

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 225

Jan 2008

The Jewish Museum – Past, Present and Future

Thurs. 24 January, 7.30pm,
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Rickie Burman, Director of the Jewish Museum, is our speaker in January who will tell us more about the history and future of the museum. As many of you will know, the museum in Albert Street, Camden Town, closed in September so that a multi-million reconstruction and expansion could take place – due to reopen in 2009.

Features of the museum will include a medieval mikveh, excavated in 2001 in the City of London – a key exhibit illustrating the long history of Jewish settlement in Britain.

Ms Berman will illustrate the large collection of ornaments and artefacts and will give us a foretaste of this major new museum to open in Camden in the not too distant future.

Buried in the Past - an undertaker's story

Thurs. 14 February, 7.30pm
Crowndale Centre, Eversholt Street, NW1

Bernard France of A France & Son, the undertakers of Lamb's Conduit Street, Holborn, is our speaker in February. His firm is over 200 years old and Mr France is an eloquent speaker and teller of anecdotes on the history of his profession and his firm in particular. His company was responsible for the spectacular burial of Nelson in 1806, leading to a wag's remark that "France got Nelson in the end". Interestingly, Camden's other old firm of undertakers, Leverton's in Eversholt Street, was responsible for two of the more recent high profile public funerals – of Princess Diana and of the Queen Mother.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Please put these dates in your diary:

20 March : Pam Cooper on Waterlow Park. At Burgh House.

24 April: Gillian Darley, speaking about her book, *Villages of Vision*.

Another First Prize

We are delighted to announce that the Society, for the second year running, has won first prize in the local history publication awards offered by the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society in 2006.

Our winning publication was *Wartime St Pancras*, which was based on the diary and records of Cllr Allen Newbery, who was Chief Air Raid Warden for St Pancras borough during the last war. The original typescript was edited by CHS member Robin Woolven and the publication was designed by Ivor Kamlisch.

Wartime St Pancras may be bought at meetings, or by post from Roger Cline (address on p4) or else from Camden Local Studies and Archives at Holborn Library. It has 88pp, 27 illustrations and costs £7.50 plus £1 postage.

SOME NEW ACQUISITIONS

A major acquisition at Camden Local Studies and Archives at Holborn Library is a virtually complete set of the *Illustrated London News* from its foundation in 1842 to 1992. Local historians rely very heavily on this trove of information and illustrations and its availability at Camden is welcome. However, it is a bulky collection of volumes and is stored at an external location, so 24 hours' notice is required.

Many members will know the Romany store in Camden High Street, once run by the Romany family and one of the pioneers in DIY. They were always renowned for their vast stocks of cabinet ironmongery and Camden has acquired a 1937 catalogue of the firm.

Also new are documents relating to air raid precautions in Hampstead 1937-40, and a log book for St Giles-in-the-Fields Girls' School.

EXHIBITION AT GOLDSMITHS' HALL

The Goldsmiths' Company is staging an exhibition of 'Treasures of the English church' - Sacred gold and silver from 800-2000, the largest exhibition of its kind for 50 years.

This will be at Goldsmiths' Hall from 30 May to 12 July. Admission will be free.

The Lyndhurst Society and Mrs Nevinson

The Mrs Nevinson referred to in the 1915-16 membership card for the Lyndhurst Society (see *Newsletter* 223) was Margaret Nevinson. Born about 1860, she was described by *Who's Who* as 'public speaker and writer'; her autobiography, *Life's a Fitful Fever*, provides a vivid picture of the life of a progressive New Woman in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Daughter of a prominent clergyman, she was not allowed by her parents to go to newly founded Girton, but taught at South Hampstead High School and studied in the evenings for a Law degree. She had a somewhat stormy marriage to a journalist and foreign correspondent. The young couple lived for a while in Whitechapel under the auspices of Toynbee Hall, but later the practicalities of family life got the better of idealism and they moved to a 'tumbledown old shack' in Keats Grove in Hampstead. Their son grew up to be the First World War artist CWR Nevinson.

Margaret devoted a long life to good causes, street corner speaking, moderate suffragettism, crusading journalism of her own and enthusiastic bicycling. She was on the LCC education committee, was a Poor Law Guardian and, eventually, one of the first women magistrates – women were not appointed JPs until 1919.* A photo of the Hampstead Bench in 1924 (Margaret Nevinson is second from the left) was taken in the garden of Drummond Lodge in Lyndhurst Road, which was the home of Sir Andrew Taylor (beard and tweed suit, far right). He was a prominent architect and academic, sometimes mayor of Hampstead, and sat on numerous committees redolent of the great, the good and the liberal. My guess is that the Lyndhurst Society was a cultural club in which he was a chief mover. Has anyone else heard of it?

Gillian Tindall

* For the illustration and fuller information on Margaret Nevinson and the Hampstead Court of that time, see Gillian Tindall's *Two Hundred Years of London Justice*, published by the CHS in 2001. It may be obtained for £5.95 plus postage from Roger Cline (see p.4)

WITANHURST MEMORIES

The purchase and rumoured resale of Witanhurst on Highgate West Hill has had two effects. One is to remind us of the overwhelming zest for profit (known politely as business acumen) of those dealing in such properties. The other was an article in the *Ham & High* based on the recollections of Penelope Chilton, aged 86, whose grandfather, Walter Scrimgeour, owned what was then called Parkfield a large house which was redeveloped by Sir Arthur Crossfield and became Witanhurst.

Ms Chilton's mother recalled that they had a staff of about 11 [for Parkfield] – a cook, kitchen maid, scullerymaid, butler, footman, parlourmaid, two housemaids, nursemaid and a governess.

Hilda Pallan

Hilda, a long standing member of the Society, died in the spring of 2007 about a year after she left her sheltered accommodation in Makepeace Avenue, Highgate, and moved to an older people's home in Heversham in Cumbria to be closer to relatives. She was probably the oldest member of the CHS, as she was in her 97th year, but right until the end of her life she continued to be an avid reader and until she left London she was able to visit museums and art galleries with the help of an arts charity that arranges such visits. Her reading reflected her many interests. Roger Cline can remember her as a member of his English Lit. class at the City Lit, and many of her friends first knew her as a fellow student in the long-running botany class taught by the eminent botanist, Edward Lousley at Morley College. She will be missed by her London friends.

Sheila Ayres

Roy Shaw

Roy Shaw, borough councillor *extraordinaire* and long-standing member and supporter of the Society, died on January 4th, aged 81.

In 2007 Roy celebrated being a borough councillor for 50 years – with Hampstead, St Pancras and then Camden – and was even given a reception by his old sometime sparring partner, Ken Livingstone, at City Hall to mark the event. The span of his local public service – always at a prominent level, and including Leader of the Council and Mayor – is probably unique in any city in this country.

Alas, Roy was not to enjoy his retirement from local government for long. Towards the end of the year, when Camden made him an honorary alderman, Roy was too ill to attend.

I knew Roy on and off for those fifty years – I was a member of Hampstead Labour Party when he was party secretary there. We enjoyed some social contact at times – usually at the Rosslyn Arms on Rosslyn Hill – then that tiny pub was one of the gathering places of Hampstead Labour and CND, and then I saw him frequently when Camden was formed because we were both councillors for the same ward in Kentish Town. He was, in my view, a natural for the House of Lords. He was an excellent committee man, had a vast knowledge of local authority finance and procedure, was hard working and unselfseeking. Politically he was soft left but pragmatic. He lived modestly in Malden Road in all those years, a confirmed bachelor who managed to deter all offers.

He retained interest in military affairs, the Territorials and the fire service.

Camden residents were lucky to have had such a stabilising influence in what was often a rocky political ride.

John Richardson

Left Review

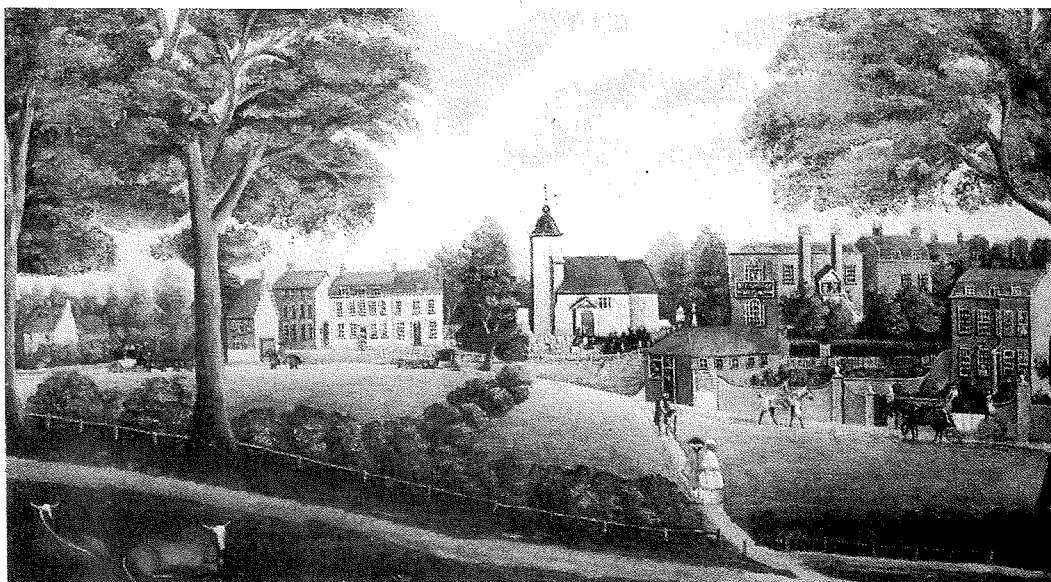
It isn't often that our publications merit a review in the *Socialist Standard*, but the following appeared in its edition for January 2008.

