

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 195
Jan 2003

Lighting up Camden

Thurs. 16 January, 7.30pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

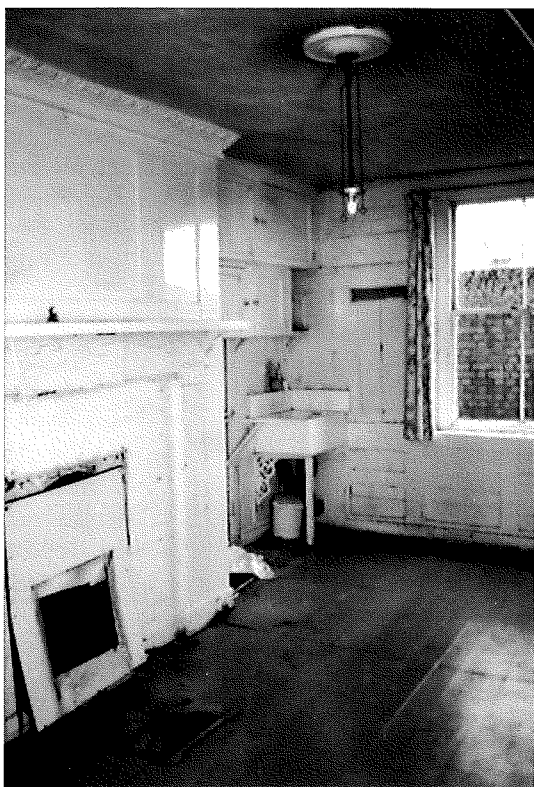
(in the Church itself)

235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2

(Bottom end of Gower Street)

We now take lighting, public and domestic, for granted. It is difficult to imagine our streets at night lit only by oil or gas lamps and without the aid of shop window illumination and the generally brighter night sky that we have today in London. Electricity transformed our neighbourhoods and made them safer, but the enormity of the task may be imagined.

Electricity also made a vast difference in lighting at home, where gas or oil supplies were supplemented by candles. A visit to Sir John Soane's Museum on certain nights of the month, when the rooms are lit by candles, will give you a flavour of the problems of reading or sewing without electric light. The introduction of electric lighting in the home did not happen quickly – our picture below, taken in 1980 when conversion was about to take place, shows a room in



the Institution Cottage, Swains Lane, tucked behind the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution, still sporting a ceiling gas lamp.

As it happens, two of the old component parts of Camden were at the forefront of municipal supply of electricity – both were vestries which had been very dissatisfied with the operations of the various private gas companies. Enabled by Act of Parliament to set up their own generating stations, St Pancras was the first in the London field, obtaining an Electric Lighting Order in 1883, and Hampstead was not far behind. The first experiments by St Pancras consisted of arc lights placed centrally along the centre of Tottenham Court Road, and a large stretch of Euston Road.

The story of the development of electrical supply in Camden is the subject of our January talk, to be given by Dr Brian Bowers.

Decay and Resurrection in Camden's burial grounds

Thurs. 20 Feb, 7.30pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church (as above)

Camden has numerous burial grounds, for not only did each of the parish churches have its own but other parishes, much more overcrowded at the time, opened new ones in the abundant fields of St Pancras parish. These too in time became overcrowded and were eventually closed, to be grassed over and left with token tombstones and monuments to pronounce the original purpose of the open spaces.

For some years these spaces, invaluable quiet places usually hidden away from traffic, have been deteriorating from a mixture of poor maintenance and wilful vandalism, but of late there has been a revival in their fortunes – this is the subject of our February talk, to be given by Dr Roger Bowdler of English Heritage.

Hampstead church, of course, still has what you might call a proper burial ground, but that around St Pancras Old Church has been whittled down during the building of railways, as too was the adjacent burial ground of St Giles-in-the-Fields. Peaceful burial grounds, now public gardens, include those of St Martin in the Fields off Pratt Street in Camden Town, and that of St George the Martyr, Holborn and St George Bloomsbury, occu-

pying a joint space off Handel Street. There is also an interesting ground off Gray's Inn Road, near Wren Street, formerly the extra-mural burial place for St Andrew's Holborn. Members unfamiliar with these spaces may like to visit them before the talk.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

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.

17 July: Marilyn Greene on Burgh House Now and Then. At Burgh House.

August: Outing to Hughenden Manor.

18 Sept: Ann Saunders on 'A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor'. At Burgh House.

16 October: Researching the history of your house – at the Local Studies Centre at Holborn Library.

20 Nov: Launch of Streets of Camden Town. Venue to be notified.

Lamas looks at London Shopping

Shopping – buying and selling in metropolitan London – was the theme of November's London & Middlesex Archaeological Society's Conference. John Schofield, the Museum of London's Curator of Architecture, opened. He covered the period 1200-1700, concentrating on plans and designs for buildings, and those for the various exchanges and markets. Where shops were concerned he looked mainly at lock-up shops, rather than those where the proprietor lived above the premises.

Claire Walsh, Leverhulme Research Fellow at Warwick, covered 17th-century London, looking at the distinction between shops and galleries – the latter were places to look round and in which to be seen, and mostly had small booths. Shops were larger and were places where the proprietor would make an effort to sell.

Coming to the 18th century, Nancy Cox, working on a project at Wolverhampton, turned to distance shopping. This meant sending to London from out of town. She made the point that provincial shopping was not as inadequate as is sometimes believed. Nevertheless, there was much sending to London for items specially wanted. Many of the gentry had friends and relatives there, and they wrote to them for material or something specially required. It seems that there were catalogues, some kind of mail order being possible. Cash sometimes had to be sent before a purchase would be delivered.

Helen Clifford, Honorary Fellow of 18th-century Studies at Warwick, turned to London itself in the same century. She noted the development of the West End – the increasing prosperity of the country at the time raised demand. Books, shoe buckles and trinkets sold well.

Down to the 19th century. Alan Cox, Assistant Editor of the *Survey of London*, gave a comparative study of two Knightsbridge neighbours, Harvey Nichols and Harrods. Whereas the first was always a draper's, Harrod's began as a grocer's and supplier of items such as brushes and cleaning materials. It was certainly not a luxury store, being described by one diarist as a "dirty place but cheap". No credit was given until Edwardian times, the idea being that cutting the cost of servicing accounts enabled Harrod's to compete with the middle-class co-operative stores such as Army & Navy and Civil Service. The development of the two stores – Harvey Nichols in baroque and Harrods in Renaissance style – was noted. The latter had many domes and wells, some filled in when electric light became practicable. There was a "moving staircase" for a time. Harrods developed into a sort of 'universal provider', organising funerals, finding domestic staff and procuring theatre tickets, as well as having its noted food hall and all possible other departments. It acquired many other stores, mostly keeping their own names and characters.

Patricia Clarke of Pinner Local History Society went back in time for shopping in medieval Pinner and Harrow. The two manors were close and in both there were victuallers, spicers, tailors and bakers. It was noted that the spicers sold things like currants and sugar. Many victuallers also brewed and the bakers would do good business cooking loaves and joints at a time when home cooking was difficult and few people had ovens. There was much concern with quality, often with weak ale sold as a stronger brew. Once someone was penalised for brewing with filthy water, but this seems to be almost the only instance of concern with hygiene. In those times, fairs were held in each neighbourhood year. The Harrow Fair has long ceased, but the Pinner one is still held annually.

Back in the 19th century, with Caroline Cooper of Camden History Society. She spoke of Primrose Hill as it developed between about 1850 and 1860. In the latter year there were 100 shops or workshops in the area, which was mostly prosperous, though because of the nearby railway, it became scruffy. In 1868, there were three milliners, three tailors, three haberdashers and one Berlin wool shop. Records are scarce, though it is believed that the richer residents did their clothes and fashion shopping in the West End department stores. There were, however, local dressmakers and one juvenile outfitters – perhaps servicing the needs at the nearby Boys' Home and the Orphan Working School. One should also note a bootmaker and staymaker. Ms Cooper noted a recent increase in the number of clothing shops in the area.

Lastly came two grocery chains. Brian Bloice, of Streatham Local History Society, spoke about David Greig and Sainsbury's, the first now vanished and the second playing a considerable part in Camden life. David Greig was a Scotsman who came to London with the intention of emigrating, but while waiting his wife started a provision shop. Their son, refused a partnership, went off on his own and developed his shops from one south of the river – there were 120 of them by 1970. But by 1980 all had disappeared – nobody appears to know why. The Greigs were friends of the Sainsburys and the two families avoided opening shops in the same street.

Joan Barraclough

The Same but Different

'The Same but Different' is an exhibition of photographs taken by seven to thirteen year-olds at the Maiden Lane Community Centre during May and June 2002. The aim of the project was to see how younger residents viewed life on the estate.

Tom Cox, Groundwork's youth worker and a professional photographer, taught the children how to use a variety of cameras. Once they had mastered them, they documented their lives over a week, taking pictures of whatever they felt was relevant to them.

The exhibition is on show at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road from 23 January until 15 March.

A Gospel Oak model

Member Richard Franklin is planning a model of Gospel Oak station in the period prior to its rebuilding in the 1950s. He would be grateful for any photographs or other information members may have, including neighbouring buildings at the time. He may be contacted at Flat 2, 30 Bold Street, Southport, PR9 0ED.

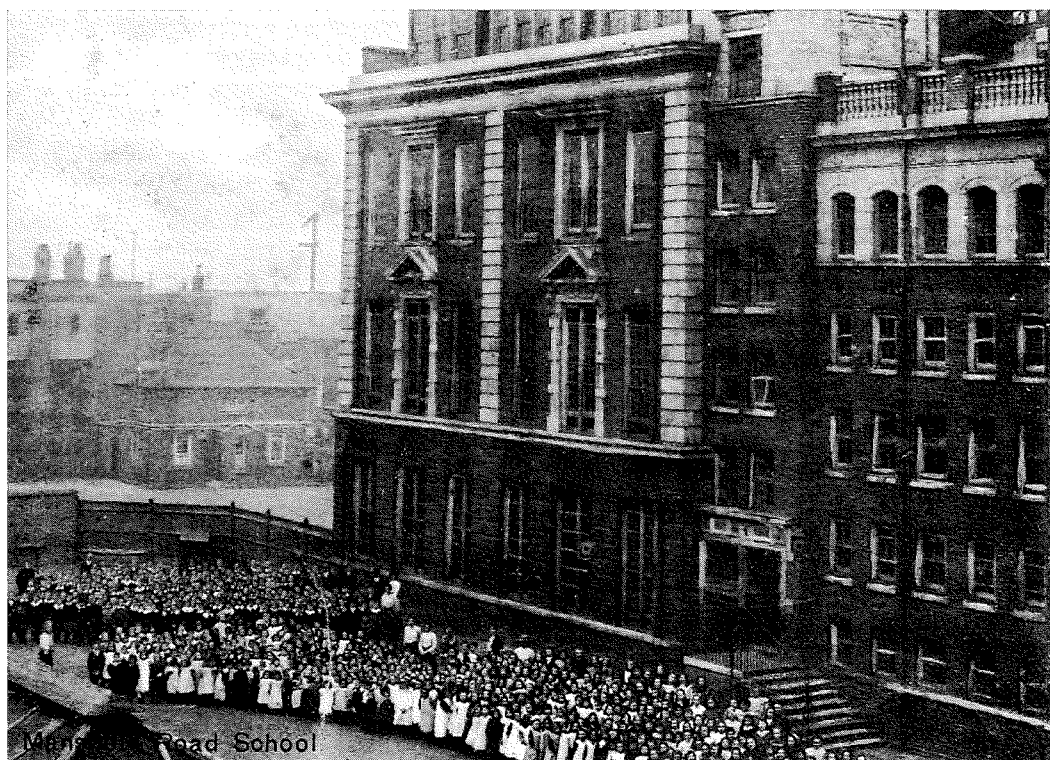
The 1861 Census

The industrious Terry Burns has presented the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre with a transcription of the 1861 Census for the St Giles registration district. A work of monumental length, the data has been organised as an A-Z name index, accompanied by the information recorded against each person appearing in the Census.

