

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 255
Jan 2013

Science in Burton Street: Sarah Bowdich 1791-1856

Thurs 17 January, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies Library

Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1

(Access from main door after 7pm)

This talk, by Professor Mary Orr of Southampton University, surveys the remarkable career of Sarah Bowdich. This began when she sailed to South Africa in 1816 to join her husband, Thomas Bowdich. It was an eventful journey – her entry in the *DNB* blithely records that during it she caught a shark and helped to put down a mutiny. In South Africa she and her husband began to take a great interest in plants – a passion which consumed her life. She became a notable naturalist, a skilful illustrator of plants, and later the author of many books. It is thought that she was buried in the churchyard of Old St Pancras.

An interesting person, hardly remembered today, about whom our speaker in January is publishing a book.

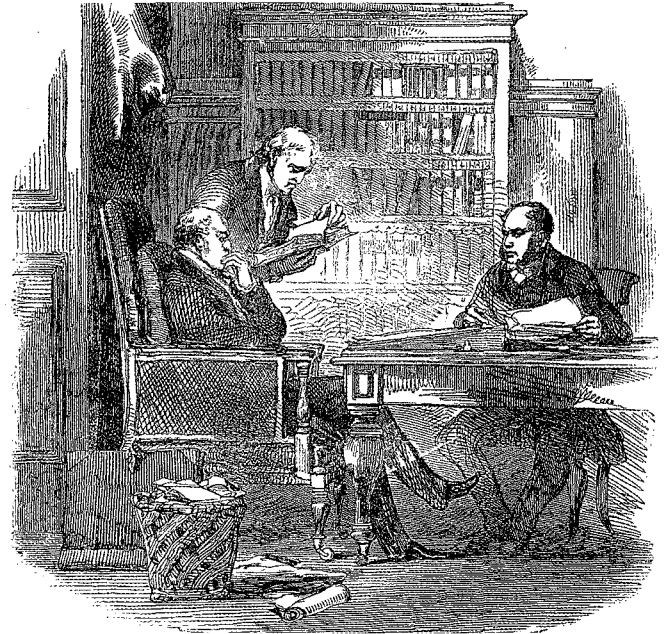
Unearthing Redpath

Thurs 21 February, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Once notorious but now almost forgotten, Leopold Redpath was one of the 19th century's greatest fraudsters who, working at King's Cross in the share registration office of the Great Northern Railway over a period of eight years, embezzled some £¼ million from his employers, the equivalent of £20 million today. He used the proceeds to acquire a splendid house in one of Nash's grand terraces on the Camden side of Regent's Park, where, posing as an affable philanthropist, he hobnobbed with the great and the good. Finally unmasked, and convicted in 1857, he was eventually transported, for life, to Australia.

Society members David Hayes and Marian Kamlisch will talk about the varied sources used in piecing



'Consternation in the Great Northern Railway offices after the frauds of Leopold Redpath come to light', fancifully illustrated in a contemporary pulp biography.

together Redpath's often stranger-than-fiction life. Their new book about the criminal, published by CHS (see next page), will be available at the talk.

The Camden Town Group: Tate Britain project

David Hayes writes:

If you have not already done so, you may like to take a look at Tate Britain's impressive new online publication '*the Camden Town Group in context*' the result of a major project with contributions from a wide variety of experts. I was commissioned to contribute a background essay on Camden Town 1895-1914, which can be found in the 'Modernity and metropolis section'.

To save you typing in the wearisome (long) site reference, go into Google and just key in 'the Camden Town Group in context'.

The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

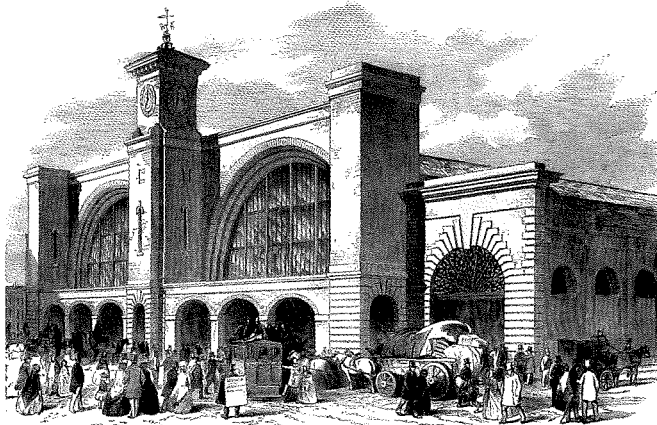
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The KING'S CROSS FRAUDSTER

Leopold Redpath, his life+times

David A Hayes + Marian Kamlish



The cover of King's Cross Fraudster, the new CHS publication, which will be launched at our February talk.

The Burtons and St Leonards on Sea

An interesting article on the creation of St Leonards on Sea appears in the *Georgian Group Journal XX*, recently published. It is by CHS member Elizabeth Nathaniels.

St Leonards was a financial gamble by James Burton (1761-1837). He obtained agricultural land near Hastings in the 1820s and here created a new town to profit from the newly fashionable pastime of sea-bathing. In the event, although he and his son Decimus created a quite remarkable and splendid-looking resort, it led to a considerable strain on his resources. Ms Nathaniels details the building of this venture and assesses the architectural contributions of father and son.

The Burtons are identified also with the grand development of the Bedford and Foundling estates in Bloomsbury. Decimus, an architectural prodigy, has the added distinction of creating one of the most romantic set-pieces in London - Holme House in Regent's Park - a remarkable achievement for someone of just seventeen years of age. His father, architect on a grand scale, was unfortunately also guilty of putting up some very sub-standard dwellings in the hinterland of the finer houses he built for the gentry on the Foundling Estate.

Things to Come

21 March: Caroline Shenton, *The day Parliament Burned Down*

18 April: Richard Espley, Alec Craig: *Hampstead Crusader against Censorship*.

May: to be announced

20 June: AGM and Jerry White: *London in the First World War*

St Pancras Cemetery

After the passing of the Metropolitan Burials Act of 1852, St Pancras parish was first off the mark to create a cemetery to ease the unhealthy pressures on local parish graveyards. In 1854 the St Pancras Burial Board acquired 88 acres of the Horseshoe Farm in East Finchley, and a further 94 acres were bought in 1877. The whole was divided between St Pancras and the parish of Islington. Together, the two parts have the largest number of interments in any cemetery in the UK, with 812,000 burials.

Because the cemetery is not actually in the borough of Camden, its history does tend to become forgotten. Richard Baldwin has written to encourage members to take an interest in its welfare and history.

'I have worked at St Pancras Cemetery and been associated with Islington Cemetery for over 35 years and it has saddened me that despite its long history, no one or any organisation has taken much interest in the social history that is there. Whereas all our burial registers have now been scanned and most are on a database, no one has gone through them to pick out the interesting local people who were notable or famous in the area, and many important and interesting inscriptions will be lost shortly if nothing is done to inspect and record them.

This is a mammoth task as the site is of some 190 acres, a lot fairly overgrown, with some 80,000 private graves. I would really like to see an interest group formed which we at Islington and Camden Cemetery Services can be involved with, that could help in recording the memorials and increasing our knowledge of the individuals buried here. There could also be self-guided or organised guided tours.

Those buried here include Lottie Collins (music hall star), Henry Croft (the first Pearly King), Ludwig Mond, whose son founded ICI, Cora Crippen, Sir Kingsley Amis, Olga Brandon (actress), Ford Madox Brown, and victims of the Fenian Explosion in Clerkenwell in 1867. We know where these people are buried but there are thousands more to find.'

Mr Baldwin has also been in touch with Islington Local History department and received an enthusiastic response from Mark Aston.

Any member interested should contact Mr Baldwin on 020 7527 8804, or email him at Richard.Baldwin@islington.gov.uk.



The Bird in Hand Revealed

During refurbishment of Café Rouge at 38-39 Hampstead High Street, removal of the modern fascia revealed an earlier one advertising Courage's Alton Ale and Noted Stout, on the old Bird in Hand pub, as seen in my photograph. The company, simply called 'Courage' from 1888, after much search and enquiry bought Messrs G & E Hall's brewery at Alton, in Hampshire in 1903, where the water supply was appropriate, and the ale was brewed there until 1969.

Above the first floor windows, original terracotta decoration has pleasingly survived, with the Bird-in-Hand motif (pictured right) dated 1872, which is mentioned in Christopher Wade's *The Streets of Hampstead*. The older fascia presumably dates from 1903. Camden Local Studies has a photograph, shown in Wade's *Hampstead Past* (1989) of the pub with its name around the motif, and a fascia 'Courage and Barclay' which must date from 1955 when the companies merged. Pevsner in his *Buildings of London, North* (rev. 1998), deprecates the houses here as 'tall late 19c shopping terraces of no great merit'.

The Bird in Hand Yard enters the High Street adjacent to No. 40 (now Boots, formerly Fowler's colourist) but almost immediately curves to the rear of the old pub, so taking its name from it.

Another early shop fascia across the street was briefly uncovered a few months ago. So, bits of local history come fleetingly into view.

Bryan Diamond



BROOKFIELD SCHOOL TURNS 100

Brookfield Primary School in Chester Road, Highgate, will be a hundred years old in 2014. Caitlin Davies is researching its history and is anxious to fill out more of its early background – she has already combed Camden's Local Studies and the London Metropolitan Archives. She says that from 1914-1931, it was an LCC Elementary Day School, and then became the Burghley Central School for Girls. It was renamed Brookfield County Secondary School for Girls in 1947, becoming a primary school in 1966.

If any member went to school there, and you have memories or pictures you would like to share, please get in touch.