In contrast the politics (and arts) issue of the *Camden History Review* is, as one might expect coming from the premier local history organisation in the capital, immaculately produced and finely focussed. The piece on Camden's MPs is a rather old-fashioned biographical exercise, useful mainly for reference; however, the articles on the fight for a free library in Highgate and the St Pancras Civil Defence revolt of 1957-8 are prime examples of how on-the-ground-floor writing can help illuminate the real processes of history. The particular lesson to be learned from these two cases is that within capitalism every advance in the freedom of knowledge or the search for peace has to be fought for tooth and nail. And how fruitless such actions, whether achieved via constitutional reform or direct action, ultimately are. The Socialist Party gets a mention in a fourth political essay, on the radical history of Gray's Inn Road, as a radical organisation which once had its head office in the area and which pushes the solution – production for use not profit – to all capitalist problems from attacks on libraries to warmongering.¹

Revealed – a painting of St Pancras Church

Out of the blue, the picture below appeared (in colour) in *The Guardian* on 12 November. It is of St Pancras Old Church in the 18th century, before its Victorian make-over by Gough and Roumieu. Nearby is the St Pancras Wells, one of the several medicinal wells in the area.

The painting was being exhibited in the Antiques Fair at Olympia, but, alas, was not for sale, being part of a private collection. Research needs to be done to establish the artist's viewpoint.



ONLINE HELP

New websites to aid genealogists and local historians appear so frequently now that it is difficult to keep track. Two new ones appear to be particularly useful. 280 million names in British telephone directories have been assembled on to a database. The entries show the address and telephone number. These may be accessed via Ancestry.co.uk, though you do have to pay.

Website www.findmypast.com is a compilation of burials noted in registers, cemetery and cremation records dating back to 1538. There are details of more than 13 million burials.

Tube Shelterers Wanted

Dave Welsh writes:

During the London Blitz, the tube was used by thousands of Londoners for shelter from the bombing. It may seem an obvious refuge but at first the government and the transport authority (LPTB) refused entry to shelterers, believing that mass use of the tubes would impede traffic and create a 'deep shelter mentality' of fear and defeatism. It was only when mass occupation of stations began in 1940, often led by the Communist Party, that the government climbed down, triggering 'the biggest working class demonstration London has seen'. Sheltering developed its own momentum – with planned sleeping arrangements, refreshments, first-aid, newsletters and committees, attracting widespread press comment and even appearing in a Hollywood movie:

There is no oral record of these times and we'd like to put that right. Were you a shelterer? We would like to hear from you if you were, or simply if you travelled on the tubes in those years or if you worked on the underground. We would like to record your experiences and hope to place them on a website.

Mr Welsh can be contacted at 7837 0845, or email davidwelsh83@btinternet.com, or write to 15 Wellington Road, Norwich NR2 3HT.



Above, a traffic-free, trolleybus era in the Prince of Wales Road by Kentish Town West station.

Below, a scene that has hardly changed today – Langbourne Mansions on the Holly Lodge estate, photographed c.1954 from Swains Lane.



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of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 226

Mar 2008

Waterlow Park

Thursday, 20 March, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Waterlow Park was the gift of Sir Sydney Waterlow (1822-1906), printer of banknotes and Lord Mayor of London. He owned the land's freehold, together with that of Lauderdale House and some other properties fronting the main road. He himself lived in Fairseat, the large house to the north-west of the estate, now occupied by part of Channing School, but he had only a lease on that property. He had hoped, when he gave the park and Lauderdale House to the public, that the freehold of Fairseat would eventually be available and added to the gift. But it was not to be, for the owners, the Bloxham family, refused all offers and indeed, for the remainder of Waterlow's lease, prevented its use by the public.

Waterlow presented this marvellous estate to the London County Council in 1889, and the official opening was on 17 October 1891. The statue of Waterlow, by Frank Taubman, was unveiled in 1900 by Princess Louise who then went on the same day to open the new Archway Bridge. The statue shows Waterlow holding keys to the park and an umbrella - possibly the only London statue where the subject is armed with such an item.

Our speaker in March is Pam Cooper, who in 2006, using her own resources, published a splendid history of the Park and its buildings and gardens. This will be on sale at the talk.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

All Membership matters are now being handled by Dr Henry Fitzhugh (56 Argyle Street, WC1H 8ER, tel: 020 7837 9980, email: henryfitzhugh@talktalk.net). Subscriptions are due on March 1st. Members who do not pay by standing order should pay by cheque to that address if they have received a subscription invoice with their *Newsletter*. We would be extremely grateful if anyone paying by cheque could fill out the Standing Order Mandate and the Gift Aid Declaration at the same time. The May *Newsletter* will only be sent if subscriptions have been received by April 25.

Villages of Vision: Strange Utopias

Thursday, 24 April, 7.30pm
Crowndale Centre, Eversholt Street, NW1

Back in print, updated and enlarged, is Gillian Darley's book on the history of model communities *Villages of Vision: A Study of Strange Utopias*. These range from the delightful Milton Abbas in Dorset where a local landowner demolished the old village because it spoilt his view and rebuilt it on another site, to Port Sunlight, Hampstead Garden Suburb, Portmeirion, New Lanark and Bournville. There are some 400 of these planned communities, mostly erected in a philanthropic spirit, such as that at Claremont in Surrey, founded by the department store owner, William Whiteley, as a haven for pensioners. Currently the Prince of Wales is pursuing his Poundbury development near Dorchester in pursuit of his architectural ideas.

Gillian Darley, our speaker in April, is a writer and broadcaster, a former architectural correspondent for *The Observer* and a former Chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

The book is published by Five Leaves Press at £14.99. It is paperback, 300pp (ISBN 978-0-907123-50-7). This will be on sale at the talk.

Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary.

22 May, Burgh House.

Jennian Geddes will give a talk entitled "Good God! Women!" Suffragettes and the Endell Street Military Hospital. This scarcely-known hospital in Covent Garden was the only official army hospital to be managed solely by women. Our speaker is a retired doctor with an MA in women's history.

26 June, St Pancras Old Church

AGM and talk by Angela Inglis on her new photographs of the King's Cross area.

18 Sep at Burgh House. Antony Clayton on Folklore of Camden and elsewhere in London

16 Oct, venue to be announced, Ruth Richardson on Thomas Gray and the sesquicentenary of his *Anatomy*.

Celebrating 'Streets'

On February 19th the Society held a reception at Camden Local Studies to mark the culmination of the publication of the final 'Streets' volume – that relating to Highgate. Previous and present contributors were invited as were the Mayor, council staff and officers, together with representatives from neighbouring history societies.

The Chairman summarised the history of the project. It had begun in 1972 with *The Streets of Hampstead* – basically Hampstead Village – by Christopher Wade. It was followed by what became *Streets of Belsize* and then a volume on West Hampstead. Each of these was funded by Ian Norrie of the High Hill Bookshop. There was then a substantial gap in publication until Anthony Cooper edited *From Primrose Hill to Euston Road*. Then the project lapsed until Peter Woodford became our Publications Editor and as from 1997 new volumes appeared at a prodigious rate – nine in ten years. Furthermore, some of these new volumes, from Holborn going north, covered areas which had received scant attention from earlier historians and therefore everything had to be done from scratch.

In all it took 35 years, consisted of 13 volumes, 1400 pages and covered approximately 1300 streets. It was, the Chairman thought, probably unique in the country.

Ian Norrie remembered the early days of the Hampstead volumes. He explained that he had wriggled out of being on any CHS committee to get the venture started but did agree to become the publisher – at that time his largest client at the bookshop was the London Borough of Camden and it seemed diplomatic to be willing. But to his surprise, and he implied, to his consternation, he found that he was also expected to supply the funds to publish the early volumes. In the event the first two volumes sold very well and were profitable.

The Mayor of Camden, Cllr Dawn Somper, congratulated the Society on the quality of its publications and spoke of the importance of local history in the community.

The Chairman praised the work of Ivor Kamlisch in designing all our publications since 1997. He then announced that unknown to them, the Society was to mark its appreciation of a number of members who had been consistent researchers over the years. There were seven in all, who were presented with book tokens.

Sheila Ayres, the chairman noted, had been involved in eight of the publications, from the second one to the last one. Steve Denford had worked on eight of the last nine volumes, co-editing five of them. David Hayes had first taken part in 1982 and eventually his tally was ten, having been co-editor of three of them. Furthermore he has also edited the *Camden History*

Review for several years and was invariably the compiler of the index for each of our publications and also managed our website. Ruth Hayes also began in 1982 and has been a prominent contributor to the books on Holborn and St Pancras. Michael Ogden researched on four volumes, including the last three. Christopher Wade was involved in the first four titles, having edited three of them.

Lastly, Peter Woodford had played a key role in reviving our programme of publications and began our much admired series of Occasional Papers. Under his editorship nine of the Streets volumes have been published, of which he edited or co-edited six. He also for some years edited the *Review*.

Peter Woodford made the point that new editions of two of the Streets volumes were under way. However, they did need new volunteers to be researchers. Anyone who might like to join in what is both an exacting and enjoyable pursuit should get in touch with him.

The Camden Town Group

Tate Britain has an exhibition on the Camden Town Group at the moment – it runs until 5 May. In the 1910s the Group – principally composed of Sickert, Gore, Bevan, Ginner and Gilman – introduced Post-Impressionism into Britain, inspired by the work of Van Gogh and Paul Gauguin.

Robert Bevan (1865-1925), who lived at 14 Adamson Road, Hampstead from 1901 until his death, was a founder member of the Group. He was one of the Gauguin circle in Brittany in the early 1890s, and entered the London avant-garde scene in 1908 when he joined Sickert's Fitzroy Group. The Camden Town Group was fairly short-lived and eventually metamorphosed into the London Group. In 1915 Bevan, along with Gilman, Ginner and John Nash, formed the Cumberland Market Group.

He was fortunate in having a private income, which was just as well since during his lifetime he sold only one work to a public collection.

A book about Bevan has just been published by Unicorn Press. By Frances Stenlake, it is entitled *Robert Bevan: From Gauguin to Camden Town*. The hardback consists of 224 pages (125 colour illustrations), costs £30 and its ISBN is 0-978-906290-92-7.

SHAW AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY

A small exhibit entitled *Artful Practice* of architectural drawings and plans of Richard Norman Shaw is now in the Tennant Room at the Royal Academy. It runs until 25 May. It includes a drawing of the demolished 6 Fitzjohns Avenue and a drawing and plan of Kate Greenaway's house and studio at 39 Frognal, and a sketch of the fireplace at Shaw's own house at 6 Ellerdale Road, Hampstead.