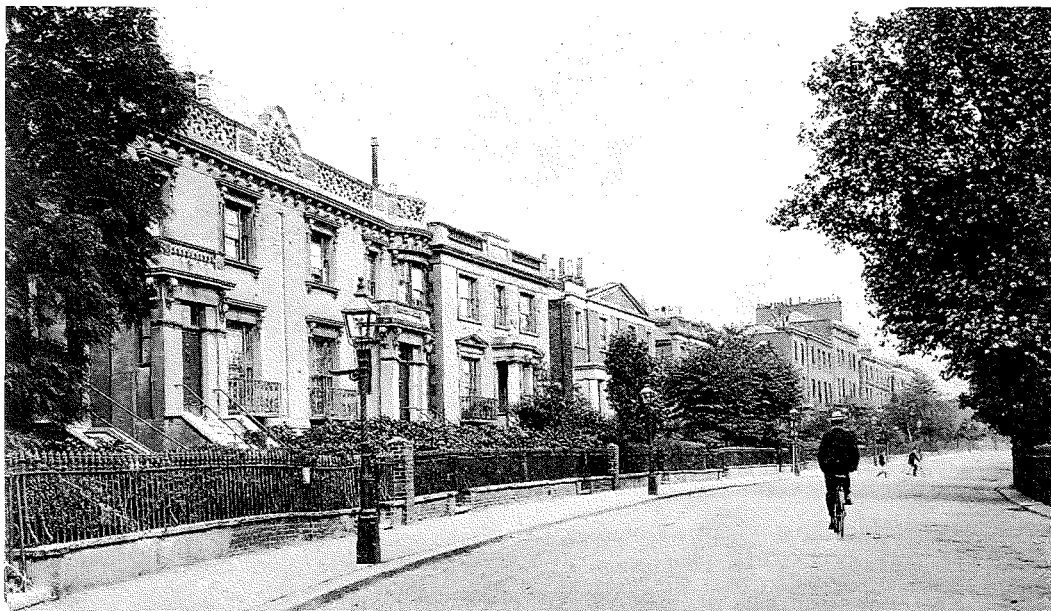
Mr Burns is no stranger to census transcription. He has previously transcribed other areas of the 1861 Census covering Camden, these being the registration districts of Hampstead and St Pancras. To give you some idea of the volume of names, in 1861 St Pancras had a population of about 199,000 – that is 10,000 more than the present population of today's Camden.

Camden Town Painters

Hampstead Museum at Burgh House is planning an exhibition in March dealing with the artists who worked in Camden Town pre-1st World War. The organisers would be grateful for any material that members may think would be worth inclusion. Please contact the Curator, Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, New End Square NW3 1LT.



Gospel Oak School in Mansfield Road, c1905. Presumably this is the rear of the building, looking towards Gospel Oak Station (see above).



Elegant street lighting – see note on talk on p1. This picture of Rochester Road, Kentish Town, c1905, shows how the early lighting columns enhanced rather than spoilt the urban landscape.

Celebrating Soane

Sir John Soane's Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields is celebrating this year the 250th anniversary of his birth (10 September 1753). A number of changes are taking place within the building, including the restoration of the Three Courtyards. Work will also begin this year on preparing no. 14 for opening to the public in 2004. There is to be a Children's Education Unit in the basement which will mainly focus on teaching younger children about the basic principles of architecture and building construction, by means of practical workshops and study visits. Soane's collection of architectural models, which are at present located on the second floor of no. 12 and can only be visited on request, are to be moved to the Dining Room on the ground floor of no. 14. The second floor will house a new Adam Study Centre for the storage and study of the Museum's collection of 9,000 drawings by Robert and James Adam.

This year there will also be a series of talks to celebrate the Soane anniversary. The first will be on Thursday 23 January at 7pm at the Royal College of Surgeons, 35-41 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2. It will be given by Ptolemy Dean, who is an architect in practice with Richard Griffiths Architects, and who in the past was awarded a Fellowship by the Soane Monuments Trust. He will be speaking on Soane's townhouse practice, a vast and complex operation of a scale which has not been previously recognised. The fruits of Soane's larger London projects will be shown, including previously unpublished parts of his extensive works at the Royal Hospital Chelsea.

Tickets to the lecture cost £6 (£2 to students) and can be purchased at the door, or booked in advance. For more information contact William Palin, Assistant Curator on 020 74404246.

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.

PhotoLondon

PhotoLondon is a new internet site which seeks to promote public collections of London photography from its early days to the present. It may be found on <http://www.photoLondon.org.uk>. It is what is known as a 'portal site', in other words, it directs enquirers to the photographic archives – it does not, as with the Guildhall Collage site, allow you to search for images.

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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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 196

Mar 2003

The Man who drew London

20 March, 7.30pm

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

235 Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2

(Bottom end of Gower Street)

Wenceslaus Hollar, born in Prague in 1607, became one of the most sought-after engravers in London. He drew wonderful images of animals, boats and country scenes, memorable portraits, but he is best remembered for his London drawings which are pretty much obligatory to enhance any history of the city during that period. One of his most powerful patrons was the Earl of Arundel, who had a mansion on the Strand, and another in Highgate Village.

Hollar, so far as the scarce facts are known, had a varied life, which has recently been told in a new book by CHS member, Gillian Tindall, the well-known novelist. Her book, *The Man who drew London*, is on sale in any bookshop, price £16.99 (Chatto & Windus). She will be talking to us in March about Hollar and his unusual life.

The Central School of Speech and Drama

17 April, 7.30pm

Embassy Theatre, 64 Eton Avenue, NW3

In 1888, not long after Eton Avenue was first occupied, a cultural landmark was built at the Finchley Road end (although at the time the Avenue did not debouch into the main road because the old Blind School was in the way). This new building was the Hampstead Conservatoire where, as from 1897 its director of music was Cecil Sharp, the well-known and scholarly collector of folklore, whose name is remembered in Camden Town at Cecil Sharp House, the headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. As Christopher Wade notes in the first edition of his book on the streets of Belsize, the Conservatoire seemed to have needed more than one string to its bow in order to survive for at various times in the early years of the next century others at this address were the London Academy of Music, an Ethical Institute, a school of languages and another of shorthand and typing. This diversification didn't save it (although much of the building, by Rowland Plumbe, survives) and on 11



Hampstead Conservatoire c.1905

September 1928 the Embassy Theatre was opened in the adapted building. According to the late Diana Howard, in her book *London Theatres and Music Halls 1850-1950*, it was run by the Embassy Theatre Ltd, a company promoted by John Herbert Jay. In 1930 Alec Rea took over, and the Embassy Playgoers' Association was formed, but in 1932 control was bought by Ronald Adams. In 1933 the Embassy School of Acting was opened. The building was, however, damaged in the war, but in 1945 it was restored and reopened by Anthony Hawtrey. But it was not a good location for a commercial theatre. It closed in 1955 and in 1957 the lease was sold to the Central School of Speech and Drama. The history of the Central School is the subject of our April talk, to be given by Professor Gary Crossley.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

The annual subscription of £10 was 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, at Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH immediately. If you are not sure whether you have paid by standing order, please check your next bank statement and rectify any omission then.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

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.

17 July: Marilyn Greene on Burgh House Now and Then. At Burgh House.

August: Annual Outing

18 Sept: Ann Saunders on 'A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor'. At Burgh House.

16 October: Researching the history of your house – at the Local Studies Centre at Holborn Library.

20 Nov: Launch of Streets of Camden Town. Venue to be notified.

Please note: we have had to cancel our plans to visit Hughenden Manor in August as they do not take coach parties at weekends. A new venue will be announced in the next *Newsletter*.

A Freudian Exhibition

At the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library a significant exhibition opens on 24 March, to run until 31 May. It is called *Childhood Memories – a celebration of 50 years of the Anna Freud Centre*.

Tony Blair, John Cleese and Felicity Kendal are just some of the celebrities and well-known personalities who have contributed memories and photographs to the exhibition. It highlights the importance of childhood and marks the 50th anniversary of the Anna

Freud Centre, a London based charity that helps emotionally troubled children and their parents.

Commenting on the exhibition, Ros Bidmead, General Manager of the Anna Freud Centre, said "Childhood makes us the people we become and it is essential that troubled children are supported through their difficulties. One in five children in the UK suffer from mental ill-health – for them not just their childhood but their adult lives too can be affected."

For further information telephone 7974 6342.

SPECIAL CLOSURE AT LOCAL STUDIES

There is to be a 2-day closure of the Local Studies and Archives Centre on 14-15 April. This is so that staff can be trained in the use of a new IT cataloguing system.

The Adlib software, recently purchased, will enable the Centre to develop online catalogues of the Centre's collections. However, converting the catalogues and listing new material is going to take a long time, so the existing card catalogues will be in use for a number of years.

Researching Sandy Heath

Sheila Ayres is researching the history of Sandy Heath and in particular the extraction of sand for the filling of sand bags and the dumping of brick rubble from houses destroyed in the Blitz during the last war. She would like to hear from any members who have memories of these activities or at least have heard about them. Where exactly was the rubble dumped 'behind the Paddock'? Please contact her at Flat 1, 22 Daleham Gardens, NW3 5DA (7794 1735).

AN INVITATION FROM FORDWYCH

The Fordwych Residents Association are holding a social on 5 April to launch their Commemorative Booklet. There will be period costumes on hire for guests to be photographed in, and there will be refreshments and music. This will be from 3-5pm at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, Fordwych Road. All are welcome.

Primrose Hill Tunnel

Peter Darley is doing some research on Primrose Hill Tunnel and is particularly interested in the background of its designer and engineer. The designer of the Eastern Portal of the tunnel was a Mr W H Budden, who was 'secretary' to Robert Stephenson. What other structures was he involved with?

Budden was born in London in 1811 and died 30 September 1883, leaving £11,000. It seems that he joined Robert Stephenson & Co at Newcastle from 1846 and was there until at least 1881. He is in the 1851 and 1881 census, noted as an 'Agent Engine Works'. Mr Darley has given an email address – Peter.Darley@Halliburton.com but no telephone number.

The Bad Old Days

Roger Cline has sent us extracts from the 'Return of Deaths from Starvation, Privation & Co in the Year 1879', Central Division of Middlesex. These are taken from the Parliamentary Paper 198 of 1880.

Julia Wheeler, 157 Drummond Street, St Pancras, daughter of mantle-maker, 10 weeks old, inanition and wasting from want of proper and sufficient food, arising from poverty of the mother.

Sarah Bushnell, charwoman, 52 years, exhaustion from bronchitis and pulmonary congestion, accelerated by exposure to cold.

Charles Smith, 20 Macklan [*sic*] Street, musician, 48 years, heart disease and dropsy, accelerated by exposure to cold and want of necessaries of life from self-neglect, he having left the workhouse against the wish of the officials.

Rachel Ann Holt, 25 Dalby Street, St Pancras, daughter of a carman, 2 months, exhaustion from want of proper care and attention, sufficient and properly prepared food.

Catherine Casey, Marchmont Place, St Giles', widow of a tailor, 70 years, bronchitis and debility, accelerated by the want of the necessities of life from refusing to go into the workhouse.

John Sacre, 89 Kings Cross Road, son of an artificial flower maker, 5 months, tubercular disease of mesenteric glands, accelerated by want of proper food, care and attention.

Sarah Smith, 13 Torrington Mews, Bloomsbury, widow of a coachman, 79 years, exhaustion from bronchitis and asthma, accelerated by want of food and medical attendance.

Francis Edward Green, 21 Grenville Street, Holborn, cabinet maker, 34 years, failure of heart, debility and consumption, accelerated by want.

Albert James Townley, 158 Arlington Road, St Pancras, son of a traveller, 10 months, wasting from want of proper food and nourishment.

A woman, unknown, 3 Strickland yard, St Giles', 30 years, exhaustion from exposure to cold.

Fanny Harris Wilson, 16 Little George Street, St Pancras, wife of a clerk, 32 years, dropsy, caused by want of medical attendance and necessaries of life, from refusing to apply for parochial relief and from being deserted by her husband.

Annie Bonning, 19 Stebbington Street, St Pancras, daughter of a coach-painter, 17 months, exhaustion, water in pericardium, accelerated by want of nourishment.

Eliza Hilder, 27 Bayham Place, St Pancras, a flower-maker, 48 years, serum on brain, accelerated by want of necessaries of life.

A female child of Frances Hall, 21 Colville Place, St Pancras, 1 month, exhaustion from want of sufficient nourishment.

Eliza Preston, 148 Ossulston Street, daughter of a domestic servant, 3 months, exhaustion from want of proper food and breast milk.

Ann Withers, 3 Clarence Gardens, St Pancras, widow of a 1st Life Guard, 71 years, privation and want of necessaries of life.

William Brooke, 2 Brooke's Market, Holborn, son of a wood-turner, 11 months, pneumonia, accelerated by want of food and other necessities.

Ann Reside, 18 Mary Place, St Pancras, wife of a labourer, 22 years, puerperal fever, accelerated by want of necessaries of life, previous to her admission into the infirmary.

Patrick Cotter, 1 Feathers Court, Holborn, son of a labourer, 17 years, disease of lungs and dropsy, accelerated by want of early medical and other attendance.

Caroline Hinton, lodging house in Shorts Gardens, St Giles', wife of a tailor, 52 years, gangrene and exhaustion, accelerated by exposure.

John Morris, 1 Prince of Wales Place, St Pancras, son of an excavator, 18 months, congestion of the lungs and wasting, accelerated by exposure and want of the necessaries of life.

Richard Gardner, Shorts Gardens, St Giles', cabdriver, 56 years, congestion of the brain and wasting, accelerated by exposure to cold.

Charles Norton, 28 Windmill Street, St Pancras, wheelwright, 82 years, bronchitis, accelerated by want of proper nourishment and attendance, from self-neglect.

Signed, William Hardwicke, Coroner.

MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

The Family Records Centre is organising a fair called *Meet the Neighbours* on 8 and 9 April. About twenty archive services from London and the Home Counties will be running stalls in the Centre on these days. Camden Local Studies and Archives will be running a stall with the Islington Local History Centre on the 8th. The Family Records Centre is located at 1 Myddelton Street, EC1R 1UW – walkable from Farringdon station, or bus from King's Cross.

THE LAMAS CONFERENCE

The next LAMAS Conference, on 15 November, will have as its theme 'Lunatic London', and will cover such topics as Bedlam, the architecture of asylums, lunatics and art, psychiatry in London between the wars. If any member feels that he or she could contribute ten-twenty minutes to this event, please contact our Secretary, Jane Ramsay.

Moving the Collection

It has become known that the senior management of the National Monuments Record at Blandford Street in the West End is now seriously contemplating moving the rest of the collection to the English Heritage headquarters at Swindon. Some members will already know that the bulk of the collection had already moved to Swindon, but the London material was still conveniently left in London. Many of us think this is an extraordinary thing to be considering. To save themselves some money they will put an enormous number of researchers at vast expense and inconvenience, though this might be ameliorated if every image was available on computer, which they most certainly are not.

We understand that the decision will be taken very soon after you receive this *Newsletter* and we urge those members who feel strongly about this to email the chairman of English Heritage, Sir Neil Cossons at SirNeil.Cossons@English-Heritage.org.uk and send a similar message to anne.woodward@english-heritage.org.uk. If you prefer to send it by ordinary mail, the address is 23 Savile Row, London W1S 2ET for Sir Neil, and 55 Blandford Street W1U 7HN for Anne Woodward.

Soane Online

The great collection of drawings built up by Sir John Soane (1753-1837), one of the finest collections in the world, is now accessible online through a concise catalogue on the Museum's website: www.soane.org.uk. For the first time researchers will be able to check the contents of the drawings collections online, before making a Library appointment. It is particularly appropriate that this new catalogue, which will make Soane's work so much more accessible to all, should be launched at the start of the 250th anniversary year of his birth.

The catalogue contains some 30,000 entries and consists not only of drawings from Soane's own architectural practice, but also of drawings by other architects and artists. Represented are drawings by Wren, Chambers, Dance the Elder and Younger, Kent and Hakewill. The collection also includes architectural perspectives by Piranesi and J M Gandy, and work by topographical artists such as John Cozens, George Cooper, Richard Dalton and Edward Dodwell.

For more information contact Susan Palmer, the Archivist on 7440 4245, or on spalmer@soane.org.uk

ARCHAEOLOGY AT BIRKBECK

Birkbeck College have courses on archaeology. There are a number of these, including 'An Introduction to Archaeological Fieldwork Techniques' (March 29, 30), as well as longer certificate/diploma courses. Anyone interested should contact Ms Louise Rayner, Programme Manager Archaeology, Birkbeck College, 26 Russell Square, WC1B 5DQ (Tel: 7631 6688; web www.bbk.ac.uk/fce).

Jewish Girls at South Hampstead

Jocelyne Tobin has written in regard to a contribution by Anne Valery in the supplement to last year's *Camden History Review*, which we called *Catching the Past: reminiscences of twentieth-century Camden*.

'Miss Valery states that only five Jewish girls were admitted to South Hampstead High School. I know many people who were pupils in the 20s and 30s apart from two cousins of mine. The school had a special RE teacher for the Jewish girls – Marjorie Moos of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue – long before the war. She died comparatively recently aged 100.

When I joined the school in 1941 there were a great many of us Jewish girls and when the evacuated part of the school returned from Berkhamsted we Jewish girls in the senior school would troop into the school library for our own assembly but twice a week we would join the rest of the school where verses of the hymns which mentioned Jesus were excluded!

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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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; email: Drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 197

May 2003

The Archaeology Store

Thurs. 15 May, 7.30pm
Museum of London Archaeological Archive
Mortimer Wheeler House
46 Eagle Wharf Road N1

The Museum of London now has a large archive of London archaeological items. These have recently been rehoused in Eagle Wharf Road, and the Society has arranged a visit, talk and tour of the premises. If you are driving, there are usually, at that time of day, plenty of parking places, but remember that the road is one way going east. Coming by public transport, the nearest tube station is Old Street on the Northern Line. Take Exit 1 from the station, walk up the City Road for about 70 yards, past the fork with East Road (on your right) and turn right at the next traffic light into Provost Street (opposite Moorfields Eye Hospital). Cross the road to the bus stop there. Take any of three buses 76, 141 or 271 and then in three stops alight at the corner with Eagle Wharf Road, just before the canal bridge. Turn left into the road and after a short distance is Mortimer Wheeler House.

The Annual Meeting

Thurs. 19 June, 6.30pm
Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, WC2

Our Annual Meeting is at a building we have not previously visited, and we shall have the pleasure of a talk and tour given by Diane Clements, Director of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry. We shall be assembling at 6.30 for wine and nibbles, the AGM will be at 7pm and the talk and tour at 7.30pm. Please note that the area is well within the Congestion Charge limits, but the building is not far from Holborn station. The original Freemasons' Hall and the Freemasons' Tavern were on the site of today's Connaught Rooms in 1776. The premises were then extended both eastwards and westwards, taking over Bacon's Hotel at nos 64/5, and the Mark Masons' Hall was built. The Connaught Rooms replaced the old tavern and Temple after the 1st World War, and the present Freemasons' Hall, designed by Ashley and Newman, was completed seventy years ago.

If you have any nominations for officers or for our Council, please send them soon to our Secretary, Jane Ramsay. The present list is as follows:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Christopher Elrington
VICE PRESIDENTS: Frank Cole, Christina Gee, Dr Ann Saunders
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Angela Bowen
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:
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sheila Ayres, Caroline Cooper, Steve Denford, Ruth Hayes, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Sue Palmer, Dick Weindling, Robin Woolven.

The Annual Outing

Saturday, 9 August

Jean Archer has arranged a visit to Rousham House and gardens in Oxfordshire. The house was built in 1635 by Sir Robert Dormer, and is owned by the Cottrell-Dormer family. The garden remains much as it was designed, by William Kent (1635-1748). We shall have a guided tour of the house, and a chance to look at the grounds. Tea will be provided at a nearby hotel. The morning will be spent in Chipping Norton, about 15 miles away. The church there is noted for its chancel tombs and brasses; the Town Hall was designed by Repton in 1842, and there are some 17th-century almshouses. There are pubs or cafés for lunch, or bring a picnic.

The cost will be £24, to include coach, tea, entrance fee and tips. A booking form is enclosed, and you are welcome to bring a friend with you.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put the following CHS meetings in your diary:
17 July: Marilyn Greene on Burgh House Now and Then. At Burgh House.
August: Annual Outing (see p1)
18 Sept: Ann Saunders on 'A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor'. At Burgh House.
16 October: Researching the history of your house – at the Local Studies Centre at Holborn Library.
20 Nov: Launch of *Streets of Camden Town*. Venue to be notified.

London before London

Those members enthused by the visit to the Museum of London's Archaeology Archive on 15 May will enjoy the new archaeological gallery at the Museum. It is the third, and most expansive attempt by the Museum to display prehistory.

To enter, pass the fearsomely horned skull of an aurochs, a wild ox that lived near Ilford a quarter of a million years ago. Next, take a look at an elephant's foot from Avely, Essex, and a hippopotamus tusk from Regent Street. Interspersed with these relics of an African-style landscape – extraordinary reminders of how London's geography has changed and is still changing – are remains of people who lived here: a human skull, 400,000 years old, and giant-sized but beautifully finished stone tools.

The gallery contains over 1500 items, many of them never previously displayed. A 5000-year-old bowl rim, for instance, evocatively carries the finger impression of the woman who made it. A hoard of broken bronze axes shows that mass-production began at least a thousand years before the Roman conquest.

Research at the Wellcome

The Wellcome Trust in Euston Road is keen to involve local researchers in the use of their library to explore themes related to the activities of the Trust – usually to do with the history of medicine. Such research would tie in, where appropriate, with Local History Month in 2004. Suggested themes, by no means exclusive, could include Camden's spas (Hampstead Wells, St Pancras Wells, Bagnigge Wells etc), Disease in Camden: smallpox to HIV, local quacks, the Royal Veterinary College, the Tropical Diseases hospital in St Pancras, family health in Camden etc. Research could be conducted individually or else in groups, with the guidance of the Library Outreach Officer, who would explain how to use the extensive library there.

Interested members should contact Samantha Cairns, Library Outreach Officer, The Wellcome Trust, 183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE (Tel: 020 7611 8659; fax: 7611 8369; email s.cairns@wellcome.ac.uk).

The Camden Town Group

Hampstead Museum at Burgh House is staging an exhibition relating to the Camden Town Group of painters, from 16 March until 22 June. The Group, very influential in British painting in the early years of the twentieth century, painted many local scenes.

Burgh House, by the way, has received the offer of a lottery grant of £605,000 towards upgrading the facilities of the House, which will include such things as the standards of display and conservation in the Museum. However, as with all lottery grants, the

recipients have to find a sum of money themselves in order to get the lottery money – in this case £203,000. They have so far raised £70,000 and are seeking more from members of the public. Those who can help The House is 300 years old this year and they are having a birthday fundraiser on 27 June, 6-8pm. Notable members of the Hampstead community will be there to deliver literary and musical contributions. Tickets are £25 in aid of the building fund.

EVENTS AT DR JOHNSON'S HOUSE

On 28 and 29 May, at 7.30pm, Bruce Purchase will be performing as Johnson in *Johnson is Leaving*, by John Wain. This was first performed at the Swan Theatre, Stratford. The tickets are £15.

On 26 June Dr Martin Postle will be giving a talk on Dr Samuel Johnson and Sir Joshua Reynolds. Dr Postle is Senior Curator of the Tate Collections and a Reynolds specialist. Tickets are £10.

Tickets may be obtained from Rachel Kennedy, Dr Johnson's House, 17 Gough Square EC4A 3DE; make your cheque out to Dr Johnson's House Trust.

Publications to Come

A fourth edition of the Society's publication *Constable's Hampstead*, with revised text and completely redesigned format will be available in May.

The research group studying the *Streets of Camden Town* will produce their book in November.

Helen Lawrence has written a history of the St Pancras/ Camden Arts Festival. This will be published as an Occasional Paper later this year.

New Members of the Council

The Council has recently elected Caroline Cooper and Jeremy Noble as members of the Council. Both are, coincidentally, very active in Primrose Hill affairs. Caroline has recently specialised in the history of the shops in the area.

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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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; email: Drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

The Families of Fenton

A new booklet, published by the National Trust, now dates the house to 1689, rather than the generally accepted 1693. The author, Sheila A. Wilson, has burrowed deep into the available records of the families who have lived at Fenton, and she describes her search in an engaging style.

Fenton House is probably the oldest building in Hampstead, just a bit older than Burgh House, which celebrates its 300th anniversary this year. Owned by lawyer Thomas Simpson in 1689, it has had three significant owners (four if you include the Trust) in its history. In 1706 it was bought by Joshua Gee, a Quaker silk and linen merchant, who was prominent in the establishment of Pennsylvania and was first to import iron ore from Maryland. Dying in 1730, he is buried in Bunhill Fields. Philip Fenton, from whom the house takes its name, bought the property in 1793 – his tomb in Hampstead churchyard gives us quite a bit of information about him. He spent some of his business life trading in Riga, helped by his nephew, James. When he bought Fenton House, Philip, James and his family all moved in together (there were seven children). Philip Fenton died in 1806, leaving the house to James, who himself died in 1834. It was most likely