Caitlin may be contacted at
caitlindavies444@btinternet.com.

Camden's Local List

Camden is carrying out a project that seeks to identify buildings and features that local people value and which contribute to the character of the area because of their architectural or historic significance, even though they are not designated listed buildings.

Members of the public are invited to send in their suggestions, but they should first go onto the appropriate website. Just tap in Camden Local List on Google and you will get to it. Suggestions need to be in by 22 January.

Priory Road?

In our last *Newsletter* we reproduced a postcard view of a street, identified by George Bek as possibly Priory Road. West Hampstead specialists, Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, however, are sure that it cannot be Priory Road. They say that there are no open spaces in the road like the one on the left of the picture and, more importantly, St Mary's church has a spire and not a square tower like the one in the postcard.

Life and Death In Hampstead Sound Trail

As part of a major conservation project for Hampstead Parish Churchyard, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, a special educational resource was also created – an audio exploration of the stories of some of the people who are buried there.

The project has collected extracts from over forty recorded interviews with direct descendants and family members, as well as academics and experts, offering a biography of some of the well-known (such as Constable, John Harrison and Kay Kendall), and the almost forgotten (from poets to servants to chimney sweeps), who have been buried there since 1745, when the medieval church was replaced by the present building. The burial ground is the oldest surviving unspoiled churchyard in the centre of greater London. It was officially closed in 1878, but in 1812 an additional burial ground had been created on the other side of Church Row, using a grid pattern with the majority of the headstones facing east.

You can listen to the audio by choosing an entry in the list of names on the left hand side of the Sound Trail map. You can get to it by tapping in <http://gis.camden.gov.uk/geoserver/SoundTrail.html>. It's much quicker if you go into Google and tap in 'Life and Death in Hampstead Sound Trail'.

The Magnificent Marquis

Ever active in the pursuit of Kilburn and West Hampstead history, Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms have recently published an eBook, via History Press, entitled *The Magnificent Marquis*.

This deals with the life and times of the Marquis de Leuville. He enters into local history because he was the long-time lover of Ada Peters, a rich widow who lived at The Grange, a large house facing Kilburn High Road – today's Grange Park occupies what is left of the grounds of the house.

The Grange was built in 1831 on a virgin site, and the Peters family were there from 1843. Thomas Peters was a wealthy coach-builder. His eldest son John inherited the estate and business, and Ada, his wife was left his estate on John's death in 1882.

Ada and the Marquis met in 1885 at a garden party she held at The Grange. He was not a guest, but someone hired to entertain, in a highbrow way, those who were. The *Kilburn Times* noted that the party was 'delightful', and dwelt on the appearance of the band of the Grenadier Guards and the many works of art garnered from Italy that were on view. Ada herself played the harp to entertain.

She and the Marquis became lovers, but they never married, simply because John's will dictated that if she married after his death then the estate went instead to the Peters family.

The garden front of The Grange, Kilburn



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Our website: www.camdenhistorysociety.org

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

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No 256
Mar 2013

The day Parliament Burned Down

Thursday 21 March, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies, Holborn Library 2nd floor, 32-38
Theobalds Road, WC1. Entrance by main door after 7pm.

The destruction by fire of much of the medieval Palace of Westminster on 16 October 1834 is the subject of our March talk, to be given by Caroline Shenton, archivist of the Houses of Parliament. It follows on from the talk given by Professor Michael Port last April on the survey of the old buildings made before the devastation.

The fire was an accident made possible by poor supervision. Cart loads of old wooden tallies - early devices to record transactions before numeracy and literacy improved - abandoned and stored in the lower reaches of the Palace, were recklessly fed into furnaces there, causing the chimney vents to heat up to an unacceptable level. This led to the primitive buildings overheating and catching fire. Thus the verdict in any account of the fire, and it will be interesting to hear our speaker go into greater depth regarding the circumstances.

The Times next day did not shed too many tears at the fate of the old buildings, considering them unfit for purpose anyway, difficult to ventilate and without enough space for government - though it welcomed the survival of the remarkable Westminster Hall and was pleased that the blaze had not spread to the Abbey. *The Times* also commented on the conduct of the thousands who gathered to watch the blaze:

'The conduct of the immense, the countless multitudes which in the course of the evening flocked together to view this spectacle of terrible beauty was such as to inspire respect. Composed as it was necessarily of all classes, we did not observe in more than one or two instances any expressions of levity, and not one of exultation, at the destruction of these venerable edifices.'

The paper also noted that one of the many items salvaged was an oak table which still bore the blood

stain of former prime minister Spencer Perceval, who had been shot dead in the House by John Bellingham in 1812.

Alec Craig, poet and radical

Thursday, 18 April, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Alec Craig (1897-1973) lived in a succession of modest houses in Camden, while supporting himself by working as a civil servant. He waged war against the prevailing morality that he saw as stifling. In his evenings and weekends he produced an unending stream of letters, pamphlets and book proposals, on topics including the freedom of nudists, the legalisation of homosexuality and the abolition of literary censorship. Craig's typical activities included discovering where Lord Byron became familiar with 'unnatural intercourse' between married couples, and having the young Alan Ginsberg give a poetry reading in his flat.

Our speaker, Richard Espley, will draw on the library and archive Craig left to Senate House Library, University of London, to explore a remarkable man's embittered battle for universal personal and sexual freedom.

Things to Come

16 May: Kate Donington and Miranda Kaufman: *Between worlds: London and Africa 1500-1833*

20 June: AGM and Jerry White: *London in the 1st World War*

August: Outing to Holdenby Castle

19 Sep: Katherine Watson: *Violent Crime in 19th-century Camden*

17 Oct: David Taylor: *A Hampstead Coterie: the Carrs and the Lushingtons*

The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

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From West Hampstead to the Thunderbirds

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms have set up an entertaining blog called *Kilburn History*, which features articles on both Kilburn and West Hampstead. In the last *Newsletter* we featured a summary of their research on the Marquis de Leuville, who lived at the Grange in Kilburn High Road. This, we hope, will be the subject of a later talk to the Society. The latest blog features an artist called Albert de Belleruche who, though born in Swansea, was the son of a Huguenot marquis. He was a close friend of John Singer Sargent, and became well known for his handsome lithographs. The full story of his career and life at 46 West End Lane is in the blog.

A more familiar subject is Gerry Anderson, the creator of *Thunderbirds*, who died on Boxing Day. He grew up in West Hampstead in a 'squalid house'. The family of four lived in poverty in one room, with a blanket hung up to separate the cooking and sleeping areas. They shared a bathroom with the other tenants who included a rather sinister ex-convict, an eccentric artist and a woman who Gerry later realised was probably a prostitute. Anderson in later life was unable to remember his exact address but Marianne and Dick have tracked it down to 50 West End Lane, a large detached house on the corner of Woodchurch Road. The house was demolished after bombing in the last war and it and neighbouring houses were replaced by Sidney Boyd Court.

Anderson's grandparents were Russians who came to the East End in 1895, adopting the name of Abrahams. Their son Joseph was Anderson's father, an ardent socialist who worked for some time installing tobacco dispensing machines in private homes. A packet of twenty cigarettes cost one shilling and Joseph visited the customers on his bicycle to fill the machines and collect the cash. Joseph was also a classical pianist and somehow found space to install a piano in their crowded room.

In 1936 the family moved to Neasden where they were subject to much anti-Semitism. Consequently they adopted the name of Anderson. Gerry, in a long career in films and TV, came to fame for his television puppet productions such as *Thunderbirds*, *Captain Scarlet* and *Stingray*.

More information is on the blog, together with an article about two lots of safe blowers in West Hampstead.

HELPING OUT AT THE WINCH

The Youth Project in Winchester Road, Swiss Cottage, is asking for help with its local history project dealing with the history of its building and also the surrounding area. This may lead to a pamphlet and/or local history trails. They have been referred to *Streets of Belsize*, but if anyone would like to be a volunteer helper in the matter please contact Ann Kenney at info@thewinch.org.

A Modernist in Regal Lane

The little known and rather hidden turning called Regal Lane, off the Camden Town end of Regent's Park Road, has some interesting houses in it. One of them was built and once lived in by the distinguished Modernist architect, John Winter, who died in November aged 82.

His most celebrated design was the Cor-ten House at 85 Swains Lane on the former garden of the superintendent of Highgate Cemetery, which he built in 1969. This is constructed around a steel frame, and the outside of the house consists of large double-glazed units set within Cor-ten cladding (a steel alloy which weathers to a rust colour when exposed to the elements). This was the first domestic use of the material in Britain. As reported in his obituary in the *Daily Telegraph*, when the house overlooking the cemetery was finished his colleagues presented him with a plaque bearing the legend 'Rust in Peace'. He lived and worked there until shortly before his death.

Another Blue Plaque in Camden

Camden's large collection of Blue Plaques was augmented on 8 January when a plaque commemorating the architect John Nash was placed on 66 Great Russell Street. It was unveiled by Geoffrey Tyack, the historian and Nash biographer. He said that Nash's architectural contribution to London is second only to that of Sir Christopher Wren.

This unveiling came at a time when English Heritage announced that due to funding restrictions it would have to suspend its role in placing Blue Plaques in London. Though the cost of actually making a Blue Plaque is less than £1000, the expense of research to make sure that a plaque is on the correct and most appropriate property, and dealing with the house owners etc, is considerably more. We understand that there are three years of plaques in the gestation process at the moment and these will probably come to fruition, despite the reduced staff, but after that the future is uncertain. EH plan to unveil twelve plaques over the next two years.

We should also like to record, rather belatedly, the Blue Plaque placed on 1 Eton Villas at Chalk Farm, to commemorate the over 40 years' residence of Sir John Summerson, the distinguished architectural historian.