LAMAS LECTURES

Two lectures under the auspices of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society are scheduled for the near future. These are:

Thursday 10 April: The Rise and Fall of England's medieval Jews. The speaker is Dr Richard Huscroft of Westminster School.

Thursday 8 May: The History and Architecture of Clerkenwell: A summary of the Survey of London's findings, by Colin Thom who is the senior historian on the Survey's volume on Clerkenwell due to be published this year.

The lectures are held at the Museum of London (Terrace Room) at 6.30pm. Admission is free and refreshments are available from 6pm.

THE LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRIZE 2008

After the success of the 2006 London Archaeological prize, SCOLA and the *London Archaeologist* have again agreed to sponsor an award for a publication that appeared in 2006 and 2007. The prize of £250 will be presented in the autumn of this year. The publication must be printed or be in digital form and must be related to the archaeology of Greater London. Any type of publication will be eligible - it may be a book, a journal article or the proceedings of a conference. It may be a professional, commercial or an amateur publication. The judges will be looking for quality and excellence.

The organisers want as many nominations as possible. Anyone, whether or not associated with the publication, may make a nomination. The nominator should name the publication and give a brief explanation why they believe it is worthy of the prize.

Nomination forms are available from Peter Pickering, Secretary, Standing Conference on London Archaeology, 3 Westbury Road, N12 7NY (tel: 020 8445 2807; email: pe.pickering@virgin.net)

OPEN HOUSE

The annual London Open House will be on the weekend of 20/21 September. The organisers expect to have over 600 'architectural activities'. The guide to which properties will be open to the public will be available from mid August through their website www.openhouse.org.uk.

HANDEL AT CRYSTAL PALACE

Tucked away in Brunswick Square is the excellent Foundling Museum in a building recently refurbished. The Foundling charity, founded by Thomas Coram in the 18th century, was a local and national enterprise which had Handel as a patron. The great composer and the celebration of his music at the Crystal Palace at Sydenham in the 1850s was recently the subject of an attractive exhibition at the Museum.

St Mary's School

The picture below was discovered at a postcard fair recently. Unfortunately, the postcard gave no clue as to its date. Any suggestions?



An undated photograph of pupils at St Mary's School, Somers Town.

A Mystery Theatre

Despite the wealth of material in archives in Camden, the Guildhall Library and the LMA, it is still possible to come across items which have not previously had the scrutiny of an archivist. In the last *Newsletter* we reproduced an 18th-century picture of Old St Pancras church and St Pancras Wells which was completely new to us all.

On page four of this *Newsletter* is a playbill for a local theatre - the Euston Theatre Royal - a theatre that no-one seems to have heard of before. It is not recorded at Camden Archives, it is not in Diana Howard's fairly comprehensive directory of London theatres, nor does it appear in any St Pancras history.

The playbill's heading notes that the theatre, 'having undergone considerable alterations, and entirely new painted and decorated, will open for a short Season on the 22nd day of July 1817'. As the playbill was printed in Great Queen Street it can be assumed that it is a London theatre. Euston Square was so named (on what was then the New Road) by 1813, so presumably the theatre was adjacent.

The playbill was kindly supplied by Roger Cline.

An opportunity for research here!

EUSTON THEATRE ROYAL.

The Public are respectfully informed that this Theatre, having undergone considerable alterations, and entirely new painted and decorated, will open for a short Season, on the 22nd day of July 1817

After an OCCASIONAL ADDRESS, spoken by Mr. ALLSPOUT,

Will be presented the Musical Farce of

THE BOARDING HOUSE, or, Five Hours at Brighton.

Admiral Culpepper, Mr. BLUSTER.

Alderman Contract, Mr. MOSAIC, (from the Theatres Royal Jericho and Jerusalem)
Young Contract, Mr. MENDOZA, Captain Belfast, Mr. FITZWIGGINS.
Simon Spatterdash, Mr. BRISTLEFACE.

(Their first Appearance at this Theatre.)

Peter Fidget, Mr. SNOOKS.

Waiter Mr. DUMPLINGCHOPS.

Caroline Heartley, Miss TURNIPFACE. Caroline Wheatsheaf, Miss VERYSCARCE.
Bridget, Miss FITZWIGGINS. Fanny, Miss VON FRUMP.

The Favourite Recitation of " TOM KING," by Mr. CADWALLADER.

A Comic Song by Mr. SNOOKS.

After which (By Special Desire) the Burlesque Tragic Opera of

BOMBASTES FURIOSO.

Artaxominous, (King of Utopia,) Mr. SNOOKS.

Fusbos, (Minister of State), Mr. BAGWIG.

General Bombastes, by SIGNIOR DE LA SCRATCHWIGGO, from Paris.

Distaffina, by SIGNORA DE LA SCRATCHWIGGO,

(Being their third Appearance at this Theatre.)

Courtiers, Soldiers, &c. Messrs. TAG, RAG, and BOBTAIL.

The Favourite Song of " Darby Kelly," and (for this Night only) " Bucks have at ye all,"
by Mr. LOONEY MACTWOLTER,

To which will be added the Grand Melo-Dramatic Romance of

BLUE BEARD, or, Female Curiosity.

The Scenery by Messrs. DAUB and BRUSH.

The Machinery by Mr. RUNUPONWHEELS.

The Dresses by Mr. CABBAGECLOTH and Miss ELLWIDE.

The Overture and Music entirely new, composed by Monsieur VIOLINO.

The whole arranged by, and under the direction of,

SIGNIOR DON ALDIBORONTIPHOSOPHORNIOCHRONONHOTONTHOLOGOS.

Abomelique, (Blue Beard), Mr. DOUBLEDAGGER.

Ibrahim, Mr. SPINDLESHANKS.

Selim, Mr. SPOONEY. Shacabac, Mr. SNOOKS.

Hassan, Mr. FRIZZLEGIG.

Fatima, Miss SPINDLESHANKS.

Irene, Miss SOURKRAUT.

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Our website: www.casweb.org/camdenhistorysociety

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

No 227

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 2008

The Endell Street Military Hospital, 1915-1920

Thurs. 22 May, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Dr Jennian Geddes is our speaker, and she will be describing the only military hospital in World War I to be staffed entirely by women, as a very effective part of the war effort. The initial reaction by War Office colonels when the scheme was mooted can be imagined. The hospital was housed in the disused St Giles workhouse on the site of Dudley Court. A full, illustrated account will appear in the *Camden History Review* in November. Meanwhile, Dr Geddes is mounting a campaign to have a plaque placed on the original building. The plaque has been designed and Camden has given permission for its installation. Fundraising has begun well, but more is needed. Members are invited to send their contribution, however small, to Dr Geddes at 32 Grosvenor Road, W4 4EG, cheques made out to her.

King's Cross and the AGM

Thurs. 26 June, 6.30pm
St Pancras Old Church, Pancras Road, NW1

As usual at Annual Meetings, we begin at 6.30pm with refreshments. The business meeting is at 7 and an illustrated talk by Angela Inglis on her new book of photographs of the King's Cross area follows at 7.30.

You are invited to make nominations for Officers and Council Members. Please send them to our Secretary, Jane Ramsay (address on p. 4). The present Officers and Council members are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Christopher Elrington
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Malcolm Holmes, Dr Ann Saunders and Gillian Tindall
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Henry Fitzhugh
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Henry Fitzhugh
RESEARCH TEAM LEADER: Steve Denford
PUBLICATIONS (postal sales) Roger Cline
PUBLICATIONS (bookstall) Sheila Ayres

MEETINGS SECRETARY: Susan Palmer
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Ruth Jackson
LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Richard Knight or his deputy
AUDITOR: Geoffrey Harris

Council members: Sheila Ayres, Caroline Cooper, Steven Denford, Ruth Hayes, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Susan Palmer, Dick Weindling and Robin Woolven.

Please note: Susan Palmer quite a few months ago said that she would not be able to carry on as Meetings Secretary after the AGM. The Council therefore appointed Dr Peter Woodford to compile the rest of the 2008-9 programme. Joan Barraclough resigned as Publicity Officer and we would like to thank her for all her work on this over quite a few years. The Council in March appointed Ruth Jackson to succeed her.

Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

17 July: Marian Kamlish on George Morland, artist (1763-1804): a stolen childhood and its consequences. At the Foundling Museum.

2 August: Annual Outing - see next page.

18 Sep: Antony Clayton on Folklore of Camden and elsewhere in London. At Burgh House.

9 Oct: Ruth Richardson on Henry Gray (buried in Hampstead Cemetery) and the 150th anniversary of his 'Anatomy' (now in its 40th edition). At the Foundling Museum.

20 Nov: Prof. Rosemary Ashton, Prof. Ruth Hardy, Dr Deborah Colville on Innovation and Reform: educational and medical projects in 19th-century Bloomsbury. At the Wellcome Collection.

11 Dec: Dr Ann Saunders: Historic views of London from the collection of B E C Howarth-Loomes. At Burgh House.

15 Jan: Peter Darley on the stationary winding engines at Chalk Farm. Venue to be announced.

19 Feb: Isabel Raphael on Dr Thomas Southwood Smith of Highgate. Venue to be announced.

The Annual Outing

Saturday, 2 August

This year we are going to Sussex. We go first to the National Trust's **Sheffield Park Garden**, where you can obtain coffee. This is a 120-acre 18th-century landscaped garden, by 'Capability' Brown, overlaid with 20th-century planting. The four lakes reflect the colours of each season's plantings, and there are a variety of woodland walks and vistas. The Garden is mentioned in Domesday Book, and was sold to John Holroyd, Baron Sheffield, in 1796. The 3rd Earl established a cricket field, and the Australian XI opened their tours here from 1884 to 1896. The National Trust purchased 100 acres in 1954 and have added to this since.

We then have a short journey on the **Bluebell Railway** to Kingscote where the coach will pick us up to take us the two mile ride to **Standen** where we can get a late lunch or picnic in the grounds.

