002

## The School Board in St Pancras

*Thurs. 21 November, 7.30pm  
Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church  
(The Forum Room)  
235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2  
(Bottom end of Gower Street)*

Forster's Act of 1870 that promoted the establishment of elementary schools, funded by the government, was the most important milestone in education during the Victorian era. A School Board for London was created which tackled the huge backlog of inadequacy with enormous energy – many of the results of their efforts are still to be seen around London. The conspicuous new school buildings, designed by E. Robson, still decorate many Camden areas and were the first purpose-built schools the general public had experienced.

Even the establishment of the Board itself was a milestone, in that it was a much more democratic body than we had seen before at local level, with a wider spread of candidates – including women – and even a secret ballot. To confound the sceptics the largest vote in any of the elections for the first Board went to a woman – Dr Elizabeth Garrett.

The Board's functions were taken over by the London County Council in 1904, and it is the 34 years of the Board's activities in St Pancras that is the subject for Michael Ogden's talk in November.

## Photographing Camden

*Thurs. 12 December, 7.30pm  
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3*

Members who attended last December's meeting at which Aidan Flood, of Camden's Local Studies and Archives Centre, dealt with some of the photographic surveys of Camden territory, will remember that it was a fascinating evening. This December Aidan will be expanding into other aspects of the photographic riches in the archives.

## REVISING THE ACCOUNTS

Those members who attended the AGM in June will probably remember that although the Society's accounts for the previous financial year were approved, there were some queries which needed resolution. It was felt by your Council that as we are a registered charity it was necessary that an outside, independent auditor should be appointed to oversee the fine-tuning of last year's figures. Hopefully the amended version will be available by the time of the December meeting. As the Charity Commissioners require us to have our accounts in with them that month, we propose to deal with this matter at a special general meeting before the talk at Burgh House on 12 December. Copies of the accounts will be available at the meeting.

## Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

*16 Jan:* Dr Brian Bowers on the history of street and domestic lighting in Camden. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

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*15 May:* Visit to the Museum of London's Archaeological Resource Centre at 46 Eagle Wharf Road, N1

*19 June:* AGM and Diane Clements on the History of the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street. At Freemasons' Hall.

## THE ANNUAL CLOSURE

Members should please note that the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library will be closed for a week in December so that staff can undertake a number of tasks that cannot be done while the Centre is open. These include sorting and listing archives and other collections in the strong room so that they can be made available to researchers. The Centre will be closed from Monday 2 December until Saturday 7 December inclusive. It will re-open on Monday 9 December.

## DIRK BOGARDE AND HIS FAMILY

John Coldstream writes:

I am working on the official life of the late (Sir) Dirk Bogarde, who was born in Kilburn in 1921 and whose family lived in the borough of Hampstead for the first few years of the decade, before moving south of the river. They later moved back, to Brent, and Bogarde went to University College School (1931-4).

I realise that apart from John Best, whom I have been to see in West End Lane, there will be few who have not moved away and who can help with a first-hand account of what life in the West End Lane/Goldhurst Terrace area was like during the period immediately after the 1914-18 war; fewer still who would remember the Van den Bogaerde family. However, perhaps one of your members could point me towards any published material which manages to combine historical accuracy with colour.

I also wonder if anyone would recall, or has written about, a Mr Bernard Thompson, who ran a private tutor's at 1 Kemplay Road in the late '20s and early '30s.

Mr Coldstream has not supplied an ordinary address, only an email: [jcoldstream@dial.pipex.com](mailto:jcoldstream@dial.pipex.com)

## HENRY COURTNEY SELOUS

Selous (1801-90), a lesser-known painter of the Victorian age, had a brief moment of local attention in 1983 when Camden Council, at the request of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, changed the name of Selous Street in Camden Town to Mandela Street – the organisation had moved into the street and considered that the Selous name, notorious in Africa, was an embarrassment to them. The Selous in their case, Frederick Courtney Selous, was, together with Rhodes, one of the more ruthless in carving up that continent in the name of Empire.