A THANKYOU

Diana Gallop has written: 'I have just been nominating items for including in Camden's Local List for Gospel Oak south of Mansfield Road. We have been so redeveloped that it is vitally important to hang on to what little heritage we have left. In making the nominations, *Streets of Gospel Oak* was invaluable and saved me hours. Thank you to all who researched this publication and to the Society.'

'Bomb Sight'

The media recently announced the launch of the 'Bomb Sight' website [<http://www.bombsight.org/>] as:

'The Bomb Sight project is mapping the London WW2 bomb census between 7/10/1940 and 06/06/1941. Previously available only by viewing in the Reading Room at The National Archives, Bomb Sight is making the maps available to citizen researchers, academics and students. They will be able to explore where the bombs fell and to discover memories and photographs from the period ... The project has scanned original 1940s bomb census maps, geo-referenced the maps and digitally captured the geographical locations of all the falling bombs recorded on the original map. ... You can use our interactive web-mapping application to explore and search for different bomb locations across London. Click on individual bombs and find out information relating to the neighbouring area by reviewing contextual images and memories from the Blitz.'

The website initially faltered under the pressure but soon recovered so that people could indeed interrogate it to view WW2 maps of London clearly marked with the impact points of the high explosive bombs and parachute mines reported falling across Greater London, information previously only available from the original Ministry of Home Security maps and tracings at Kew. This is a useful facility and should be an asset to house or local historians from the comfort of their home or (eventually) suitable mobile phones. But before the knowledgeable observer points out that "the bomb that destroyed our old home is not shown or is incorrectly plotted", it is worth carefully reading the website instructions and its details and realising the limitations of the system.

Remember that the blitz opened in earnest on 'Black Saturday', 7th September 1940 whereas the website information starts a month later on 7th October, and that the information records only those bombs plotted up until 6th June 1941. This therefore covers the main blitz attacks but begins after the initial month of the offensive - so such classic incidents as the bus blown up against the house in Harrington Square on 8th September is not recorded, although the famous 'bus' photo regularly appears on most TV programmes on the blitz. Obviously bombs and other weapons which fell in the subsequent four years of the war after 6th June 1941 are not shown. Other limitations include the absence of the thousands of individual small incendiary bombs which were scattered across London are not shown and these incendiaries often destroyed or damaged properties if they were able to take hold before the arrival of the fire services or the neighbourhood Fire Watchers and Fire Guards. Further, care should also be used before attributing damage to any particular bomb shown on the map as (a) the size of the bomb is not listed and (b) with the larger blast weapons, particularly if detonated as an air burst before impact, the full effect may have not have been felt at the impact point itself but by properties some distance away.

This is really hair-splitting criticism of an interesting and useful website, so members should take full advantage of it to follow their interest in seeing how their neighbourhood suffered during the eight months of the main blitz covered by the website. The website has done well as the originals at Kew are on many large sheets of tracing paper prepared by the Research and Experiments Division of the Ministry of Home Security at Princes Risborough, with the object of discovering what changes the Germans were making in their attacks, what bomb types were being used and where the bombs were falling, in particular how well the Luftwaffe appeared to have identified and targeted Vital Points.

Dr Kate Jones at the University of Portsmouth, the director of the Bomb Sight website project, was contacted and congratulated on the project and asked if the project would be extended to cover later raids, particularly the V-1 early cruise missile and the V-2 ballistic missile rocket offensives of 1944 and 1945 when Camden had its fair share of such attacks. Dr Jones, a geographer who had studied for some years at University College, stated that unfortunately the current project funding had run out so they were unable to extend the website coverage. They had investigated the use of the London County Council Bomb Damage maps in the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) but had "encountered Intellectual Property issues".

Nevertheless the 'Bomb Sight' project provides a most welcome and easily interrogated source of information for researchers. Such research can, if necessary, be continued in the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre in Holborn Library and at the LMA in Clerkenwell as well, of course, by consulting the original maps and numerous Ministry of Home Security tracings in the National Archives at Kew.

Robin Woolven

Subscriptions Due

Membership enquiries are handled by Dr Henry Fitzhugh (56 Argyle Street WC1H 8ER; tel 7837 9980, email: henryfitzhugh@talktalk.net).

Subscriptions are due on 1 March; members who do not pay by standing order should pay by cheque to the address above if they have received a subscription invoice with this *Newsletter*. We would be extremely grateful if anyone paying by cheque would 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 26 April.

St Pancras Talks

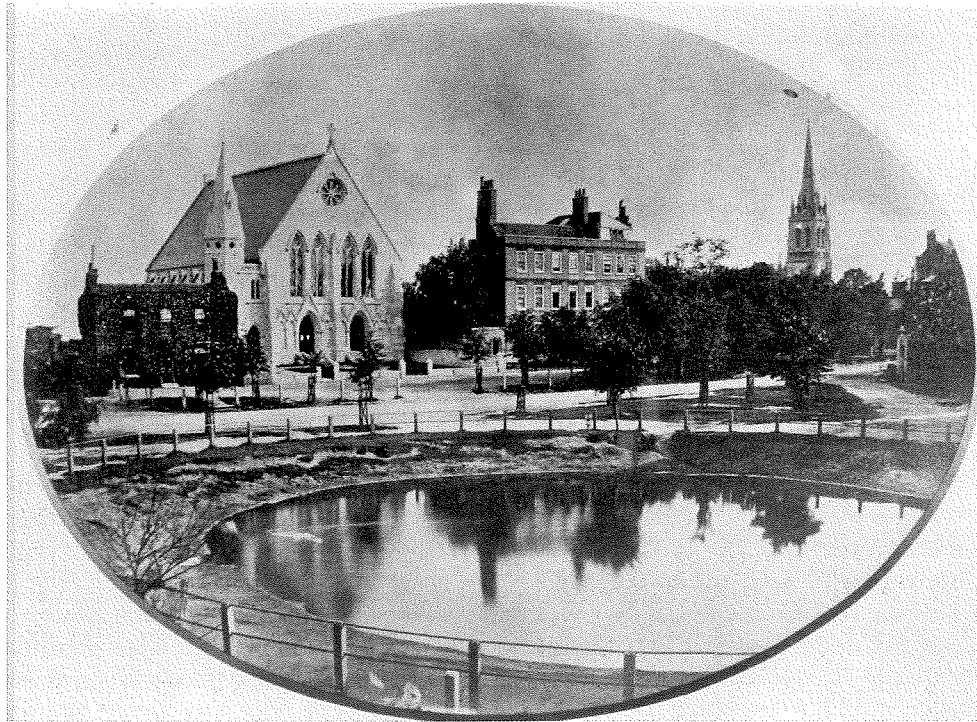
Our member, Emily Gee, is organising an enterprising series of talks in aid of the St Pancras Old Church Appeal. They will be held at the church in Pancras Road.

The church is one of the oldest established in London. The altar houses a 7th-century altar stone, and medieval fabric survives, although much of the visible building dates from 1848. It retains its rural character, where the River Fleet once flowed, surrounded by a Victorian park and historic burial grounds, which include the mausoleum containing the tombs of Sir John Soane, his wife and his eldest son, and the tombstone of Mary Wollstonecraft, although her remains were removed to a family grave in Bournemouth. The church has survived the dramatic impact of railway lines running through the churchyard. But, ancient drains, however, threaten this Grade II* building and an appeal is being launched on St Pancras Day, 12 May, to help raise funds. All money raised will go towards building new drains and securing the cracks in the stone walls.

The talks planned so far are:

Saturday 11 May, Roger Bowdler: *No ordinary*

Pond Square in Highgate c.1860. The former Congregational (now United Reformed) church is to the left and the Anglican church of St Michael is to the right.



churchyard: the tombs of St Pancras

Friday 17 May, Philip Davies: *Lost London*

Thursday 6 June, Jane Sidell: *The Quick and the Dead: The Archaeology of High Speed 1 and the Old St Pancras burial ground*

Thursday 13 June, Gillian Tindall: *The Fields Beneath*

Thursday 12 September, Gillian Darley: *John Soane and St Pancras*

Thursday 10 October, Simon Bradley: *St Pancras Station*

All weekday talks begin at 7pm. Further information and entrance fees etc may be had from ejnggee@gmail.com, or nearer the time www.posp.co.uk/old-st-pancras/news

JOHN SNOW BICENTENARY

The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine is celebrating the birth of Dr John Snow who is best known for his work in determining the way in which cholera was transmitted by a contaminated water pump. There is an exhibition at the School in Keppel Street from 13 March to 17 April. Further details of events may be had at www.johnsnow.org.uk.

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No 257
May 2013

Between worlds: London and Africa 1500-1833

Thurs 16 May, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies, 2nd floor Holborn Library,

32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Entrance by main door after 7pm

In May we have a talk by Miranda Kaufmann and Kate Donington which explores the presence of Africans in London during the Tudor and Stuart periods. It will also consider the ways in which London slave-owners profited from the exploitation of Africans during the slavery era.

Dr Kaufmann is an expert on Africans in Elizabethan and early Stuart Britain and Kate Donington is a researcher for the Legacies of British Slave-Ownership project at University College London.

Annual General Meeting and Intolerance in London during WW1

Thurs 20 June, 6.30pm

St Mary the Virgin church, corner of Primrose Hill Road and Elsworthy Road, NW3

The historian Jerry White is our speaker after the AGM and his topic concerns the intolerance during the First World War which effectively destroyed London's large German community that had roots going back many generations. The plight of German and other 'alien enemies' in London was miserable, and as the war dragged on, conscription and air raids increased the hostility of Londoners. The treatment of Germans and foreign Jews in the East End provided one of the most shameful episodes in London's recent past.