Standen, also owned by the National Trust, dates from the 1890s, and was built as a family home by Philip Webb. He designed every aspect from fireplaces to electric light fittings, and it is a tribute to the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement. The house contains original Morris & Co furnishings and decorations complemented by contemporary paintings, ceramics, embroidery and furniture. The garden is also very attractive with fine views over the Sussex countryside. Tea can be obtained here before our return to London.

A booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*: please read it carefully as there is a lower price for National Trust members.

John Richardson (Chairman, on the left) and Dr Peter Woodford, Publications Editor, with the Mayor of Camden, Dawn Somper, at the celebration to mark the publication of the Society's final volume of street histories, in February. Picture kindly supplied by Nigel Sutton.



The Mystery Theatre

Patricia Hutton, John Perry and Ian Norrie, among others, suspect that the 1817 playbill for the 'Euston Theatre Royal' reproduced in our last *Newsletter* is a genuine article but nevertheless a spoof. Ian kindly obtained the opinion of Marcus Risdell, Librarian and Archivist of the Garrick Club which, as many of you may know, has a first-class collection of theatrical memorabilia.

Marcus Risdell writes:

'There was indeed no theatre in this part of town until the Euston Palace of Varieties opened on 26 December 1900. However, each of the three plays [featured in the playbill] really exist - we have copies of each in the Library here, and the characters are all present and correct.

The Boarding House, or Five Hours at Brighton. A musical farce by Samuel Beazley, first performed at the English Opera House (Lyceum) in 1811. It was regularly performed there and in 1816 Beazley achieved what I think was a unique double with this play - it also opened the rebuilt Lyceum, of which he had been the architect. Beazley would later be a founder member of the Garrick Club and was the architect in charge of the conversion of 35 King Street from hotel into our first Club House.

Bombastes Furioso. This 'burlesque tragic opera' was first performed at the Haymarket on 7 August 1810.

Bluebeard: or, Female Curiosity. A Dramatic Romance by George Colman the Younger, was first performed

at the Theatre Royal, Covent Garden on February 18, 1811.

I have two theories. The first is that it was intended as a practical joke. Perhaps you were intended to insert a date and arrange to meet your victim at the theatre, only for him to become exasperated by his fruitless search around Euston! Or perhaps there really was a performance, a private theatrical in a house, with the names of the real cast concealed by the fictional ones.

We have examples of just such playbills in the Library here at the Garrick; they are bound into a peculiar volume that appears to relate to the life of a certain Alfred Thompson (I include a copy of an article I wrote for the Club's newsletter regarding this volume). One is a bill for 'The Theatre Royal Tyburnia' and contains the phrase Messrs Tag, Rag and Bobtail (meaning a common rabble) as forming the chorus. The Euston bill uses this very same phrase to describe the Courtiers, Soldiers etc, in *Bombastes Furioso*. Another bill in the volume is for the 'Theatre Loyal, Backdrawing Room!' Although the Euston bill cannot be connected to Alfred whose private theatricals date from about 1850, it was perhaps something similar.'

LITTLE ITALY EXHIBITION

Using photographs and other archival documents, this historical exhibition will tell the fascinating story of London's original 'Little Italy', the Italian quarter in Holborn. It will cover the history of the community from its origins in the early 19th century through its height in the late 19th and early 20th centuries up to its decline in the post Second World War period. The exhibition will cover all aspects of the Italian quarter - the occupations, the living conditions, the leisure pursuits and the institutions of Holborn's Italian people. With its organ grinders, ice-cream sellers, colourful processions and dramatic incidents, it is a story full of life and colour.

The exhibition will be at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, 2nd Floor, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1. It runs from 2 June to 27 September. For more information contact Tudor Allen, Senior Archivist on 020 7974 6342 or tudor.allen@camden.gov.uk.

THE HOLBORN RESTAURANT

Aidan Flood at the Camden Local Studies and Archives is researching the famous Holborn Restaurant which once stood on the corner of Kingsway and High Holborn. It closed in 1955. Do any members have memories or memorabilia of the place? Please telephone him on 7974 6342, or email localstudies@camden.gov.uk.

FLAXMAN TERRACE

Douglas Hague has noted that this year is the centenary of the building of Flaxman Terrace by St Pancras Council - it was opened by the Mayor on 29 October 1908. This innovative group of buildings is just south of the Euston Road. Mr Hague's grandfather was an original tenant there.

ETHEL GABAIN

Susan Thomson is writing a book on the artist Ethel Gabain (Mrs John Copley). She and her husband were lithographers and lived at 10 Hampstead Square from 1923-1950. She is trying to find out if she had any connections with any of the Art Movements in Hampstead at this time. Or if there is anything on record about her. Her son, Peter Copley, is a distinguished artist, now 93, and he lived there from 1923 to the late 1930s.

Ms Thomson gives no postal address, but if you have any information her email is olbla@btinternet.com.

THE BLOOMSBURY PROJECT

There are still a few places available for the first conference of the Bloomsbury Project, to be held on Thursday 26th June at the Wellcome Trust Centre on Euston Road, between 9.45 and 5pm.

The theme of the conference will be 'Aspects of 19th-century Bloomsbury' and it will include presentations of work in progress by members of the Leverhulme-funded UCL Bloomsbury Project. Speakers will include Rosemary Ashton on the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge and the Passmore Edwards Settlement, and Anne Hardy on Bloomsbury and the imposition of public health measures after 1855. Negley Harte will speak on the changing occupancy of Gordon Square. Please telephone 020 7679 3607 UCL ext. 33607 for more information.

A GARDEN PARTY

The Camden Civic Society is holding a Garden Party at the home of Aileen Hammond, Garden Flat, 67 Haverstock Hill, NW3, on Wednesday, 25 June at 7.15pm. It will be held indoors if the weather is poor. CHS members are invited - £5 at the door.

LOOKING UP

Lester May suggests that we have street signs encouraging us to look up! There is, he says, much in the streetscape above our heads that is of interest but generally missed. For example, the Britannia statue at the top of the premises on the corner of Parkway and Camden High Street (it was formerly the Britannia pub).

The Camden Town home of Paul Verlaine and Arthur Rimbaud

Gerry Harrison writes

As a councillor, I used to cycle between Camden Town Hall and home through Royal College Street, where I could not fail to notice the serious dilapidation of Nos. 6, 8 and 10 in the street, three late Georgian residential buildings next to the 1930s red-brick architecture of the Royal Veterinary College. It was also easy to spot the plaque anonymously fixed to the wall of No. 8, which stated THE FRENCH POETS PAUL VERLAINE AND ARTHUR RIMBAUD LIVED HERE MAY - JULY 1873. These words do little justice to what took place. It was here that some of their greatest poetry was written, including part of Rimbaud's ground-breaking *Les Illuminations*, which because of their London origins, Verlaine preferred to be called *The Illuminations*. Some of Rimbaud's great *Une Saison en Enfer* (A Season in Hell) was also written in London. But it was at Royal College Street that their turbulent relationship abruptly ended.

They had met in Paris in 1871: Verlaine aged twenty-eight, bourgeois and married with an infant son, and Rimbaud a precocious and iconoclastic young man of seventeen. They eloped to Belgium and thence to London, and found a furnished room to rent at 34 Howland Street in July that year. Much of this part of the street was demolished in the 1930s to make way for a telephone exchange and is now the site of the Telecom Tower.

In London they joined a growing émigré community, made up of political refugees, Communards, religious dissenters and criminals who enjoyed a sort of convivial bohemian life in the gin, absinthe (known as 'the green fairy') and cheroot-wreathed taverns and cafés of Soho and Marylebone. During their stay it is likely that they heard Karl Marx, who was interested in the French political situation, speak in the meeting room above the Hibernia Store in Old Compton Street. Like him they also spent cold days in the warmth of the Reading Room of the British Museum, but were 'delighted and astonished' by the metropolis. Rimbaud returned home for a brief visit, and came back to Howland Street where Verlaine was still living. They rode the underground together, explored the suburbs, found Hampstead Heath 'admirable' and even liked London's fog.

For their second visit in 1873 they came to Camden Town, a poor district to which many inhabitants had been displaced northwards by the arrival of the railways. 'It's very lively,' wrote Rimbaud. 'You'd think you were in Brussels.' No. 8 Great College Street, which was their address at the time, overlooked to the rear the noisy line of the new railway into St Pancras. Their landlady was Mrs Alexandra Smith, whose husband was a 'Corporal of the Horse' in the Royal Horse Guards nearby at Regent's Park Barracks. Almost next door, with its paddock, was the Veterinary College, founded coincidentally by a Frenchman, Benoit Vial de St Bel, in 1791, just after the Revolution.

Verlaine and Rimbaud again took part in the low-life company of the local taverns, where drink and hasheesh were easily available (has anything changed in Camden Town?). They picked up some English, and in order to earn money they advertised French lessons: '*Leçons de Français, en français - perfection, finesses - par deux Gentlemen Parisiens - Verlaine, 8 Great College Street, Camden Town.*' In their room, which could have been on the first floor, they indulged in private sado-masochistic power games which must have reflected the tensions of their homosexual relationship. At times this became nasty and even violent. Mrs Smith must have been very tolerant of her tenants' behaviour.

One day Verlaine returned from the market (Inverness Street) with a fish in one hand and a bottle of olive oil in the other. Rimbaud spotted his approach from a window and bellowed out an unprintable insult. When he entered, Verlaine retaliated; he swiped his partner across the face with the fish, and stormed off to St Katherine's Dock to catch the next embarking steamer, which took him to Antwerp; Rimbaud, remorseful, rushed after him. At the quayside he begged Verlaine to turn back.

Having received a letter from Verlaine giving his address in Brussels, Rimbaud pawned Verlaine's clothes for a few coins and followed him. Threatening suicide, Verlaine had acquired a pistol. When Rimbaud arrived, Verlaine aimed the pistol at him, and the first bullet wounded Rimbaud's wrist. This action eventually took Verlaine to prison. Rimbaud then turned his back on poetry and found a new life overseas, particularly in Abyssinia and Aden, where he became an adventurer and entrepreneur.