The Camden Selous, whose most famous painting

was *Opening of the Great Exhibition by Queen Victoria on 1st May 1851*, lived at various addresses in the area, including 10 Bayham Street, 5 Camden Street, 41 Gloucester Road (the present Gloucester Avenue), and Wentworth Place, Hampstead, which is now, of course, Keats House in Downshire Hill. He lived there 1835-1838 in the Dilke/Brawne part of the present house, soon after the coverage of a diary of Selous's recently discovered by Carol Conquist – it deals with the years 1833-34. A transcript of that diary has now been lodged in the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre.

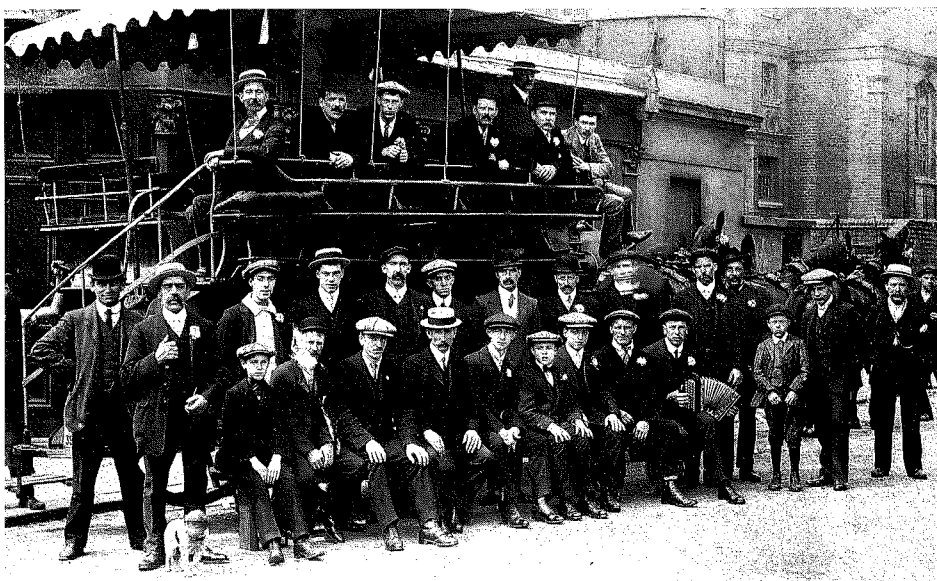
## THE LAMAS CONFERENCE

This year's Local History Conference, organised by the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, is on Saturday 16 November, 10am-5pm, at the Museum of London Lecture Theatre. Its theme this year is 'Buying and Selling in Metropolitan London'. It includes a paper to be given by our own Caroline Cooper, on the changing retail outlets in Primrose Hill. Other papers are: 'Shops and Trading Buildings in London 1200-1700' (John Schofield), 'Shopping in Late Seventeenth-Century London' (Claire Walsh), 'Distance shopping in the Eighteenth Century' (Nancy Cox), 'Shopping for Luxuries in Eighteenth-Century London' (Helen Clifford), a comparative study of Harvey Nichols and Harrods (Alan Cox), 'Retail Trade in Medieval Pinner and Harrow' (Patricia Clarke) and David Greig and Sainsburys (Brian Bloice).

Tickets are £5 to non members, which includes afternoon tea. Please apply to The Local History Conference, 36 Church Road, West Drayton, Middx UB7 7PX.

## HAMPSTEAD PHOTOGRAPHS

From the 8th November until 9th February there will be an exhibition at Hampstead Museum at Burgh House of photographs of Hampstead 1995-2001 by the well-known local photographer, Dorothy Bohm.



*This untitled postcard has, in pencil written on the back, the words Hawley Crescent. Any suggestions about this charabanc outing?*

## Pond and Pipes in Belsize

In 1679 Belsize House (near Belsize village) obtained a supply of water from the manor pond and the conveyance system may be of interest.

