

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 261

Jan 2014

The Walbrook and its Tributaries

Thursday, 16 Jan, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies & Archives, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road WC1

The 'lost' rivers of London have long fascinated Londoners. The Fleet, the Tyburn and the Westbourne, now mostly hidden, each begin in Camden. Their courses are known as are those for the rivers south of the Thames. On a map of all these rivers it seems remarkable that those north and south pretty much point to each other across the Thames, indicating perhaps that they were continuous rivers before the Thames was pushed geologically to its present position.

One river was particularly significant in the founding of London – the Walbrook. It must have been an important factor in the choice of the site of London by the Romans, because its fresh water ran through the otherwise suitable location for their settlement. But because the river mostly disappeared beneath development much earlier than the other rivers, its course has been the subject of contention, and the sources of the river and its tributaries have remained uncertain.

However, our speaker in January, Stephen Myers, a noted water engineer, has researched the subject extensively. He has found that the catchment of the Walbrook was far larger than previously thought, and he believes that there was previously a second, major branch to the river that extended out to The Angel in Islington. He will explain the effect on the formation of the Moorfields marsh and why the land had dried out by the 16th century. If time permits he will briefly outline how he considers the 'lost rivers' could be revived.

Primrose Hill: the history of a London hill

Thursday 20 February, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square NW3

Martin Sheppard is the author of a history of Primrose Hill which is to be published in the autumn. He has lived near the hill for many years, and gave an entertaining talk for members in 2012 on one small aspect of its history, an account of duels that have been fought on or near the hill in the 18th and 19th centuries.



Duelling at Chalk Farm in 1825

Things to Come

Please note the following talks in your new diary:
20 March: Who lies in Highgate Cemetery? This will be a joint meeting with the Friends of Highgate Cemetery as a precursor to the Society being involved in producing a new guide to this remarkable cemetery.
17 April: *Belsize in View*, by David Percy.

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

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Blue Plaques in Camden

Our member, Emily Gee, who works for English Heritage, has kindly supplied us with a comprehensive list of Blue Plaques in Camden, compiled by that organisation. They are shown below, but we would like members to send us details of Camden plaques to individuals (blue or otherwise) which have been erected privately, or by organisations, outside of the programme followed by English Heritage and its predecessors.

Joanna Baillie, poet, dramatist, Bolton House, Hampstead, NW3

Andres Bello, poet, philosopher, 58 Grafton Way W1

John Bernal, crystallographer, 44 Albert Street NW1

Walter Besant, historian, Frogna End, Frogna Gardens NW3.

John Betjeman, poet, 31 Highgate West Hill N6

Robert Bevan, artist, 14 Adamson Road NW3

Arthur Bliss, composer, 1 East Heath Road NW3

David Bomberg, artist, 10 Fordwych Road NW2

Adrian Boult, conductor, 78 Marlborough Mansions, Cannon Hill NW6

Noel Brailsford, writer, 17 Belsize Park Gardens NW3

Dennis Brain, horn player, 37 Frogna NW3

Vera Brittain and Winifred Holtby, writers and reformers, 58 Doughty Street WC1

Ford Madox Brown, artist, 56 Fortess Road NW5

Dante Rossetti, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, 17 Red Lion Square WC1

Richard Burton, actor, 6 Lyndhurst Road NW3

Frances Buss, education pioneer, Camden School for Girls, Sandall Road NW5

Clara Butt, singer, 7 Harley Road NW3

William Butterfield, architect, 42 Bedford Square WC1

Randolph Caldecott, artist, 46 Great Russell Street WC1

Thomas Carlyle, writer, 33 Ampton Street WC1

Henry Cavendish, natural philosopher, 11 Bedford Square WC1

Robert Cecil, Prime Minister, 21 Fitzroy Square W1

Arthur Clough, poet, 11 St Mark's Crescent NW1

C R Cockerell, architect, 13 Chester Terrace NW1

John Constable, artist, 40 Well Walk NW3

George Cruikshank, artist, 293 Hampstead Road NW1

Henry Dale, physiologist, Mount Vernon House, Mount Vernon NW3

George Dance the Younger, architect, 91 Gower Street WC1

Charles Darwin, naturalist, Biological Sciences Building, University College, Gower Street WC1