(To be continued in the next *Newsletter*)

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

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

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Our website: www.casweb.org/camdenhistorysociety

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 228

Jul 2008

Celebrating George Morland

Thurs. 17th July, 7.30pm

Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, WC1

We are at this meeting launching our new Occasional Paper on the artist George Morland (1763-1804) and in particular his residence in Camden Town.

Morland led a peripatetic life. His addresses include Noel Street in Soho, Blenheim Street, Windmill Street and Stephen Street, both in Fitzrovia, Woodstock Street, Millbank, Kensal Green, Marylebone High Street and Great Portland Street - and these were before he got to Camden Town at the age of 24! He moved to Pleasant Passage in Camden Town behind the Mother Black Cap pub, in 1787 and then, typically, moved just three months later to Warren Place nearby. By that time Morland was earning the substantial sum of £1,000 p.a. from his art.

The author, Marian Kamlish, has been researching his life for some time and has also persuaded numerous bodies to let us reproduce many of his paintings and drawings at very modest rates or even free of charge.

The Occasional Paper will be on sale for £11.95 at the illustrated talk to be given by Marian on the 17th.

The Annual Outing

Saturday, 2nd August

As reported in the last *Newsletter*, the Society's outing this year will be to Sheffield Park and Standen. There are still some places left on the coach. If you wish to go but have lost the booking form please contact Jane Ramsay on 7586 4436, or the organiser of the outing, Jean Archer, 7435 5490.

OPEN DAY AT THE ARCHIVES CENTRE

An Open Day at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library has been arranged for Wednesday, 24 September, 10am to 5pm. There will be a chance to look behind the scenes of the Centre, as well as to see a conservation demonstration. Tudor Allen will be repeating his talk on 'Little Italy' (see page two) and Richard Knight will be speaking about sources for family history in the Centre. Full details on www.camden.gov.uk/localstudies

The Streets of Camden

The Society's completion of the final volume in our historical survey of each street in Camden was featured in the May edition of the London Topographical Society's *Newsletter*.

Bridget Cherry wrote:

'The whole enterprise is a model of constructive cooperation between volunteer researchers and the staff of the Camden Archives Centre, given shape and coherence by skilful editing. The later books, from 1994 under the general editorship of Peter Woodford, pack a vast amount of detail into a compact format, describing the origins of the areas before they were built up, and lost buildings as well as those standing today. The series takes a commendably even-handed approach to buildings of all periods, including the 20th century.'

An Exhibition and a number of Walks related to the series are to be held in July and August. The Private View of the Exhibition will be at Burgh House on 24 July from 7pm. All CHS members are invited.

The Walks are:

25 July, 10.30 am: Edwardian Hampstead, led by Carol Seigel. Start at Burgh House.

8 August, 10.30 am: Alleys and lanes in Hampstead, led by Marilyn Greene. Start at Burgh House.

11 August, 2.30pm: Streets of St Pancras, led by Steve Denford. Meet outside entrance to King's Cross Underground, *north* side of Euston Road.

David Hayes, editor of a number of the volumes, has had a letter from Mark Robinson, who now lives in Canada, and who two years ago bought all the 11 existing 'Streets' books while on a visit to London. Mr Robinson has written to say:

'Not only are your Streets books models of municipal/topographical research, they are extremely useful for such as I with an amateur scholarly interest in the history of London. Lately, I have been re-reading them, and doubtless testing my wife's patience by holding up your project as an example of the way I wish I were spending my own time. I recently retired from the Canadian foreign service and I have been pursuing a number of hobbies such as genealogical research, but as my subject material lies almost entirely in the UK, my present location in Canada - pleasant though it is - is less than ideal!'

The Annual Meeting

A successful AGM was held at St Pancras Old Church in June at which Angela Inglis featured many of the pictures of the King's Cross area she has taken in recent years – an important collection, considering the changes that are taking place every day there.

Officers and Council were elected as follows:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Christopher Elrington
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Malcolm Holmes, Dr Ann Saunders and Gillian Tindall
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Henry Fitzhugh
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Henry Fitzhugh
RESEARCH TEAM LEADER: Steve Denford
PUBLICATIONS (postal sales) Roger Cline
PUBLICATIONS (bookstall) Sheila Ayres
MEETINGS SECRETARY: Dr Peter Woodford
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Ruth Jackson
LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Richard Knight or his deputy
AUDITOR: Geoffrey Harris

Council members: Sheila Ayres, Caroline Cooper, Steven Denford, Ruth Hayes, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Susan Palmer, Dick Weindling and Robin Woolven.

The Pathé Archive

Lester May writes:

In 2002, with a £1m grant from the Lottery New Opportunities Fund, some 3,500 hours of newsreel footage from 1896 to 1970 became available online. Some of the footage was never released for public viewing and some is mute. It may be viewed free on www.britishpathe.com.

A search for **Camden** gives 35 results (though some relate to New Jersey); for example, there is footage of a bagpipe-making factory in Camden Town in 1952, of taxidermists in 1950 and of cigarette making in 1948. There is canal footage from 1954, of horses being treated for flu in 1949 and of a hippie performance at the Roundhouse in 1971.

Holborn gives 40 results, including a 1932 fire at the Prudential building, the presentation of the white ensign of *HMS Indefatigable* to the mayor in 1946, sport at the Stadium Club in the 1930s and a look at a telephone exchange in 1968.

There are 108 results for **Hampstead**. There are soldiers marching through the streets in 1931 and the funfair on the Heath the same year. Other items are an underground garage in 1957, Hampstead Squash Club in 1936, Ramsay MacDonald unveiling a memorial in 1930 and also the end of the Round Britain Cycle Race in 1951.

You can also see Krushchev visiting **Highgate** cemetery in 1956 and Lady Curzon opening a garden fete in the village during the Great War.

New homes for Greek earthquake victims in **Kilburn** are being built in 1953, there is a street party in **Bloomsbury** in 1929, squatters in the Ivanhoe Hotel in 1949 and Flanagan & Allen at a **Kentish Town** feeding centre in 1941.

Some of the newsreel descriptions are poorly researched and mistakes abound. The process of form filling to take you on the web search is, sadly, torture and evidence of the dead hand of some miserable bureaucrat, but persevere and you will find some gems of local history.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN HOUSE

A house dedicated to the London years of the American statesman, Benjamin Franklin, is now at 36 Craven Street, WC2. The enterprise is offering members of history societies a visit, free of charge, to see what is on offer. Interested members should telephone Ana Doria Buchan, Education Manager on 7839 2013.

TWO CORRECTIONS

We stated in the last *Newsletter*. apropos of a talk to be given by Ruth Richardson in October on Henry Gray, author of *Gray's Anatomy*, that he was buried in Hampstead Cemetery. This is wrong, as Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms point out – he was buried in Highgate Cemetery (West).

Under Advance Notice, we gave the name of a speaker as Professor Ruth Hardy, but it should be Anne Hardy.

ETHEL GABAIN

Re the enquiry about the artist Ethel Gabain, Christopher Wade informs us that she certainly exhibited with the Hampstead Artists' Council in the mid 1940s.

Little Italy

We reported in the May *Newsletter* of an exhibition at Camden Local Studies and Archives on the Italian quarter centred around the Clerkenwell Road. This opened on 3rd June. There are now two talks arranged there:

Monday, 21 July, 3pm. 'Little Italy', the Italian quarter in Holborn, by Tudor Allen, Senior Archivist.

Friday 1 August, 3pm. 'The true teacher of our age': Giuseppe Mazzini and his London circle, by Kevin Brown, Trust Archivist of St Mary's Hospital.

Maria Studholme - Gaiety Girl

Robert Waters, who lives in Northampton, is keen to see a plaque to Maria Studholme, one of the famous Gaiety Girls, on her former address at 298 Finchley Road. More details in the next *Newsletter*.

Verlaine and Rimbaud in Camden Town (continued)

Gerry Harrison continues his article from the previous Newsletter on the two French poets:

When as a councillor I started to consider trying to improve the condition of 8 Royal College Street, where Verlaine and Rimbaud had lodged for a while, I had no idea how revered these two poets are in France. In terms of stature, but not of course poetry, they are the French equivalent of Wordsworth or Coleridge. I also learned that in 2004 English Heritage, thanks to some persuasion from Stephen Fry and David Starkey on its Blue Plaque committee, had agreed a plaque here. But the owner of the house, the Royal Veterinary College, refused to give permission for its installation because it would draw attention to the house's dilapidation. In these circumstances, and the Spot-Listing as Grade II by the borough council in 1993, which gave them Building-at-risk status, I assumed that Camden would be willing to put pressure on the College to renovate the three buildings. The council itself could legitimately contribute, I also discovered, by using Section 106 money gained from the redevelopment of the Cumberland Arms public house at the end of the street. In this endeavour I managed to gain the support of the Leader of the Council.

Of course, Camden did no such thing. Certain council officers are particularly good at smiling and nodding, while knowing they will never take action (I exempt entirely from this criticism those who work in Camden's Local Studies and Archives Centre!). The Leader then withdrew her backing.

However, I discovered that the College was quietly considering a sale of all three buildings, nos. 6, 8 and 10, and I thought that an enterprising but benevolent body could buy them, using the centre one, no. 8, as a space where Verlaine and Rimbaud, French literature and culture in general could be celebrated. At a private meeting I was told that, as a charity, the College would sell it to me – or whoever I found as a buyer – at the 'valuation price' of £1.28 million, rather than the estimated market price of over £2 million. I was given six months to find a benevolent individual or institution who shared the dream.

To raise interest, I put together a lobbying group of distinguished figures from the arts, literature and academia. We launched in January 2006 at the Institut Français. Support had already been received from Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, a poet himself, and the French Ambassador, but unfortunately there was no budget for France to acquire the buildings. We gained useful publicity. We arranged Sunday visits to the house. We wrote scores of letters. We interviewed prospective buyers on their intentions. Finally one emerged. At the same time we managed to secure a letter from Camden's planners



A plaque at 1 rue des Brasseurs in Brussels, where Rimbaud was shot by Verlaine. (Photo: Ruth Hayes)

which stated that in view of the artistic and historic importance of no. 8 Royal College Street, the council would be 'minded to agree' a change of use from residential.

