

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 279

Jan 2017

Twenty Extraordinary Building Projects on Primrose Hill

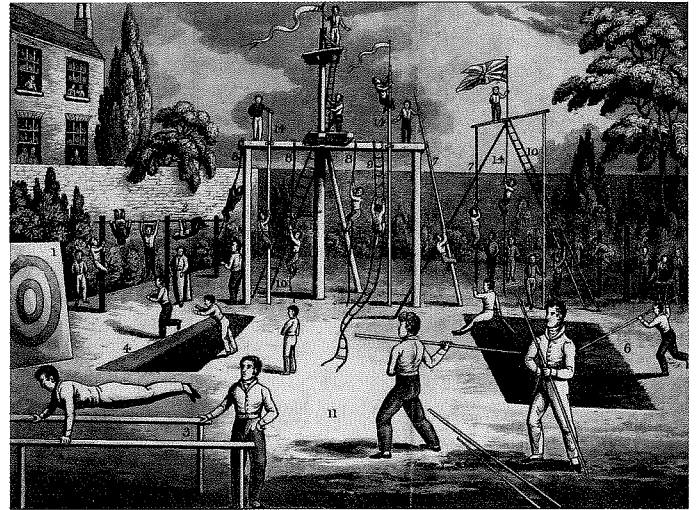
Thurs. 19 January 2017, 7.30pm
Camden Local Studies and Archives, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road WC1X

Our speaker for this illustrated talk in January is Martin Sheppard, whose book *Primrose Hill: a history* was published in 2014. He has previously spoken to us on duelling on Primrose Hill, and also on the history of the Hill itself. His latest talk introduces us to twenty extraordinary building projects planned for Primrose Hill, ranging from a full-sized replica of the Parthenon to a 100-ft high statue of Shakespeare, with other equally bizarre schemes. He can also explain how Primrose Hill was extremely fortunate not to become a cemetery.

Played in Camden: the sporting and recreational heritage of a borough at play.

Thurs, 16 February 2017, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3.

Camden may lack any professional or senior sports clubs, but it has a rich and varied sporting heritage. In this illustrated lecture, Simon Inglis, editor of the English Heritage series *Played in Britain* and author of *Played in London*, traces the roots and routes of sporting development in the area, taking in early bowling greens and swimming pools of Holborn and St Pancras, gymnasiums in and around Marylebone (predating the German Gymnasium, whose building still stands by the side of St Pancras station), rugby in Hampstead, birthplace of the famous Harlequins, and cricket in St John's Wood. He will also revisit Camden's lidos, the last Old English Skittles Alley in London, and other forgotten or little known locations with a sporting connection.



The German Gymnasium in Pancras Road, opposite St Pancras Station.

Resident in the borough since 1986, Simon Inglis is best known for his research on football grounds and stadiums. Signed copies of *Played in London* will be available. See more in www.playedinbritain.co.uk.

Things to Come

16 March, *The Streets of Bloomsbury*, with David and Ruth Hayes, and Steve Denford.

20 April: Professor Caroline Barron on *Eleanor Palmer* whose Kentish Town charity was established in 1558 and which is still part of the work of Camden Social Services.

18 May: to be announced

15 June: AGM and Debbie Radcliffe on *Alphonse Normandy, pioneer chemist and resident of Judd Street*.

20 July: Lester Hillman on *Air Camden - a century and more of Aviation History*

16 Nov: Gillian Tindall on *The tunnel through time: Crossrail 1*

ELIZABETHAN LONDON

Camden's archivist, Tudor Allen, will be talking about Elizabethan Camden at Camden Local Studies, Holborn Library on Thursday 26 January, 12.30pm.

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!!

Camden Local Studies at risk – again

Hardly a year goes by when there are not further restrictions on the budget, or the staffing, of Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre. We recognise that government funding to local authorities has reduced and requires economies, but in our view the cuts demanded of the Centre are disproportionate.

In the last two years Camden Council and the Society have each been discussing – sometimes with each other – the redevelopment of Cockpit Yard, which the Council owns off Theobalds Road, just behind Holborn Library. Here, a large proportion of our archives are stored in poor conditions. At the same time the Council wants to redevelop Holborn Library, in which, at the moment, the Local Studies Centre is mainly on the second floor. The plan is to rebuild the library and Cockpit Yard, but also to add housing within the whole scheme: this will greatly reduce the area for both the Centre and its archives. It has been estimated that up to two thirds of our archives will be off-sited well away from expensive London – Yorkshire has been mentioned. In our view this would entail a wait of at least three days for an archive to be available back in Holborn.

The Council claims that building affordable and private homes within the redevelopment will raise £3.75 million for the public purse, but this is possible only if some changes to the archives service are made.

We concede that out-siting of archives which are either available digitally or on micro-film is reasonable. But even more serious than the out-siting of such a large proportion of our archives, is that the Centre and its Search Room will be compressed into a much smaller space and will be grossly inadequate. Parallel to this, local residents and library users have objected to the development for a number of reasons.

Two months ago some of the Society's committee members attended a presentation by the architects of the new plans. It was seriously lacking in detail – no measurements were available, no indication of how much off-siting there would be, no idea of costs of out-storage and transportation etc.

This is a great disappointment to us. We were promised that when Holborn Library and the adjacent Cockpit Yard were redeveloped Camden would have a first class archive centre.

The Society's committee has recently met to discuss in detail our misgivings about the proposals and have now sent a response to the Head of Libraries, Sam Eastop, with copies to various councillors. The text of this response is printed here.

OUR RESPONSE

'As delegated, four members of the Camden History Society have met to study in more detail the plans for the new Local History Centre and to put to you, Camden Council members, your colleagues and the architects our misgivings on a number of features. We are keen to reach an agreement with the Council on the Centre's facilities and its operation.

Our input may be summed up in four sections – the Local History Centre, the out-siting of archives, the environmental quality in the new Centre, and the decanting during the rebuilding. Some of us have already met the architects, but as I have already written you, in our view their presentation was lacking in detail and depth, seemed without vital information re size and volume, deficient in research of out-siting of archives, and was lacking in its appreciation of how the Centre functioned. Crucially, it seemed the Centre would have far less space than it has at the moment. Yet about two years ago, when the redevelopment of Cockpit Yard was first on the agenda, it was our understanding that the Council promised that the Local Studies and Archives Centre would be rehoused more adequately. We also received an undertaking that Camden would seek our consultation before any plans are finalised.

The Local History Centre/Search Room

1. First of all, it appears to be much smaller than the present one. Certainly, as it has been moved to the basement of the building, the ceilings are lower and the cubic capacity is therefore smaller. This means that the proposed capacity for keeping material on site is even more inferior to the present total than would appear from a simple comparison of square metres. Furthermore, as detailed below, the architects appear not to have taken much account of the items and facilities required in a Search Room.

2. We are very concerned that the Centre is to be in the basement of the building. Should there be a burst water main outside (as recently occurred in the High Street in Islington which disastrously affected antique shops in Camden Passage, and in the past few days in Stoke Newington), or a plumbing failure inside the main library building, it will be the Local Archives, most of them irreplaceable, that will be damaged, perhaps irreparably. We do not think that a local authority, in charge of one of the most important London archives, should take that risk.

3. There appears to be little space for on-site storage of archival material, especially for items that will need specialised storage, such as plans chests for large illustrations and cabinets for the considerable number of illustrations.

4. There is not adequate space for the storage or the use of frequently used material such as maps, which need to be kept within the Search Room, but still secure. There is no provision in the search room for catalogue cabinets, a bookshop, photocopying and monitors for viewing digital material and microfilm records. Space will also be needed for computer terminals.

5. There appears to be no adequate staff space for cataloguing new material, which must be done in secure conditions. The Conservator's space is tiny and hardly workable. In addition, staff of the Centre will need space to deal with the many enquiries, work on exhibitions etc. that they undertake.

In summary, the space allocated for the Centre has been significantly reduced and in our opinion it is quite insuffi-

cient for all the facilities needed for the operation of an important metropolitan archive and Search Room.

6. A large chunk of the space in the basement is given over to 'Events'. What are these events? Is this space to be let out for all sorts of activities - an impossible situation given that there would appear to be no fixed barrier between the 'events' space and the Search Room. Are we to have wedding receptions, or concerts going on while researchers are occupied in the Search Room on the other side of a probably moveable barrier? This would mean that the Search Room, with its valuable contents, would lose its necessary security, and also the quiet environment necessary in any research facility. In our view the space at present allocated to 'Events', should be used instead to house facilities, such as those listed above, for which, under the present plan, inadequate space has been allowed in the Search Room. Naturally this space could also be used to accommodate talks and exhibitions broadly related to local history, as happens in the present Search Room. But any general, unrelated 'events', must of necessity be located elsewhere in the building. A noisy commercial reception area alongside a study and research room would be inappropriate and distracting.

7. In conclusion, it does appear to us that the architectural team has very little notion of what a Local Studies Centre actually is or how it functions, and does not appear to have consulted librarians or archivists on the matter, as it surely should have.

Out-siting Archives

1. We concede that there is a case for out-siting some archives, especially where we have digital or microfilm copies. However, the intention to remove up to two thirds of the archive to a far distant storage - Yorkshire was mentioned by the architects - is quite unacceptable, and seems to indicate a remarkable lack of understanding of how varied archives are in their nature and of the way in which serious archive collections have to grow and evolve as they accommodate new material.

2. It should be recognised that storage companies come and go - what happens when our one goes out of business? Or, what happens when they up their charges well past our budget? And are there, in any case, many companies who have a good and tested knowledge of the storage of paper records? The British Library at Boston Spa is no doubt suitable, but transportation of sometimes fragile archives is not desirable. The risk of loss and damage is always present in such long journeys. It seems to us that to provide a researcher with material in out-storage will mean a delay of at least 3 days, and not the 48 hours suggested by Cllr Hai in a recent letter to the *Camden New Journal*.

3. It should be acknowledged that once the archives have gone to outside storage, they will probably never come back. We don't think, realistically, that a future Camden Council will build a larger facility than we are able to achieve now. It should be asked 'What will happen if Camden decides that it cannot afford the out-storage?' What, then, happens to those archives? We also note that the Cabinet meeting of 8 June 2011 included a commitment made by the Council to a 'future archive service being located in the borough'.

4. In the Council's own report of 6 October 2016, SC/2016/13, it is estimated that the cost per year for storage outside and retrieval could be £32,000. Was this estimate the only one received and what volume of archives is it based on? And

what happens if the retrieval budget is exhausted half-way through the financial year - do we have to tell researchers then that an archive is unavailable until the next financial year? In the architects' presentation they seemed not to have any information of the volume, the price or the place in mind.

Archive conditions

We welcome the commitment of the Council to providing a modern state of the art facility for the Local Studies and Archives Centre that complies with current archival standards, including the British Standard PD5454 2012 'Guide for the storage and exhibition of archival materials', in the report which was presented to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Communities and Customers on 6 October 2016. We would be grateful if you could confirm that Camden also intends to comply with the new standard EN16893 'Specifications for the construction or modifications of buildings or rooms intended for storage and use of cultural heritage' due to be published by the end of 2016 and BS4971, 'Repair and allied processes for the conservation of documents', as well as other relevant standards in force at the time of construction.

Decanting

We would welcome firm proposals as to the decanting of staff, facilities and archives during the reconstruction of Holborn Library.

Consultation

We feel that it would be helpful if the architects and appropriate representatives of Camden meet with us to discuss these issues at the Local Studies and Archives Centre. Bearing in mind that Camden's archives are of great metropolitan importance, and that our present Local Studies and Archives Centre is much admired by researchers, we think that this is only just and fair. The decisions made now will have effects for a very long time. We would also suggest that the architects have a meeting with the staff involved to obtain their views and suggestions on the proposed plan.

John Richardson
Chairman, Camden History Society

Emailing members

The CHS is now going to send out reminders of forthcoming lectures and events shortly before they happen. This will not replace, but will simply be added to, the information you get in *Newsletters*, which will still come in the post as usual. We will also send out the same notices to recent purchasers of our publications. We have email addresses for about half of the membership, but we need the rest and we need to know if you have a new or different email address from the one we have. If you do not get email reminders in future, then please send your current email address to henryfitzhugh@talktalk.net. Better still, send your email now, so that we can compose a list we know is up to date.

Thankyou very much, and we look forward to seeing you at events.

Henry Fitzhugh, Hon. Treasurer

Charges at Camden Local Studies

In response to Peter Darley's letter (*CHS Newsletter* no. 278), Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre (CLSAC) is not exceptional in charging for use of a camera and requiring the completion of documentation by customers. It is in fact the norm for archives services to do so.