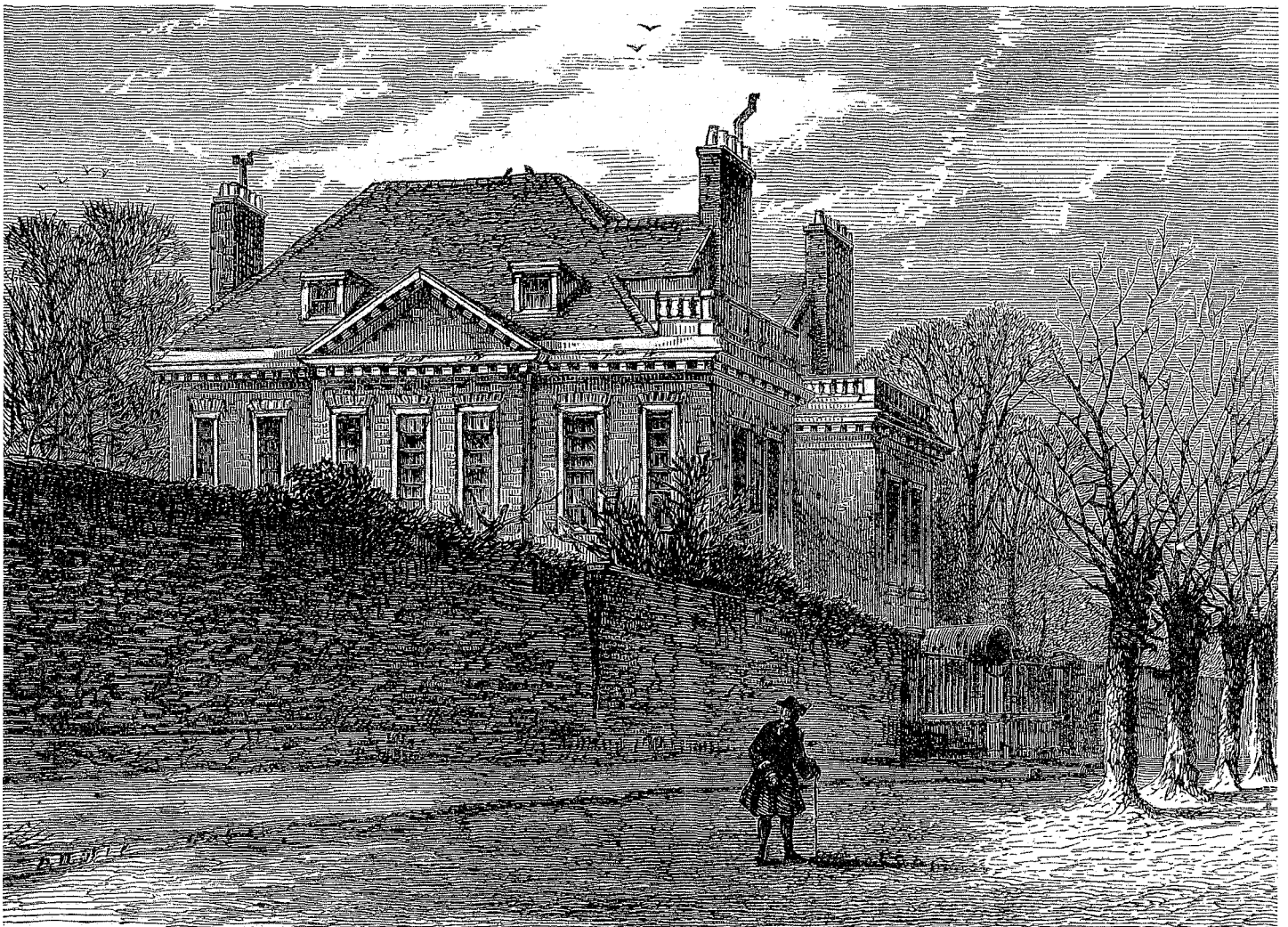
during James's occupation that the house was altered so that the front door was moved to the side and a portico added, and the passageway from the old front door was incorporated into the dining room.

The third important owner was Lady Binning, who married the heir to the Earl of Haddington, but was never the Countess because her husband died a few months before his father. It seems that Lady Binning intended to turn the house into a museum to house the family collection, particularly of porcelain, when she bought the house in 1936, though she does not appear to have lived in it until 1944. She was friendly with James Lees-Milne during the dark days of war and post war Britain, when stately homes and stately families were on their uppers and the National Trust besieged with offers of houses then too large and expensive to maintain. The National Trust took the house over and it was opened to the public in September 1952.

The Families of Fenton by Sheila Wilson, 44pp in colour, is a good buy at £3 – obtainable at the House and at Burgh House.

John Richardson

Fenton House in 1780, then known as Old Clock House





Two views c.1905. Above is Oseney Crescent in Kentish Town, with Champney's St Luke's church to the left. Below is Roderick Road, which runs between Mansfield Road and Savernake Road in Gospel Oak.



newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 198

Jul 2003

Burgh House Now and Then

Thurs 17 July, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Burgh House is 300 years old this year. As many members will know, there is a possibility of a lottery grant to update the facilities in the house if the right sum of money can be raised locally. So, please be generous if you can!

The front block of the house was built in 1703 by a Quaker family called Sewell, but was soon taken over and enlarged by Dr William Gibbons, physician to Hampstead Spa nearby. He added the handsome staircase, and the initials on the wrought-iron gates are his. According to Christopher Wade, the Rev. Allatson Burgh, who lived here from 1822-56, was an unpopular vicar of St Lawrence Jewry in the City. He also treated the house badly, as did his successors, the Royal East Middlesex Militia, who used it as an officers' mess and surrounded it with barrack blocks. Subsequent, and kinder occupants have included Dr George Williamson who commissioned Gertrude Jekyll to design the garden, and Captain George Bambridge, a retired diplomat, whose wife Elsie was a daughter of Rudyard Kipling.

Our talk in July, to celebrate this notable anniversary, is by the Hampstead Museum curator, Marilyn Greene.

Members may also like to know that there is a Heath and Hampstead Society Walk from Burgh House on Sunday, 3rd August at 2.30pm. This is a tour of the lakes and ponds of Kenwood, led by Andrew Ginner. The fee is £1.

Dollis Hill House

Thurs. 18 Sep, 7.30pm

Burgh House (as above)

Our September talk is on another interesting house. Dollis House was built in 1823 by Joseph Finch, and despite it now being surrounded by many houses, from its elevated position it still has good views west and north. It was the home for many years of Lord Aberdeen, and it was often the residence of William Gladstone while Parliament was sitting. The house was bought by the local authority in 1901 and was

used by the War Cabinet in 1941. It now houses social occasions and is surrounded by Gladstone Park. Our speaker on the house and its occupants is Hamilton Hay.

The Annual Outing – some seats left

There are still some places left on the coach outing to Rousham House and Chipping Norton on 9 August. The cost is £24. Details and a booking form were included with the last *Newsletter*, but if you have lost that the organiser of the Outing is Jean Archer on 7435 5490.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

16 Oct: Researching the history of your house, at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

20 Nov: The research team for our new publication, *Streets of Camden Town*, at St Michael's Community Space, 8 Greenland Street, Camden Town

11 Dec: Some London public houses in the 20th century, by Chris Ely

15 Jan: A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor, by Ann Saunders

19 Feb: The Archway Bridge, by Simon Morris

The Annual Meeting

A well attended meeting at the Freemasons' Hall heard a talk by Diane Clements on the history of the Freemasons in London.

The following officers and council members were elected:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Christopher Elrington

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

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade

SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

TREASURER: Angela Bowen

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Roger Cline

PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Dr Peter Woodford

PUBLICITY OFFICER: Joan Barraclough

ARCHIVIST: Malcolm Holmes

HON. AUDITOR: Geoffrey Harris

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sheila Ayres, Caroline Cooper, Steve Denford, Ruth Hayes, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Sue Palmer, Dick Weindling, Robin Woolven

THE PEOPLE OF CAMDEN SQUARE

Mr Beverley Charles Rowe is developing a website of everyone recorded as living in Camden Square. So far he has covered 1850-1871 and 1881. Any contributions would be gratefully received. All we have is an email address: bev@BevRowe.info.

The story of Acland Burghley

Two and a half years ago, a treasure trove of old documents and photographs going back to the 19th century was discovered at Acland Burghley School in Kentish Town. Inspired by the find, and with funding from the Millennium Festival Awards for All programme, a group of parents and governors decided to explore the history of this successful, modern comprehensive. They followed many trails, interviewing students, staff and governors past and present, discovering maps, log books, official documents and personal accounts. The result is an accessible, intriguing and beautifully designed exhibition, catalogue and CD-rom that brings the past to life.

The exhibition is at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library, Theobalds Road until 20 September.

The Artists of Hampstead

John Walde emails from Australia.

'I am a member of the CHS and am currently working on a dictionary of the artists (painters, engravers and sculptors) who lived in Hampstead (NW3 only) from the 18th century up to 1985 (approx.). I am keen to have information on the following:

The history of the Society of Hampstead Artists

The Artists' Refugee Committee

Charles H. West, 117 Finchley Road

The whereabouts of Charles Ginner's painting *Flask Walk under Snow* (c.1930)

Also, if any artist who was active prior to 1985 would like to be included in the dictionary, please send information (including place and date of birth, commissions, NW3 address and period of residence, and especially paintings of Hampstead.'

He may be contacted on jwalde@hotmail.com or else at 244 St John's Road, Glebe, NSW 2037, Australia.

DAVIES ANCESTORS

James Craufurd-Stuart is researching a branch of his family which had shop premises in Lamb's Conduit Street for about 50 years between 1812 and 1861. He has already consulted the usual sources of directories, rate books, census returns etc.

The family name was Davies. Rees Davies set up shop at no. 19 (now 40) as a linen-draper in the Michaelmas half of 1812. On 25 February 1813, at St Andrew's, Holborn, he married Elizabeth Hannah Rawlins of the

parish of St James, Westminster. They had six children, all baptised at St Andrew's.

The family also lived at no. 18 (now 38), no 25 (now 52) Guil(d)ford House (known as 25½ or 26, now 54) and at no. 14 Chapel (now Rugby) Street (possibly now no. 20). Rees Davies was buried on 15 December 1836 at St Andrew's. His wife then started a milliner's business at 18 Lamb's Conduit Street.

Mr Craufurd-Stuart gives more details of later happenings in the family. If any members feel they can help he may be contacted at Burbage House, Buxton SK17 6UT

Highgate Common

Alex Joanides writes:

'I am trying to find the area of Highgate that was known in times past as 'Highgate Common'. I am putting together a detailed chronology of all the main Bare Knuckle fighters and fights of Regency England, and although I live in Highgate and have a fair number of local history books and old maps, I have been unable to find any reference to the Common. Pierce Egan makes several references to it as being used as a venue of several fights in his book *Boxiana I* (1812). Any help would be appreciated.

I understand that Pierce Egan is buried in Highgate West cemetery, but that the location of his grave is unknown. Also, two fighters of Regency times, Bill Warr and Henry Pearce were buried next to each other ("so that they could converse with each other for all eternity") in either St Pancras churchyard or neighbouring St Giles burial ground.

If anyone needs information on old fighters I would be happy to oblige.'

Mr Joanides' email is: absolute@scoundrel.fsnet.co.uk

The Battlefields Trust

Frank Baldwin, chairman of the London and South East District Battlefields Trust writes:

The Battlefields Trust is a UK based international charity dedicated to the preservation, interpretation and education of our battlefield heritage. We are keen to establish contact with local history societies. (website: <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/>).

There are several major 20th century battlefield sites in the borough of Camden, in particular those relating to the 1st and 2nd World Wars. One of the Trust's members, David Warren, has a special interest in WW1 London and will be leading two walks this summer covering the WW1 heritage of Camden:

Friday 1 August: Zeppelin raid over the theatreland. Meet at Covent Garden station at 5.20pm, for prompt 5.30pm commencement of walk. Duration two hours, then adjourn to a pub.

Sunday 7 September: The September Zeppelin raid. The walk departs from Holborn station at 10am, following the course of one of the most significant Zeppelin raids of WW1. This will last around four hours and will end at Liverpool Street station, with a stop for lunch on the way.

Please contact David Warren (01707 647167) if you would like to attend. There is no charge but we do take a collection.

FINDING A PICTURE

Malcolm Holmes writes to say that in the 1970s a watercolour of Telegraph Hill (1808), by the Hampstead historian J J Parks, came up for sale at either Sotheby's or Christie's. Camden bid for it, but it went beyond the council's budget. He would very much like to know its present whereabouts.

There is a reproduction of it in Barratt's *Annals of Hampstead*, when it was then owned by the local historian E E Newton. Howard Mallinson notes that it is an important historical record of a shutter telegraph, the first station out of London to Yarmouth.

YOUNG DIGGERS

This summer Camden Arts and Tourism, UCL Institute of Archaeology, the Museum of London Archaeological Archive and the City Learning Centre are offering 30 Camden children the chance to be young archaeologists. They will learn the skills of archaeology, handle and investigate real finds, take part in a dig down through the layers of Camden's history, and then create a website on the subject. For further information contact Diana Smart, Arts and Heritage Officer, (7974 1596).

HELP WITH ARCHIVES

There used to be a National Scotch Church in Regent Square. It was bombed in the last war and the church now on its site is the Regent Square United Reformed Church. The original church was founded by Edward Irving who, in his day, was one of the most fashionable preachers. On one Sunday, at least, he gave a sermon of three hours, which is a tribute to his own powers as well as the tolerance of his congregation. Later Irving founded the Catholic Apostolic Church in Gordon Square, a handsome building now used by the University of London.

The archives of the old Scotch Church are plentiful, but do need arranging and cataloguing. If anyone is able to help Trish Giles do this he or she would be very welcome. If you are interested please contact Malcolm Holmes at Camden Local Studies and Archives (7974 6342)

The Sickert allegations

Patricia Cornwell's *Portrait of a Killer* (Little, Brown, 2002), which seeks to identify 'Jack the Ripper' with the artist Walter Sickert, was reviewed by Gerald Isaaman in the *Camden New Journal*: "Case against Sickert a load of codswallop" (5 Dec 2002). He notes several historical and topographical shortcomings in Ms Cornwell's account, including her eccentric description of Hampstead Heath, and her assertion that Sickert's home at 54 Broadhurst Gardens was "in close proximity" not only to Finchley Road and Palmerston Road (fair enough), but also to distant Princess Road (Primrose Hill) and Alma Street (Kentish Town). There are further errors.