Refreshments will be available at 6.30pm and the AGM will begin at 7, with the talk at 7.30pm. Members who have nominations for Officers or Council should send them to our Secretary, Jane Ramsay (address on p.4), two weeks before the meeting.

St Mary's church has its origins in the action of two Hampstead businessmen, moved by the sight of starving children on street corners, in opening a home for destitute boys in Regent's Park Road. They also initiated popular services in an iron church in nearby Ainger Road which led to the present church opening in 1872. The architect was M P Manning.

Musically, St Mary's enjoys a unique place in the story of Anglican worship. In 1906 this is the church where Percy Dearmer (Vicar 1901-15) worked with Ralph Vaughan Williams and Martin Shaw to compile the English Hymnal. It was here that congregations first sang many well-loved hymns such as *He who would valiant be*, and *In the bleak mid-winter*.

The Society's present Officers and Council members are as follows.

PRESIDENT: Prof. Caroline Barron
VICE PRESIDENTS: Malcolm Holmes, Dr Ann Saunders and Gillian Tindall
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade
SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay
TREASURER: Dr Henry Fitzhugh
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: Dr Peter Woodford
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Dr Henry Fitzhugh
RESEARCH TEAM LEADER: Steven Denford
PUBLICATIONS (Postal sales) Roger Cline
PUBLICATIONS (bookstall etc) Sheila Ayres
MEETINGS CO-ORDINATOR: Martin Sheppard
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Vacant
LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Tudor Allen or his deputy
Council Members: Sheila Ayres, Steven Denford, Ruth Hayes, Richard Knight, Lester May, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Susan Palmer.

SATURDAY OPENING HOURS AT LOCAL STUDIES

Members who want to use Local Studies on Saturdays, please note the following dates it is open:
18 May, 1 Jun, 15 Jun, 29 Jun, 13 Jul, 27 Jul, 10 Aug, 24 Aug, 7 Sep, 21 Sep, 5 Oct, 19 Oct, 2 Nov, 16 Nov, 30 Nov, 14 Dec, 28 Dec. From 11am to 5pm.

The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

buy our publications online check on events to come and past download currently out-of-print publications consult index to our Review and Newsletter access to Hampstead Court Rolls view sample pages from our publications

BARGAIN OFFERS FOR OUR PUBLICATIONS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE!!

The Annual Outing on 5th August

This year the Society will be travelling to Northamptonshire to see Delapré Abbey and Holdenby House.

We are finding that it is increasingly difficult to arrange trips for Saturdays as many places are now used as wedding venues, so this year we have booked for Monday 5 August and we shall go to two buildings on the outskirts of Northampton.

We shall pass an Eleanor Cross (one of only three remaining) at Delapré Hill as we approach our first stop, Delapré Abbey. We shall be given coffee and biscuits before we set off on a guided tour. The Abbey was built in 1145, as an English Cluniac monastery of nuns, on the meadows of the river Nene, to the south of Northampton, by Simon de Senlis the 2nd Earl of Northampton. Under the ownership of the Tate family, 1546-1764, alterations were made to adapt it for domestic living. Now a Grade II* listed building owned by Northampton Borough Council, Delapré Abbey housed the Northamptonshire Records Office from 1958-92. An application has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £3.6 million for restoration and development. After the tour a light lunch will be provided (included in the cost).

(Warning: two flights of stairs; building work in progress, so wear suitable footwear.)

We move on to Holdenby House, built in 1583 by Lord Chancellor Christopher Hatton as a Palace in which to entertain Queen Elizabeth I. It was one of the largest palaces of the Tudor period, built round two large courtyards. The cost ruined him, and he died in 1591. Under the ownership of Captain Adam Baynes in the late 17th century all except a small domestic wing was demolished. In 1873-75 it was rebuilt in the style of the old house, of which only two arches and the kitchen wing remain. Extensive grounds include gardens and a falconry. We will have a guided tour, and refreshments of tea and cake before starting for home.

The cost will be £39 which covers coach, tips, entrance charges, refreshments and lunch.

A booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter* and you are encouraged to bring friends if you wish.

BELSIZE REMEMBERED IN THE 20TH CENTURY

A group of four volunteers at the Belsize Community Library are compiling a reminiscence book about the history of Belsize in the 20th century. CHS members who may have a story to tell about an incident or experience in Belsize – good, bad or just amusing – are invited to write to belsizeremembered@gmail.com.

Our newest, biggest book

The latest Camden History Society publication, *The King's Cross fraudster: Leopold Redpath, his life and times*, by David A Hayes and Marian Kamlish, relates the life of one of the greatest embezzlers of the 19th century – he robbed his employers, the Great Northern Railway at King's Cross station, of the modern-day equivalent of millions of pounds. It takes us from his poverty-stricken childhood through his years of glory posing as a wealthy, affable philanthropist and art collector, hobnobbing with the great and the good, to his arrest, conviction and transportation to Australia and life as a good-conduct ticket-of-leave man. A wealth of detail revealed by painstaking research undertaken by long-term CHS members, David Hayes and Marian Kamlish, gives glimpses of the daily occupations, dress, furnishing and recreations of the well-to-do and the less well off in 1850s' London. Even the history of the ship in which the convicted Redpath was transported to Australia comes to life in these vividly written pages. The ship itself is now preserved in a museum in New Zealand, as it later served as the first carrier of frozen New Zealand lamb to Britain.

The paperback book is of 188pp with many illustrations. It is obtainable on our website www.camden-historysociety.org – go to Publications/General titles. It costs £9.99 plus £2.50 p&p, pay via Paypal. Or else order direct from Roger Cline (see panel p.4). You can of course buy it from the bookstall at talks.

Name a King's Cross street

In the development of the railway lands behind King's Cross station a number of new streets are being created. The developers are running a competition for people to suggest names for these. Leaflets about this are in Camden libraries, or else you can go online to www.kingscross.co.uk/street-naming-competition.

The journalist and broadcaster, Alan Dein, is urging support for one to be named after Charles Chilton, a long-time resident of the area, who died in January this year aged 95. Chilton was a well-known BBC presenter and producer – he wrote and produced the long-running *Riders of the Range*, and produced a number of *Goon Shows*. Lester May has proposed Marcus Street (after Professor Marcus played by Alec Guinness in *The Ladykillers* – set in King's Cross), Morgan Street, after the chief engineer of the Regent's Canal, and Coal Drop Street.

Suggestions have to be in by 31 May.

Members may be interested to know that the railway lands development has been allocated its own postal code of NC1.



Church Row in 1929

Above is a drawing by Randolph Schwabe (1885-1948) of construction work going on outside No. 9 Church Row in Hampstead. No 9a is shown on the left and No. 8 on the right.

Schwabe was a draughtsman and printmaker. His drawing is from the vantage of No. 20 opposite to where he had moved in 1928 (no plaque, but noted in *The Streets of Hampstead* as in '1930s and 40s'). The illustration, recently exhibited at the dealer Chris Beetles, shows two workmen laying pipes (water or gas?) – pieces are shown lying on a pile of cobbles or projecting from a bin. Was the street then cobbled overall? Pevsner, describing the group of houses, says 'No. 9 is grander, of 5 bays, and has a good iron gate as has No. 8'.

Norrie's *Book of Hampstead* (1960) has a photo, undated, of this south side without any cars, and the cover of the *CHS Review* 7 shows a 1910 watercolour of both sides of the road, with trees in the middle.

Schwabe was principal of the Slade School of Fine Art from 1930. A biography of him has just been published by Jill Clarke. He was fortunate in having such a pleasant view from his own house.

No. 9 is thought to have been built c. 1728 by R Hughes and is without doubt one of Hampstead's finest period properties. In the 1860s it served as a Girls' Reformatory School and some time later, in the 1890s, as an Industrial School for Girls.

A local directory shows that in 1929 the resident of No. 8 is Christopher P Small and of No 9, Maxwell O Ayrton FRIBA (1874-1960), a Scottish architect. He spent most of his working life in London, designing

houses, public buildings and bridges. At 9a was Reginald Bell. According to *The Streets of Hampstead*, The writer, Nicholas Mosley, son of Sir Oswald Mosley, lived at No. 9 (in the 1960s?).

Bryan Diamond

Things to Come

Please put these events in your diaries:

18 July: Peter Backman. Wrench & Co, Postcard publishers

5 August: Outing to Holdenby Castle

19 Sep: Katherine Watson: *Violent Crime in 19th-century Camden*

17 Oct: David Taylor: *A Hampstead Coterie: the Carrs and the Lushingtons*

21 Nov: Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, *The Marquis of Leuville*

12 Dec: Stephen Myers, *The Hijacking of the Walbrook*.

PUBLICATION NEWS

Hampstead at War has been reprinted and is on sale at £5.00. Our publication *Cats Meat Square* has been submitted for the LAMAS Local History Publication Award.

BUSKERS IN CAMDEN TOWN

Fraser Mitchell once lived near Cecil Sharp House, and he can remember that when his mother took them shopping in Camden Town there used to be a busking band which played outside the then derelict Bedford Theatre. They were war veterans and all disabled. They wore quasi military uniform and played a variety of brass instruments.

Mr Mitchell would be glad to have any information about them and what happened to them. Please contact mitchellfwli@aol.com

Website News

Patrick Nother has established a website called beforekxstp.co.uk which deals with the history of the King's Cross and St Pancras area in the 17th and 18th centuries. Patrick has made an extensive study of a usually (in terms of research) neglected area and contributed to *Camden History Review* 26 a splendid article on the so-called Woodehouse Journal, a document seemingly authentic and written by a local magistrate in the 18th century, with much information about St Pancras parish at that time. This bound volume, illustrated with various coats of arms, was purchased by Camden in good faith in the 1960s. Mr Nother showed conclusively that it was a clever 19th-century forgery and it is now an object of curiosity rather than evidence of a past age.