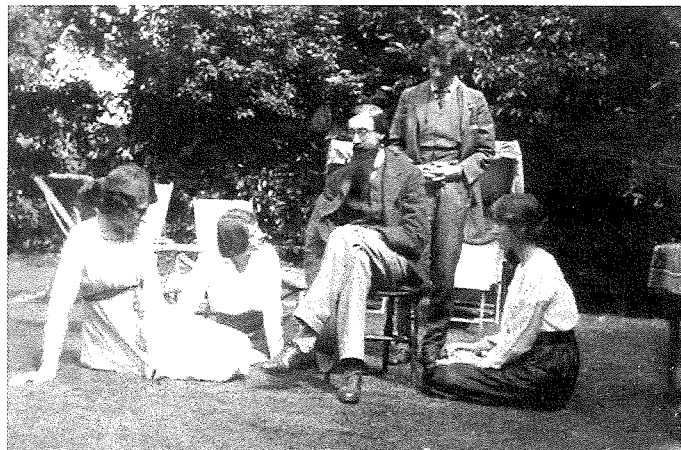
It is reasonable for a customer to question our camera charge but I ought to clarify that it is one of a range of long-established fees across Camden libraries which are agreed by the Council and over which our control is limited. Customers are welcome to address any concerns about our fees to the Head of Camden Libraries, Sam Eastop (email: sam.eastop@camden.gov.uk) but I should point out that CLSAC is set an annual income target of around £16,000. The fact that we possess what Peter generously describes as a "wonderful" archive is in large part due to adequate resourcing in the past, and at a time of limited resources the income we raise is vital in helping to maintain an effective service.

Regarding the documentation, this is important in case of unauthorized use of materials in our collections. By signing the camera form, a customer agrees that they will only use the copies they make for personal use. Should they wish to publish or exhibit an item they need to apply separately and pay the appropriate fee. In this way the camera form protects London Borough of Camden should a user go on to publish an item in our collections in which CLSAC does not have copy or reproduction rights.

With regard to the "relative emptiness of CLSAC" compared to the National Archives and the London Metropolitan Archives I would say that this is an unfair comparison. A borough archives like ours can never compete with institutions as large and well-resourced as TNA and the LMA. A fair comparison would be with other London borough archive services. According to the most recently available CIPFA statistics (for 2014-15), of the 27 London borough archive services, CLSAC had the 2nd highest number of visitors.

Please be assured CLSAC has not "lost sight of whom it is there to serve". Providing a good service to our customers and the local community is right at the top of our list of priorities and we typically receive highly positive feedback for our customer service and our community engagement. However, we also have resourcing constraints, income generation requirements and a professional responsibility to comply with the law and depositor wishes.

**Tudor Allen, Senior Officer, Archives,
Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre**



A very Bloomsbury Group picture. Left to right are Ottoline Morell, Maria Nys (future wife of Aldous Huxley), Lytton Strachey, Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell, at Garsington in 1915.

A new Streets of Bloomsbury

The Society has just published a new volume in its series detailing the streets of the whole borough of Camden. This is a completely revised work: previously Bloomsbury and Fitzrovia have been in one volume, but there is so much to say about each of these areas it was decided to reissue both of them in separate books.

Streets of Bloomsbury is a chunky 128 pages, containing many illustrations in colour. It was researched by Sheila Ayres, David Hayes, Ruth Hayes and Steve Denford, and edited by David and Steve. Once again it is beautifully designed by Ivor Kamlish.

Much of the history of the area covered in the book is also a history of part of the Bedford family estates. The names of streets featuring that family crop up in numerous street names.

Bloomsbury, of course, will be forever associated with an artistic clique centred around Virginia Woolf and her acolytes, but all sorts of specialisms have flourished in this area of London. It should be noted that the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* includes some 600 past residents of the area covered by this book.

The book is strongly recommended and is available, at the modest price of £9.95, from our bookstall at meetings or from Roger Cline whose address is on page 5 of this *Newsletter*. Or you can order on our website. The researchers will be presenting a talk on the area and the book on 16th March (details in the next *Newsletter*).

ELIZABETHAN LONDON

Camden's archivist, Tudor Allen, will be talking about *Elizabethan Camden* at Camden Local Studies, Holborn Library on Thursday 26 January, 12.30pm, to London, Westminster and Middlesex Family History Society. Non-members who would like to attend - £2 at the door.

The Society in hot pursuit of the truth

You will probably have read Peter Woodford and Daniel Croughton's article in the recent issue (no. 40) of the *Camden History Review*, 'The legend of fourteen remainders'. This oft-quoted myth maintains that the manor of Hampstead was bequeathed in 1715 to Mrs Margaret Maryon "as 14th remainder in tail". This is nonsense. It seems to have been invented by Hampstead gossips almost a century later.

At fault for spreading this rubbish are three respected, usually trustworthy sources: the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, the *Victoria County History* and the London Metropolitan Archives, as well as the less reputable but often unjustly scorned Wikipedia.

Peter's thorough reading of Sir William Langhorn's 15-page will, obtainable online from the National Archives at Kew, yielded no mention of 14 or any other number of remainders.

Sir William owned the manor of Charlton (home nowadays of Charlton Athletic) as well as that of Hampstead, and Daniel aided and abetted Peter by combing records of the history of Charlton manor in search for the source of the error, gathering along the way further scandalous stories clustering round the myth. The source, however, turned out to be J J Park's *History of Hampstead* (1814), which reproduces the story and claims that it was the firm belief of elderly Hampstead residents. But Park also plainly recorded his scepticism about the truth of the tale in a damning footnote - a footnote blithely ignored by the ODNB.

The last paragraph of Woodford & Croughton wags a reproving finger at the sloppy work of the professional historians while at the same time applauding the meticulousness of the amateurs J J Park and, later, Thomas Barratt in *The Annals of Hampstead*. However, the editor currently in charge of updating the ODNB is about to try to save its reputation. The online updated ODNB to be published early in 2017 is going to acknowledge without reservation that the information it published in the 1890s is completely erroneous, citing the *Review* in support.

STOCKTAKING CLOSURE

Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre will be closed for stocktaking in the week of 9th January to 13 January. It will reopen on 16 January.

ROBERT ADAM'S LONDON

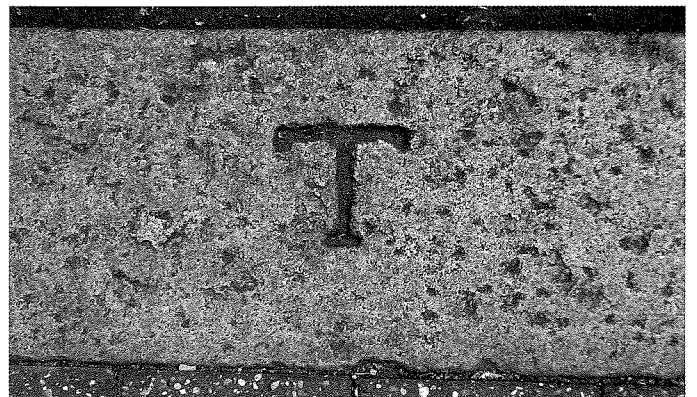
A book to accompany the current exhibition at Sir John Soane's Museum, has been published to celebrate Robert Adam's contribution to London architecture. It is in paperback, 164 pages, 104 colour illustrations. Available from the Soane Museum shop, price £18.00.

KERBSTONE PUZZLE

Nathan Hartshorne writes:

I was wondering if anything is known about the thousands of letters that can be found chiselled into old granite kerbstones around Camden (and elsewhere)?

There are a lot of theories, but no documentary evidence to settle the matter. Given how widespread the stones are there must be a document somewhere that could explain it.



This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

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Our website: www.camdenhistorysociety.org

The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

Nicholas Hawksmoor and Swains Lane

There is a tenuous link between the celebrated architect Nicholas Hawksmoor (1662?-1736) and Swains Lane in Highgate, a road which runs between the Old and New Highgate Cemeteries.

The connection is revealed in the court rolls of the manor of Cantelowes. This St Pancras manor stretched from Crowndale Road in Camden Town, up to Highgate Village, on the eastern side of Camden High Street, Kentish Town Road and Highgate Road.

The connection began in 1688 when Francis Blake, a prominent resident of Highgate, surrendered a parcel of land in 'Swines' Lane to Joseph Wells, a 'citizen of London'. It was described as adjacent to the garden of Sara Coish, and a field of Francis Blake, and another field in the occupation of Sir William Ashurst. Sara Coish was the widow of a doctor called Elisha Coish, who distinguished himself in the plague year of 1665 by treating, free of charge and at some risk to himself, refugees moving in panic out of London into the countryside to the north. Lloyd, in his *History of Highgate* (1888), says that Coish was Dutch, but the *Survey of London* volume on Highgate rather doubts that information.

Pictured here is an undated, but undoubtedly early, picture of Coish's house in Swains Lane – in a later note in the court rolls it says that Joseph Wells' land abuts north of the Coish residence, and so it would have been to the right of the picture. The Coish house probably stood opposite the Swains Lane entrance to Waterlow Park. According to Lloyd, it was pulled

down in 1760. The Ashurst field mentioned is part of the Ashurst estate which today is mostly covered by the older, western, part of Highgate Cemetery: the grand Ashurst mansion stood on the site of today's St Michael's Church in South Grove.

When Wells died in 1692 his daughters, Hester aged 18 and Mary aged 8, were admitted to his property. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography*, Nicholas Hawksmoor married Hester Wells in 1696, and, by way of corroboration, in the court rolls of 1701 Hester is noted as 'now married to Nicholas Hawkesmore of London' when she was granted her younger (now deceased) sister's land in Swains Lane. That grant also included another parcel of waste in the vicinity which included two 'messuages'.

There is no evidence in the court rolls that, when married, Hester and Nicholas lived in Highgate, and indeed it is most unlikely that they would have, because Hawksmoor was already a very busy architect in London and beyond. In 1696, the year of his marriage to Hester, he was working with Wren on the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich. And then, with Vanbrugh, he was involved in the design of Blenheim. In 1711 he was a 'Surveyor' for the construction of 50 new churches in London, of which he designed some, most notably Christ Church in Spitalfields.

It is interesting that their daughter, Elizabeth, for her second husband married Nathaniel Blackerby, Treasurer of the Fifty New Churches Commission. In a court roll of 1747 Elizabeth is shown to have married for a third time, to Thomas Jones, a surgeon of Westminster.

John Richardson

'The House once the Residence of the celebrated Plague-Doctor Coysh in Swines Lane, Kentish Town as it appeared.'
(with the kind permission of Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution)



newsletter

No 280

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

Mar 2017

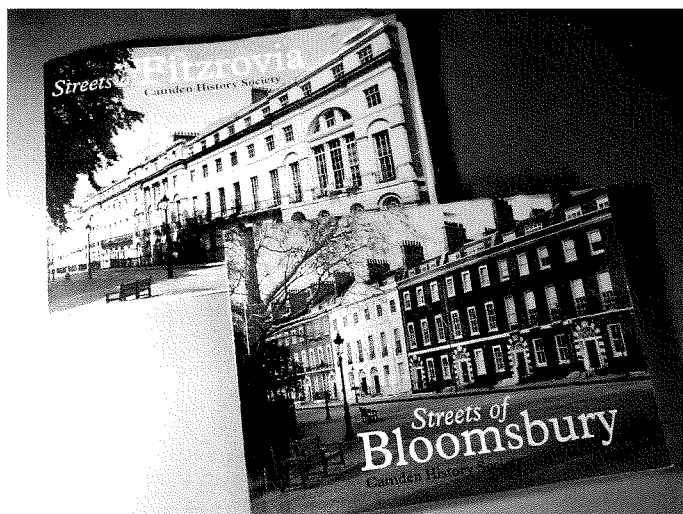
The Launch of two new books – Streets of Bloomsbury and of Fitzrovia

Thurs. 16 March, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies, 2nd floor, Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

In March the Society will launch two fully revised Streets books: *Streets of Bloomsbury* and *Streets of Fitzrovia*. Steve Denford, Research Team leader, and Ruth and David Hayes, both members of the team, will introduce the rich and diverse history of the two neighbouring districts. Bloomsbury has long been home to intellectuals, attracted by what is now the British Library in its former home at the British Museum, and is now an area dominated by University College London. Fitzrovia has had a slightly more racy reputation as the home of artists and bohemians, though the well-known Bloomsbury Group flitted between both areas.

Our talks in March will highlight some more unusual and lesser known aspects of the two districts, to give a flavour of the latest additions to the Society's popular Streets series. Both volumes will be on sale at the meeting.



The Search for Eleanor Palmer (d. 1558), benefactress of Kentish Town

Thurs. 20 April, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3 1LS

Eleanor Palmer was the daughter of Edward Cheeseman, one of Henry VII's 'New Men', who rose to be the Cofferer to the Royal Household and became a substantial landowner. His lands in Kentish Town and Chipping Barnet were inherited by Eleanor, who married first, Edward Taylor (d.1509), and then John Palmer (d.1542). At her death, she established a charity which still provides financial help to those who need it in the parishes of Barnet and St Pancras.

Is it possible to find out more about Eleanor? Our speaker, Caroline Barron, will attempt to answer that question. She is Professor Emerita in the Department of History at Royal Holloway University of London, and is President of Camden History Society.

Eleanor Palmer's estate was in the area of Fortess Road. It was usually called the Fortis estate. Her name, of course, is commemorated in a local school.

Our new Website

Lindsay Douglas has overhauled and redesigned our website. Just tap in camdenhistorysociety.org – it is attractive and easy to find your way around.

You can easily check on future events, and on our huge catalogue of publications. It includes the Hampstead Manor Court Rolls from the 17th century, translated from the Latin, together with an index of names, places and occupations.

You can also renew your membership online. It has been created with our members in mind, but also to attract more members and more sales of our publications.