On page 2 we are told, anachronistically, that in 1888 an authentic police uniform might be rented from "Angel's Theatrical Costumes in Camden Town". The firm of Angel Morris & Co. ("clothiers") was then based at 117 Shaftesbury Avenue, one door away from its present-day fancy-dress department. Only in recent years did the company merge with Bermans & Nathans to form Angels & Bermans, whose showroom and store *did*, until last year, occupy part of the old Maple's furniture repository at 40 Camden Street.

A "Ripper letter" mentioned on page 61 refers to the writer's moving into a lodging house. Cornwell surmises that "this could have been the one at 6 Mornington Crescent" - the (now blue-plaqued) Camden Town house occupied by Sickert much later, from 1906. Although the Crescent was going downhill in the 1880s, most of its houses were then still home to respectable middle-class families and their servants, to lawyers, doctors and dentists. There were lodging-houses at Nos. 8 and 11, but not at No. 6. That house was occupied by a solicitor, Thomas Francis Peacock, his wife and children, a housemaid and cook (census 1881). Ten years later it was still in single occupation and home to a stationer, George John Jones. There was neither room nor need for a lodger, and No. 6 was certainly not a lodging-house.

On page 190 Cornwell asks: "Is there any significance in the reference in another Ripper letter to 'Bangor Street', an address that doesn't exist in London, but Bangor is the home of a racecourse in Wales?" (Sickert being a horse-racing enthusiast). Unfortunately for the author, and as the Post Office Directory will quickly reveal, there was a Bangor Street in 1888, in Notting Hill.

Worse is to come in Cornwell's treatment (p301) of the Rising Sun pub - a haunt of Emily Dimmock, the prostitute famously murdered on her bed at 29 St Paul's Road (now Agar Grove). (Her unsolved murder in 1907 is known to have inspired Sickert's 'murder' paintings, but the author also seeks to implicate the artist in her demise.) We are told that the Rising Sun, "on Euston Road", as witnesses referred to it ... still exists and is really at the corner of Tottenham Court Road and Windmill Street. Tottenham [sic] runs

into Euston Road". Cornwell's wholesale relocation of the pub to Fitzrovia places it conveniently near to Sickert's studios at "18 and 27 Fitzroy Street". She refers to a rising sun motif (similar to one once painted by Sickert), still etched in glass over the pub entrance, unaware that she is describing the wrong building. There were, of course, two local Rising Suns. Emily's haunt was, in fact, the well-known Somers Town pub at the junction of Chalton Street and Euston Road, as Sir David Napley makes clear in his *The Camden Town Murder* (Weidenfeld, 1987) which, for all its annoying invented dialogue, is a more reliable source; Dimmock had lodged in nearby Bidborough Street. No witness would have confused the two geographically distinct pubs. That in Euston Road also "still exists", and although it is now called the Rocket, to establish its earlier identity is hardly rocket science!

More than once, Cornwell's ignorance of local history and topography undermines the very point she is trying to make. She appears to have spent many hours studying the Sickert collection at Islington archives. A detour to the Camden equivalent in Theobalds Road, "in close proximity" by Cornwell standards, would not have gone amiss.

David Hayes

The British Library opens up

A handout picturing our own Peter Barber advertises the new online facility introduced by the British Library. On www.bl.uk/collectbritain you are invited to register so that you may view some very interesting collections: some 1,200 printed and hand-drawn maps of London, dating from 1570 to 1860, which were put together by Frederick Crace; then there are the original Ordnance Surveyors' drawings of Britain, made between the 1790s and 1830, which show more detail than the famous one-inch-to-the-mile printed version. Just as fascinating is the *Penny Illustrated Paper*, published from 1861 to 1931, which provides wonderful scenes and articles on social issues, crime, politics, the arts, science, industry, sport and popular entertainment. Lastly there is a section on Victorian popular music.

Well, that's what the handout says. But if anyone is able to go into that site and either find or register for these enticing attractions I should be grateful for advice as to how to do it!

John Richardson

Heather Perry

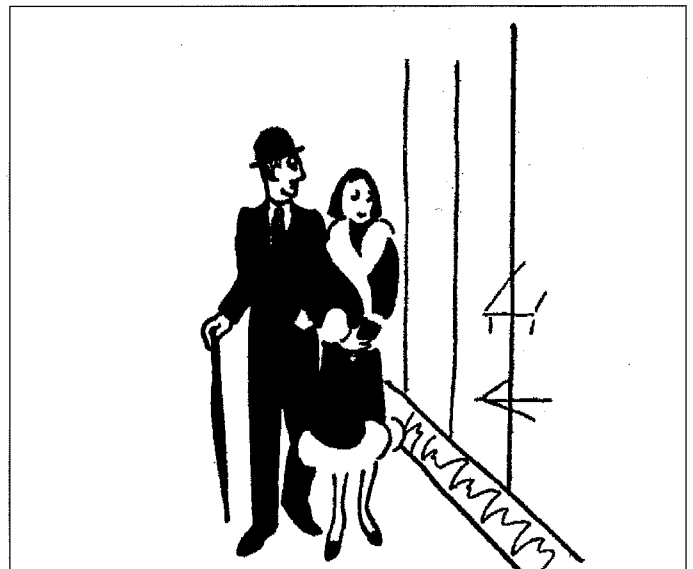
Christine Chapman writes:

'I am carrying out some research on Heather or Herry Perry, who lived in Hampstead for some time until her death in 1962. I have followed up many leads including the London Transport Museum and *Punch*, who have supplied copies of her work but alas know nothing more of Herry's biography.'

Heather Perry studied at the London School of Arts and Crafts, where she specialised in wood carving. She was particularly successful in designing diagrammatic poster-maps of London which were used before the war by the London Passenger Transport Board to encourage travel by bus and Underground. After the war she painted inn signs for a living. She also designed playing cards and wrote verse for *Punch*. Like her mother, she was a skilful and enthusiastic gardener and achieved miracles in her small garden on Haverstock Hill where she cheerfully set up house and studio after losing everything during the war through enemy action. She herself spent the whole war nursing in military hospitals.

Needless to say, Roger Cline has in his collection a book which features drawings by Perry on London subjects. One of them, depicting shopping in Bond Street, is reproduced below.

If you have any information please contact Mrs Chapman at Kings House, Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex CO9 2ET (01787 476546 email: Christine@christinechapman.co.uk).



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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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; email: Drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 199
Sep 2003

Dollis Hill House

Thurs, 18 Sept, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Our September talk is on Dollis Hill House, today surrounded by Gladstone Park but still with an enviable view to distant parts. The house was built in 1823 by Joseph Finch and was the home for many years of Lord Aberdeen. It was often also the residence of William Gladstone while Parliament was sitting. Another guest there was the American Mark Twain, who has many claims to fame, one of which is that he appears to have been the first author to have sent a typed manuscript to his publisher. The house was bought by the local authority in 1901, and was used by the War Cabinet in 1941.

Our speaker on the house and its occupants is Hamilton Hay.

Researching Your House

Thurs, 16 Oct, 7.30pm
Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre,
Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1

It is probably easier to research the history of your house than that of your family. Mostly the basic records lie in Local Studies or London Metropolitan Archives, and you can then branch out to others such as the census to discover more about the occupants over the years. But there are plenty more avenues to give your research even greater scope, and these will be described in this talk, to be given by members of the Local Studies Library in October.

An extra event – at the Wellcome

Wednesday, 24 September, 6.45pm
Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Road, NW1

We have arranged an additional event for September – a visit to the impressive Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine. The building is worth seeing as well. We are meeting Samantha Cairns, the Outreach Librarian, who will show us round the library and describe some of its many riches. She also hopes to interest some of us in taking part in research projects there.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The following is a list of forthcoming talks, so please insert into your diaries, both for this year and next.

20 Nov: The research team for our new book, *Streets of Camden Town*, will launch its publication. At the St Michael's Community Space, 8 Greenland Street, Camden Town.

11 Dec: A Virtual Pub Crawl. Chris Ely, himself a pub owner, will give the main talk on a number of Camden pubs and the drinking trends over the years, and will be helped by a number of other members of the Society describing the history of several other public houses. To be held at Burgh House, with refreshments.

15 Jan: A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor, by Ann Saunders. At Burgh House.

19 Feb: The Archway Bridge, by Simon Morris. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

18 Mar: Tim Heath reading Lytton Strachey's *Ermyntrude and Esmeralda*, in the character and costume of Strachey.

A Milestone

The next edition of the *Newsletter* in November is no. 200. We hope then to publish a bumper issue, so if anyone has a contribution to make please send to the Editor by October 25th. Also, members will receive their copy of this year's *Camden History Review* that month.

Archives Awareness Month

AAW is being held during September. It includes a promotion of events across the UK in local and national archives. For more details check the web site <http://www.aamsept2003.com>.

A WALK THROUGH ST GEORGE'S GARDENS

Those members who came to the entertaining talk by Dr Roger Bowdler in February, will remember the many good features he described in St George's Gardens off the Gray's Inn Road. He will be leading a walk through the Gardens on 8 November. At the moment we do not have a time, but in the week preceding the walk do telephone Roger Cline on 7388 9889. The Gardens are best entered from the Wakefield Street/Handel Street junction. The Congestion Charge does not apply on Saturdays, but parking charges do.

A lovely town – a house still a home

Chipping Norton and Rousham Manor were the two destinations for the latest Camden History Society's outing. The town, built of golden Cotswold stone has some very old houses, plus later Georgian, a market square still in use, a thousand-year-old church, imposing Town Hall, museum and theatre. In spite of near-tropical heat, members seemed able to see most of it in a long early lunch break. Not mentioned above were the very pretty almshouses. Sadly the museum was closed, but there was plenty else to view. Cameras seemed to be clicking steadily.

There followed Rousham Park House. This is especially interesting because it dates from the time of Charles I. It was – and still is – a royalist house. The first owner was imprisoned in the Tower. He got out alive, but had to go abroad. The house was bought by a General Dormer and, when he died childless, it came into the hands of his wife's family. The Cotterill-Dormers live there still. This gives it a home-like atmosphere, though many of the furnishings and paintings are of great value and interest. The music room has some fine historical instruments. However, it was sad to learn that one lady, who did not like books, had sold the wonderful library. This was, however, catalogued and it is hoped many items survive and could possibly be traced. In the upstairs drawing-room, Victorian windows have been replaced by the original kind. Many alterations were made by Victorian vandals. However, their dresses are of interest, plus a lace dressing jacket and some fine embroidery, patchwork and crewel work. All these could be seen as could the original kitchen. This was cleared to make space for one gentleman's bronzes. Happily the William Kent ceiling has survived.

Kent's work is most important as he was responsible for the extensive grounds. There was almost too much to see in an afternoon. Near the house CHS members admired the huge dovecot, plus the rose garden and the small box hedges. Further away were ponds, cascades, a cold bath (for swimming) and a sham ruin, among many other attractions.

In the more open part of the grounds, a herd of long-horned cattle wanders. They look frightening, but are said to be gentle.

Rousham is uncommercial with no teashop. Tea was taken at a hotel nearby. No cream, but nobody seemed to mind.

Joan Barraclough

NMR TO CLOSE

The invaluable National Monuments Record London archive is to close and is transferring to Swindon. This is despite the fact that a survey, conducted by the organisation (which is unwilling to move) showed that those who responded overwhelmingly rejected

the proposition. After all, if the NMR has not gone online with its images, what is the purpose, other than to save money, in moving it to Swindon? This may well be an economy to the department concerned, but it will seriously increase the cost of using the resource as well as drastically reducing the numbers visiting it. In turn, this will demoralise the staff, a factor which is hardly taken into consideration nowadays. To use the archive it will now cost the train fare, not to mention the time, to go and check on what pictures they have, say, for Camden High Street. A more absurd economy on the part of the government would be hard to find. Why they could not have found a cheaper alternative (instead of the West End) in London is difficult to understand.

AN ARCHIVE MERGER

The London Metropolitan Archives and the Corporation of London Record Office joined forces on 1 August; Dr Deborah Jenkins, head archivist for the LMA, will be in charge of this new arrangement. As the two operations will remain in their present buildings for some time to come, there will probably be little evidence of any changes to the outsider.

TALKS AT PRIMROSE HILL

The Primrose Hill Community Association is presenting another series of evening talks during the winter. These will take place at the Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, off Fitzroy Road on the first Tuesday of each month from October to March. Wine is served at 7 and the talks are at 7.30. Admission is £3 for members and £4 for non-members.

On 7 October the topic will be 'Nature in the city', a brief look at the flourishing wildlife in the diverse open spaces of the locality. On 4 November the talk will be on the role of education in the neighbourhood. December 2 will feature the work of some of the artists and photographers who have lived and worked in the area, including Roger Fenton and William Roberts.