Unfortunately the College took a very long time to prepare its legal work, so that the six months too quickly passed, and the College was itself under pressure from its own Council to sell the properties at market value. By doing so, it backtracked on our original deal and we lost our preferred buyer. The three buildings were then sold at auction in January 2007 for over £2 million, but our buyer, Mr Corby, made an offer on no. 8 to the new owner, which to our delight was accepted.

After a spate of successful publicity towards the end of 2007, a charity called Poet in the City (www.poetinthe.city.co.uk) became interested. This charity is now actively seeking a corporate sponsor for the building, which will lease it from Mr Corby for the uses that we had first considered. With some internal restructuring, unaffected by the Listing, there is now likely to be a small performance space for music and poetry recitals, in the basement an archive or museum, on the first floor a clubroom with perhaps a café/bar which, among other refreshments, may appropriately sell 'the green fairy'. Accommodation for a caretaker/curator will be provided on the top floors. And the Blue Plaque will, at last, be installed on its redecorated façade.

Careful renovation works are now in hand, with the end of the dream becoming clearer. In spite of Camden's initial reluctance and the lack of commitment from the College, some progress has been achieved. All being well the building is likely to reopen as a small cultural venue by the middle of 2009, only 136 years after the two Frenchmen departed, with Rimbaud, in particular, in a few years of intensely visionary work, setting the path along which the development of modernism would follow.

A 'Friends' group under the aegis of Poet in the City, led by Graham Henderson, is now being set up to support the future of the building. Those interested should contact him at 07908 367488 or email at info@poetinthe.city.co.uk.

Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

18 Sep: Antony Clayton on Folklore of Camden and elsewhere in London. At Burgh House.

9 Oct: Ruth Richardson on Thomas Gray (buried in Highgate Cemetery) and the 150th anniversary of his 'Anatomy' (now in its 40th edition). At the Foundling Museum.

20 Nov: Prof. Rosemary Ashton, Prof. Anne Hardy, Dr Deborah Colville on Innovation and Reform: educational and medical projects in 19th-century Bloomsbury. At the Wellcome Collection.

11 Dec: Dr Ann Saunders: Historic views of London from the collection of B E C Howarth-Loomes. At Burgh House.

15 Jan: Peter Darley on the stationary winding engines at Chalk Farm. Venue to be announced.

19 Feb: Isabel Raphael on Dr Thomas Southwood Smith of Highgate. Venue to be announced.

DISAPPEARING HERITAGE

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the City of London Guide Lecturers' Association, there will be an exhibition in September at the Guildhall Art Library devoted to 'City Heritage' items which are no longer in the City. These include a paperweight found in a garden in Wellington, New Zealand, made from the roofing of Temple Bar, demolished in 1878. The paperweight bears the initials HJ, thought to be those of Horace Jones, the designer of Tower Bridge. One version of London Bridge was, of course, re-erected over the Colorado river; there is a Wren church in Fulton, Missouri, a Cheapside shop in Michigan, and the bells of St Dunstan-in-the-East are now in a winery in the Napa Valley. The font in which William Penn was baptised in All Hallows by the Tower in the 17th century is also in the States. Bombed remains of the Baltic Exchange are to be re-erected in Tallinn, Estonia.

We look forward to firm details for the next *Newsletter*.



Old views of the Gospel Oak area are rare, so it was heartening to come across this postcard of Mansfield Road, at an entrance to Parliament Hill Fields. The date is probably c. 1905.

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 229

Sep 2008

The Folklore of Camden

Thurs 18 Sept, 7.30

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Antony Clayton is our speaker in September. He will be shortly publishing a book entitled *The Folklore of London*, but this evening he will deal mainly with those items that relate to Camden. The Swearing on the Horns at Highgate, pictured below, is a well-known bit of local folklore but there are many other customs, ceremonies, beliefs and myths that are part of Camden's history, from Mother Red Cap and Mother Shipton to the ringed parakeets of modern day on Hampstead Heath. There is also a liberal supply of Dick Turpin myths, as well as many secret tunnels stretching for improbable distances. Then, of course, there is Boudicca buried beneath the tumulus at Parliament Hill, or else beneath a platform at King's Cross.

Antony Clayton is the author of three previous books on London: *Subterranean City*, *The London Coffee Houses* and *Decadent London*.

Celebrating Gray's 'Anatomy'

Thurs 9 October, 7.30pm

Foundling Museum lecture hall, Brunswick Square WC1

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the publication of Henry Gray's 'Anatomy' – the work is still in print in its 39th edition. Gray (1827-61) was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1852 at the age of 25. He died about two years after the publication of his famous work, having contracted smallpox from a dying nephew.

Our speaker, Ruth Richardson, is well known to the Society. She specialises in medical history and also, together with Robert Thorne, compiled an invaluable index to illustrations in the earlier editions of *The Builder* magazine. Her best known book has the formidable title of *Death, Dissection and the Destitute*, which demonstrated the effects of the 1832 Anatomy Act. This piece of legislation ensured a more plentiful supply to anatomy teachers of bodies other than those available from the gallows, by allowing them to use unclaimed corpses from workhouses.

Swearing on the Horns in Highgate. A print of 1796.



Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

20 Nov: Prof. Rosemary Ashton and Prof. Anne Hardy on Innovation and Reform: educational and medical projects in 19th-century Bloomsbury. This will be on the 5th floor of the Wellcome Collection, Euston Road.

11 Dec: Dr Ann Saunders: Historic Views of London from the collection of B E C Howarth-Loomes. At Burgh House.

15 Jan: Peter Darley on the stationary winding engines at Chalk Farm, at the Charlie Ratchford Centre, Belmont Street.

19 Feb: Isabel Raphael on Dr Thomas Southwood Smith of Highgate, at Burgh House.

19 March: Steven Denford on Hornsey Past.

Our Website

We have decided, because of a number of problems, that it would be more satisfactory to have our own website. This, we hope, will be announced in our next *Newsletter*.

The book *Streets of Old Holborn* by Steven Denford and David Hellings, published by the Society in 1999, is now out of print. A research team is engaged on bringing the contents up to date, but in advance of the publication of a revised edition, which will take some years to appear (research is very time consuming!) the Society will this year publish the original edition on our website, so as to place it in the public domain in the meantime. This will appear on our new website when that is ready.

If you don't have a copy of the book and are desperate to refer to it, it is of course available for use at Camden Local Studies, but you can also get two pdf files of it by email by contacting Dr Peter Woodford at drswoodford@blueyonder.co.uk. Recipients will need to have Adobe Reader installed, but this is readily downloaded free from the Internet should this not be the case.

Website Problems

In *Newsletter* 223 we highlighted the problems that family history enthusiasts were encountering with the closure of the Family History Centre at Clerkenwell (because the government wanted the building for another use). At the same time the old paper registers were put into storage in Dorset and researchers were promised a new website containing their information as from 2008. This was then stretched to 2009.

However, even this delayed promise is now abandoned. A report in *The Guardian* of 16 August notes: 'Genealogists reacted with anger yesterday after it emerged that a government website, which promised direct access to 171 years of family records, had been delayed indefinitely following the failure of a Whitehall computer project.'

'An attempt to scan, index and digitise 250m records of births, deaths and marriages from 1837 was supposed to result in a new public website. Now, three years after the government awarded the £16m contract to German computer giant Siemens, the deal has been terminated with only half the work done.'

However, you are now able to access the website *Ancestry* via your Camden library membership card. Features include the UK Census collection (1841-1901), name indexes to England and Wales birth, marriage and death registers. For details visit Camden Libraries website at www.camden.gov.uk/libraries.

Roy Allen

We are sorry to hear of the death of Roy Allen. He was a long standing member of the Society and had contributed numerous articles on the Belsize Park area. In particular, he was able to correct the description of a Siberechts painting in Tate Britain, which the gallery had identified initially as of a house in Highgate Village. Roy, with his usual thoroughness in research, showed conclusively that the house was in Rosslyn Hill, Belsize Park, and the label at the museum has since been changed.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to obtain any information from his family as to Roy's background and previous career, but many members will remember him, for he was a regular attender at our meetings until a couple of years ago, when he became too frail to journey out much.

Open Day at Local Studies

The open day at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at Holborn Library is on Wednesday, 24 September, 10-5. There are guided tours and conservation demonstrations from 10.30 to 3.30, a talk by Richard Knight on family history sources at the Centre at noon, a guided walk round Holborn at 1pm, and a talk on the Italian quarter in Holborn by Tudor Allen, the Senior Archivist, at 2.30.

Tudor's book, recently published by the Centre, called *Little Italy*, has become a best seller there. And the present exhibition has brought in a great many people from the Italian community.

The book (A5, 60pp, £5.99) ranges from the first Italian settlers in the Holborn area, the many skilled firms, such as those making medical instruments and spectacles, the street musicians and ice-cream sellers, as well as the Italian shops. But it also deals with a darker side, such as the use of young children to work the streets as vendors or musicians; pictured also are the Sabini gang c. 1920, a local protection racket organisation, who were part of the gang warfare in the area of that era.

As Tudor comments, the Italian community lives on, though much diminished. On Farringdon Road

Gazzano's still have their food and drink store, opened in 1901, and the beautiful church of St Peter is still in Clerkenwell Road as a focal point of London's Italian community.

Historic Views of London

Our December talk will be by Dr Ann Saunders on the subject of a book that she and English Heritage have just published, based on the collection of Bernard Howarth-Loomes. The book contains rare stereographs, daguerrotypes and other early photographs of Victorian London, mainly concentrating on the City and the West End, but also including suburbs such as Haringey, Greenwich, Islington and Highgate. There is an early view of Holly Village, which will be in our next *Newsletter*. Also included is the only known photograph of the old Blackfriars Bridge before it was demolished in 1869.

I was particularly interested in Ann's survey of early photography as applied to London's topography. The stereocard in particular was an important innovation which, as she explains, 'The sheer visual shock of contemplating a well-focused stereo photograph satisfied a longing for reality, a grasping of a precise moment. In an age eager for knowledge and yearning for wider experience of the world, the stereoscope provided an answer.' She then goes on to describe how a stereocard was made – the first such description I have come across.