His website is already packed with information about the area and well worth browsing.

The kilburnhistory.blogspot.co.uk, edited and researched by members Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, continues to be very active. Three new items have recently been added.

First is a blog about the actor Sean Connery, who lodged at 67 Brondesbury Villas in 1957, and then moved to 3 Wavel Mews where he began his James Bond career. *Haunted Kilburn and West Hampstead* is another blog - it includes an account of the manifestations of the legendary Spring Heeled Jack. A third blog recounts the police enquiry into the manufacture of counterfeit notes. Eventually this was tracked down to 2a Shoot Up Hill.

CAMDEN TALKING

Nikki Franklin, composer and musician, writes to say that she is Director of glassEye music, and is working on a new project called *Camden Talking*. She wishes during April to collect interviews and photographs of Camden people which would be included with performances of music.

She would very much like to meet members of the CHS if they could spare some time to share stories of the history of Camden and their own experiences of living in the borough.

She can be contacted on music@nikkifranklin.co.uk or else on 07446 955592.

Camden Council plans to open a new headquarters in St Pancras Square in the railway lands behind King's Cross Station in 2014. This is a site very near the first, modest, St Pancras Town Hall, shown here in c.1904.



This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

The Editor is John Richardson, 14 Saddleton Road, Whitstable, Kent CT5 4JD. Tel: 01227 272605.

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, email: jsramsay10@gmail.com),

The Treasurer and Membership Secretary is Henry Fitzhugh, 56 Argyle Street WC1H 8ER (email: henryfitzhugh@talktalk.net)

The Publications Secretary is Roger Cline, Flat 13, 13 Tavistock Place, WC1H 9SH, (7388 9889) email roger.cline13@gmail.com

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The Meetings Co-ordinator is Martin Sheppard, 102 Gloucester Avenue, NW1 8HX, email martin.l.sheppard@gmail.com

The Editor of the Camden History Review is David Hayes, 62 Garrison Lane, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2LB (8397 6752)

Our website: www.camdenhistorysociety.org

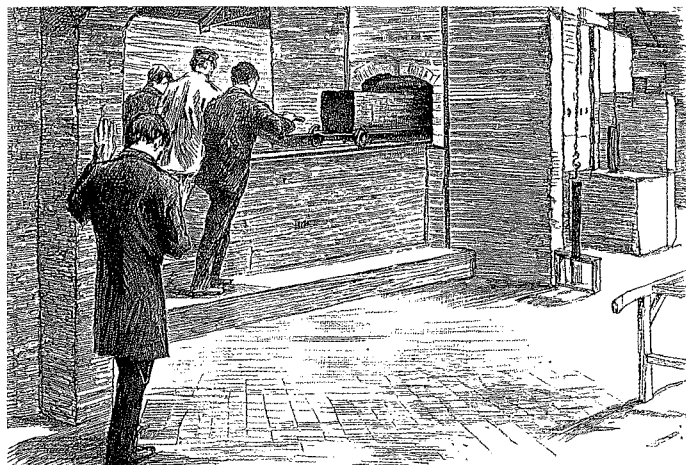
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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 258

Jul 2013



Development of cremation in Britain since 1874

Thurs. 18 July, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1X 8PA

Use main door after 7pm.

This talk will trace the events leading up to the first official cremation that took place at Woking in 1885 and its development in the twentieth century, with a particular reference to the provision of crematoria in north London. Today, just over three-quarters of funerals are performed in a crematorium.

Brian Parsons is an expert on cemeteries and funerals, and is the author of *The London Way of Death* (2001), and *London Cemeteries* (3rd edition 2008).

(Please note: this is a change of programme from that published in the last Newsletter)

The Annual Outing

This year's Outing is to Delapré Abbey and Holdenby House on 5 August. Details of this, and a booking form, were enclosed with the last *Newsletter*. There are still some seats on the coach for late-comers. If you want to go, please contact Jean Archer on 020 7435 5490 or else Jane Ramsay on 020 7586 4436.

The AGM

At this year's AGM, held at St Mary the Virgin church in Primrose Hill, we had an engrossing talk by the London historian, Jerry White, on how aliens, especially Germans who lived here, were treated with intolerance during the First World War. We look forward to Mr White's new book on London during that time.

The following were elected as officers and Council members:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Caroline Barron

VICE PRESIDENTS: Malcolm Holmes, Dr Ann Saunders and Gillian Tindall

CHAIRMAN: John Richardson

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Christopher Wade

SECRETARY: Jane Ramsay

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PUBLICITY OFFICER: Vacant

LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Tudor Allen or his deputy

Council Members: Sheila Ayres, Emily Gee, Ruth Hayes, Richard Knight, Lester May, Jeremy Noble, Michael Ogden, Susan Palmer.

St Pancras Talks

There are two more talks remaining in the series that takes place at St Pancras Old Church in Pancras Road. They are:

12 Sept: Gillian Darley on Sir John Soane.

10 Oct: Simon Bradley on St Pancras Station.

The talks begin at 7. Admission is £10, which includes wine. All receipts go towards the renovation work at the church.

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A Camden Town Picture

Malcolm Tucker writes:

I wonder if anyone can tell me the present whereabouts of this dramatic watercolour? It shows Southampton Bridge (Oval Road) on the Regent's Canal at Camden Town in the early 1840s, looking *eastwards*. On the right, south of the canal, are Pickford's goods shed in its original form and the Camden Flour Mills beyond it, while on the left is the chimney of the London & Birmingham Railway's coke ovens. The ovens made smokeless fuel for the locomotives and continued until c. 1854. On the far left is the retaining wall of the Goods Yard - that is still there. Through the arch is a canalside warehouse near the Hampstead Road Lock.

Someone gave a colour slide of this picture to the London Canal Museum around 15 years ago, but there is no other documentation.

Anyone with information should contact Malcolm on malctt@tiscali.co.uk or telephone 7272 7160.

Things to Come

19 Sep: Katherine Watson: *Violent Crime in 19th-century London*

17 Oct: David Taylor: *A Hampstead Coterie: the Carrs and the Lushingtons*

21 Nov: Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, *The Marquis of Lewville*

12 Dec: Ann Saunders: *St Pauls - the alternative.*

GUYON HOUSE, HAMPSTEAD

Marga Herman is keen to obtain a photograph of Guyon House, 98 Heath Street taken between 1980 and 1990. She has visited Local Studies but their photographs are older.

Her email is msrengherm@hotmail.com.

St Michael's church, Highgate

Roger Sainsbury is writing a comprehensive history of this church, which was initially built to make it unnecessary for Anglican Highgate residents to use the chapel attached to Highgate School.

Mr Sainsbury's query is a very particular one. It concerns the period 1831-2. Construction began in 1831 and he believes it was complete in February or March of 1832. Consecration took place on 8 November. Almost certainly the delay arose because the parish of St Pancras, from which a part of the new St Michael's district was to be taken, was a peculiar under the jurisdiction of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's. An Act of Parliament overcoming this problem was passed on 11 July 1832. Are there any diaries or contemporary records about the construction of the church, or about the delay in consecration? Were any services held in the church before it was consecrated? The subject is not covered in the various recognised histories of Highgate. Does any member know of a source of information?

Mr Sainsbury's email is msainsbury88@gmail.com.

MEMOIRS AND DIARIES

Anne de Courcy, author of some history books set in the days of the Raj and the First World War, has been commissioned by Weidenfeld & Nicolson to write a social history of the years 1912-15. She prefers to work from contemporary documents, and wonders if any members have appropriate personal memoirs, journals, diaries or letters written by people of any background within those years that she could look at.

Her telephone number is 7351 1161.



Hampstead Taverns

The above watercolour by J Appleton (1890) shows the Old White Bear in Well Road, Hampstead. It is part of a new exhibition now showing at Burgh House until 1 September entitled *Old Hampstead Rediscovered 3: The Taverns of Hampstead*.

This is the latest of the Heath & Hampstead Society's stunning exhibitions of old paintings, prints and photographs from the collection of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre in Holborn. Many of Hampstead's pubs have been in existence for hundreds of years but, as in many communities, there has been a roll call of losses in recent times – the Hare and Hounds, Jack Straw's Castle, Nag's Head, Coach and Horses, Horse and Groom, King of Bohemia, Bird in Hand and the Vale of Health Tavern. Lost too was Hampstead brewery which stood just off Hampstead High Street.

And so, in addition to the pubs we now know so well, the exhibition chronicles some that have been lost over time, together with some of the name changes and the different buildings used. Despite Heath Street being one of the highest parts of London, far away from the sea, one of the pubs was even called The Cruel Sea for a while – decked out in fishing nets and other shipping and sea paraphernalia! We do hope someone will be able to provide a picture of that incarnation.

The exhibition has been curated by Malcolm Holmes. Burgh House is open Wednesday-Friday and Sunday 12-5.

Website news

A new website www.londongardensonline.org.uk is one of the most informative. It lists virtually every green space in each of London's boroughs, but it goes further than that – it tells, where appropriate, how a space came into being in the first place. A good example is the Brookfield Estate at the top end of St Alban's Road and Croftdown Road. The entry here owes much to the published work of Steve Denford and David Hayes for the Society.