Francisco de Miranda, South American activist, 58 Grafton Way W1

Frederick Delius, composer, 44 Belsize Park Gardens NW3

David Devant, magician, Flat 1 Ornan Court, Ornan Road NW3

Charles Dickens, writer, 48 Doughty Street WC1

Benjamin Disraeli, politician, 22 Theobalds Road WC1

Richard D'Oyly Carte, impresario, 2 Dartmouth Park Road NW5

George du Maurier, cartoonist and writer, New Grove House, 28 Hampstead Grove NW3, and also at 91 Great Russell Street WC1

Gerald du Maurier, actor, Cannon Hall, 14 Cannon Place NW3

Thomas Earnshaw, watchmaker, 119 High Holborn WC1

Charles Eastlake, artist, 7 Fitzroy Square W1

John Passmore Edwards, philanthropist, 51 Netherhall Gardens NW3

Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor, 6 Bedford Square WC1

Friedrich Engels, political philosopher, 122 Regent's Park Road NW1

Fabian Society, White House, Osnaburgh Street NW1

Millicent Fawcett, suffragist, 2 Gower Street WC1

Roger Fenton, photographer, 2 Albert Terrace NW1

Kathleen Ferrier, singer, 97 Frogna NW3

Ruth First and Joe Slovo, South African freedom fighters, 13 Lyme Street NW1

Ronald Fisher, statistician, Inverforth House, North End Way NW3

Matthew Flinders, explorer, 56 Fitzroy Street W1

Theodor Fontane, German writer, 6 Augustine's Road NW1

Anna Freud, psychoanalyst, 20 Maresfield Gardens NW3

Sigmund Freud, psychoanalyst, 20 Maresfield Gardens NW3

Roger Fry, artist, 33 Fitzroy Square W1

Hugh Gaitskell, politician, 18 Frogna Gardens NW3

John Galsworthy, writer, Grove Lodge, Admiral's Walk NW3

Harold Gillies, plastic surgeon, 71 Frogna NW3

Kate Greenaway, writer, 39 Frogna NW3

Nigel Gresley, locomotive engineer, Platform 8, King's Cross station N1

J L and Barbara Hammond, social historians, Hollycot, Vale of Health NW3

Alfred Harmsworth, 31 Pandora Road NW6

John Harrison, chronometer maker, Summit House, Red Lion Square WC1

Anthony Hope Hawkins, writer, 41 Bedford Square WC1

John Heartfield, artist, 47 Downshire Hill NW3

Robert Herford, Unitarian minister, Dr Williams' Library, 14 Gordon Square WC1

Rowland Hill, postal pioneer, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street NW3