The pond, a property of the Manor of Belsize (held by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster), stretched down Rosslyn Hill for sixty-six yards from near the middle of Thurlow Road and was partly opposite the present police station. Although nearly six hundred yards outside the garden wall, it counted as part of the grounds of Belsize House. This was occupied in 1679 by Lord Wotton, tenant of the entire Belsize estate and in effect lord of the manor. After his death in 1682 the mansion was always occupied by sub-tenants but it still kept the pond.

From the pond, pipes led down the gentle slope towards London. At first, because of rising ground to the west, they probably ran just outside the wide verge then a feature of Rosslyn Hill. The nature of these pipes is not known – they might originally have been wooden or terracotta; at Houghton Hall in 1732 (see below) they were lead.

Below Lyndhurst Road, with the ground to the west becoming level, the course of the pipes is uncertain. From John Grove's map of 1714 (Westminster Abbey 12450) it seems likely they diverged from Rosslyn Hill to pass through the garden of a large house, possibly interrupted by ornamental water; and that they discharged into an open channel running westwards along Belsize Lane for nearly eighty yards.

A map of 1762, at p10 of *Camden History Review* 18, has part of the channel, now reaching the bend in the lane; but in 1814, when the channel seems to have become a small lake, the Newtons have the feature back within the first leg of the lane.

Better than maps is the 1696 painting by Jan Siberechts discussed by John Richardson in *Newsletter* 164. The main subject is the large house just mentioned but near the left margin, in a gap in shrubbery, there is a short length of the channel. Obviously water on the original painting, it is inconspicuous in black-and-white reproductions. Above it is a stretch of Belsize Lane, longer and more prominent; and above this is a still longer strip of a sunlit field, seen through trees. The relevant part of the garden is out of sight to the left.

The picture, recently entitled *A View of a House and its Estates in Belsize, Middlesex*, is at Tate Britain but temporarily in storage. As pointed out by Mary Shenai, the Tate used in on the August page of their 2001 calendar.

On level ground, a channel might be more efficient than leaky pipes for conveying water. Siberechts' channel is clearly functional in nature, with no attempt to create an amenity; and there seems no reason

for its existence other than as part of the proposed system. It was filled in by 1820, perhaps because better pipes were available, but it is represented on the 25" OS map of 1866 by a long enclosure.

West of the channel, pipes again took over and presumably followed Belsize Lane round the bend. This was at the time moderate and a short distance west of the future Hunters Lodge; today's sharp bend, at the lodge itself, leads into the diversion of about 1818 discussed in *Newsletter* 128.

Beyond the bend, the pipes continued with the original downhill leg of the lane, up to sixty yards west of the present roadway below Hunters Lodge. Near the bottom of the hill, they reached the mansion's NW garden wall; and into this was built the main feature of the system, the Water House shown by William Gent on his map of 1679. It also appears on the 1714 map and would now be near the top of the open space in Belsize Village.

Nothing is known of this building but a counterpart of about 1732 survives at Houghton Hall in Norfolk and is described by Rosemary Bowden-Smith in her *The Water House* (1987). The Houghton example, supplied by pump when built, is an elaborate structure and, standing alone on a "small rise of land", it was intended to be a striking feature of the estate. But its only function was to shelter a 12,000 gallon tank at ground level.

At Belsize the Water House, tucked away up against the garden wall, was doubtless more modest but it probably served a similar purpose; and from it pipes led down to the mansion, astride Belsize Park (the street) a short distance west of the crossroads below Belsize Village. The water was used for general domestic purposes and in the garden and stables.

Drinking water was obtained from local springs, notably Shepherd's Well. This was up the hill, near the junction of Akenside Road and Fitzjohns Avenue; and with five hundred yards of pipe, Belsize House could have received a direct supply of fresh spring water from here, a vast improvement over pond water by a devious route. But, fortunately for everyone except those in the mansion, the well was a good fifty yards inside the Manor of Hampstead and safely beyond the reach of a pipeline coming up from Belsize.