Further information from the Community Centre (7586 8327).

KING'S CROSS VOICES

The King's Cross Community Development Trust has announced the offer of £285,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund for their oral history project, King's Cross Voices. This aims to create a unique record of the distinctive communities of the area, in their own words, before the ongoing regeneration of the district changes it. The Trust will use the funds to employ two full-time development workers over three years who will be both project leaders and oral historians. The British Library's Sound Archive experts will provide advice and training for the project leaders, who will then train and support local volunteers.

If you are interested in taking part or supporting the project, please contact the Trust on 7713 7959.

Open House in September

The celebrated Open House of London buildings takes place on 20/21 September. There is a glittering array of attractions. The usual suspects will be open in Camden, but the adventurous may like to try some rarer ones:

246 Kilburn High Road, a live and work space on an unusual site, with polished concrete floors (!) and walnut veneer panelling plus a wall of retractable windows overlooking the park. (Between 10 and 1 on each day)

35c Fairhazel Gardens NW6. An award winning house by Scampton and Barnett. Book through Open House only. Beware – children can fall off the staircase!

88 Grays Inn Road. Conversion and penthouse extension of derelict warehouse. On Saturday only, 10-5.

Over the border in Islington is Flat 17, 198 St John Street, a loft apartment which incorporates a ceramic studio. (Pre book through Open House.) And a chance to see the restored *St Luke's church* in Old Street (Hawksmoor), for so long a ruin, which is now home to the London Symphony Orchestra. Then again, you might be tempted by the old *Stoke Newington pumping station* in Green Lanes, N4, which is now a climbing practice centre.

This year may possibly be the last chance to see *St Pancras Chambers* – the old Midland Grand Hotel – as conversion work might begin before the following September.

Open House may be contacted at PO Box 25361, NW5 1GY, or see the website www.londonopenhouse.org.

The London Maze

This is the capital's local history fair, at which the Society and Camden Local Studies will be represented. It will be held on Saturday, 11 October, 10-4, in the Guildhall Art Gallery, which is itself a building worth seeing. Apart from the chance to buy from the various stalls, there are free talks on such subjects as Roman London, London 1700, Victorian London and Victorian family photographs. There are also guided walks in the City and a chance to have a guided tour of the Roman amphitheatre on the site.

THE LAMAS CONFERENCE

This year the subject is 'Lunatic London'. There will be talks on medieval London Hospitals, the care of the mentally ill in the 17th and 18th centuries, the dilemma of Charles Lamb regarding his sister, the design of asylums, and a talk by our own Robert Leon on St Luke's hospital in Finsbury.

As usual, the event will be held at the Museum of London. The date is 15 November, 10-5. Tickets (which include tea) available at £5 from Local History Conference, 36 Church Road, West Drayton, Middx UB7 7PX. Make out cheques to London & Middlesex Archaeological Society.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

There will be an illustrated talk on the impact of Black people on the popular theatre of 19th-century London on Tuesday, 7 October. This will be at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1, at 6.30pm. The speaker will be Jon Newman, Archivist of the London Borough of Lambeth.

EXHIBITION ON GEORGE DANCE

George Dance the Younger (1741-1825) is the subject of an exhibition at Sir John Soane's Museum from 10 October to 3 January. Soane was himself a pupil of Dance and saw him as 'one of the most accomplished architects of the English school'. Dance was responsible for the rebuilt Newgate Gaol (1770-80), and All Hallows, London Wall in 1767.

A PICTURE QUERY

B. Perry writes:

'I have the book *The Streets of Hampstead* by Christopher Wade that has on page 34 a black and white print of a watercolour by J. Appleton. It shows a row of houses in New End, Hampstead in 1890. I would like to locate this painting and if possible purchase a print. Can anyone help?'

Mr Perry's email is bper@ntlworld.com.

SOCIAL SERVICE IN HAMPSTEAD

Kevin Nunan, the Governance Project Coordinator for Voluntary Action Camden writes:

'I am hoping that a member of your society may be able to help me research the history of my organisation. I have heard, anecdotally, that it originated as the Hampstead Council (or committee) for Social Service, but I have few leads and do not know where our earliest documents are archived. I'm not a historian or researcher but any suggestions or leads you may have would be gratefully received.'

Mr Nunan's address is 293-299 Kentish Town Road NW5 2TJ. (7284 6550).

LONDON IN STONE

The earliest stone tablet to name London was found last autumn, not north of the river, but in Tabard Street Southwark. It had been buried in a pit early in the 4th century, its surface carefully protected by a tile. It appears to have been engraved on the order of Tiberinius Celerianus, a Roman citizen, who came from around Beauvais in northern France, the territory of the Bellovaci.

Also, a large bath-house has been discovered at Shadwell, a mile outside the limit of Londinium, which rather calls into question previous assumptions about some aspects of Roman London. The dig took place at 172-6 The Highway, and the remains will be preserved *in situ* beneath the current development of Wimpey homes.

Kentish Town Postcards



Our postcards this month are of Kentish Town, an area not much featured by postcard manufacturers in 1904, as it was generally run down. The streets here, Caversham Road above, and Burghley Road below, were more affluent abodes than most.



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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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; email: Drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 200

Nov 2003

In search of Camden Town

Thurs. 20 November, 7.30pm
St Michael's Community Space
8 Greenland Street, NW1

Future historians of Camden will be grateful to the Society if only for the excellent series of 'Streets' volumes produced by us. For some years now we have had an energetic and almost permanent group of members taking us from Holborn, Bloomsbury, St Pancras and now to Camden Town. Two volumes on Kentish Town are to come. Each book is meticulously researched, well written and, of course, beautifully designed by Ivor Kamlsh.

The latest volume on Camden Town is reviewed elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, but we are having an introductory launch of the publication in November at which members of the team will tell us of some of the problems, discoveries and highlights of their work.

The venue is a new one and recently opened. Greenland Street may not be familiar to you, but it runs east off Camden High Street at the tube station end, a short road next to what is now the World's End pub and which used to be called Mother Red Cap.

A virtual pub crawl

Thurs. 11 December, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Chris Ely, himself a publican, will introduce a survey of Camden pubs he has known and the drinking trends which have reshaped their appearance and function over the last generation or so. Afterwards a number of Society members will contribute short essays on notable pubs in the borough. At least, as it is the Christmas meeting, there will be a drink available for those attending!

200 Editions

The *Newsletter*, which began in 1970, this month celebrates its 200th edition with a bumper number of pages. Nothing illustrates the advances made in production techniques than the difference between producing the *Newsletter* in 1970 and 2003. In 1970 the Chief Librarian's secretary, Miss Squire, typed out the copy given to her by the Editor on one of the new breed

of IBM typewriters of the period – this gave a better image than the old uneven machines. The Editor then set the headlines in Letraset, pasted these and the typing in position with Cow Gum, and then the whole thing was photographed on to film and plates made. What happens now is that the Editor types on to a computer, scans in the images, and gives the printer a disc which is compatible with a machine that makes the printing plate – a lot quicker and much more flexible. It is difficult to visualise an improvement on the present method, but I expect we thought that 33 years ago.

The Editor would like to thank all those many members who have contributed informative and interesting articles over the years.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The following is a list of forthcoming talks, which so far have firm arrangements.

15 Jan: A day in the life of a Merchant Taylor, by Ann Saunders. At Burgh House.

19 Feb: The Archway Bridge, by Simon Morris. At Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church.

18 Mar: Tim Heath reading Lytton Strachey's *Ermyntrude and Esmeralda*, in the character and costume of Strachey.

Camden Characters

Some time in 2004, probably in April, Christopher Wade will be organising another evening of 'Camden Characters'. Those who were at the last such event a few years ago, will remember that it consisted of members giving a ten minute talk on a Camden resident of their choice who achieved some notoriety, not necessarily national fame. Last time included, for example, people such as Una Dillon, founder of the bookshop, and Peggy Duff, a leader of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Christopher is therefore looking for new subjects to put under the spotlight and, of course, the necessary speakers. He may be contacted at 28 Willoughby Road, NW3 or else on 7794 2752.

Two Generations: Londoners' Lives 1700-2000

History meets modern technology as web users are invited to surf through London's colourful past on a new website called Ten Generations.

The Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre has worked with neighbouring archives in Brent, Hackney, Islington and Westminster, as well as the Bishopsgate Institute, London's Transport Museum, the Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust Archives and the UCLH NHS Trust archives to offer 300 years of history at the click of a mouse.

The website, funded by the New Opportunities Fund digitisation programme, draws on a broad range of material from each of the partners to create a social and cultural history of north London over the last 300 years, under seven main themes: Health, Homes, Leisure, Transport, Work, Communities, and Education.

Users can now search the site database and call up details and images of items in the partners' collections and explore aspects of London's history in a range of specially written 'learning journeys'. These include the history of Highgate Cemetery, and the fascinating story of the St Pancras Housing Association and the impact it had on housing for local people – especially in Somers Town.

The web address is www.tengenerations.org.uk

The Irish Centre

Cllr Gerry Anderson writes:

'Next year will be the 50th anniversary of the London Irish Centre in Camden Square. With a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, this event will be marked by an exhibition, a schools' educational pack including a CD and a book.

I have been commissioned to write the book. In addition to being a mere history of the building and its work over the fifty years, first as a hostel and then as an advice and welfare centre, this book will include the wider context of the Irish in Camden, Irish culture in Camden and the role of the centre in the changing relationships between Britain and Ireland, particularly in the Peace Process for Northern Ireland. It will also demonstrate that the focus of the Irish Centre has now shifted to include other ethnic minorities. I am particularly interested in hearing from people who have stories to tell along these original lines, which will enliven the book.

Please contact me at 3 Inkerman Road, NW5 3BS (Tel: 7209 4661; email: gerry.harrison@camden.gov.uk)

Camden Features

Society member Bryan Diamond has, since he moved to Fitzjohn's Avenue in the 1990s, taken many pictures of exterior features on houses in the Fitzjohn's area. An exhibition of 250 colour photos, taken by him, will be on display at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library from 5 January to 28 February. Features include stained, painted and etched window glass, ceramic tiles, mosaic paths, moulded and carved brickwork, terracotta, plaster, low relief sculpture, spires and ironwork, particularly railings and verandahs. An article on the theme, by Bryan Diamond, appeared in the *Camden History Review* 25 (2001).

The Siberechts painting

Two minor features may be of interest in the 1696 painting by Jan Siberechts of a large house on Roslyn Hill, discussed and illustrated by John Richardson in *Newsletter* 164.

Behind the house, in the right-hand (west) garden wall, there is a small single-storey building with the upper floor approached by a ramp. This, near the far end of Waterhouse Close (off Lyndhurst Road), looks like a horse mill: on the upper floor, the horse walked round in a circle pulling a pole attached to a vertical shaft which turned a millstone at ground level.

In the middle distance two partly white houses appear to be Nos 3 and 5 on the table of 'improved' rents on John Grove's map of 1714 (Westminster Abbey 12450). These are on Belsize Lane, the one on the right (No. 3, empty in 1714) being known as the White House. This was demolished in 1811 by George Todd, a Baltic merchant, when he had built the villa finally known as Belsize Court; there is a view at p76 of *The Streets of Belsize*. Belsize Court survived until 1937 and the name is now borne by five blocks of flats around the new part of Wedderburn Road.

The painting, in 1997 retitled (after information given by members of the CHS to Tate Britain, which had originally adjudged it to be a picture of a mansion in Highgate), 'A view of a House and its Estates in Belsize, Middlesex', was recently in storage but is now back on display there in the section called 'Worldly Goods'.

Roy Allen

THE ANNUAL CLOSURE

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre will be closed from Monday 1 December to Saturday 6 December inclusive so that the staff can undertake a number of tasks that they cannot do while the library is open, such as sorting and listing archives. Any queries before or after on 020 7974 6342.

Researching the History of Your House

Having recently moved to Camden, I have been fascinated with the history of my house and its environs and desperate to find out more. I began my research by reading Gillian Tindall's *The Fields Beneath*, about the history of Kentish Town, although my house (in Jeffreys Street) is at the northern end of Camden Town or the southern end of Kentish Town, depending on your viewpoint, already a problem as books, maps etc seem to deal with specific areas. I planned to visit the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre when I saw that the CHS was holding a talk there – what a great way to find out more and get started.

Forty members of the Society were fortunate enough to hear this very informative talk at the Centre on the 16th October. Archivist Malcolm Holmes kicked off with a selection of the items available to us for research, continued by Richard Knight, Principal Officer at the Centre, followed by Aidan Flood, Senior Librarian, going through the history of his house as a case study which he recently researched. Malcolm talked about what is specifically available at the Centre but also gave us a taste of what is available elsewhere, such as at the London Metropolitan Archives and web sites such as Ten Generations (www.tengenerations.org.uk) and pointed out that even sources such as the *Camden New Journal* might have information about local history.

Architectural books may assist in dating your house. The London County Council volumes of *Names of Streets and Places* help to establish when a street name was changed. There are A-Z maps (published by the London Topographical Society) showing the lower Camden area from Regency times.