'The Brookfield Estate was built as a development of flats and maisonettes to provide much-needed working class housing after WW1, as a direct result of the subsidies local authorities were able to claim under the Addison Act of 1919. In 1922 St Pancras Borough Council purchased a large part of the Upper Drying Ground of Holly Village ... together with an adjoining field known as Two-Acre Field. It was on this sloping site that the Brookfield Estate was laid out between 1922-30, designed by Albert J Thomas, Edwin Lutyens' principal assistant between 1902-35. The layout of the estate has echoes of Lutyens' Hampstead Garden Suburb and follows garden suburb principles prevalent at the time. Consequently, there are winding streets, views and vistas created by careful alignment of roads and landscaping, provision of street trees, hedging on boundaries, as well as garden areas. The housing was mainly of 2-storey cottage-style maisonettes, each providing 4 or 6 dwellings and 4-storey blocks of flats that were positioned in order to engender a rural appearance.

The buildings were set back from the pavement and had long front gardens entered through oak gates, with privet hedges and some with garden trees. Behind the properties were good-sized garden areas that were open.'

Altogether, 123 green spaces in Camden are covered.

Senate House

The ever-informative newsletter of Archives for London has an interesting article on Senate House.

'Commissioned as the first purpose-built home and central headquarters of the University of London, Senate House welcomed its first occupants in 1936, a century after the University was granted its Charter. It was designed as the centrepiece of architect Charles Holden's plan for a campus that, in the words of visionary Vice-Chancellor William Beveridge, would be "something that could not have been built by any earlier generation than this...."

Ranked among the capital's earliest skyscrapers and clad in Portland Stone, Senate House is home to the University's world-famous library, as well as administrative offices and meeting rooms. It was the first large-scale building in the country to be heated by electricity, using an early form of storage heater.

During the last war the building was used by the Ministry of Information (said to be the inspiration of George Orwell's description of the Ministry of Truth in 1984).¹

The River and Port of London

The LAMAS Conference this year is devoted to the history of the Thames and the Port of London. It features six talks:

A changing port in a changing world, from the 1st to the 18th century, by Gustav Milne.

Re-invention and Change: The Port of London from 1790-1938, by Chris Ellmers

Local History and the environmental history of the Thames 1960-2010, by Vanessa Taylor

Primus Omnium: the world's first modern police force, by Robert Jeffries.

The Thames as a provider of drinking water by Mark Jenner.

The Thames Beautiful - the artist's perspective, by Mireille Galinou.

The Conference is on Saturday 16 November, from 10am to 4pm, at the Weston Theatre, Museum of London. The fee (including tea and biscuits) is £15 but if you book before 1 November it will be £12. Tickets are available from 1 September. They can be obtained from Eleanor Stanier, 48 Coval Road, East Sheen SW14 7RL

The strangely-named Peru Private Hotel at 4,5 & 6 Woburn Place, shown on a postcard c.1905. This attractive terrace has now disappeared, but its location may be judged by the corner of the Russell Hotel to the right. The proprietors were obviously expecting sunny weather.



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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 259
Sep 2013

Violent Crime in Victorian and Edwardian Camden

Thurs 19 Sept, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives,
Floor 2 of Holborn Library, 31-38 Theobalds Road WC1.
Entrance by main door after 7pm.

From assault to robbery and murder, nineteenth-century Londoners faced a range of violent crime. The illustration here of one such armed robbery at the post office in Brecknock Road in 1886 was depicted, luridly as usual, in the *Penny Illustrated Paper*. It is an example of the crime and the reporting which kept many Londoners of the day enthralled.

Our speaker this month is Katherine Watson, author of *Poisoned Lives: English Poisoners and their Victims*. She will describe many of the crimes and their victims, and how the police sought to bring the perpetrators to justice.

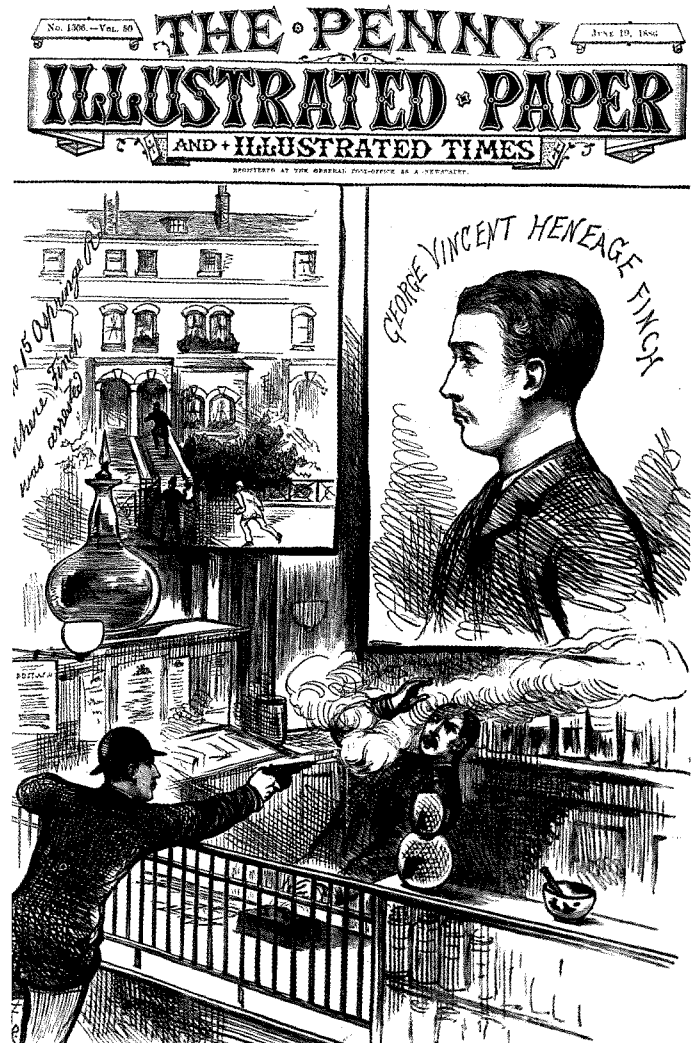
The Carrs and their Circle

Thurs 17 October, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

The subject of this talk, postponed from November 2012, is a literary coterie in Hampstead in the early 19th century. It revolves around, principally, the Carr and Lushington families, but other well-known names are involved. These include Joanna Baillie, Anna Barbauld, Lady Byron and Queen Caroline. William Wilberforce also comes into the picture as does Virginia Woolf in the next generation.

Our speaker will be Dr David Taylor, whose PhD thesis was based on the 19th-century archive of the Lushington family. The Lushingtons were part of the then 'Intellectual Aristocracy'. Stephen Lushington was a leading abolitionist, and he was also lawyer to Lady Byron and Queen Caroline. His wife, Sarah Carr, was a daughter of lawyer Thomas Carr who moved to Hampstead in the early 19th century. Dr Taylor is at present cataloguing the Lushington archive at Surrey History Centre.



Old Street Signs

Simon Morris is researching the old street signs of London and has photographed the surviving tiled signs used in Hampstead, as well as the distinctive strip signs used in St Pancras. Despite searching in both sets of Vestry and Borough minutes he can find no reference to the choice of either design and wonders if any member has information on this topic. He can be contacted on 07716 51242 and, by email, at santia-godecompostela@btinternet.com.

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King's Cross underground station, depicted in 1868.
 At Camden Local Studies & Archives in Holborn Library, an exhibition entitled *A History of the Underground in Camden* is on until 31 December. The Centre is open Mon & Tue 10-6, Thurs 10-7, Friday 10-5, and alternate Saturdays 11-5.

There will also be a free talk at the Centre on 24 September entitled *Under London by Rail: the Metropolitan Railway in Camden*, given by Richard Dennis. It will start at 7.15 – doors open at 6.45. Richard Dennis is Professor of Human Geography at UCL.

The Kilburn blogs

The Kilburn Blog, compiled by members Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, continues to expand on the internet with articles on people and incidents in West Hampstead and Kilburn. The very talented Detmold brothers, twins born in 1883, are the subject of the latest blog. They were precocious artists and as young as six they received formal tuition at the Hampstead Conservatoire of Arts in Eton Avenue. Their family moved to what is now 42 Froggnal in 1891 and then in 1897 to 49 Fairhazel Gardens. Family fortunes had declined by 1906 when they moved on to 13 Inglewood Road.

At the age of 13 the twins were the youngest to exhibit watercolours at the Royal Academy. They were particularly adept at drawings of animals and birds, and in 1903, when they were twenty, they supplied 16 superb watercolours for Kipling's *Jungle Book* – the originals for these are at Kipling's old house, Batemans, in Sussex.

Despite such success, all this was to change when in 1908, at Inglewood Road, Maurice committed suicide by, in effect, smothering himself with the aid of chloroform. His death haunted Edward for the rest of his life, although he pursued a successful artistic career. He remained in the area, at several addresses,

and then in 1957, he too committed suicide by shooting himself.

Another blog tackles the contention that the original Foyles bookshop was in Kilburn. William and Gilbert Foyle were born in 1885 and 1886 respectively at 9 Curtain Road, Shoreditch and by 1901 they were both still in that area. They began their business in 1903, selling second hand books in Islington, before opening their first shop in Charing Cross Road. But from about 1907 the brothers had also opened a branch shop at 145 Kilburn High Road, over which Gilbert lived. William at that time lived at 35 Estelle Road in Gospel Oak.

This is all fascinating stuff, but there are many other blogs on the site featuring crimes, incidents and personalities – the site is kilburnhistory.blogspot.co.uk. Well worth a browse.