There is a magnificently powerful image of the Euston Arch and a photograph of King's Cross station of the 1870/80s and a splendid picture of the reception committee at Paddington station awaiting the arrival of the Shah of Persia. Ann Saunders also poses a question with a picture of St Paul's National School (in what is now Brent) which has a display board mounted on it which reads 'J Felgate, veterinary surgeon'. He is not recorded in local directories, and why does he have his advertisement on the front of a National School?

(Hardback, 237pp, quarto, ISBN 978-1-90562-418-8, £19.99. In the shops now).

John Richardson

HOLBORN AND BLOOMSBURY REVISITED

John Conen has just self-published a collection of articles he wrote for *Mercury*, the house magazine of Cable & Wireless, in the 1970s. At that time the company was in Theobalds Road, and the articles are about the area. These will, he says, be of interest not only to people who worked or lived locally but to anyone who wants to know more about such a fascinating area. The articles are illustrated by photographs of the time.

Copies are available from Mr Conen, at 9 Scott Close, Farnham Common, Bucks SL2 3HT for £7 including postage and packing. Or else the publication is available at Camden Local Studies & Archives, Judd

Books 82 Marchmont Street, or at Skoob Books, 66 The Brunswick, Marchmont Street.

ISBN 978-0-9544426-2-0. 36pp.

'The Boys': Triumph over Adversity

Following the Second World War Britain agreed to take in 1,000 young Holocaust survivors – in fact only 732 could be found. This close-knit group of young people (both boys and girls) have become known simply as 'The Boys'. An exhibition at Camden Local Studies & Archives at Holborn Library will tell the inspirational story of how they survived and rebuilt their lives, going on to take their place in London's community.

The exhibition, on loan from the Jewish Museum, opens on Thursday 9 October and runs until 31 January. It is accompanied by a book by Sir Martin Gilbert.

There will also be a talk by Jack Kagan entitled 'Surviving the Holocaust with the Russian Jewish Partisans'. Mr Kagan was born in Novogrodek, part of present-day Belarus. He escaped from the Novogrodek Ghetto in September 1943 and spent the rest of the war fighting with the Russian Jewish partisans. The only survivor from his immediate family, he came to Britain in 1947 aged 18. He now lives in Camden.

His talk will be on 11 November at Camden Local Studies & Archives at 6.30pm. Admission free.

THE LAMAS CONFERENCE

This year's LAMAS Conference will be on Saturday 15 November from 10-5pm at the City of London School for Girls, Barbican. The theme is 'London Recorded by Word, Map and Camera'. Tickets cost £10 and application forms can be obtained from our secretary, Jane Ramsay on 020 7586 4436.

OPEN HOUSE

This year's Open House of London's buildings is on 20/21 September. Hundreds of interesting buildings are on view. In Camden they include established attractions such as Congress House, the Camden Arts Centre, Centre Point, the Freemasons' Hall and Gray's Inn. Also on view are private houses and offices including 17 Willes Road, 51a Mansfield Road, 2b Pilgrims Lane, 77 Wicklow Street and The Qube at 90 Whitfield Street.

Full details can be found on the Open House website www.openhouse.org.uk.

This editor however, would rather not go on the bus ride around the Becontree Estate now scheduled. Having been born there it has taken many years to get over the depression. But be my guest.



A Gaiety Girl

Robert Waters has sent us this photograph of Marie Studholme, one of the most noted of the famous Gaiety Girls, who appeared at the Gaiety Theatre in the Strand in the early 20th century. Very attractive, she was a star performer.

Born in Bradford in 1872, Marie lived at 38 Finchley Road, a house now demolished, but some years later moved to 298 Finchley Road – a Camden council block of flats nearby is named Studholme Court, but the house itself, still standing, has no plaque to her memory. She died in 1930, aged 57.

Robert Waters is campaigning to remedy the lack of plaque, but so far English Heritage have turned him down on the grounds that she is not well-enough known.

If members have any view on this, please let our Secretary know.

Miscellany

Recently published is a new Biographical Dictionary of British Quakers in commerce and industry 1775-1920, by Edward H. Milligan.

Also recently published are the Survey of London volumes on Clerkenwell. These are magnificent publications spread over two very heavy volumes, with 1000 illustrations, many in colour. Its production has taken advantage of the technological advances that have been made so that it now costs roughly the same to produce books full of illustrations as books just full of text.

It is one of the most ambitious productions in the illustrious history of the Survey of London series – meticulously researched and indexed – dealing with one of the most interesting areas in London.

A new online resource covers the proceedings of the Old Bailey 1674-1913. It is fully searchable and contains details of the 197,745 trials that took place at the Old Bailey during those years.

The website is <http://oldbaileyonline.org.uk/>.

Also now available online is the Royal Opera House Collections' Catalogue and Performance Database. It is on www.rohcollections.org.uk.

It provides an overview of the collections and brief introductions to each collection in the archive, including photographs and costume. Currently online are lists of all the works performed by the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet since 1946.

THE ANNUAL OUTING

This years Outing to Sheffield Park and Standen had its share of rain and sunshine, but did at least get a ride on a vintage carriage on the Bluebell Line.

The gardens at Standen were magnificent, awash with lavender and bees – perhaps the bees missing from elsewhere in the country have gathered there.

We would like to thank Jean Archer once again for organising the trip – it was much appreciated.

This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

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Our website: www.casweb.org/camdenhistorysociety

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 230

Nov 2008

Innovation and Reform: educational and medical projects in 19th-century Bloomsbury

Thurs 20 Nov, 7.30pm

*5th Floor, Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, NW1
(east of Euston Square underground station, and on the
corner with Gordon Street)*

Bloomsbury has for two centuries been at the heart of innovation and learning in London. The establishment of the British Museum, the University of London, the University College Hospital and other prominent hospitals have in their turn ensured that academic and medical organisations settled within their orbit. Our meeting on the 20th is within the Wellcome Trust complex, itself a world renowned centre for medical research and which includes a vast library. Diverse local organisations included the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, Bedford College, the Working Men's College and the Passmore Edwards Settlement.

Our speakers are Professor Rosemary Ashton and

Professor Anne Hardy on the major advances in education and medicine in Bloomsbury in the 19th century, a talk that includes their ongoing work on The Bloomsbury Project, funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

An Album Full of Treasures

Thurs. 11 December 7pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

The last *Newsletter* included a review of a new book by our Vice President, Dr Ann Saunders on a remarkable collection of photographs brought together by Bernard Howarth-Loomes. This contains rare stereographs, daguerrotypes and other early photographs of Victorian London, and also includes a few of the Camden area - Holly Village is shown below.

Ann will be giving an illustrated talk on this great collection in December which will, of course, be supplemented by Ann's good humour and great knowledge of London.

Please note: There will be wine and mince pies at 7pm. The talk is at 7.30pm.

*Holly Village, from Historic Views of London, English
Heritage, ISBN 978-1-90562-418-8, £19.99*



Advance Notice

Please put these dates in your diary:

15 Jan: Peter Darley on the stationary winding engines at Chalk Farm, at the Charlie Ratchford Centre, Belmont Street.

19 Feb: Isabel Raphael on Dr Thomas Southwood Smith of Highgate, at Burgh House.

19 March: Steven Denford on Hornsey Past at the Charlie Ratchford Centre.

The LAMAS Conference

In the hope that you will receive this before the event, we now have details of the talks at this year's LAMAS Conference on Saturday, 15 November, 10-5, at the City of London School for Girls, Barbican.

The theme of the conference is London Recorded: by Word, Map and Camera. Professor Caroline Barron talks on London from Fitzstephen to John Stow. Peter Barber's talk is Fixing the Image: The Mapping of London to 1900. Colin Thom will speak on the history of the Survey of London, and Dr Cathy Ross will talk on Life and Labour in the 1930s: London's Forgotten Survey. Lastly, Stefan Dickers introduces the LAMAS London Slide Collection of the Bishopsgate Institute.

Tickets are available from Local History Conference, 24 Orchard Close, Ruislip, Middx HA4 7LS @ £10 which includes afternoon tea.

The Edward Irving Occasional Paper

A review has been printed in the *Congregational History Society Magazine* of our publication, *The Rev. Edward Irving and the Apostolic Church in Camden and beyond*, by Barbara Waddington.

It notes that 'Mrs Waddington's treatment of her subject is not unsympathetic and Irving's warmly affectionate humanity can be found repeatedly in the development of his career's meteoric trajectory - in Glasgow, frustrated; unexpectedly thrust into the limelight as a London preacher in the early 1820s; apparently secure in the newly built church at Regent Square, and then charged with heresy and embroiled in the controversy over glossolalia and the foundation of the 'catholic apostolic' church - at each stage it is his almost naive sincerity that is attractively characteristic. In the last part of the book the author considers various criticisms that have been made of Irving - that he never got over his earlier love for Jane Carlyle, his vanity, and his folly, but the innocence of the man, who emerges in her earlier pages, makes it hard for the reader to take these charges very seriously.

There is a useful, succinct appendix on the later history of the seven catholic apostolic churches in London. The book is illustrated with some excellent prints and photographs.'

Mystery Cine Film

Tony Blake writes:

'Some cine film in my collection has, I believe, Camden connections; but I am unable to identify it - I wonder whether any of your members could help me.

It is colour footage from 1938 and shows a rehearsal by members of the R.O.S.A Dramatic Club and the play was *Love on the Dole*. The initials are presumably those of a local company or organisation.

It may be that one of your members from an amateur dramatics background may recognise it.'

Mr Blake's address is 49 Chestfield Road, Whitstable, Kent, CT5 3LD

Changes at the Guildhall Library

Changes are afoot, though timings are still not certain, at the Guildhall Library. The Prints and Maps collection is moving to the LMA at Northampton Road, EC1 and the main London history collection now on the ground floor will move up to the space vacated by Prints and Maps. The City Business Library will then move to the space at present occupied by the history library.