Roy Allen

## St Michael's School

Highgate since the 18th century has been renowned for its schools. Highgate School itself has today an assured reputation, but in the 18th century – and indeed in the early 19th century – it was regarded as a down-trodden charity school to which the affluent of the Village would not have sent their children. The more prestigious private establishments were in large houses elsewhere in the Village.

All this began to change in the 19th century when the role of Highgate School was redefined and under the guidance of the Rev. Dyne, emerged as what we now call a public school. But other developments were taking place in Highgate of equal importance. For in 1852 St Michael's Industrial and Farm School was opened in North Road, an experimental school of much interest at the time.

The creation of St Michael's school (which still thrives on the same site and in the same building) is the subject of an excellent publication written by Joan Schwitzer and published by the Hornsey Historical Society. It is not just a history of the school but extensively defines the social and educational background which gave rise to it. Far from being a school history of limited interest, it is of much wider value.

Things had been moving along since the Factory Act of 1833 urged employers to arrange for the under-elevens in their workforce to have at least two hours' schooling each day, even though that schooling was no doubt of the very basic kind. The National Society and the British Schools furnished most of the cheap education that was available, with the first named being the main provider, with an emphasis on Anglican teaching. A National School for Highgate's poorer children was opened at the corner of Southwood Lane and Castle Yard in 1834, just north of the almshouses. It was a small building that could not cope with the need, and certainly a replacement of some kind was required. Highgate was fortunate that one of its principal residents was Harry Chester, who was Assistant Secretary to the Privy Council Committee on Education, a body which played a key role in examining new developments in education at the time.

One of those developments was the theory that children should learn skills, which included farming, at school. Industrial and farm schools got a tentative go ahead. Chester's first experiment was in East End Road, Finchley, in 1849 where a small building designed by Anthony Salvin was opened. But Chester wanted a larger scheme, and where better than at Highgate, then at the northern end of London with fields beyond it. It was also a place, of course, where he could keep a close eye on progress or otherwise, since he lived there. He was instrumental in obtaining a very large government grant for the enterprise.

The new building in North Road, also designed by Salvin, was opened in 1852. On Chester's insistence it

was secularly based, free of control by the Church. Its aims were spelt out by Chester himself: it must have "proper Class Rooms, and other Appurtenances, Houses and Playgrounds, and where School Gardens for the Boys, and a School Kitchen, Washhouse and other domestic offices for Girls, may afford a means of training the children in the habits of hardy and skilful Industry, which by God's blessing, may promote their bodily and mental health and prepare them for the discharge of their duties in after life." The boys' training in outdoor pursuits would fit them for life as "Cottagers, Farm Labourers, Gardeners, Mechanics, or Emigrants..."

Hardly the stuff of revolution, but the school itself was innovatory and much copied.

Joan Schwitzer's well produced book may be obtained from the Hornsey Historical Society, The Old Schoolhouse, 136 Tottenham Lane, N8 7EL, price £9.95 plus £1.95 p&p. It is an A4 paperback of 120 pages.

**John Richardson**

### THE CARVER MEMOIRS (continued)

Mike Pentelow writes:

Your article about Gilbey's in Oxford Street in the 19th century (*Newsletter* 192) gave the old street numbering before it changed in 1882. Up until then number one was on the north side of the corner of Tottenham Court Road and the numbers went sequentially all along the north side to Marble Arch, then over to the southern side and back again, where they ended at 440. After the change the odd numbers were all on the northern side and the even on the south, starting in both cases at Tottenham Court Road.

From this we learn that the original cellars in 1857 at the corner of Berwick Street were 373 and now 145, that number 357 where it moved in 1859 is now 179-181, the cellars opposite under the Princess's Theatre were 73 and now 152, and the Pantheon where it moved in 1867 was at 359 and is now 173.

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