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!!

Lauderdale Transformed

Lauderdale House in Waterlow Park, Highgate, has been transformed with the help of a Heritage Lottery Grant, and donations from Camden Council, private foundations and individuals. The project relied heavily on the dedication, knowledge and persistence of the Lauderdale House Society.

Members who have visited the House in the past will remember a building that was charming, but somehow showing lots of things that needed to be done still. Well, those things have now been done.

Lauderdale House was built about 1582. Saved from demolition by a local group following a disastrous fire in 1963, the House was gradually brought back into use as an arts centre with a café. The process involved a lot of compromises and by 2010 parts of the work were reaching the end of their useful life. An existential crisis was looming.

After an energetic fund-raising period, substantial work began – the project took about 18 months and is now virtually complete.

The results are impressive. The former courtyard has been roofed over and the old class room demolished. In their place is a modern, flexible, well-lit space with a side entrance that will enable the parts of the house overlooking Waterlow Park to be used while other functions take place in the entrance hall and ground floor gallery. The café has been refurbished, a lift for the disabled installed and the lavatories renewed. The historic core of the House has received loving attention. The carved buffet of c. 1660 in the entrance hall, popularly though erroneously known as 'Nell Gwynne's Bath', has been refurbished and its missing capitals re-carved. A wooden door, originally of 1630, has been reinstated and the first floor gallery (*see above*), has been transformed. It now includes an elaborately plastered late 17th-century ceiling from a demolished house in Leadenhall Street. This, the Elizabethan exposed timbers and brickwork, the Jacobean painted plaster and doors, the Restoration staircase and buffet, the eighteenth-century marble fireplace, and the nineteenth-century internal pillars, plaster relief and French windows, give an impression of the successive phases of the House's history.

The House is now back in business as an arts and educational centre, but with an enhanced emphasis on its heritage.

Opening times vary during the week, but the House is usually open at weekends. At other times, best to check with them on the telephone on 0208 348 8716.

A VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

We are looking for a volunteer to act as an Independent Examiner of our accounts. If you are interested please contact our Treasurer, Henry Fitzhugh, on 0207 837 9980, who will give the details.



The new upper gallery at Lauderdale House.

Things to Come

18 May: *The Leper Hospitals of Medieval London* by Carole Rawcliffe.

15 June: AGM and Debbie Radcliffe on *Alphonse Normandy, pioneer chemist and resident of Judd Street*.

20 July: Lester Hillman on *Air Camden - a century and more of Aviation History*

August: *Annual Outing* to be announced

16 Nov: Gillian Tindall on *The tunnel through time: Crossrail 1*

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.

Hawksmoor Again

The previous *Newsletter* carried an item that linked the notable architect Nicholas Hawksmoor (c1661-1736) to land in Swains Lane, Highgate, now used by Highgate Cemetery.

Dr Ann Saunders, our President, tells us that she now lives in a converted old barn in Shenley, which was once the property of Hawksmoor.

The Phantom St Pancras Manor House

Twenty years ago, at a jumble sale held by the now-defunct St Pancras Conservative and Unionist Club in 37 Leighton Road, Kentish Town, I acquired the 18th-century watercolour shown below - 'A Drawing of The Manor House of Pancrass residence of my father Martin Folkes Esqr. given to Ellen by me on the 9th of Novr. 1751'.

Those of us who have been ruminating for years on the assorted old houses of Camden and Kentish Town know better than to take the Manor House claim seriously. At least four or five ancient, vanished buildings that appear and reappear in prints have been falsely claimed as 'manor houses', and this is another of them, otherwise unknown. By the 18th century, with the manorial system largely obsolete in the villages adjacent to London, any imposing old house was apt to be designated an erstwhile 'manor house'. As to any real manor houses of St Pancras or Cantelowes, these have led a phantasmal existence as commentators over several centuries have copied and muddled up each others' statements and also confused 'manor house' with 'manorial holding'. In reality, many manorial holdings up and down the land had no more than a farm attached to them. Even the usually scholarly *Survey of London* volumes contradict themselves. Volume XIX confidently (and, I believe, correctly) plots Cantelowes Manor House on the west side of the King's Road - modern St Pancras Way - near the bend where the railway bridge now crosses it, whereas Volume XVII states with equal confidence that it stood at roughly the same level on the eastern side of the road. Neither volume plots a St Pancras Manor House at all.

The apparently Tudor stone house in this picture

was clearly the weekend abode of a Londoner with substantial means. At the same period the Rev. Dr William Stukeley of Queen Square had a most agreeable rural retreat a little further north in Kentish Town. Martin Folkes was, like Stukeley, a prominent antiquarian (he became President of the Society of Antiquaries while Stukeley was Secretary) and fellow of the Royal Society of which he also became President. He was an expert on coins, and published works on these, on meteorology and astronomy. Both men were freemasons, but while Stukeley, a medical doctor, eventually took Holy Orders as an Anglican clergyman, Folkes became a noted atheist, something that served to estrange him from Stukeley, who seems to have been rather jealous of him anyway. Stukeley came from a respectable family of Lincolnshire lawyers; Folkes's father was a London lawyer, and he was related through his mother to a Norfolk landowning family of baronets. The Royal Society possesses a portrait by Hogarth of Folkes, a classically rotund 18th-century figure in a periwig and a brown coat with gilt buttons undone over a waistcoat, also undone. A frilly neck-cloth sets off his double-chin: his eyes and expression are mild - but a bust of him when rather younger, by Roubiliac, shows him looking truculent.

He was an eldest son, born in London on 29th October 1690, and it shows the intellectual circles in which his parents moved that they named their next son Newton. Martin was educated partly at the University of Saumur, on the Loire, a cosmopolitan influence that stood him in good stead, for he eventually became a member of the French Academie, the Royal Society's equivalent in terms of the New Learning. He also went to Clare College, Cambridge. At the age of twenty-four he married an actress, Lucretia Bradshaw. Acting was not a respectable occupation, but she is said to have shown 'exemplary and prudent conduct' and they were a happy couple. Two daughters were born to them: Dorothy in 1718 and



Lucretia in 1721, who married a baronet but died at thirty-seven. One or other daughter was evidently the painter of the picture. A son was born also, but he lived only to twenty: I wonder if the loss of this boy intensified Martin's atheistic views? In a further piece of misfortune, when he took his wife on a trip to Italy in 1753 she is said to have become 'religiously mad' and was detained in a home for the insane on their return. Martin died the following year, of a stroke, aged sixty-four, and she died four years later.

A few copies of letters from the 1730s and '40s by Martin Folkes, surviving in the archives of the Royal Society, show his London home to have been in Great Ormond Street off Queen Square, a stone's throw

E H Dixon watercolours

Peter Darley has been researching watercolours by the 19th-century artist E H Dixon. Works by him feature in collections at Camden Local Studies, Islington Local History Centre, the Wellcome Library, the LMA and the British Museum.

He had a strong focus on the Camden area, from Holborn up to Hampstead, with some interest just east of Maiden Lane (now York Way) on the Islington side.

Our illustration is dated 1835, and shows the view from the Regent's Canal Bridge. A caption added later by the artist (c.1870?) notes 'View of Maiden Lane 1835 from the Regent's Canal Bridge, Co-

penhagen House [site of the present clock tower of the Caledonian Market], Randalls Tile Kiln, the Fortune of War, Belle Isle, Richardson Rope Works & part of Frenchman's Island & Highgate church in the distance. On the left side of the lane, Rhodes oxen ploughing Councillor Agar Mulberry ground & Hampstead in the distance'.

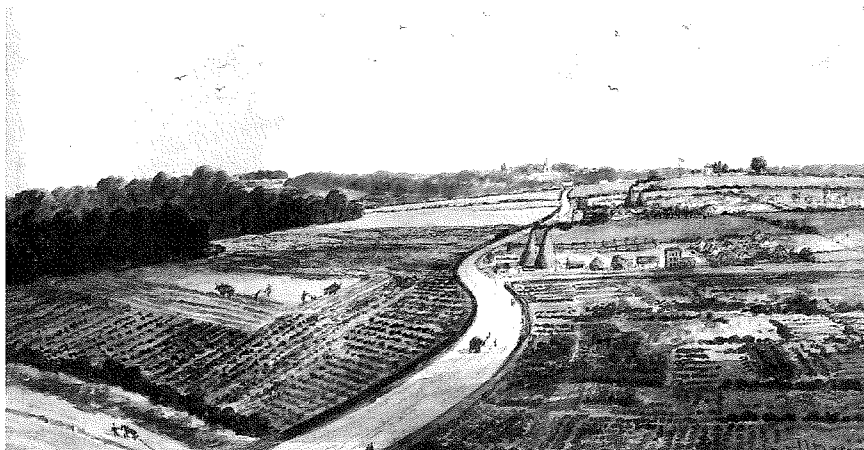
In the half-century after Martin's death industry began to transform much of England, and London spread north to engulf the lower reaches of St Pancras parish. No doubt the picture of the gabled house was preserved by the unidentified 'Ellen' not just for family reasons but because it came to represent a lost rural world. On King's 'Panorama' of the early 19th century there is no sign of it.

Gillian Tindall

penhagen House [site of the present clock tower of the Caledonian Market], Randalls Tile Kiln, the Fortune of War, Belle Isle, Richardson Rope Works & part of Frenchman's Island & Highgate church in the distance. On the left side of the lane, Rhodes oxen ploughing Councillor Agar Mulberry ground & Hampstead in the distance'.

Peter would like to gather more information on Dixon. He wonders if he climbed up flagpoles to get the perspectives he did! Many of his watercolours have annotations at the bottom or on the back that appear to have been written by Dixon himself (as they are sometimes initialled) many years after the watercolour was painted. The notes describe how the scene has changed, as if for a special edition.

*A view of Maiden Lane, by E H. Dixon (1835).
Courtesy of Islington Local Studies.*



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The Society is a registered charity - number 261044

newsletter

No 281

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

May 2017

The Leper Hospitals of Medieval London

Thursday, 18 May, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies and Archives, 2nd floor,
Holborn Library, Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA

Once seen as remote institutions for the forcible segregation and confinement of social pariahs, the medieval leper hospital has undergone a striking change of image as a result of research conducted by historians and archaeologists over the last three decades. On the one hand these largely suburban foundations represented a statement of communal pride, while also expressing in bricks and mortar the hard lesson to be learned from the New Testament parable of Dives and Lazarus: anyone lacking compassion for men and women whose sufferings seemed akin to those of

Christ would receive short shrift in the next life. On the other hand, they offered donors and patrons, such as Queen Matilda, the founder of St Giles Hospital near today's Charing Cross Road in c.1117/18, an opportunity to enlist the intercession-ary prayers offered by cloistered lepers, which were deemed to be especially effective.

Despite fears of infection, admission to leper hospitals was not compulsory.

Our speaker is Carole Rawcliffe, Professor Emerita of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, and author of *Leprosy in medieval England* (pbk 2016)

Alphonse Normandy, and the AGM

Thursday, 15 June

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

As is usual for the evening of the AGM, we shall be providing refreshments at 6.30pm; the AGM is at 7pm, and the talk is at 7.30pm

Alphonse Normandy (1809-1864), was a chemist, a desalination pioneer, and lived in Judd Street. Our speaker, Debbie Radcliffe is today a resident of his house.

Normandy's handbook on chemical analysis was recommended as a guide 'indispensable to the housewife as to the pharmaceutical practitioner'. Dr Normandy has been largely written out of history, despite his mid-19th-century reputation as an expert in food adulteration. He took out many patents during his career, including improvements to soap, inks, waterproofing fabrics, thimbles and playing cards. He was also a pioneer in desalination applications that are still in use today.

For the AGM, before the talk, members are invited to



The Society's Website

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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!!



Alphonse Normandy

make nominations for the officers and members of the Society's Council. The present incumbents are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Prof. Caroline Barron
VICE PRESIDENTS: Ann Saunders, Gillian Tindall, Malcolm Holmes
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE CHAIRMAN: Roger Cline
SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT: Daniel Croughton
TREASURER: Henry Fitzhugh
MEETINGS CO-ORDINATOR: Ruth Hayes
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: David Hayes
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Lindsay Douglas
PUBLICATIONS (postal sales) Roger Cline
PUBLICATIONS (bookstall sales) Sheila Ayres
LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Tudor Allen or his deputy
RESEARCH TEAM LEADER: Steven Denford
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Sheila Ayres, Steven Denford, Lindsay Douglas, Emily Gee, Paul Klein, Richard Knight, Lester May, Susan Palmer and Peter Woodford.
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Vacant

Nominations should be sent to our Secretarial Assistant, Daniel Croughton - details in the panel on page 4.

Things to Come

20 July: *Henry Crabb Robinson (1775-1867): provincial dissenter, Londoner, European*, by James Vigus
2 August: *Annual Outing*, to Hughenden. See opposite.
21 Sept: Lester Hillman on *Air Camden - a century (and more) of Aviation History*
19 October: Robin Woolven on the *Anthony Heap diaries*
16 November: Gillian Tindall on *The tunnel through time: Crossrail 1*
14 December: Peter Darley on *A Sunday stroll up Maiden Lane*.

NEWS OUT WEST

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms continue adding to their website featuring West Hampstead items.