Thomas Hodgkin, physician, 35 Bedford Square WC1

A W Hofmann, chemist, 9 Fitzroy Square W1

John Howard, prison reformer, 23 Great Ormond Street WC1

Hugh Hughes, Methodist preacher, 8 Taviton Street WC1

Leslie Hutchinson, entertainer, 31 Steele's Road NW3

Leonard, Julian and Aldous Huxley, science and letters, 16 Bracknell Gardens NW3

Henry Hyndman, socialist leader, 13 Well Walk NW3

W W Jacobs, writer, 15 Gloucester Gate NW1

Geoffrey Jellicoe, landscape architect, 19 Grove Terrace NW5

Humphrey Jennings, documentary film maker, 8 Regent's Park Terrace NW1
Tamara Karsavina, ballerina, 108 Frognal NW3
John Keats, Keats House, Keats Grove NW3
John Maynard Keynes, economist, 46 Gordon Square WC1
Ahmed Khan, Muslim scholar, 21 Mecklenburgh Square WC1
Constant Lambert, composer, 197 Albany Street, NW1
Charles Laughton, actor, 15 Percy Street W1
D H Lawrence, novelist, 1 Byron Villas, Vale of Health, NW3
W R Lethaby, architect, 20 Calthorpe Street WC1
William Hesketh Lever, soap maker and philanthropist, Inverforth House, North End Way.
George Macdonald, story teller, 20 Albert Street NW1
Ramsay Macdonald, Prime Minister, 9 Howitt Road, NW3
Ida Mann, Ophthalmologist, 13 Minster Road NW2
Katherine Mansfield and John Middleton Murry, writers, 17 East Heath Road NW3
William Marsden, surgeon, 65 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2
Tobias Matthay, pianist and teacher, 21 Arkwright Road NW3
Hiram Maxim, inventor, 57d Hatton Garden EC1
Henry Mayhew, writer, 55 Albany Street NW1
Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian patriot, 183 North Gower Street NW1
John McCormack, tenor, 24 Ferncroft Avenue NW3
Lee Miller, photographer, and **Roland Penrose** Surrealist artist, 21 Downshire Hill NW3
Piet Mondrian, artist, 60 Parkhill Road NW3
Henry Moore, sculptor, 11a Parkhill Road NW3
Dante Rossetti and Edward Burne-Jones, 17 Red Lion Square WC1
John Nash, architect, 64 Great Russell Street WC1
Paul Nash, artist, Queen Alexandra Mansions, Bidborough Street WC1
Ben Nicholson, architect, 28 Pilgrims Lane NW3
William Nicholson, artist, 1 Pilgrims Lane NW3
Kwame Nkrumah, first president of Ghana, 60 Burghley Road NW5
George Orwell, writer, 50 Lawford Road NW5
Martina Osterberg, pioneer of physical education for women, 1 Broadhurst Gardens NW6
Coventry Patmore, poet, 14 Percy Street W1
Karl Pearson, statistician, 7 Well Road NW3
Spencer Perceval, Prime Minister, 59-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields WC2
Flinders Petrie, Egyptologist, 5 Cannon Place NW3
Nikolaus Pevsner, architectural historian, 2 Wildwood Terrace NW3
Sylvia Plath, poet, 3 Chalcot Square NW1
J B Priestley, writer, 3 The Grove N6
Arthur Rackham, illustrator, 16 Chalcot Gardens NW3
Harry Ricardo, mechanical engineer, 13 Bedford Square WC1
José Rizal, Philippine national hero, 37 Chalcot Crescent NW1
William Roberts, artist, 14 St Mark's Crescent NW1
Paul Robeson, singer and actor, The Chestnuts, Branch Hill NW3
James Robinson, pioneer of anaesthesia, 14 Gower Street WC1
Samuel Romilly, law reformer, 21 Russell Square, WC1
George Romney, artist, 5 Holly Bush Hill NW3
Christina Rossetti, poet, 30 Torrington Square WC1
Dante Rossetti, William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, artists, 17 Red Lion Square WC1
Ram Roy, Indian scholar, 49 Bedford Square WC1
Bertrand Russell, philosopher, 34 Russell Chambers, Bury Place WC1
John Salmond, RAF Commander, 27 Chester Place NW1
Dorothy Sayers, writer, 24 Great James Street WC1
Tom Sayers, pugilist, 257 Camden High Street NW1
Richard Norman Shaw, architect, 6 Ellerdale Road NW3
Walter Sickert, artist, 60 Mornington Crescent NW1
Augustus Siebe, pioneer of diving helmet, 5 Denmark Street WC2
Alastair Sim, actor, 8 Frognal Gardens NW3
Edith Sitwell, poet, Greenhill, Hampstead High Street NW3
Hans Sloane, physician, 4 Bloomsbury Place WC1
Robert Smirke, architect, 81 Charlotte Street W1
Rev. Sydney Smith, writer, 14 Doughty Street WC1
Alfred Stevens, artist, 9 Eton Villas NW3
Lytton Strachey, writer, 51 Gordon Square WC1
John Summerson, architectural historian, 1 Eton Villas NW3
Rabindranath Tagore, poet, 3 Villas on the Heath, Vale of Health NW3
R H Tawney, historian, 21 Mecklenburgh Square WC1
A J P Taylor, 13 St Mark's Crescent NW1
Dylan Thomas, 54 Delancey Street NW1
Henry Vane, Vane House, Rosslyn Hill NW3
Michael Ventris, architect, 19 North End NW3
Friedrich Von Hugel, theologian, 4 Holford Road NW3
Thomas Wakley, founder of *The Lancet*, 35 Bedford Square WC1
Sidney and Beatrice Webb, social reformers, 1 Netherhall Gardens NW3
Henry Wellcome, pharmacist, 6 Gloucester Gate NW1
Robert Willan, dermatologist, 10 Bloomsbury Square WC1
Henry Willis, organ builder, 9 Rochester Terrace, NW1
Henry Wood, musician, 4 Elsworthy Road NW3
Virginia Woolf, writer, 29 Fitzroy Square W1
Thomas Wyatt, architect, 77 Great Russell Street WC1
William Butler Yeats, poet, 23 Fitzroy Road NW1
F F E Yeo-Thomas, Secret Agent, Queen Court, 28 Queen Square WC1