This will cause some dismay to those who enjoy the serenity and informality of the present Prints and Maps room and some might doubt if there is sufficient space in its area to adequately house the main London history library downstairs. We shall see.

CLOSURE WEEK AT CAMDEN ARCHIVES

As usual at this time of year, Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre closes for a week so that a number of tasks can be done that can't be done while the library is open. The Library will therefore be closed from Monday 1 December to Saturday 6 December inclusive. It will reopen on 8 December.

TAPEMOULD

The Archives for London Newsletter no. 10 lets us know that a virulent infection is destroying the audio and videotapes once used to capture important moments of family life and historic events. The fungal blight, or 'tape mould', has already ruined thousands of miles of audio and video tape in Britain, and the infection of VHS cassettes and of audio cassettes is increasing at an alarming rate.

There is little that can be done about the blight and it has been made more virulent by the wet summers of the last three years. So serious is it that all packages of tape sent to a restoration business for repair if possible are opened in a separate room and staff hands are disinfected afterwards! The British Library Sound Archive advises that all stored tapes should be kept in the dark away from heat sources and with no extreme temperature fluctuations.

London. The Illustrated History

by Cathy Ross and John Clark

published by Allen Lane and the Museum of London, hard-back, 275 x 225mm, 352pp, £30.

ISBN 978-1-846-14125-6

Advances in scanning and printing techniques now make it possible to print books in colour throughout the pages at not much more expense than in mono. Add to that the cheapness of printing in China (at least before the global economic meltdown) and publishers are now able to make use of colour with less worry about their initial costs. Hence the appearance of a number of high quality and bulky books on London or aspects of London in recent times.

In this handsome volume we have the colour resources of the Museum of London library displayed and also very good, computer designed maps. John Clark and Cathy Ross, both eminent London experts at the Museum of London, have put their name to a straightforward retelling of London's history, the product of 29 contributors. A lot is packed into the 352 pages, especially illustrations. The volume is beautifully designed and worth buying just for that.

The book has fifteen thematic chapters which, according to the press release, 'explore the lives and experiences of Londoners over the last three thousand years'. This sounds a tall claim, and it is, because it would be impossible to cram into the space available any but a thin examination of people's lives over such a long period. Events are mostly covered, but the social nuances of people's lives and the underlying political conflicts that rumbled throughout these years are rarely covered. For example the long-standing opposition of the Corporation of London to supra-London authorities, such as the Metropolitan Board of Works and the London County Council, is not, so far as I could see, mentioned. Nor the Corporation's stubborn opposition to moving the Smithfield Cattle Market, despite its many cruelties and inconveniences, or the Billingsgate Fish Market which the City rebuilt *after* the advent of the railways even though Billingsgate was not situated near a terminus. The City's opposition to these relocations was mainly because it wanted to protect its ownership of such markets which it feared might be lost if the markets were situated outside of its own territorial jurisdiction.

Again politics, when discussing the Festival of Britain in 1951, the purpose of the Festival is detailed but not the virulent opposition to it in Parliament and the media.

For me the most interesting parts of the book are at the beginning and at the end. The depictions (via maps mainly) of agricultural life in the London area

before written records, and the modern London chapter are the most interesting. This is probably because the text in between covers well trodden ground and without anecdote or personalised authorship is rather flat reading to someone familiar with the subject matter.

The main strength of the book is visual. The design, the computer generated images and maps are much to be admired. One map, for example, shows in colour the various centres of immigration in London, and another shows 'areas of gay activity' in London in the early 19th century. That must be a first!

John Richardson

CORRECTION

In the last *Newsletter* we noted that the Ancestry website together with its various indexes etc could be accessed at home by anyone with a Camden Libraries card. This is incorrect. But the site can be accessed from a Camden library.

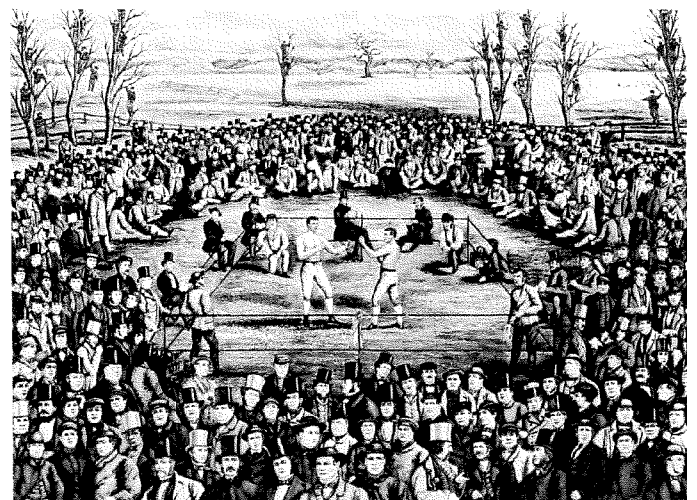
STEPHENSON AND MONDRIAN

Simon Grant, Editor of *Tate Etc*, is researching the years 1938-1940 and the lives of two artists John Cecil Stephenson and Piet Mondrian who were living in the Belsize Park area during this time - at the Mall Studios and Parkhill Road. He is interested in finding out more anecdotal information about who they knew, if anyone remembers them, if there are any records of their time there, and wondered if any member could help.

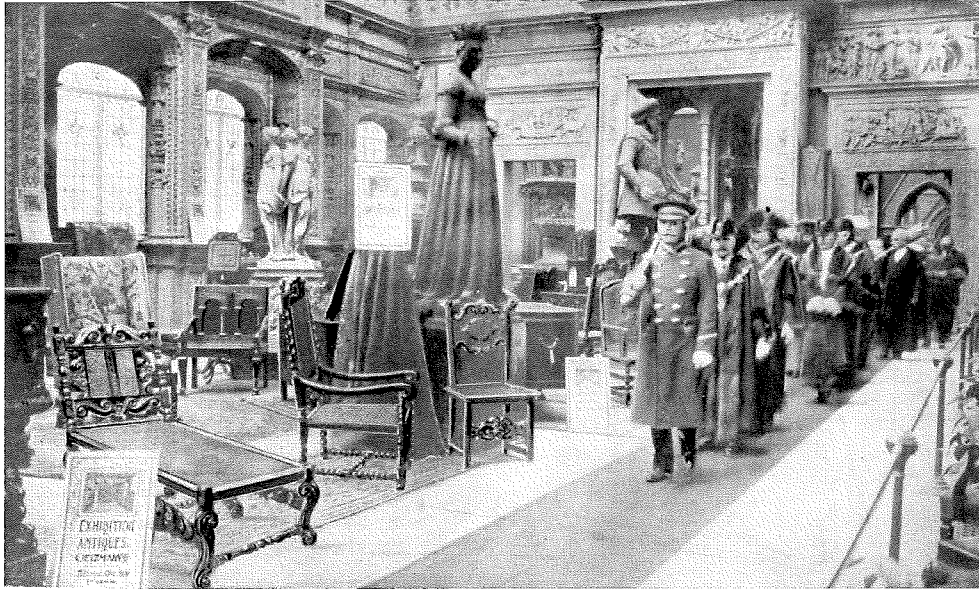
His email is simon.grant@tate.org.uk

TOM SAYERS

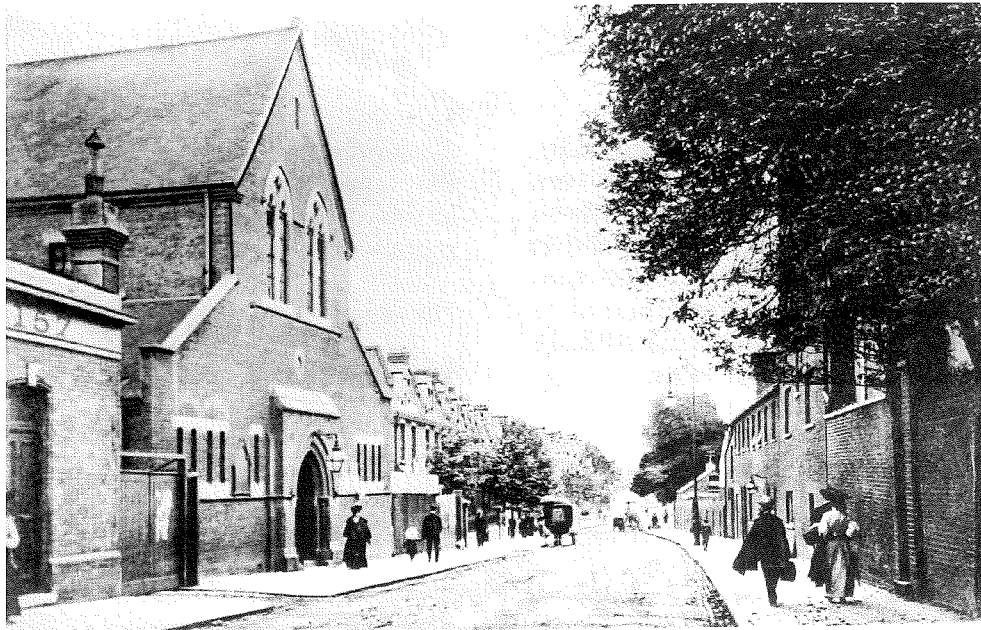
Iain Manson has just published a book, *The Lion and the Eagle*, on the pugilist and resident of St Pancras and Camden Town, Tom Sayers, with particular emphasis on his famous fight with John Heenan. It is published by SportsBooks of Cheltenham at £14.99.



The bout between Sayers and Heenan at Farnborough in 1860. In the fourth or fifth round Sayers dislocated his right arm but continued to fight for 37 more rounds and won in a very bloody finish.



The Lord Mayor inspects the display by the furniture makers, Oetzmann, at the Anglo-German Exhibition in 1913. Oetzmann's had a large shop at the lower end of Hampstead Road and also a cabinet-making building in Camden High Street, nearly opposite the Cobden statue.



Another rare Gospel Oak picture c. 1905. We are looking east to Gospel Oak station and Hampstead. On the left is a redbrick church, which still survives. This is reputed to be the last building made from bricks from the nearby Gospel Oak brickfield, after which Kiln Place is named.

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