The spy, Kim Philby, lived at 18 Acol Road before his hurried defection from Beirut to Russia in 1963, when he was named as a member of the Cambridge Spy Ring. Philby, expecting special treatment for his services to Russia was disappointed and died, disillusioned, in 1988.

Another item under the title *Indiana Jones and the Hampstead conman* is an extraordinary story of a West Hampstead doctor who ended up poor and died in prison.

Lastly there is a survey of the shops and businesses in West End Lane one hundred years ago.

These stories may be found on <http://westhampsteadlife.com>

The Annual Outing

Wednesday, 2nd August

This year's Outing is to Hughenden, located in a lovely valley in the Chilterns a few miles from High Wycombe, which was the country home from 1848 of Benjamin Disraeli, Queen Victoria's favourite Prime Minister, and his wife Mary Anne. In 1804 Disraeli was born at what was then 6 King's Road, which as present-day 22 Theobalds Road, near Holborn Library, is marked by an LCC brown plaque. His parents, writer Isaac and Maria went to live there 1802-1817 (his four siblings were also born there). The family then lived at 6 Bloomsbury Square from 1817-29, which is recorded by a Bedford Estate plaque.

Well-known at first as a novelist, Disraeli was serving as Tory MP for Buckinghamshire when he bought Hughenden Manor. In 1862, the house was 'remodelled' by E B Lamb, the idiosyncratic architect of St Martin's, Gospel Oak. Nonetheless, the house and its contents offer insights into Disraeli's personal and political life, and into its later use as a base for 'Hillside', a secret map-making organisation during World War II. There is also much to explore out of doors: formal and walled gardens, pleasure grounds, and woodland and parkland, where, if we can find it, there is "a champion tree", the UK's largest horse chestnut.

A booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*, detailing costs, pick-up point timings and other information. The outing is being organised by Jean Archer. In case of enquiries, her telephone number is 020 7435 5490.

Ruth Hayes.

Maple's Emporium

Our new edition of *Streets of Fitzrovia* features the former Maple's furniture store in Tottenham Court Road near the junction with Euston Road. The road was *the* hub of furniture shops in London – it also boasted Heal's, Catesby's (mainly carpet and lino), and nearby up the road at 155, James Shoolbred, which began in the 1820s as a draper's and by the 1870s sold furniture and classy furnishing. The firm's furniture pieces now sell in antique shops as items of quality.

Maple's aimed at a clientele of affluent middle class and, increasingly, British Empire settlers. Like Catesby's, John Maple and James Cook in 1840 began as drapers – as did many eventually large department stores. Homes were commonly over-furnished and over-draped in that period, but then there were many servants available to care for them.

It was Maple's son, John Blundell Maple (1845-1903), who was responsible for the firm's astonishing expansion. In the 1880s it advertised, for immediate delivery, 10,000 bedsteads in 600 different styles. The firm boasted that it was the largest furniture shop in the world. It also owned a very large workshop in Highgate Road. The firm furnished Tsar Nicholas's Winter Palace, and the Hofburg Imperial Palace in Vienna, as well as many country houses. His own country home was at Childwick near St Albans, a house later bought by the film maker Stanley Kubrick.

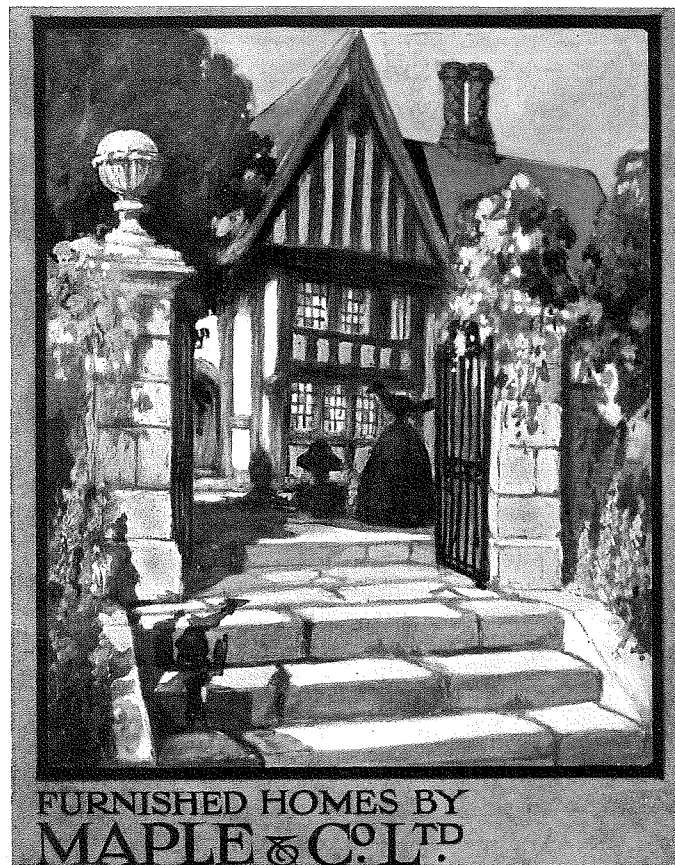
J B Maple became a very wealthy man, and was largely responsible for the building of University College Hospital to the east of his store. He was a friend of the Prince of Wales, kept a good many racehorses, and became an MP for Dulwich – his first attempt to enter Parliament for South St Pancras failed.

SUMMARY OF AMOUNTS ALLOCATED TO EACH ROOM IN

Maple's £275 Furnished Home

	£	s.	d.
Hall	-	-	11 13 0
Dining Room	-	-	43 6 6
Drawing Room	-	-	72 1 0
Best Bedroom	-	-	45 19 0
Spare Bedroom	-	-	28 14 3
Dressing Room	-	-	18 13 3
Servant's Bedroom	-	-	8 0 0
Kitchen Furniture	-	-	2 18 0
Bathroom	-	-	2 0 0
China and Glass	-	-	10 10 0
Kitchen Utensils	-	-	10 5 0
Linens	-	-	21 0 0
			<u>£275 0 0</u>

Carpets, Curtains and Electric Fittings are not included in this estimate as these depend on the sizes of your rooms, number of windows, etc.



Left and above: A menu of prices in a Maple catalogue c.1925, and an image of the sort of house the company liked to furnish.

He was knighted in 1887. On his death he left a fortune of over £2 million.

After the last war, the furniture market changed considerably, and Maples merged with Waring & Gillow. This did not save the company, which had 24 branches and 340 staff – and in 1993 it was sold to Asda. Its demise came in 1997 when it had debts of £8 million. The company's assets were then acquired by the Allied Carpets group.

John Richardson

The Future of Camden Local Studies and Archives

In our January *Newsletter* we reported on plans drawn up by Camden Council for a rebuilt Holborn Library. In our view the space allocated to Local Studies was insufficient, and furthermore it was proposed that two thirds of our archives would have to be moved to an off-site repository.

We have since had several discussion with Camden officers and have now sent in our proposals for amending the plans. At the moment Camden has not yet signed the deal with the developers of the site and it is our intention that the architects revise their plans so that the Local Studies Centre is up to modern standards. Members of the Society are due to meet Camden officials and the architects towards the end of April to elaborate on our concerns and to present to them our proposed amendments.

Turning 200: celebrating the birth of the Regent's Canal

Camden Local Studies & Archives Centre is staging an exhibition until 20 May on the history of the Regent's Canal. It includes material not only from Local Studies but also from the London Canal Museum, which is responsible for the exhibition.

The Centre is open weekdays except Wednesday, and also on alternate Saturdays (information 0207 974 6342)

Two postcards c1904. Top is a lively Inverness Market, in Camden Town, then called Wellington Street. Houses in Gloucester Crescent may be seen in the distance. Below is Mill Lane, West Hampstead.



EDWARD MUSTOE

We were sorry to hear that our member, Edward Mustoe, has died. He had been a well-known proprietor of a popular Camden restaurant. Roger Cline tells us that there is a good description of him in Kingsley Amis's *The Folks that Live on the Hill* (1990).

Edward was a frequent attendee at our talks, but of late he was too ill from cancer to do so.

CORRECTION

In the item entitled *Hawkmoor Again* in the last *Newsletter* we inadvertently referred to Dr Ann Saunders as President of the Society. In fact Professor Caroline Barron is our President and Ann is a Vice-President. Apologies to both.

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 282
Jul 2017

Henry Crabb Robinson – (1775-1867) provincial dissenter, Londoner, and European

20 July, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies, 2nd floor, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road WC1X 8PA

We are marking the 150th anniversary of Crabb Robinson's death with a talk by Dr James Vigus, Senior Lecturer in English at Queen Mary University of London.

His talk will retrace some of the most significant aspects of Robinson's life and writing, emphasising his development from a provincial boyhood to metropolitan life – and beyond – as he became one of the most prolific European travellers of his generation. He was, for long, a local resident, living in the original house at 30 Russell Square from 1839 until 1867.

He regarded his own life modestly, regretting the

limited education he had received in a dissenting family in Bury St Edmunds. Despite this he became a barrister, an expert on German literature, and played a prominent role in the foundation of the University of London.

He was also an adventurous journalist: covering the Peninsular War, he was the first correspondent of *The Times*.

In 1845 Robinson began to write his *Reminiscences* – an autobiographical work that was published only selectively after his death. It is now being prepared in a critical edition for the first time.

The Outing to Hughenden

Wednesday, 2nd August

There are still some seats available on the coach to go to this splendid house, once the home of Benjamin Disraeli.

Apart from the house there are picturesque gardens and pleasure grounds, woodland and parkland – and the UK's largest horse chestnut.

A leaflet was included in the last *Newsletter*. If you would like to go, or have mislaid the leaflet, please contact Jean Archer on 020 7435 5490.



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19 October: Robin Woolven on the *Anthony Heap diaries*

16 November: Gillian Tindall on *The tunnel through time: Crossrail 1*

14 December: Peter Darley on *A Sunday stroll up Maiden Lane*.

Robbery or Fraud?

Dick Weindling has been pursuing a story concerning Leonard Tom, a West Hampstead jewel broker. In the 1930s, trades between dealers and brokers were usually agreed with a handshake. Business was informal and without the security common today. Brokers would obtain jewels from a seller and resell them, plus commission, to retail dealers. Transactions would be done in the street or in local Hatton Garden cafés.

In 1930, Tom, who lived then at 190a West End Lane, brokered for a company called M. Gerder & Co, in Hatton House, several pieces of jewellery valued at over £12,000 – a very large amount of money in those days. He took possession of the jewellery from Gerde but, however, had trouble selling it on in London. After lunch in Oxford Street he went, seemingly on the spur of the moment, into Gilbert Street nearby where he was robbed of the gems by two men.

Gerders claimed for the loss on their insurance but the underwriters refused to pay out as they were not liable for loss caused by loss, theft or dishonesty by a broker. This implied dishonesty on the part of Tom, and his reputation was further maligned by one of the robbers, later brought to justice, who claimed that Tom was in league with them. A trial of Leonard Tom ensued in which he was found guilty, but a second trial exonerated him.

To read the whole story, tap in on your computer: <http://westhampsteadlife.com>.

Camden Local Archives

Representatives of the Camden History Society met officers of Camden Council on 24 April. We presented detailed plans in which we sought to increase the space for the Centre to function properly, and provide additional storage so as to reduce the amount of archives that would be put off-site.

In particular we opposed the architect's notion to have an 'Events' room in the middle of the Search Room. We can see no virtue in this – it would be both distracting for users of the Search Room, and insecure. Furthermore, it would need to be ventilated. The architects propose to do this with a giant hole in the ceiling beneath the main library, so that downward noise and litter would make any talks in the 'Events' space below unsustainable. We meet Camden again in June.

A Better Life – the Sequel

London's Little Italy is situated in a part of Clerkenwell on the Camden-Islington border. From the early 19th century the area was home to countless Italian families who, escaping rural poverty in their homeland, had emigrated to London in search of a brighter future. In *A Better Life*, her first collection of oral histories, Olive Besagni charted the lives of some of those migrants and their descendants, vividly describing their childhoods, employment and leisure pursuits, their family life and Catholic faith. Since its launch in 2011, *A Better Life* has been Camden History Society's best-selling publication, and we have long looked forward to a sequel.

The sequel's text had been completed when, sadly, last December Olive passed away, at the grand old age of 91. Her family were most keen that her second book should be published and the result is our new publication, entitled *Changing Lives: more stories from London's Little Italy*. A much slimmer volume, but with more colour illustrations, it tells the stories of a different selection of local families and individuals, and of their varied fortunes in the rapidly changing world of the 20th century.

Sadly, on 13 May, and after the book went to press, Olive's widowed husband Bruno died. CHS is proud to have published Olive's work, both for its insights into Little Italy's past, and in memory of a remarkable couple.

Price £5.95. Copies may be ordered online on the *Publications page of our website: camdenhistorysociety.org*.

Early Kentish Town pubs

Nearly 300 years ago the licensing of public houses, inns and common taverns began. Those for Camden are in the possession of the London Metropolitan archives. The most useful early return for the parish of St Pancras is that of 1730. By 1790 there were 80 licensed premises in St Pancras. A good number stood in Tottenham Court Road, a main highway into central London, but the village of Kentish Town, perhaps because of its location on one of the cattle trails to Smithfield, was certainly over-blessed for such a small population. Its drinking places included:

The Bull (In 1784 it was renamed The Assembly House a later version of which is still at the junction of Kentish Town Road and Leighton Road.)