Musicians in Kilburn and West Hampstead

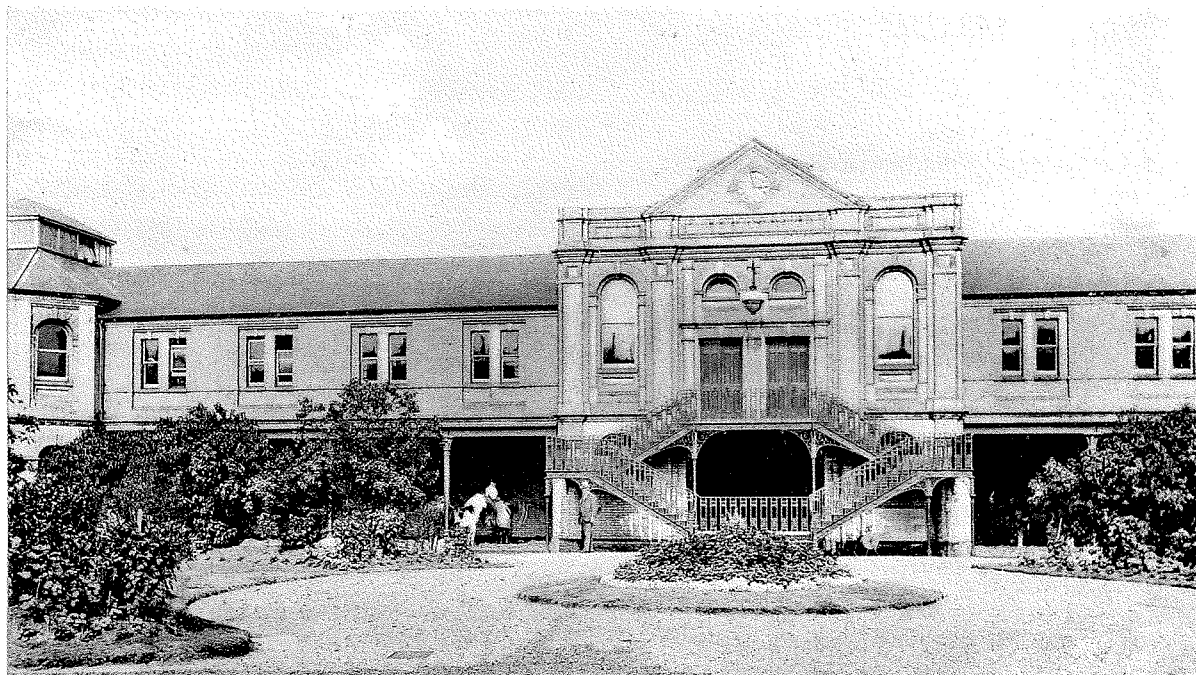
The ever resourceful Marianne Colloms and Dick Weindling have considerably enlarged their Kilburn History blog on the internet with a remarkable list of the musicians who have lived in recent years in Kilburn and West Hampstead. Some of the better known are:

Cleo Laine, Johnny Dankworth, Stan Tracy and Dudley Moore at 80 Kilburn High Road;
Brian Eno, Evan Parker, Howell Thomas and Graham Simpson at 28 Brondesbury Villas;
Singer Annie Ross at 12a Douglas Court, West End Lane, and then at Ellerton in Mill Hill Lane;
Adam Ant squatted in Sherriff Road;
Lyndsey de Paul lived in Fairfax Gardens;

Ronnie Scott, jazz club owner, lived in Messina Avenue
Errol Brown and Tony Wilson, founders of Hot Chocolate, lived at 64 Hillfield Road;
Max Jaffa, band leader, was at Hillcrest Court, Shoot up Hill;
Bandleader Joe Loss was at 16 Kendall Court in the same road;
Dusty Springfield was at 104 Sumatra Road;
'Screaming Lord Sutch', musician and election night livener, lived at 241 Fordwych Road and Glengall Road;
Mick Jagger and Keith Richards in their earlier career were at 33 Mapesbury Road;
Olivia Newton John was at 9 Dennington Park Road;
Joan Armatrading lived in Cholmley Gardens;
Robert Palmer, also lived in Dennington Park Road.