Older deeds to property may have some historical information. Often building societies are happy to pass the old deeds onto owners so that they do not have to store them. The Centre has thousands of these donated to them, but unfortunately most are not indexed. A Land Registry document has now replaced the old deeds but without, unfortunately, the same level of detail. Contact your own building society, if you have a mortgage, to get a copy of your deeds. Halifax will now check to see if there is historical information for you before charging you a fee for a copy.

Historical maps are available at the centre. There are Goad plans for insurance purposes on microfilm which complement the Ordnance Survey maps dating back to the 1880s. My house does not appear on an 1804 map but the terrace next door does so that has helped me to pin down the date of my house and details of the surrounding properties.

There are 50,000 illustrations at the Centre, including photographs taken in 1903 by London Underground of the buildings along the route of the new Northern

line. There are also postcards, water colours and drawings, and the King Panorama of Kentish Town, showing the buildings along the main road from Swains Lane to Old St Pancras church in the early 19th century, is also on view – indeed a printed copy is available for sale at a modest price.

There are 12,000 volumes of rate books at the Centre, dating back to 1720 for some parts of Camden. Other sources include indexes of press cuttings, manorial records, electoral Registers and Street Directories dating back to the 1830s. Drainage Application Plans, as from 1856, are on microfiche and are partially indexed.

The 1901 census is available online for a fee (www.pro.gov.uk) – it's easier to use if you already know what civil and ecclesiastical parish your house is in. I was able to get my house details for £10. I learned that in 1901 eight people lived in my tiny terrace house, in two households including two lodgers. Other census returns are available on microfiche from 1841 to 1901.

The Georgian Group and the Victorian Society have good information about period features that your home may have. Using the Georgian Group's book about fireplaces, and my other readings, I have pinned down the date of my house to between 1816 and 1826.

If anyone is interested in the Jeffrey's Street Conservation Area and would like to share information with me, please let me know.

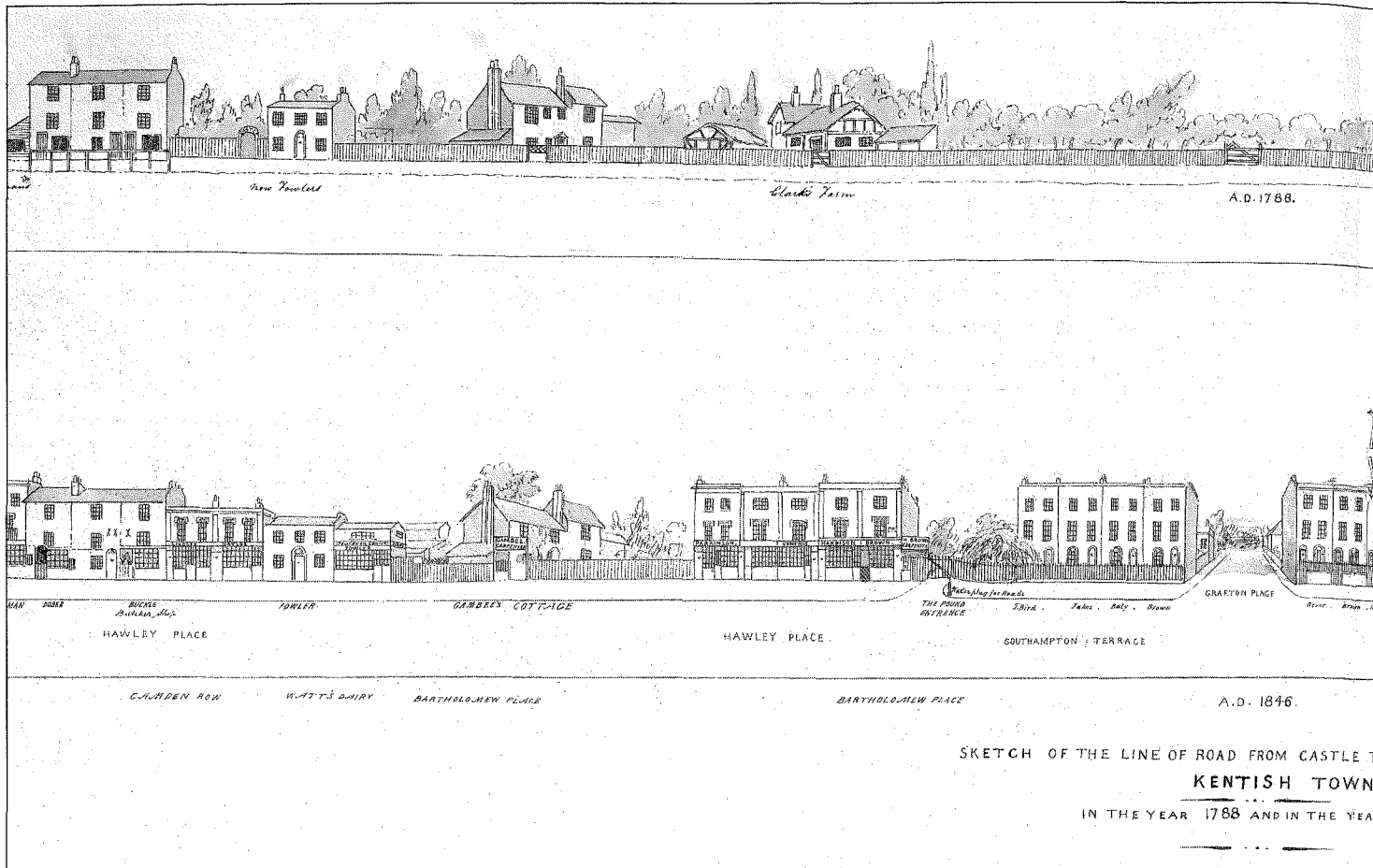
Julie Berk
(7419 6401; Julie@julieberk.com)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Malcolm Holmes writes:

A blind man would like some assistance with a local history project. He already had a PhD but became blind two years ago and has now decided to take an Open University degree, the first course being A103 Humanities. He would like to compare pre-2nd World War religious life and institutions in Camden (or possibly just Hampstead) with current day. He would welcome some assistance from volunteers who could help in his research by assisting in finding material in the Local Studies and Archives Centre initially and reading it out to him. This would give him the resources for the intellectual challenge of writing an essay. It is a short term project but an extremely worthwhile one.

If you can help, please ring me on 020 7974 6342



A Panorama of Kentish Town

Many members will be familiar with the magnificent panorama of Kentish Town, stretching from Swains Lane to Old St Pancras church, drawn by James Frederick King (1781-1855). The drawings, of both sides of the main road, purport to be of Kentish Town and north and south of it c.1800, but as the London Topographical Society edition of this panorama (obtainable from Camden Local Studies and Archives) points out it is drawn on paper watermarked 1848 and 1850 and contains some items which appear to have been drawn from memory.

Now, another panorama has turned up, which I acquired only recently. It depicts the *western* side of some of Kentish Town Road, stretching from the Castle Tavern at the south to just north of Anglers Lane. It purports to show the buildings on that stretch both in 1788 and in 1846. The artist is 'H.G', who has not yet been firmly identified, and he dates his drawing at 1854. Why he did the drawing, and whether he

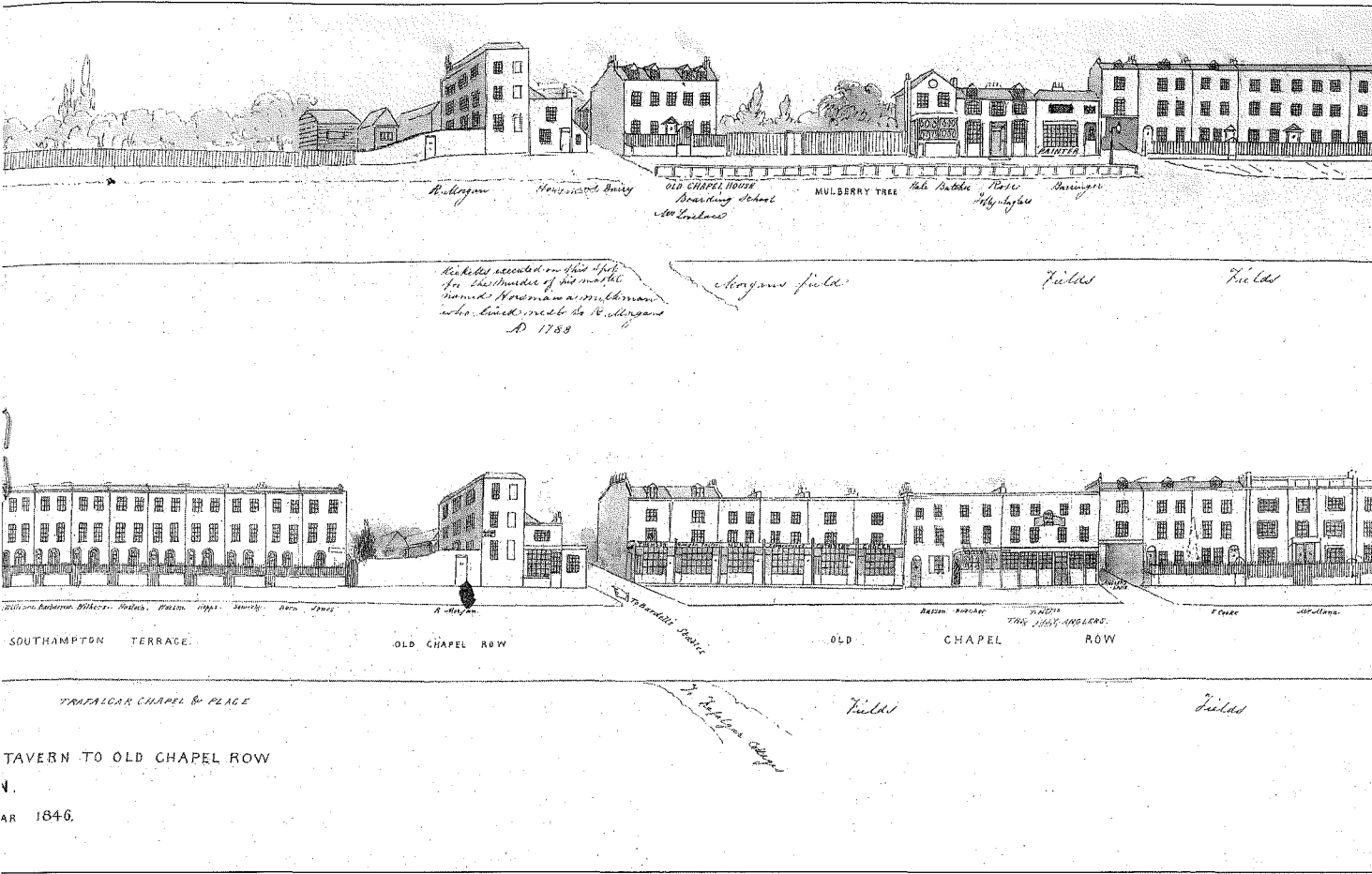
knew about the King Panorama being prepared at roughly the same time, are two intriguing questions. Did the two men know each other? Certainly, King was the better artist.

H.G's depiction of the road for 1788 bears out much of King's drawing 'of 1800', but the two versions are not identical. Sadly, 'H.G' stops just a few doors short at the north end of one of the enigmas of King's panorama which shows an obviously Tudor inn called the White Lion and Bell which, I found, is nowhere mentioned in the 18th-century licensing records, nor in any Vestry minutes or rate books.

Perhaps the 'Streets Group', about to commence work on Kentish Town, will be able to come up with some answers to all this.

The panorama by 'H.G' is 28 inches wide.

John Richardson



Reunited in Death

As noted in *Camden History Review* 27 (page 9), the double-length horse trough in Albany Street, erected almost opposite the Barracks in 1882, was donated by Mr Upton-Cottrell-Dormer of Rousham Park, Oxon. Inscribed on opposite ends of the trough are the names 'Florence' and 'Clement'.

Members who visited Rousham on the Society's annual outing may recall the morose-looking lady whose portrait hangs there in an upstairs room. "You would look miserable if you'd given birth to so many children," remarked our guide, "though her husband, over there, looks happy enough!" The lady was Florence Upton-Cottrell-Dormer, born in Westmorland as Florence Anne Upton. In 1858 she married Clement Cottrell-Dormer, ten years her senior, whom the *VCH* describes as a progressive farmer who introduced agricultural machinery at Rousham in the 1870s. Clement honoured Florence by adding 'Upton' to his family name. He died, aged 53, in December 1880. Having borne him a dozen children, Florence survived him by 26 years, dying aged 69 in January 1907.



The Upton-Cottrell-Dormer graves in Rousham churchyard.

In Rousham church we found an alabaster reredos erected in memory of Florence by her surviving sons and daughters. In an unkempt corner of the churchyard we discovered the devoted couple, touchingly reunited in death, buried side by side in twin graves. A photograph was irresistible.