The Red Cow

Bull and Last (still there in Highgate Road by Woodsome Road. So named, it is thought, because it was the last pub before the long climb to Highgate.)

King's Head

Black Horse

Flying Post

Bull and Gate (still there in Kentish Town Road)

The Castle (still there in Kentish Town Road in spirit)

Red Lion,

Three Tuns

The Angler

The Vine (still there in Highgate Road)

Peter Peri Rediscovered

An interesting item in *The Times* on April 22nd concerned a sculpture by Hungarian Peter Laszlo Peri (1899-1967), a noted artist who took up residence in Camden Street Studios in 1937.

The sculpture in question was entitled *Sunbathers*, and was commissioned and shown at Waterloo Station as part of the Festival of Britain in 1951. It was made by Peri using his own type of wet concrete – known as Peri-crete, a mixture of concrete and polyester resin. Dylan Thomas was an admirer of this horizontal relief, which depicted – as the picture shows – two people sunbathing, but jutting out from a wall. Thomas wrote that it was a couple defying gravity and "elegantly hurrying up a W.C. wall".

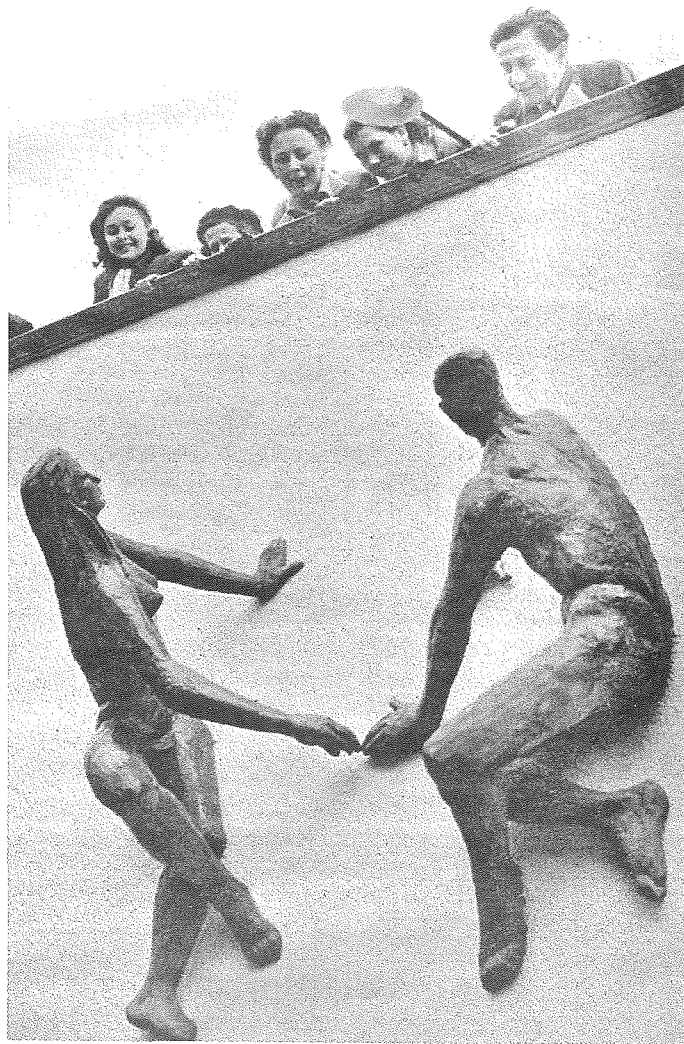
After the Festival the work disappeared in the 1960s into private hands, but later was mounted, untitled and unattributed, and as years went by, unrecognised, on a wall at the Clarendon Hotel in Blackheath, a building once owned by the purchaser of the work. However, it featured in a photograph in an exhibition this year at Somerset House, mounted by Historic England as part of its campaign to track down missing post-war public art. Remarkably, this photograph was seen by Jane and Alan Foale who had stayed frequently in their younger years at the hotel and recognised it as the sculpture they had seen at the Clarendon. So, the piece has now been found and will go on permanent display in a gallery once money has been raised for restoration.

In 1933, Peri, a Jewish communist living in Berlin, sought refuge in London and by 1937 was living in Hampstead. He specialised in quite small figures of mainly artisan workers, made from his concrete. Coincidentally, and much later in 2003, his work was shown together with that of Ghisha Koenig who worked in a similar field, in the Leeds City Art Gallery. Koenig (1921-1993) had a studio in Cliff Road studios, built by George Wolton 1968-72.

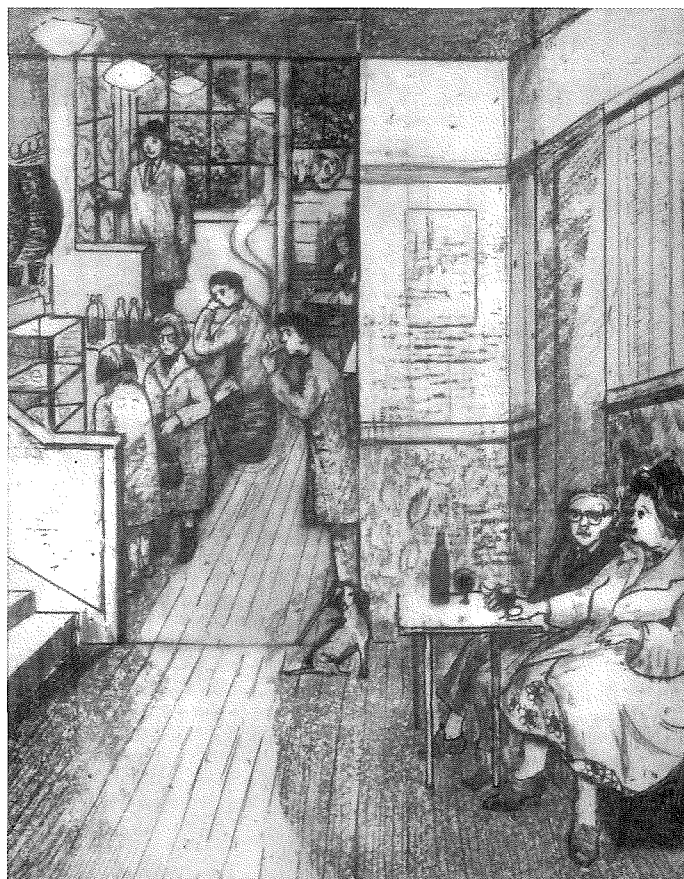
The Camden Street Studios were first built in 1865-9 By William Roberts. They consisted of nine single-storey buildings in two rows facing each other. They fell victim to St Pancras Council's zest for clearance schemes in the 1960s, but seven new studios were built and also an exhibition hall which was never a success and, unfortunately, had doors too small to allow modern large artworks to get through.

Peter Peri married for the third time in 1966 to Heather Hall – an artist herself. Shown here is her drawing of the once cosy wine bar, c.1965, at 159 Camden High Street. Soon after this date the bar closed – sadly before the fashion for wine bars returned anew – and the building was joined in a particularly crass way to no. 161.

John Richardson



Above, Peter Peri's *Sunbathers* in 1951.
Below, Heather Hall's *Wine Bar*, c.1965.





Unfortunately, an owner of today's Adelaide pub in Adelaide Road, Hampstead, stripped it of its embellishments, which can be seen in this c1904 image of what was then the Eton Hotel. A pity.

Below is Belsize Grove of the same date.



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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 283
Sep 2017

Air Camden, a century (and more) of aviation heritage

Thursday, 21 September, 7.30pm
Camden Local Studies, Holborn Library,
Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA (2nd floor)

In this lavishly illustrated presentation, Lester Hillman will scan Camden's skies, spotting early balloon ascents and hidden clues in literature such as *The Thirty Nine Steps*. A century ago, in July 1917, the Germans bombed the German Gymnasium at St



*Athlone House, Highgate,
features in Lester Hillman's talk*

the former Midland Grand Hotel, and St Pancras International. Athlone House in Highgate and Agatha Christie's husband also get a look in; and VSTOL Harriers will drop into the story at RAF St Pancras

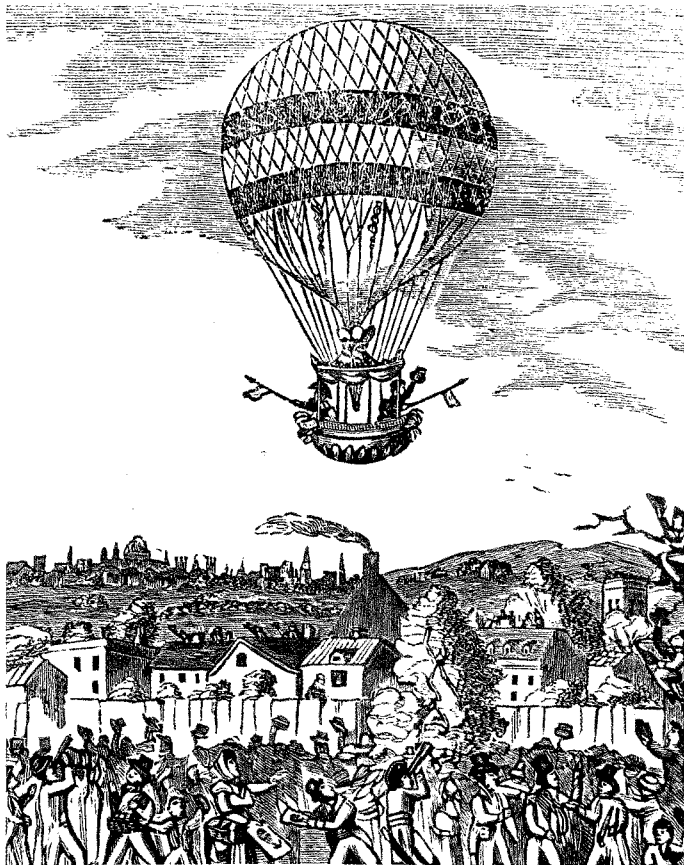
Lester Hillman writes regularly on aviation heritage topics and has organised events for the RAF Museum at Hendon and others.

The London diary of Anthony Heap 1931-1945

Thursday, October 19th, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead, NW3

The son of a Gray's Inn Road dentist, lifelong St Pancras resident, Anthony Heap (1910-1985) was a modestly paid accounts clerk who kept a diary for 57 years, intending it to be read: all 57 volumes are now in the London Metropolitan Archives.

With actor and Gang Show producer, Ralph Reader,



Ballooning over Hackney in 1811

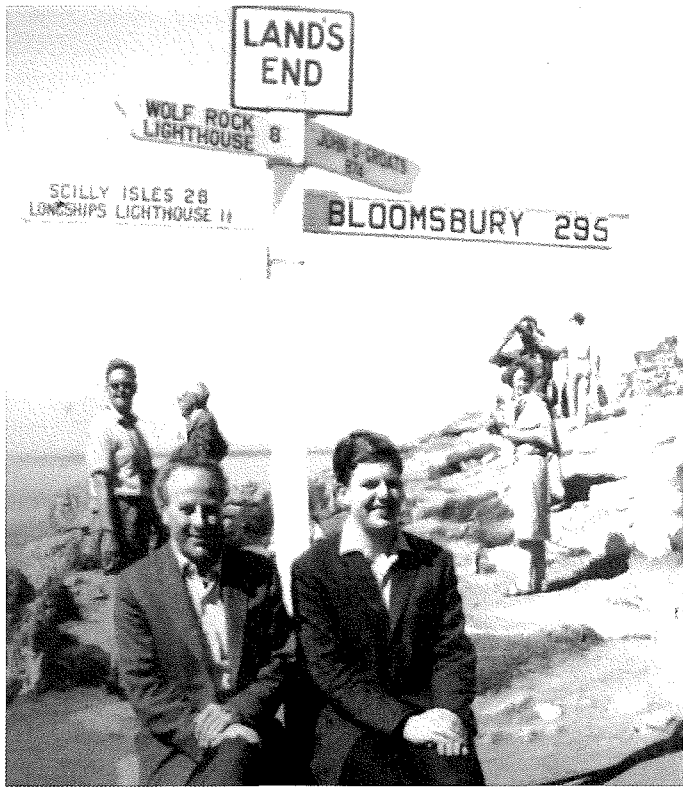
Pancras. Lester will explain what happened to the 'King's Cross Aerodrome That Never Was', and how V1 personalities are linked to Hampstead Town Hall,

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!!



Anthony Heap and his son on holiday at Land's End in 1966. Robin Woolven suggests that the pointer to Bloomsbury is the work of the enterprising photographer, who probably owned the signpost and who had a variety of letters and numerals which he could feature on request.

Heap was a leading member of the Holborn Rovers in the 1930s; and his other lifetime interests were attending West End theatre first nights, and local and national politics. Following his father's suicide in 1933, Heap became a non-active member of Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists; but moving south from CamdenTown to Hastings Street, he joined and unsuccessfully stood for the Municipal Reform (Conservative) Party in the 1937 local election.