There are many more on the website. Just go into Google and tap in kilburnhistory.blogspot.

Horses in Camden Town



The Royal Veterinary College in Royal College Street c.1905. The College was established in the fields that became Camden Town in 1791, mainly to treat horses. The picture shows the interior quadrangle with the new buildings of the 1890s.

The College was happily placed when railways came to Camden - notably the Great Northern at King's Cross, and the London North Western at Camden Town. In the goods' yards of both railways thousands of horses were used, and often injured during the freight heydays.

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

newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 262

Mar 2014

Who lies in Highgate Cemetery?

Researching long-dead lives

Thurs 20 March, 7.30pm

Highgate Society, 10a Pond Square, Highgate N6

The Society is to be closely involved in the research and publication of a book on Highgate Cemetery, particularly dealing with those buried there. In this project we are in partnership with the Friends of Highgate Cemetery. Our event in March will be a joint one with the Friends, in which members of the CHS will relate and open for discussion the methods used for research into historical biographies, before the project begins.

The Highgate Society premises in Pond Square can be reached by bus from Archway Station - no. 271, or else at that time of the evening it is fairly easy to park in the vicinity.

Belsize in View

Thurs 17 April, 7.30pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

David Percy's film *The Belsize Story*, Volume I, recounting the history of the central part of Belsize Park, was premiered in St Stephen's, Pond Street in the spring of 2012 and will be familiar to many members (it is available as a DVD). Indeed, many members appeared in interviews in the film. David has now completed Volume 2: *Great Belsize*, which covers the outer parts of the area, including Fitzjohn's Avenue, the Lyndhurst-Thurlow Roads area, Maresfield and Netherhall Gardens, Parkhill and Upper Park Roads, and the Eton College Estate. This volume is also available on DVD. In his April talk David will present a large number of restored archive images, many of them in colour, from this new volume.

Highgate Cemetery c.1896, showing the Cedar of Lebanon on top of the catacombs.



The Society's Website

www.camdenhistorysociety.org

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Things to Come

Please note the following in your diary:

15 May: Steve Job on Thomas Cooke's Anatomy School in St George's Gardens.

19 June: AGM and Penelope Corfield on the Pleasure Gardens at Vauxhall and in Camden.

15 July: Malcolm Stokes on the Bishop's park at Highgate.

August: Annual Outing to be announced

18 Sep: Oliver Heal on The Heal family in Bloomsbury

16 Oct: Patricia and Robert Malcolmson: A free-spirited woman: the 1930s diary of Gladys Langford

20 Nov: Peter Backman: Wrench postcards

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.

More Plaques

We have received an excellent response to our plea for more details of plaques, English Heritage or otherwise, in Camden. There have been additions from Christopher Wade, Lester May, Gerry Harrison, Lindsay Fry and Tony Rouse. Also, David Hayes contributed an enormous list of non-EH plaques, upon which we make a start in this edition of the *Newsletter*.

But first, some additions to the list of plaques erected by English Heritage or its predecessors which were either not on the list supplied by EH, or else were missed in the *Newsletter*.

William Daniell, artist, 135 St Pancras Way, NW1.

Charles Dickens, Holborn Bars, 138-142 Holborn EC1

Andrew Marvell, writer, Highgate Hill N6, between Lauderdale House and Fairseat.

Ottoline Morrell, literary hostess, 10 Gower Street WC1

Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, 7 Gower Street, WC1

Gilbert Scott, Admiral's House, Admiral's Walk NW3

Cecil Sharp, folk dance and song collector, 4 Maresfield Gardens NW3

It is suggested that William Blake and John Linnell at Old Wyldes, and Canon and Henrietta Barnett in Spaniards Road should be included, but these are in Barnet - just. Winifred Holtby was included in the list, but coupled with the Vera Brittain entry. Anthony Hope is there, but under his full name of Anthony Hope Hawkins.