David and Ruth Hayes

Behind the Headlines - A Camden Quiz

Set by Christopher Wade

Here are ten headlines of items in the first hundred editions of our *Newsletter* (between 1970 and 1987), and two questions about each story. You are invited to answer as many as you can of the questions marked 'a' and 'b'. The third question marked 'x' is an optional extra or for amusement only.

If you have collected and kept all your back numbers, you will have little trouble searching through them for the answers, and you will enjoy, as I did, coming across a great variety of historical gems and some high points in the development of our Society. Without old *Newsletters*, you can still find most of the answers needed – from other publications, especially ours.

Three prizes of £10 will be awarded to the best sets of answers received. Entries must reach the Editor before Christmas. Answers and winners' names will appear in the next *Newsletter*.

1. Vane House Goes

- a) Where was it?
- b) Why so called
- x) Where did it go?

2. Keats in St Pancras

- a) When?
- b) Where?
- x) Which platform?

3) Coleridge at Highgate

- a) When?
- b) Where?
- x) On which drug?

4) Hawksmoor in Holborn

- a) Which church?
- b) When consecrated
- x) Seen in which Hogarth picture?

5) A Bit of Denmark in Camden

- a) Which church?
- b) Where?
- x) What links it with Harald Bluetooth

6) Milton in Camden

- a) When?
- b) Where?
- x) What did he write there about Charles I's executioners?

7) Jane Austen and Hampstead

- a) What connection?
- b) Who was Philadelphia Hancock?
- x) Did Jane come to Hampstead?

8) The Hampstead Heath Rail Disaster

- a) When?
- b) Why?
- x) How many crushed to death?

9) Leg of Mutton Pearls

- a) What sort of pearls?
- b) Where found?
- x) Where are they now?

10) One Hundred Up

- a) The 100th edition of what?
- b) Who was the Editor?
- x) Who said he would be "very surprised if I am writing this in 2004?"

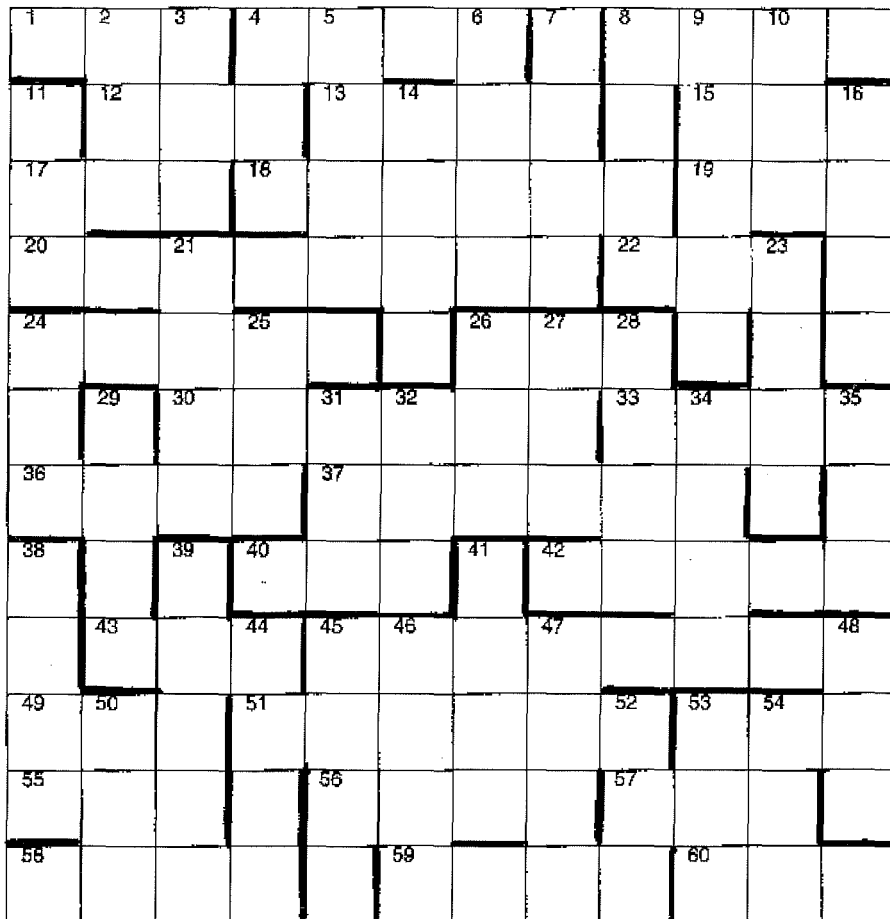
Years Ago

Jane Ramsay, our Secretary, has discovered a notebook referring to the earliest meetings of the Camden History Society. The list of those attending our inaugural meeting on 27 November 1969 includes, alas, many names not now with us, but also a good number of others who would be surprised to realise that it was 34 years ago. The names of those attending then (as far as their signatures can be translated) were:

Ernest Raymond, the novelist, E L Mackeown and Gwynydd Gosling (Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution), Denzil Budgett-Meakin, K. Budgett Meakin, Freda Lord (London Appreciation Society), Christopher Oxford, Gwynneth Williams, Madelaine du Mont, A M Whinney (*St Pancras Chronicle*), Charles Lee (transport historian and later to be President of the Society), Horace Shooter, N A Burton, Miss Georgina Ling (Victorian Society), Miss Anne Higgs, Roger Ellis, Noel Woolf, D W Lloyd (Victorian Society), H E Robins (Local History Committee, London & Middlesex Archaeological Society), Malcolm Holmes (Camden Libraries), R G King (*The Times*), C? Bush (Camden Libraries), FR Pryce (Camden Libraries), ??? Saunders (Camden Libraries), Christine Rogers, Helen Bartolomé, J Wareing, Ann Winser, B M Short and Donald Hill (all six from North Western Polytechnic), Geoffrey Hoar (Camden Planning), Brenda Tyler (Hampstead history evening class teacher), Joan Oatway, Leonard Sidwell (Camden Libraries), Antony Wilson (Highgate Bookshop), Douglas Moss, John Parkhurst (former editor *Ham & High*), R F Chisholm (Georgian Group), G D Gregory (Camden Libraries), Susan Cox (Highgate Society), Jennifer Stevens (Camden Libraries), Frances Rowley (Keats House), Frank Cole (Camden Libraries), M L Heath, Joyce Wheatley (Historical Association, Hampstead branch), Wilfrid Meadows (later our Treasurer), Richard Henwood, Ralph Dyer, Ann Saunders, John Sanglier (*Ham & High*), and C J Howkins (Camden Libraries). There are about six other people whose signatures are indecipherable. The only person who appears not to have signed this historic document was the chairman of the meeting, John Richardson.

Riotous Romans

compiled by David Hayes



Across

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|------------------------------|
| 1 | Ten decibels (3) | 4 | Pepys abridged? (3) |
| 4 | Magnitude (4) | 5 | Object of worship (4) |
| 8 | Fortified wine (4) | 6 | Deserve (4) |
| 12 | Meadow (3) | 7 | Ballet movement (4) |
| 13 | Trade — in timber from Kentish town? (4) | 8 | Italian city (4) |
| 15 | Young animal (3) | 9 | Covent Garden speciality (5) |
| 17 | Spanish exclamation (3) | 10 | Mat (3) |
| 18 | Crafty Queen Square resident (6) | 11 | Young child (3) |
| 19 | Self-confidence (3) | 14 | Hampstead s Blair (4) |
| 20 | Street railway (8) | 16 | Kitty (4) |
| 22 | Limb (3) | 21 | Skills (4) |
| 24 | Finnish city (5) | 23 | Lake (4) |
| 26 | Expression of contempt (3) | 24 | Number (3) |
| 30 | Canned (6) | 25 | Old friends (4) |
| 33 | Ethnic hairstyle (4) | 26 | Bottom (3) |
| 36 | Set of tables (4) | 27 | Say further (3) |
| 37 | Conundrum (6) | 28 | Stop (4) |
| 40 | Amateur (3) | 29 | Smithfield speciality (4) |
| 42 | Place, not wholly stable (5) | 31 | River authority (3) |
| 43 | Beverage (3) | 32 | Old game (3) |
| 45 | Quivers (8) | 34 | Believe (4) |
| 49 | Beat (3) | 35 | Antique (3) |
| 51 | Ogled (6) | 38 | Student hostel (4) |
| 53 | Abu Dhabi etc (3) | 39 | Citrus fruit (5) |
| 55 | Orchestra (3) | 41 | Fairy (4) |
| 56 | Passage (4) | 44 | Disembarked, of old (4) |
| 57 | Make a mistake (3) | 45 | Duck (4) |
| 58 | Tilt (4) | 46 | Perform again (4) |
| 59 | Is indebted (4) | 47 | Apportion (4) |
| 60 | French Marshal (3) | 48 | Bishopric (3) |

Down

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 2 | Old measure of length (3) | 52 | Some French chap? (3) |
| 3 | London river (3) | 53 | Vase (3) |
| | | 54 | Metric land measure (3) |

Clues are straightforward. Answers include some abbreviations and proper names. Solvers should highlight seven historic parts of Camden, cryptically suggested by the puzzle title and revealed (in one case obliquely) in the completed grid.

A Celebration of Camden Town

Two publications now on sale celebrate Camden Town. The first is our own Street Group's lively and comprehensive walk book (to be launched officially at our November meeting - see p1), and the second is a volume in the Tempus Books *Images of London* series, by Society members Marianne Colloms and Dick Weindling.

Streets of Camden Town (£5.95) is in the usual A5 landscape size, 120 pages with numerous illustrations. It is an observant and well-researched trail through all the streets of Camden Town. There are great snippets of information. Apparently, early residents of Camden Square were required by covenant to place lighted candles in their windows on Christmas Eve. In 1868, key-holding residents were reluctant to use the Garden. Rowdy youths gained access by scaling the railings, and their "vulgar language and rude demeanour" alarmed respectable householders, fearful of this threat to the morals of their offspring. The gardener was therefore sworn in as a constable. The rules also forbade "boisterous or dangerous games ... such as cricket, football, rounders, hockey, skipping with long ropes, trundling iron hoops and shooting bows and arrows." Exempted from all this seem to have been the Cantelows Archers who used the square for practice. One wonders what the residents would have said about the present Adventure Playground there.

The authors also tell us about Idris table waters, once a notable feature in Camden Town. Thomas Howell Williams, who lived at 110 Pratt Street, was a pharmacist who bought a chemist's shop in Seven Sisters Road. After admiring a mineral water syphon in Paris he began to supply mineral water from his own shop, finally switching to its manufacture. In 1889 his name appears in the list of LCC members representing North St Pancras. In 1893 he legally adopted the surname Idris, from the name of the mountain Cader Idris near his birthplace, down which pours a spectacular waterfall, and his name subsequently appeared in the LCC minutes as T H W Idris. However, Idris mineral water did not come from Wales but, less romantically, from an artesian well he had found off Pratt Street, which is why he set up his factory there. Later Idris became mayor of St Pancras, and his son and later his daughter-in-law also became St Pancras councillors. The Idris name and image are immortal-

ised in John Betjeman's *First and Last Loves*. In an essay devoted to London railway stations he conjures up a vision of what he would like to find in the waiting room if he ever visited South Hampstead railway station. He hopes there will be green-painted walls, gas lighting, and "a looking glass in which it will be impossible to see all one's face at once because painted on the surface are the words IDRIS TABLE WATERS and a long maiden holding in her hand a sparkling glass of IDRIS". The Idris works, incidentally, displaced Pells Private Madhouse.

These are just two of the many fascinating passages in this new book. Congratulations to the team as always for a very professional publication.

Camden Town and Kentish Town is a thematic photographic review of the two areas. Most of the illustrations emanate from Camden Archives and the collection of Marianne Colloms. They include the small chapel of the Latter Day Saints in the Royal College Street area, whose congregation provided quite a few of those who helped to found that church in Utah. It would be interesting to know if the Latter Day Saints, who are passionately interested in genealogy, have records of those early converts to the cause in Camden Town.

A picture I hadn't seen before, is Camden Road Midland Railway station. This stood on the corner of Sandall Road and was convenient, of course, for girls going to the North London Collegiate School, whose buildings were later taken by Miss Buss's other school, the Camden School for Girls. The station closed in 1916 and a garage now occupies the site.

This book provides a welcome introduction to the photographic and social riches of the area. It is paperback, 128pp, and costs £11.99. (ISBN 0 7524 2922 1).

The New Review

Last, but certainly not least, enclosed with this newsletter is *Camden History Review* 27, edited by David Hayes. Coincidentally it also shows a long forgotten building in Sandall Road - the Emporium - which was converted into classrooms for the NLCS.

Once again, many congratulations to the contributors, editor and designer of this new *Review*, which is the best annual local history production in London.

John Richardson

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.

The Secretary of the Society is Mrs Jane Ramsay, Garden Flat, 62 Fellows Road, NW3, 3LJ (7586 4436),

The Treasurer is Angela Bowen, 3 Oak Village, NW5 4QR

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; email: Drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk).

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

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044