After a series of girlfriends in the early years, Heap was set on a bachelor life: he regularly spent evenings drinking with his male friends in the pubs and bars of Fitzrovia, Tottenham Court Road and Haverstock Hill. Then, in 1940, a mistress appears in the diary. However, as she was already married, the department store Peter Robinson, for which he had worked for 13 years, dismissed him, and she decided anyway to remain with her husband and children. As the Blitz opened Heap found a clerical job in St Pancras Town Hall, which he kept for 35 years.

Relating the war years, Heap's diary becomes more useful to local historians as, leaving his air raid shelter each morning, he tried to visit each local (and wider) incident to record the damage and its consequences. Those he missed he got to in his lunch hour, or in the course of his official travels round the borough paying staff in their depots or when collecting council rents.

In 1941 he married and the couple set up house in a

flat near the Town Hall where, from 1941, he also served one night in three in the ARP Control Room. Heap recounts a remarkable view of wartime Camden, theatres, rationing and eventual victory.

Our speaker is Robin Woolven, a member of the Society and an expert on wartime London.

Heap's diary, edited by Robin, is to be published by the London Record Society and Boydell in October.

Camden at Sea

In 1766 the East Indiaman *Lord Camden* made its first voyage. The captain, Nathaniel Smith, was brother-in-law to George Dance – later architect and planner for Lord Camden, and resident of Gower Street. Nathaniel Dance, George Dance's nephew, became captain of a second *Lord Camden*, sailing 1783-1795 for five voyages, and then of the *Earl Camden*, built in Bombay in 1801.

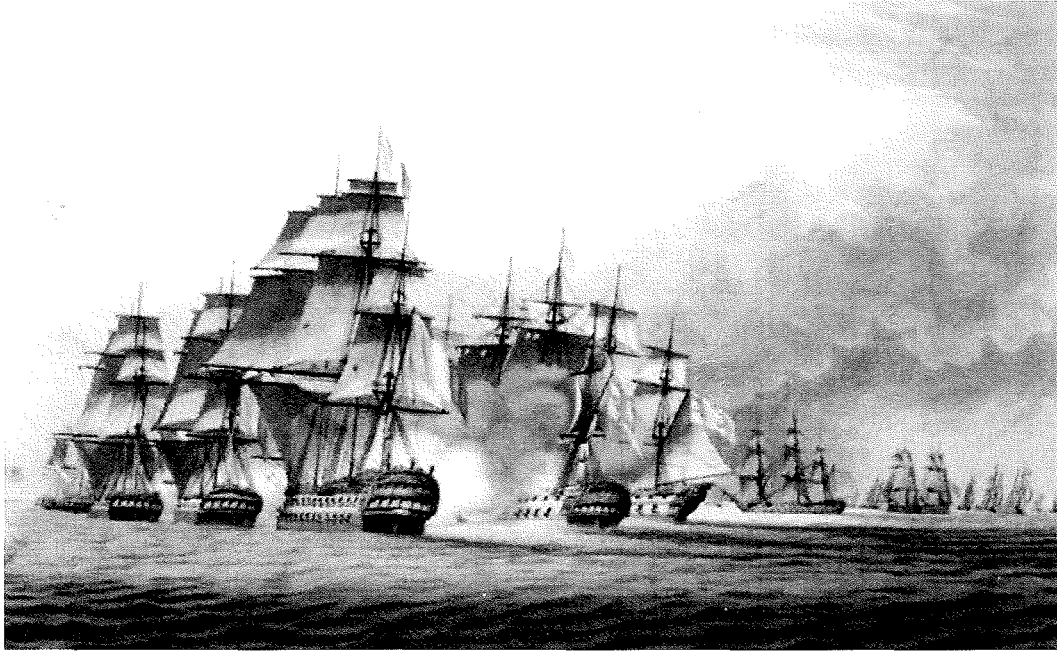
During the French wars, the *Earl Camden* led a convoy of heavily-laden Indiamen and other merchant ships back from China. On 15 February 1806 they were tailed by a French war squadron. Dance, as Commodore for the whole merchant flotilla, ran up the blue Royal Ensign in four of the Indiamen, including the *Earl Camden*, and turned in attack formation. The French force broke off after half an hour and were, for good measure, then pursued by the British Indiamen for two hours. Saving goods worth, at present value, more than half a billion pounds, Dance returned as the hero of the City. He was knighted, awarded a silver sword, given £5,000 with pension – and retired to Enfield Town.

The *Earl Camden* made two further voyages before 1809. A successor, the *Marquis of Camden*, recorded another nine voyages from England, but was finally wrecked in the Sea of Mindoro, the Philippines, bound from Calcutta to Australia in 1839.

The human Lord Camden, as a politician, had given support to independence in America, where he was celebrated. In 1776, *Camden* brought eighty enslaved people from Africa to dig a canal; and a further seventy men in a second journey the following year. The price to the company was from £35 to £100 per person. There were also two voyages by *Camden*, in 1781 and 1783, from the Gold Coast to Jamaica.

A new *Camden*, built on the Thames in 1799, transported convicts. But Joseph Steret, as the ship's doctor, wrote in his journal in 1832: "It is worth noting that only two men out of two hundred expressed any reluctance to go ... All the rest were happy at the prospect of quitting the country and four or five whom I was obliged to reject begged vehemently to be permitted to accompany us."

After four months they reached Sydney. Only two people had died, although "from the Cape of Good Hope, the symptoms of sea scurvy began to manifest



*The China Fleet heavily laden, commanded by Commodore Sir Nathaniel Dance, beating off Admiral Linois and his Squadron, the 15th of February 1804.
Courtesy: National Maritime Museum*

themselves ... and some convicts were sent to the hospital on arrival".

A final *Camden*, an English Post Office 'packet' since 1823 and said to be named because of Lord Camden's contribution to improving postal services, was bought at Falmouth in 1838 by the Rev. John Williams for work with the London Missionary Society. In the South Seas, some islanders were considered cannibals. The web page *Christianity.com* says: "John Williams encountered hostility when he landed on Erromanga, New Hebrides (Vanuatu) on 20 November 1839. He tried to dash back to his ship, but he wasn't quick enough. Swift-footed natives captured him. The missionary who had hoped to feast them with the Gospel became their feast instead." The *Camden* returned to England in 1842, and LMS built a new larger boat, 296 tons, for their Australia and south seas work - the *John Williams*.

Sources include: British Library East India Office; Lloyd's Register; Trans-Atlantic Slave Voyage database; the shipslist.com; the National Archives; Royal Museums Greenwich

Mark McCarthy

Corbyn robbed in Kentish Town

KENTISH TOWN IN THE LAST CENTURY.—"Thursday night some villains robbed the Kentish Town stage, and stripped the passengers of their money, watches, and buckles. In the hurry they spared the pockets of Mr. Corbyn, the druggist; but he, content to have neighbour's fare, called out to one of the rogues, 'Stop friend, you have forgot to take my money.'"—From *Notes and Queries*.

*A cutting sent in by Mark McCarthy.
From Notes & Queries, date unknown.*

Things to Come

Future talks include:

16 November: Gillian Tindall on *The Tunnel Through Time: a New Route for an Old Journey*.

14 December: Peter Darley on *A Sunday stroll up Maiden Lane*.

Talks at St Pancras Old Church

A series of talks has been arranged at St Pancras Old Church in Pancras Road.

28 September: Gillian Tindall *'The Tunnel Through Time: a New Route for an Old London Journey*.

12 October: Dan Jones on *The Templars: the Rise and Fall of God's Holy Warriors*

30 November: Dr Anna Keay on *The Last Royal Rebel: the Life and Death of James, Duke of Monmouth*.

The bar opens at 6.30pm as well as afterwards, and you can also enjoy the beautiful Grade II listed church and the gardens with an historic churchyard. Tickets are £10, which goes towards the church's Fabric Appeal. Tickets are available on Eventzilla for the first two talks, and will be available on the site for the later talk shortly.*

Please note that Gillian Tindall's talk on the building of Crossrail on 28 September, is also to be given to the Camden History Society on 16 November. See above.

Book Review

The Tunnel through Time: A New Route for an Old London Journey.

Gillian Tindall, Chatto & Windus 2017; 304pp.
Hardback £20. Softback, available from 7 Sept, £9.99

This is an extraordinary, strangely structured, marvellous book. Its ostensible aim is to explore the history of districts under which Crossrail is planned to pass. But several more themes emerge: (a) different ways of travelling into and out of central London during the past 200 years, (b) myths and fears associated with moving about underground, (c) archaeological finds thrown up by excavation, (d) how human passions, particularly greed, affect progress, and more. There is even a slice of autobiography unexpectedly tucked away in chapter 10.

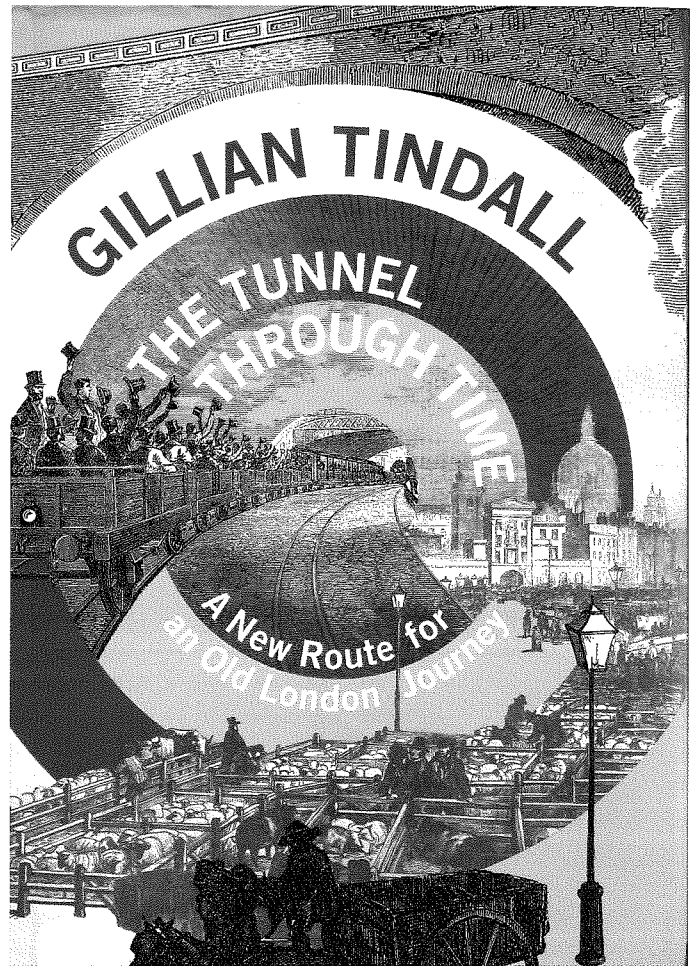
Gillian treats us to an abundance of historical facts, opinions about underground transport reflected in a wide range of literature, quaint discoveries like the pet cemetery in Hyde Park, and caustic observations on planning blunders. What also springs from the pages is heart-felt compassion for those whose lives have been devastated by the Juggernaut of 'progress'.

One of Gillian's greatest gifts is her ability to describe historical events or situations so vividly that you are unable to resist the feeling that you yourself witnessed them. She exercises this gift repeatedly in this book. Just two examples out of hundreds: the silken texture of the altar cloth which Lady Dudley donated to the church of St Giles-in-the-Fields (soon to be confiscated by Cromwell's troops); at the sight of Stepney full 18 years after the end of the war "looking like Ypres immediately after WW1".

With such a variety of themes, the book can't help but lurch from topic to unrelated topic, and some readers may begin to feel seasick. Others may find it too much of a curate's egg, and give up trying to fathom how it is structured and where it is heading. But much of the egg is so very, very good that I, for one, can forgive all that and revel in the delight of passages like this: On the common dating of ancient edifices to the time of King John: "*presumably because he was the only John and therefore easily identified among the bevy of Henrys, Edwards and Richards.*" (my emphasis)

On the callous indifference to the suffering imposed on hapless victims by lofty, distant planners:
"*...wholesale assault on the neighbourhood, reducing to worthlessness in the eyes of the dispossessed inhabitants what had been the fabric of their existence... their sense of self-worth, the very meaning of their lives.*"

On emotions and fears when corpses or skeletons appear during excavation:
"*...horror stories about plague pits...are understandably popular, as if the untamed and noxious spirits of the past might come back to wreak vengeance on the careless, privileged people of today.*"



On the new archaeological finds produced by excavating:

"Archaeology has moved on a lot from the early eighteenth century fantasising about druids."

How a whole world of Victorian moral aspiration is evoked by one word:

"Holborn Viaduct was finally opened ... complete with uplifting statues of Science, Agriculture, Commerce and Fine Art".

The last chapter gives a sober account of the tortuous progress of Crossrail from the first ideas in 1974 to the beginning of construction in 2009, including a delightfully ironic throwaway line "*The whole question of where Crossrail should run and what its prime purpose should be has never been entirely stable [my emphasis]*".

This chapter is also crammed with quotations or references to London fog and dirt by Carlyle, Traherne, Arnold Bennett, Gissing, E Nesbit, Orwell, Graham Greene, J B Priestley, Patrick Hamilton, Machen, and Blake. So one closes the book as bewildered as ever, but nevertheless enriched by the abundance of novel ideas, vivid images, and unexpected emotions it contains.