Things to Come

21 Nov: Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, *The Marquis of Lewville*

12 Dec: Ann Saunders: *St Pauls - the alternative*.

The Holborn Vestry

Years ago I began transcribing the more notable items in the early minutes of the St Giles, Holborn vestry, which begin in 1618. They are held at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre. I didn't finish what was a pleasurable task, and possibly I may not. In the meantime, while moving house and possessions, I chanced upon the notes I made from the years I did cover. Those for the 17th century follow:

9 Sep 1618

Reference to the hanging of the bells in the new steeple.

5 Aug 1623

Appointment of officers included a Clerk of the Works.

8 Aug 1623

Parts of the church are ruinous and need to be pulled down. Much is dangerous. The north and south 'isles' and main roof of the middle 'isle' to be pulled down.

7 Dec 1628

Reference to some cottages that had stood in the burial ground and have now been taken down. The Rector is compensated for the rents.

31 Dec 1630

Some of the churchyard wall has fallen down.

The church is to be consecrated on 23 January [1630/31]

26 Oct 1638

Rules for Vestry procedure are drawn up. Blasphemy at meetings is forbidden.

6 May 1639

The Vestry is inspecting land at the Posthouse for a building 'fitt for poore people to dwell'. Also, an engine, bucket and hooks are to be provided for the parish.

The churchwardens, constables etc are to seek out women great with child and discharge them from the parish.

8 Apr 1645

The blue velvet carpet and blue curtains that formerly hung in the chancel are to be sold.

31 Mar 1646

The rails that had stood about the communion table are to be sold.

15 Sep 1653

A parish register is appointed.

26 Nov 1661

The stained glass window which included the King's Arms is to be set up.

30 Oct 1666

Land is purchased for a new churchyard.

28 Nov 1667

Reference is made to a Dudley Short. [Short's Gardens?]

23 April 1670

The sexton is to ring a bell at 5am and 9pm

31 May 1670

There are proposals to build galleries in the church.

Reference is made to a charity established by Dowager Dudley to apprentice boys.

16 Apr 1676

The parish poor are to be given brass badges so as to identify them.

16 May 1676

Reference to a bowling green in Red Lion Square which is wrongfully claimed and enjoyed by residents of St Andrew's parish.

20 Aug 1677

Reference to a man called Shelton who had made a donation to the maintenance of a Free School.

4 Dec 1677

The Honourable Bertie Esq of this parish has donated money to distribute to the poor with bread on various days of the year.

26 Jun 1678

A reference to tenements in Turnmill Street donated by Jane Savage of Highgate for the poor of St Giles, St Sepulchre and St Martin in the Fields.

28 Jan 1678/9

Reference to a parish organist.

15 Jan 1682/3

Reference to William Blake and his proposal to give encouragement to 'an Hospitall at Highgate'. Vestry decide that if on investigation the proposal is satisfactory, then 20 parish children will be placed there at £6 per annum

23 October 1683

Joseph Read's meeting house in Bloomsbury is to be taken for a chapel-of-ease.

29 April 1687

In view of the fact that William Blake had clothed some local children he pleads for the Vestry's help in his 'inlargment out of the [Fleet] prison'. The Vestry gives £10.

3 Jun 1694

The poor are ordered not to beg at the church doors during service times.

John Richardson

Holborn - a lovely little borough

London historian, Fran Hazelton, will be giving the above talk at Camden Local Studies & Archives on Tuesday, 3 September, 7.15pm.

Charles Dibdin – all at sea in Camden Town

Charles Dibdin (1745-1814) was a musician, songwriter, dramatist and actor whose tomb and celtic cross memorial are the most prominent in the neat St Martin's Gardens in Camden Town (between Pratt Street and Camden Street); an information board tells his life story. He died at the age of 69 in Arlington Street, Camden Town. His most famous song is *Tom Bowling* and the tune is still heard as part of a medley of English sea-songs at the last night of the Proms. The *Dictionary of National Biography* also notes that he was persuaded by Clerkenwell architect Jacob Leroux (developer of Somers Town) to be part of a plan to build a theatre called the Helicon, near St Pancras, a venture that was aborted and cost Dibdin a lot of money.

CHS member Lester May, a retired naval officer and resident of Camden Town, hopes to arrange a small event by the memorial to mark the bicentenary of his death next year.

Twitter News

Lester May also reports that our Twitter address, running for about two years now, has attracted some 539 followers. The address is @Camden History.

Swimming in Hampstead

While it is still warm, you may be tempted to go to an exhibition on Swimming in Hampstead, at Camden Local Studies and Archives at Holborn Library. This runs from mid September until December. The exhibition combines archival photographs and modern photographs taken by Ruth Corney.

A talk on Richard Dadd

Richard Dadd (1817-1886) was considered a very talented artist, but unfortunately in 1842, while travelling on the Nile, he suffered a delusional attack and henceforth was regarded as of unsound mind. He was schizophrenic and, sadly, murdered his own father during a seizure. Dadd died in Broadmoor after years in Bethlem Hospital.

He continued painting until his death. He is best known for his depictions of supernatural subjects, particularly fairies. He had a number of Camden connections, and these will feature in a talk on Dadd at Camden Local Studies on Tuesday 8 October, given by Miranda Miller, author of a forthcoming novel about the artist. The talk is free, and begins at 7.15.

London Heritage Conference

A varied and appetising array of talks will feature in this conference on 28 September, organised by LAMAS. It features Londinium's walls, Middlesex barns, Fournier Street, the Horniman Conservatory, the Finsbury Health Centre, the Olympia Building at

Deptford, the Cleveland Street Workhouse and Stanley Buildings and King's Cross station.

Speakers include Harvey Sheldon, Alec Forshaw and Ruth Richardson.

Tickets are £30, which includes a buffet lunch and refreshments. Contact: RichardJBuchanan@aol.com. The venue is 75 Cowcross Street, Farringdon, EC1.

Senate House remembered

Robin Woolven writes:

I enjoyed the paragraph in the last *Newsletter* re Senate House. Two things I recall when I pass through its portals are the role in London's history played by the Beveridge Hall, and the identity of the second-in-command of the early wartime catering staff.

Once the Allies had pushed the V1 weapon sites out of range for further attacks on London, Duncan Sandys issued a press statement in the Beveridge Hall reassuring Londoners that, except possibly for a few last shots, the Battle of London was over. This statement appeared in the press next morning and then to Sandys' embarrassment, at 6.40 that evening the first of 517 V2s landed in the London Region - at Chiswick.

Incidentally, when John Betjeman was working for the MoI in Senate House he came across the junior catering manager employed there - her name was Miss Joan Hunter Dunn.



Girls pictured at the St Pancras Female Orphanage, early 20th century. We would welcome research on this institution.

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Our website: www.camdenhistorysociety.org

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 260

Nov 2013

The Marquis de Leuville: A Victorian Fraud?

Thurs. 21 November, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre
2nd Floor, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road WC1.
(Doors open at 7pm)

Once called the greatest charlatan of his age, the Marquis was a fascinating Victorian 'renaissance man'. He was the author of several books of well received poetry, an accomplished orator and storyteller. But he was also a dedicated adventurer, crack shot and excellent swordsman. He joined Garibaldi during the unification of Italy and claimed an affair with the Queen of Naples. She was just one of a series of high-profile mistresses. Louisa Tussaud (of the famous waxworks family) abandoned her husband for him, as they set out on an extravagant journey across Europe. In New York he met wealthy widow and newspaper proprietor, Mrs Leslie, and their on-off affair lasted twenty years. Nearer to home, he married the widow of an heir to Kilburn Grange, a grand house built in 1831 and standing in over nine acres of grounds.

However, his colourful life held a secret: was he the real Marquis de Leuville?

The story of this larger than life character will be told by Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms.

Things to Come

Please note the following talks in your new diary:

16 January: Stephen Myers on the river Walbrook and its tributaries

20 February: Martin Sheppard on Primrose Hill: the history of a London hill

20 March: Who lies in Highgate Cemetery? This will be a joint meeting with the Friends of Highgate Cemetery as a precursor to the Society being involved in producing a new guide to this remarkable cemetery.

St Paul's - the alternative

Thurs. 12 December, 7pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Our end of year talk will once again be given by our Vice President, Dr Ann Saunders, whose book *St Paul's Cathedral: 1400 years at the Heart of London* was published in 2012. In December she will assess the cathedral, not only as a focus for national worship, but also for protest, from within and without, through the centuries.

Her talk will be at 7.30pm, but members are welcome for wine and mince pies at 7pm.

A TALK ON ANNA BARBAULD

This *Newsletter* may reach members just in time to give notice of a talk on Tuesday, 12 November entitled *From Living Muse to Virago: The Life and Work of Anna Barbauld*, once a Hampstead resident. This will be at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre at 7.15pm (doors open 6.45). The speaker will be Dr Naomi Lightman, Teacher of Literature at Birkbeck College and the City Literary Institute.

IMMIGRATION RESEARCH

The British Association for Local History is a partner in the England's Immigrants Project. This covers the period 1330-1550 and is a nationwide project to collect evidence of 'resident aliens' of all types during the late medieval and early modern period. A dedicated research team, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, has now completed the vast majority of the data-entry, namely the alien subsidy records at the National Archives. There are now 60,000 names of aliens on the database. In addition, work is about to begin on the Tudor subsidy records.

The project is now looking for volunteers to take on this large database and expand the details of known aliens within their own areas, using local knowledge and research. Find out more about the project on www.englishimmigrants.com.