Non EH plaques

There are quite a large number of these:

Mohammed Ali Abbas, barrister and a founder of Pakistan, 33 Tavistock Square WC1 (LBC)

Robert Adam, 37 Fitzroy Square W1

Bimrao Ambedkar, Indian politician and philosopher, 10 King Henry's Road, NW3

Lindsay Anderson, theatre and film director, 12 Stirling Mansions, Canfield Gardens, NW6 (British Film Institute)

Louisa Garrett Anderson, medical pioneer, Dudley Court, Endell Street WC2

Peggy Ashcroft, actor, Manor Lodge, Froggnal Lane NW3

Herbert Asquith, prime minister, 27 Maresfield Gardens NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund)

John Barbirolli, conductor, Bloomsbury Park Hotel, Southampton Row WC1

John Barbirolli, conductor, The Brunswick, Marchmont Street, WC1 (Marchmont Association)

Wilson Barrett, actor, Mansion Gardens, West Heath Road NW3 ((Hampstead Plaque Fund)

Topham Beauclerk and Diana Beauclerk, wit and artist respectively, 100 Great Russell Street WC1 (Bedford Estate)

Clive Bell, art critic, 50 Gordon Square WC1 (LBC)

Walter Besant, historian, 106 Froggnal NW3

Ernest Boulton, crossdresser, Church House, Wakefield Street, WC1 (Marchmont St Assoc.) See also Frederick Park

Henry Cavendish, natural philosopher, 11 Bedford Square WC1 (Bedford Estate)

Richard Challoner, Catholic bishop, 44 Old Gloucester Street WC1 (Catholic Record Society)

Thomas Chatterton, poet, 39 Brooke Street EC1 (Corporation of London)

Henry Cole, civil servant and inventor of the Christmas Card, 3 Elm Row, NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, poet, 3 The Grove N6 (St Pancras Council)

John Constable, 2 Lower Terrace NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund)

Learie Constantine, cricketer, 11 Kendal Court, Shoot up Hill, NW2 Nubian Jak Community Trust

Don Cook, political activist, Kennistoun House, Leighton Road NW5

William Johnson Cory, teacher and scholar, 8 Pilgrims Lane NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund)

Arthur Crosfield, industrialist and important in saving Kenwood for the public, Kenwood House N6 (Friends of Kenwood)

Charles de Gaulle, 99 Froggnal NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund)

Nell Deller, local activist, 1 Greatfield, Peckwater Street, NW5 (Peckwater Estate Tenants)

Charles Dickens, 22 Cleveland Street W1 (Dickens Fellowship)

Charles Dickens, 14 Great Russell Street WC1

Charles Dickens, Brook House, Cranleigh Street NW1 (Brook & Cranleigh House Residents)

Charles Dickens, Tavistock House, Tavistock Square

Charles Dickens, 141 Bayham Street NW1 (Dickens Fellowship)

Isaac D'Israeli, writer, 6 Bloomsbury Square, WC1 (Bedford Estate)

Hilda Doolittle, writer, 44 Mecklenburgh Square WC1

to be continued next Newsletter

Perrins Court, by Schwabe

In the May 2013 *Newsletter* I discussed a 1929 drawing of Church Row by Randolph Schwabe.

The Tate Gallery has a Schwabe drawing (ink and some wash) called *High Street, Hampstead* dated 1928, catalogue number N04481 – an image is on their website. This shows the west side of the High Street including the bridged entrance to Perrin's Court, a subject painted by various local artists. The houses are early 18th century, the uneven roofs of Nos. 72 and 73 are carefully drawn by the artist. No. 73 is now the opticians Clulows, the frontage still retains the original bow window of the grocer J Foster & Son, established 1790, shown by Schwabe though re-glazed since a 1908 photo. No. 72, now the 'ee' phone shop, was labelled 'Skoyles' (unusual name in London?), Hot water fitters & electricians. The shop front on the right of the drawing with an illegible sign, No. 71, was a tearoom in the 1927 street directory.

The view up the Court was also drawn by Schwabe. Here is a view of this from his Tate drawing corresponding with one from 1908 (from the Hampstead Museum) and another taken recently by me.