Peter Woodford

A knife-grinder in Hampstead

Stanley Walton was a regular visitor during the 1960s to 12 Lawn Road, Hampstead, with his machine which he called 'Betsy'. If one needed knives sharpened, he would do them in the street on the spot, and when he handed them back to the owner he used to recite a sort of half-chanted little ditty 'Mind your pretty little fingers' as these knives were now very sharp! I can't remember the rest of the chant, but it was always identical to the last visit, always included the 'pretty little fingers' and reminded me of the little verses one sees engraved on pictures of travelling salesmen, pedlars, street vendors etc of the eighteenth century, presumably sung or shouted by them as they hawked their wares around the streets. I am sure it was something handed down to Stanley Walton in a sort of 'training' from his father, who he told me had also been a knife-grinder probably in Edwardian or even Victorian times.



Stanley Walton, the knife grinder, in 1991.

He remembered calling on our house in Lawn Road with his father in those days, when he himself was a little boy. He said the front door of the house – or probably the side yard door, which was then the kitchen and maids' quarters, was always opened by a maid in uniform – black dress and white cap and apron. This would have been usual right up to the late 1920s after which these old houses in Lawn Road began to be rented out as flats and the owners to move out of London in the 1930s in the lead up to the Second World War.

A few weeks ago, another knife-grinder called here. He also had a home-made part-bicycle machine. I asked if he had known or heard of Stanley Walton. He said he had been his uncle. His machine was also called 'Betsy'. I don't think he recited the cautionary ditty when he returned his handiwork. His name was Terry, and his address was 42 Hemingway Close, Gospel Oak, NW5 4AW.

Gene Adams

Memories of Croftdown Road

Peter Barber has sent us a note of a conversation he had on 22 April 1977 with Mrs Everest, then aged 90, of Croftdown Road, Kentish Town.

'She remembered that the public right of way linking Doynton Street, Balmore Street and Croftdown Road originally extended to Woodsome Road across the present line of houses on either side of Kingswear Road. To get to Woodsome Road you had to cross a brook which she remembers as being very pretty – a narrow channel with clear water flowing over pebbles at the bottom – and then cross a style and another little field.

The Brook Field was separated from the surroundings by a high wooden fence painted black. Most of the field was a paddock, used as a training ground for Mr Burdett-Coutts's horses, but the local flower shows were also held here beyond the public footpath.

She remembered the old rustic Swains Lane and the orchards which stretched down West Hill (on the Parliament Hill side) before Brookfield Mansions and the shops were built. She recalled Bromwich Walk, before it was closed. This was a right of way beginning at the southern end of Swains Lane, and went north between fields now covered by the Holly Lodge Estate, to exit near South Grove. Mrs Everest never used it, thinking it was not open to the public. She remembered cattle grazing around St Anne's church.

The part of Croftdown Road behind the end of Brookfield Park was merely a gravel path in her childhood: she was still calling it 'the new road' in 1977. Colva Mews used to be occupied by the horses and servants of doctors living on Dartmouth Park Hill.

She had a friend who in about 1900 was prevented by the vicar from entering St Anne's Church and told that the Mission Hall at the end of Balmore (then Colva) Street was meant for her sort. Over 70 years later she still felt indignant about that.

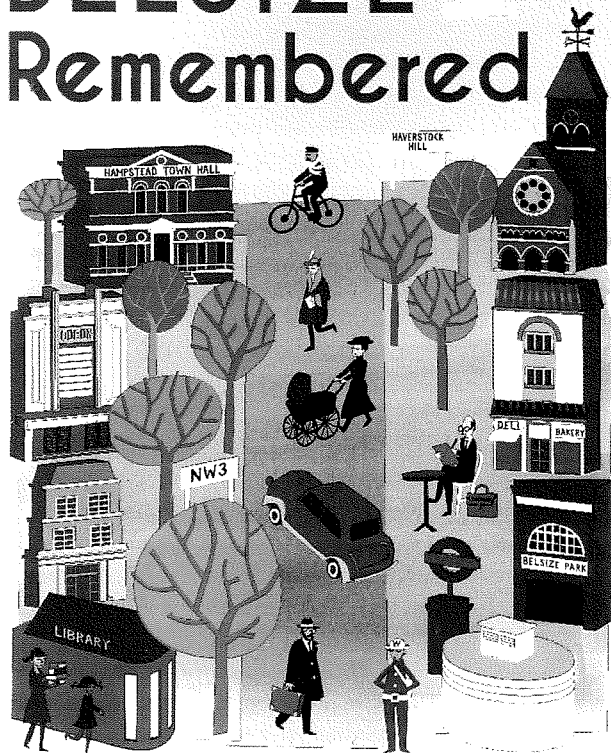
She remembered the Mission Hall, then in good condition, and the Penny Bank, Soup Kitchen (on Mondays) and the Women's Friendly Society(?).

She recalled Baroness Burdett-Coutts driving around in her open car, waving to people. She wore dark but not black clothes, elegantly cut, and a hat, not a bonnet (but you could not see her hair). On the whole she dressed in a modern way.

Of course there should be a health warning about certain aspects of these remembrances (e.g. cows around St Anne's church?), but on the whole they strike me as having the ring of truth.

Peter Barber

BELSIZE Remembered



MEMORIES OF BELSIZE PARK

Foreword by Sir Derek Jacobi

Belsize Remembered

For five years residents of the Belsize Park area have been submitting contributions bearing witness to their lives and experiences in Belsize Park. Many of these have now been collected and published in *Belsize Remembered*, compiled by Raneer Barr and David Percy, and edited by Peter Woodford.

It is a handsome book of 192 pages, with nearly 100 articles. There are about 260 illustrations, most of them in colour.

The subject range is wide - the artists of course, such as Moore, Bevan and Nicholson, and writers such as Agatha Christie. There are memories, amongst many others, of the underground station, the market gardens, Belsize Woods, the old Town Hall, wartime, Vandervell's Garage, Spies in Lawn Road and the Great Storm.

The book is on sale from all local bookshops, especially Daunts on Haverstock Hill and South End Green, Waterstones Hampstead, plus Camden Local Studies and Burgh House. The price is £16.99.



Belsize Park Station c.1904. Note Russell's Nursery to the left, and the name of the underground railway at the time. The station is featured in Belsize Remembered.

The Annual General Meeting

The 47th Annual Meeting of the Camden History Society was held on 15 June at Burgh House. Officers and Council members were elected as under:

PRESIDENT: Professor Caroline Barron
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Dr Ann Saunders, Gillian Tindall, Malcolm Holmes
CHAIRMAN: John Richardson
VICE CHAIRMAN: Vacant
SECRETARIAL ASSISTANT: Daniel Croughton
TREASURER: Dr Henry Fitzhugh
MEETINGS CO-ORDINATOR: Ruth Hayes
PUBLICATIONS EDITOR: David Hayes
PUBLICITY OFFICER: Lindsay Douglas
PUBLICATIONS (postal sales) Roger Cline
PUBLICATIONS (bookstall) Sheila Ayres
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: Dr Henry Fitzhugh
LOCAL STUDIES LIAISON: Tudor Allen or his deputy
RESEARCH TEAM LEADER: Steven Denford.
COUNCIL MEMBERS: Paul Klein, Richard Knight, Susan Palmer and Jane Ramsay plus the officers listed above.
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: Douglas Parkin

The meeting concluded with a lively talk by Debbie Radcliffe on Alphonse Normandy.

LEGACIES WELCOME

The late Christopher Wade, and Roy Allen before him, both active Society members, kindly included legacies in their wills to the Camden History Society. These help to fund the activities of the Society and keep our subscription low.

Please remember the Society if you are about to make your will. As you can see on page 8, we are a registered charity.

Jeremy Noble

We report the sad news that our member Jeremy Noble died, during medical treatment, on 30th June. He was 87.

Jeremy Noble, born on 27th March 1930, was an active member of our Society until eyesight problems made that difficult. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the Primrose Hill Community Centre and for some time arranged the talks which were given there. He gave a talk himself based on his research into the rate books, giving a history of various people who had lived in Primrose Hill houses.

Jeremy was educated at Aldenham School before going on to Worcester College, Oxford where he read Greats. He had a lifelong interest in music, particularly that of the Renaissance, and even more particularly in that of Josquin des Prez (c1450-1521), the French composer, and was an authority on his work. In the late 1940s he served in the Intelligence Corps. He became a well known contributor to the BBC and *The Times*, and also taught at the University of Birmingham and the State University of New York at Buffalo. He wrote regularly for *The Gramophone* and the *Musical Times*. He founded the Josquin Choir, a professional group of eighteen voices, in 1968.

According to Roger Cline, he enjoyed eating out with neighbours in the many bars and restaurants in Primrose Hill: he was a regular customer of Claire's Kitchen for rather sumptuous take-away lunches.

He will be remembered by those who knew him for his erudition, friendliness, enthusiasm, mellow voice, and his stoicism in the face of the loss of much of his vision. We shall miss him.

John Richardson

If any member would like a CD of some of the music of Josquin des Prez, please contact Pamela Noble at pamelajnoble@msn.com



It happened in 1817

Lester Hillman reminds us that anniversaries other than Jane Austen's death, stem from 1817.

On Thursday, 31 July that year, at St Andrew's Church, Holborn, a local twelve-year-old boy was baptised. He was Benjamin D'Israeli, whose house, Hughenden, was the venue for our Annual Outing in August. He was baptised at an advanced age, because his writer father Isaac, a Jew, had fallen out with the synagogue at Bevis Marks and had turned to the Anglican church instead. This was a significant event, for until 1858 there were barriers to prevent Jews becoming members of Parliament. However, D'Israeli, already baptised an Anglican, was allowed to do so without problems. He was elected MP for Maidstone in 1837, pursued a literary career in tandem, and eventually was Prime Minister twice, in 1868 and in 1874.

Less than two weeks after the baptism, on the Prince' Regent's birthday of 12 August, completion of the stalled Regent' Canal was kick-started, which involved infrastructure works through Camden and the finishing of the Islington Tunnel.

The Spa Fields Riots in Clerkenwell had occurred towards the end of 1816. There was extreme civil disorder stemming from meetings here which protested at the state of the country and especially that of the poorer classes. A contingent detached themselves from the meetings and rioted in the City of London.

One protester was hanged at Skinner Street in Somers Town for stealing firearms on 12 March 1817. This was witnessed by nearby resident William Godwin, husband of Mary Wollstonecraft and father of Mary Shelley.

The Besagni family

Our last *Newsletter* reported the news that Olivia Besagni, who had compiled the remembrances of Italians settled in Clerkenwell, reproduced in our publication *A Better Life*, had died. Sadly, her husband Bruno, died a few months later. Olive did, however, leave a short account of her family:

'My mother, Jeanetta Oxley, was English, from a family of business people who owned ironmonger shops across the country, from the Midlands to London, in which they manufactured saws, and sold everything from scissors to roller skates, and zinc baths of all sizes.

My father Guiseppe Ferrari, was of Italian descent, born in the Italian Quarter of Clerkenwell, quite well off, as his father Giovanni Ferrari, was the headmaster of St Peter's Italian School, where he taught Italian Grammar to the emigrants who were then illiterate, almost without exception. My grandfather was sent to England by the Italian government.'

The Annual Outing to Hughenden

Despite the wet weather, the outing to Hughenden proved remarkably successful. Lester Hillman had already given a talk to his captive audience on the coach about Disraeli and other prominent Parliamentarians with Camden connections. On arrival, while we had some refreshments (including flapjack, or shortbread in the shape of a Hearts suit playing card), one of the volunteers gave an introductory talk on owners of Hughenden since Odo, Bishop of Bayeux (mentioned in Domesday Book), as well as the story of how Disraeli came to marry Mary Anne, widow of fellow MP Wyndham Lewis, initially for her money, but also for love. As well as the Disraelis' room settings, the house had temporary exhibitions on Disraeli the author, and *The Lion and Unicorn* (as Tenniel portrayed not only him and Gladstone in *Punch*, but also for Lewis Carroll in *Alice Through the Looking Glass*). Most fascinating of all, and the subject of one of the optional talks/walks throughout the day, was on Hughenden as "Hillside" in WWII, a story which came to light in 2004. The RAF had requisitioned the estate 1941-46, when it became the

centre for photo reconnaissance mapping based on several million photographs, from which some 100 civilian and military personnel produced target maps for Bomber Command's air crews. In the Ice House were displayed examples of the equipment used and of maps, including Berchtesgaden and Peenemunde: the latter transpired to be where V1 and V2 rockets were developed, so that its destruction contributed to earlier endings both to the war and to the loss of life at home.

It was disappointing to have left without exploring the grounds, if only maybe to have followed the Alice in Wonderland White Rabbit theme trail; but we were never at a loss for things to do or see, or having something to eat at the café there. An impromptu coach stop at the church enabled those of us who had not done so to see Mary Anne's and Benjamin's grave, in which also buried is Sarah Brydges Willyams: she had given Disraeli £35,000 to pay off the mortgage on Hughenden.

As ever, many thanks to Jean Archer for her efficient organisation of what turned out to be a memorable visit.