The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

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The Annual Outing

Ruth Hayes writes:

The weather forecast for 5 August had promised a wet day in Northamptonshire, but we were largely spared until the torrential downpours on the journey home. Just before reaching our first port of call, Delapré Abbey, we passed the Hardingstone Eleanor Cross, commemorating the sojourn of Queen Eleanor's funeral cortège at the Abbey on 7 December 1290 en route to London. It is therefore surprising that Delapré Abbey is not particularly well-known away from its locality; it had been one of only three Cluniac nunneries before the Reformation, and the grounds were also witness to the Battle of Northampton on 10 July 1460. The Abbey stands in beautiful parkland on the southern outskirts of Northampton; the Town Council maintains some most attractive gardens and a quite amazing arboretum.

The Abbey itself is run entirely by the Friends of Delapré Abbey, one of whose volunteers gave us a guided tour of the building. She indicated the various periods of development, and told us about former owners including Sir John Tate, a Lord Mayor of London in the mid-16th century, and the Bouverie family from 1764-1946. She passed on the excitement of finding out new things about the building, which despite the ravages of its previous occupation by the Northamptonshire County Records Office (which also prevented its demolition) makes it special and worth restoring. There was nervous anticipation of a visit later that week from the Heritage Lottery funding. Our party had been promised a 'light lunch', but the Delapré Abbey volunteers came up trumps again and provided a magnificent spread for us in the Coach House.

After some exploration of the grounds, it was time for the drive to the rolling countryside to the north-west of Northampton, to visit Holdenby House. In its original form in 1583, as built for Sir Christopher Hatton (Lord Chancellor and a prominent former resident of Holborn), it was a vast Tudor palace. Hatton hoped that Queen Elizabeth would go and stay there, but in the event he died with vast debts

in 1591 and the house passed to the Crown. The present house is about an eighth of its original size, most of it having been demolished in its years of decline under Captain Adam Baines' ownership in the 1660s. The house has since been restored by the Clifden and Annaly families (during the 19th and the first half of the 20th century). The project has continued under the ownership of the Lowther family since 1945; the extensive grounds (including two vast freestanding arches dated 1586) and the gardens are a feature. Beyond the garden, most of us visited the church which is now in the care of the Churches Conservation Trust.

Tours of the house were led by an extraordinary multi-tasking guide, who also served the teas and opened up the shop, in which she was ably assisted by her grandson, and made this visit special, too.



CHS members outside Holdenby House.

The Camden Town buskers

Fraser Mitchell in *Newsletter* 257 asked if anyone had details of some buskers regularly seen in Camden Town during his younger days. Malcolm Holmes, former Camden archivist, writes that 'the front cover of one of the books I produced for Camden shows a busker outside Woolworths in the 1950s. I acquired the photograph from Henry Grant - an excellent photographer. I visited his house in Golders Green and went through his collection of around 80,000 images, I seem to remember. I purchased for Camden between 400-500 which is all I could afford then from my budget - but could easily have purchased thousands. Later he was looking to sell the collection and in the end sold to the Museum of London where they have a Henry Grant Collection in their photograph library. There may be many more of the buskers in that archive.'

Book Review

St Pancras Station Through Time

by John Christopher

(Amberley Publishing, 2013, 96pp card cover, £14.99, ISBN 978 1 4456 0921 8

Although I have given unfavourable reviews to other books in this series, even by the same author, I have to say this one is really good. There is a marvellous collection of relevant photographs of the architecture of the main-line station, with only a few of Midland Railway locomotives and of the less relevant Metropolitan Railway, to bring the page count to 96. There are five pages of text on the train shed, the hotel, the restoration of the buildings and the associated local stations. The remaining pages contain historical photographs matched with modern views in colour, mostly by the author; some taught me things I had not realised, like the aerial view which points up how the extension platforms extend more on the eastern (North Kent) side than on the western (Midland Counties) side.

There is some confusion over mentions of the Northern (with an upper case N) Line (which is for the Eurostar approach) and Northern underground line (which is the current Thameslink line which only affected the design of the trainshed at the southern end), neither having anything to do with the London Transport Northern Line. The pedant in me does not like Euston being described as the 'principle' LMS Station and a shop being 'discretely' positioned in the refurbished station.

These are minor quibbles and I recommend the book for your delectation, delight and education. Take it with you on your next visit to the concourse and seek out the architectural details which the author has chosen to show. It is a place in which to enjoy a leisurely visit, rather just a place to catch a train. We look forward to a companion volume on the refurbished King's Cross Station.

ROYAL FREE ARCHIVES MOVE

The Royal Free Hospital's archive has been moved to the London Metropolitan Archives in Clerkenwell. A spokeswoman from the Royal Free said: 'This is an exciting new chapter for the Royal Free's archives. The Trust has an enormously rich history and, with documents dating back to 1828, when the hospital was founded, it is of paramount importance that the archive is properly cared for.'

THE LONDON SOCIETY FOLDS

Sadly, the London Society, founded a hundred years ago, has folded, and is merging with the Heritage of London Trust.

It organised many visits around London, and published an excellent magazine. It was also active in commenting on developments that would disfigure London.

The St Pancras Female Orphanage

We have had fulsome responses from Dick Weindling, Marianne Colloms and Michael Ogden to the request, in our last *Newsletter*, for more information on this institution. Their notes have been combined to avoid repetition.

Instituted by St Pancras Vestry, the Orphanage, originally called the St Pancras Female Charity School, was established in 1776 at 12 Windmill Street, off Tottenham Court Road. It began with just six girls between the ages of 6 and 11, who were looked after and trained for domestic service. The original school was too small and a new school house was erected in 1790 on ground given by Lord Southampton on the eastern side of the Hampstead Road, near St James's Chapel. The school was founded not for those in abject poverty but to help 'cases of misfortune'. It was also an orphan asylum for girls from St Pancras.

There was a strong link with St Pancras parish church. The girls would attend the Morning Service on Sundays, sitting in a high gallery at the side of the organ. They would augment the choir and wrote out the hymn papers. There were other links. The Church Trustees, many of whom were also Trustees of the School, frequently used the Charity's committee room for their meetings. Sermons were preached in aid of the school's finances, and among many benefactors, the name of Thomas Russell JP earned a portrait in the conference room for being a 'warm friend and zealous supporter'.

By 1816 there were 54 girls with a Mistress who was paid £5 per annum and an assistant writing-master paid 13 guineas, and a singing-master paid 5 guineas. It was a charity funded by legacies, subscriptions and donations. Local businesses such as Maples and the St Pancras Vestry gave money to the charity as well.

To be eligible, the children must have respectable parents who had lived in the parish for two years and paid a rent of not less than £10 per annum. The girls were between nine and eleven years of age, 'in good health and free from all bodily deformity'. They did most of the housework at the school house, which fitted them to be domestic servants, 'their appearance is healthful and cheerful'. Plain education was given together with the really important duties of 'obedience to parents and superiors, of gratitude to benefactors, of courtesy and civility to all'.

The numbers of girls rose to 65 by 1833. The numbers varied at each census from 52 in 1841 to 35 in 1891. The recorded live-in staff were the matron, a school mistress and a cook.

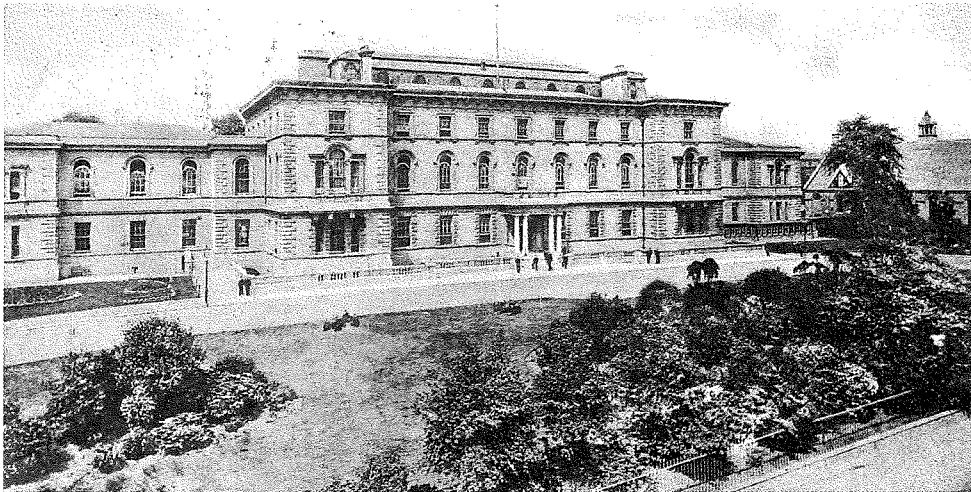
The health of the girls seems to have been quite good. In 1884 Charles Worell, who was the Hon. Sec. of the

Orphanage wrote a letter to the *British Medical Journal* to say there had been an outbreak of typhoid. After consulting with Mr Adams, the medical officer, nine cases were sent to the London Fever Hospital. It appears that there were no deaths. In 1888 Sir James Paget, presiding at the annual meeting of the Orphanage, stated that it must be almost without precedent that in 20 years not two deaths had occurred there.

A third building, adjacent and replacing the original building in Hampstead Road, was begun in 1894 at 108 Hampstead Road. The architects were

E Hudson and S G Gosse. The freehold of this was sold in December 1945 to the adjacent National Temperance Hospital and the Orphanage moved to 14 Highgate West Hill. In the 1980s it became part of the St Pancras Foundation and renamed the Millfield Childrens' Home. It closed in 2002.

The Hampstead Road building, at present awaiting execution by HS2, was used as a welfare centre by St Pancras Borough Council (1947-8) and by the LCC (1949-50). In 1951 it became a nurses' home until the hospital itself closed.



Another important local school for orphans, the Orphan Working School, was just off Haverstock Hill. It is pictured here c1905.

Below is a pleasantly relaxed West End Lane near St James's church, at roughly the same date.



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