Ruth Hayes



A postcard from c. 1904/5 showing the South Hampstead High School for Girls, in Maresfield Gardens.

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 284

Nov 2017

The Tunnel through Time: a new route for an Old London Journey

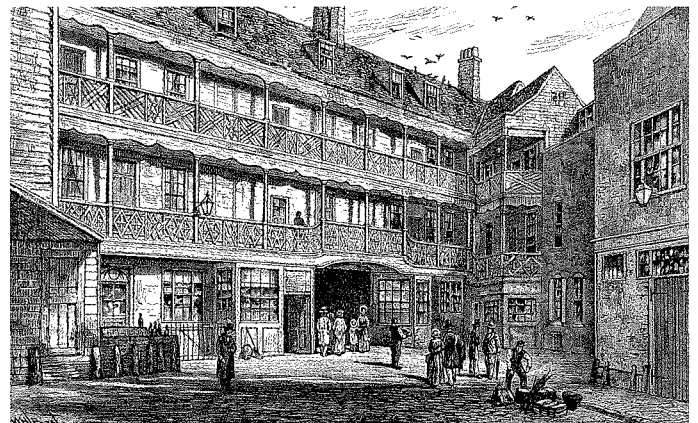
Thursday, 16th November, 7.30pm
Camden Local Studies, Holborn Library,
Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA (2nd floor)

Writer Gillian Tindall, a Vice-President of the Society, is our speaker in November, when she talks about the route of Crossrail. But this is not a technical account of the new railway's construction – interesting though that would be. It is instead a reminder of how the route from the west to the east has been travelled since early London times. She will describe some of the settlements and significant events which have marked the inner London part of that journey. As Gillian says in her book, "one may disinter the layers of different human life that walked where many of our streets, however altered in appearance, still run today".

The story is enriched by the wealth of archaeological discoveries made as a result of the tunnelling, for as she points out, the line, though not much deeper than the existing tube lines, is at a depth of 30 metres and thus below the accreted residue of 2000 years of London. Part of Camden is within the journey – Tottenham Court Road station is an important interchange with the Central Line, and the construction of the station here has affected the whole of the St Giles area. Holborn is also particularly important in the story.

SOANE MUSEUM OPEN NOW ON SUNDAYS

The Sir John Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields is now to open from Wednesday to Sunday, instead of Tuesday to Saturday. The exhibition there now is *Egypt Uncovered: Belzoni and the Tomb of Pharaoh Seti I*.



Buildings near the Crossrail route – Smithfield Market and the Belle Sauvage inn at Ludgate Hill.

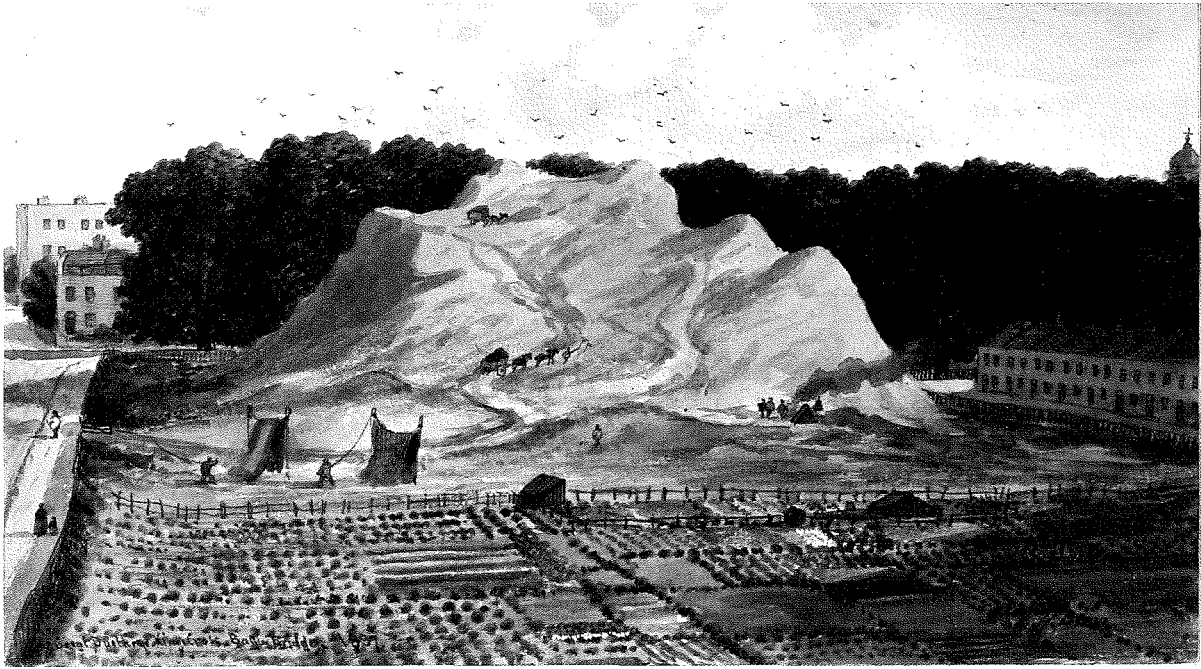
In addition there is a Highlights Tour until 30 November, and a Private Apartments Tour until the end of the year. Though the Museum is free, these tours are charged for.

The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

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The Dust Heap at King's Cross. Watercolour by E H Dixon (1837). (Courtesy Wellcome Images)

A Sunday Stroll up Maiden Lane

Thurs. 14 December, 7.30 (after Christmas drinks at 7pm), at Burgh House, New End Square, NW3.

In *Newsletter* 280 (March 2017) we published an 1835 watercolour by E H Dixon of Maiden Lane, looking north from the King's Cross area up to Highgate. The road, one of the oldest in the borough, is now called York Way and is the border between Camden and Islington. The name Maiden most likely derived from the word midden, meaning refuse heap. It became an industrial area, particularly after the Great Northern Railway built its terminus at King's Cross in 1852, and the smoky atmosphere encouraged only the meanest of housing developments, a feature which persisted until quite modern times. This was compounded by the re-establishment of the old Smithfield Market in the grounds of Copenhagen House, just off Maiden Lane in 1855. Thousands of cattle, from both north and south used the road to get to the market, many of them to be slaughtered there.

Dixon's panorama, mentioned above – and which will be part of the talk in December – was painted not long before these innovations. It shows tile kilns in a rural setting, with market gardens. But so low already was the reputation of the area that it was, by 1837, the site of a vast dust heap in the vicinity of King's Cross station, shown here in Dixon's watercolour.

Peter Darley, who has found these unusual images, will this evening describe an imagined walk in the early 19th century along Maiden Lane. The road was, in effect, a continuation of Gray's Inn Road and a necessary route for City people to travel north of London.

Things to Come

Please put these dates in your diary. Details of venue will appear in the appropriate *Newsletter*. If you have any queries or suggestions about forthcoming talks, please contact our Meetings Co-ordinator Ruth Hayes – details on page 4.

January 18: *Iron Men: The 19th-century Engineer, Henry Maudslay and his Circle*, by David Waller

February 8: *Belsize Remembered* by Rane Barr

March: to be announced

April: to be announced

May 17: *History of the Royal College of Physicians*

June (date to be announced) The AGM

July 5: *The Jewel in the Post-War Crown: a Retrospective for the 70th Anniversary of the National Health Service*, by Kevin Brown

Talks at St Pancras Old Church

Due to a booking mistake, Anna Keay's talk '*The Last Royal Rebel: the Life and Death of James, Duke of Monmouth*', scheduled in November at St Pancras Old Church (announced in our *Newsletter* 283) has been cancelled. Anna will instead give the talk in 2018.

GOSPEL OAK PHOTOS

Ron Gurney writes:

'As a boy I lived at 7 Gospel Oak Grove and I am trying to get photos of the area both before and after the bombing and destruction of the area. Our family left the house in 1936, moving out to Burnt Oak.'

Mr Gurney has visited Local Studies. If anyone can help, his address is 51 Pickett Street, Dandenong, Victoria, Australia 3175.



*The Cyclists Touring Club at Land's End.
Roger Cline is bottom far right.*

An enterprising photographer in Land's End

In the last *Newsletter* we published a photograph of Anthony Heap, who was the subject of Robin Woolven's talk in October. We noted that the group at Land's End in 1966 were in front of a signpost giving the distance to Bloomsbury. Robin thought that an enterprising photographer owned the signpost and had a collection of letters and numerals to point to a wide variety of places.

It seems that the photographer carried on for some years, or else had a business successor, for our member, Roger Cline, has sent the above photo, taken nine years ago. Roger, bottom far right, was celebrating his 70th birthday with other members of the Cyclists Touring Club, by pedalling from there to John o' Groats. As an encore in the same year he cycled from the English Channel to the Mediterranean. Less strenuously he delivers our Newsletters by bike.

An eccentric photographer in West End Lane

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms have discovered an extraordinary photographer in West End Lane, and has posted an account of her on their website westhampsteadlife.com.

In the *Tatler* magazine from 1916 to 1948, photographs regularly appeared by Miss Compton Collier, West End Lane. The earlier pictures were of popular actresses and then from 1920 they were of society celebrities in their houses and gardens. At the time she was one of few women photographers.

Dorothy Collier was born in 1899 in Clapton, daughter of a distillery manager. By 1922 the family had moved to Willesden. In 1919 she married John Davis, a business manager and they set up home at 103 West End Lane.

In 1966 the renowned photographer Cecil Beaton wrote an article called 'The Woman who made me want to be a photographer'.

He wrote: 'Many of my adolescent glimpses of the grand world came through the photographs in *The Tatler* which bore the credit line Miss Compton Collier. They invariably showed us delightfully fair-haired ladies caught in a silvery light enjoying, in a leisurely manner, the herbaceous borders ... wherever possible she chose to photograph her subject standing on a piece of flagged path... In fact my earliest family snapshots were mostly made in emulation of Miss Compton Collier... It was many years after her photographs had ceased to appear that I heard that she had continued her career with unimpaired zest, and each spring would send to people of high rank an itinerary of her summer tour stating that she would be in

the neighbourhood during a certain week in case she were needed for an 'at home' sitting. I was intrigued to know that this mysterious lady still existed, so I wrote to ask if she would deign to include me in her schedule and take some pictures of my mother and myself in the garden at Broadchalke.

'Miss Compton Collier proved to be an extremely agile spinster of over seventy with a pale brown face of minor distinctiveness with the flesh solid and shiny. She was dressed in old-fashioned clothes, somewhat like a land girl of the 1914 war, with a large felt hat and flowing skirts. She projected a personality that brooked no nonsense or interruption; her main objective was to seek out the nearest flagged path... At lunch she told us that for many a donkey's lifetime now she has lived in a small house in West End Lane, Hampstead, tended by an old servant of seventy-six. She slept soundly and in one raid [in 1944] when the roof was blown off the house and all her rooms but two were destroyed, she went on snoring. She would never fill in a census form, or have a ration book. If she went to a play, she rang up first to make sure it had a happy ending.

'All her paraphernalia is entirely obsolescent. She climbs under a dark red velvet cloth attached to her wooden 1895 camera with its long rubber tube with ball-shutter release. She lived in her own closed world with little regard for current events. She took no newspapers, did not own a radio and did not watch television; she relied entirely for news of the world on her Kilburn bank manager.'





This c1905 postcard shows the garden/pleasure ground of the Edinboro' Castle pub in Mornington Terrace, Camden Town. The late 19th-century owner created here a well-known museum of curiosities, which included a bugle used at the Battle of Balaklava, a Great Auk's egg, a gold medal given to the Rajah of Mysore, and a number of 'relics' of Lord Nelson. Could anyone say what kind of bowls game is set to be played on the rink in the centre?

Some rough justice

In the 17th century Quarter Sessions were responsible for dealing with the more serious criminal cases, though manor courts quite often dealt with minor offences. In the Middlesex Sessions punishment was often severe, though not unusually so for that time. For what we would now regard as a minor offence, such as the theft of a cloak, a man could be hanged. His only hope was to plead for 'benefit of clergy', that is, to ask for the bible and to read a passage from it. If he failed at that then punishment would ensue.

Many of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions minutes were painstakingly edited and published in the late 1930s. These relate the course of numerous hearings. Theft was regarded as meriting the death sentence. In 1613 Edward Sturdefall of Kentish Town stole 3 lambs, and was hanged. So was, in 1614, Griffin Waters, a labourer of Highgate, who had stolen 40lbs of pewter. He was denied benefit of clergy. William Basse a yeoman of Kentish Town, 'sought the bible',

but was found to be illiterate and was hanged.

More fortunate were William Hunte of Hampstead and Joan his wife in 1613, who were indicted 'for practising evil and diabolic arts called witchcraft, enchantments, charms and sorceries on Alice James so that she has been wasting away in her whole body and scarcely now can live'. However, they were found not guilty, despite having been found guilty previously of a similar accusation in another parish.

In 1617 William Steele, victualler of Kentish Town, was 'suppressed' for taking whores and rogues into his house.

Nor was the court sympathetic to the less fortunate in life. In July 1614 it was ordered that cripples and vagrants passing from St Andrew's, Holborn, and St Giles, to Highgate should go via Kentish Town and not pass through the parishes of St James, Clerkenwell and St Mary.

John Richardson

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