Bryan Diamond



*Perrins Court in 1908
(Hampstead Museum)*



*Perrins Court by Schwabe, 1928.
(Tate Gallery)*



Perrins Court 2013 (Bryan Diamond)

Belsize Baroque

An interesting concert of music recalling the eighteenth-century pleasure gardens of Belsize House, is to be held at St Peter's church in Belsize Park. It is on Saturday, 22 March. There will be music by Handel, Haydn, Arne and Stanley, It will feature Paul Nicholson as director and Marie Macklin, soprano.

Tickets are £12 at the door. Reservations can be made at mail@belsizebaroque.org.uk

Alternative theatre at Local Studies

An exhibition is on at Camden Local Studies until 8 May, featuring Alternative Theatre in Camden and Lambeth. It is entitled *Re-Staging Revolutions*, and celebrates the alternative theatre movement 1968-88.

The White Bear saved – for the time being

Members may know that there has been a planning application to convert the Old White Bear in Hampstead to a six-bedroom house. This was refused permission by Camden Council.

However, the developer then applied for a 'Certificate of Lawfulness' on a different change of use for the pub – a restaurant. Under UK legislation the owners of a pub are permitted to convert it into a restaurant without seeking permission, and it is not open to public consultation. Gaining a Certificate essentially rubber-stamps a change of use. Were this to be granted it is not beyond the bounds of imagination that a further application for residential conversion might be submitted in due course.

However, Camden has taken the bold and decisive decision to issue an immediate Article 4 Direction that withdraws these permitted development rights. This means that any conversion to a restaurant will now have to be subject to a planning application to which we can all object. That is how matters stand at the moment.

Camden Goods Station through time

Our member, Peter Darley, who is secretary of the Camden Railway Heritage Trust, has recently published the above title.

Goods stations are inherently more difficult in terms of finding good illustrations than the more photogenic and more easily accessible passenger stations. However, by extending the subject matter to the first main line railway into London, from Primrose Hill to Euston, closely associated with Camden Goods Station, the task was made simpler as well as historically justified. There is a wealth of imagery from old prints to paintings, drawings and photographs both for the main line and the goods station.

The book contains 200 illustrations and 15,000 words, all in 96 pages. This has cost the Trust £1200.

You can order books directly from the Trust (£12 including p&p) – just email your address to Darleyp@aol.com and you will be sent the book and payment details. Thus the Trust can recover their costs more quickly. You can also order from any good bookshop, where the price is £14.99, but the Trust makes only about 40p a copy out of that, so it is advantageous to both parties to order from the Trust.

Cataloguing web sites

The ever-informative newsletter of Archives for London reveals a new project. The British Library, which is in receipt of a copy of every printed book published, has clearly become worried about the information that is being published digitally on web sites, some of which may vanish after a short time if, say, the creator fails to pay the ISP to continue hosting. The Library is proposing to take a copy of every web site within the .uk domain, amounting to some 5 million pages in year one alone.

A change of website

The popular Kilburnhistory blog, edited by Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms, will now appear on the westhampsteadlife.com blog. All previous 35 stories are now uploaded on this, and two new ones have just been lodged.

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

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No 263

May 2014

Thomas Cooke's anatomy school and St George's burial grounds

Thurs 15 May, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies & Archives, 2nd floor, Holborn Library, Theobalds Road WC1

Our May talk is on an unusual subject. In 1880, a Dr Cooke set up a dissecting room in a temporary building in the burial ground of St George the Martyr, near Gray's Inn Road. Technically, the site was owned by the Holborn parish of that name, for the ground was extra-parochial and it was bought because their original burial ground was full. But St Pancras still had some say as to the nuisance or otherwise of the use of the temporary building. This was especially so, since St George the Martyr wanted to sell the burial ground to St Pancras so that it could be laid out as a public garden.

A complaint was lodged by occupants of a cottage adjoining the burial ground, but the Home Office's Inspector of Anatomy said that the building was properly licensed.

In the event, St Pancras took over the St George the Martyr burial ground as well as the smaller one attached belonging to St George Bloomsbury. But the arrangement excluded the portion of land where Dr Cooke had his dissecting room. St Pancras then asked the Kyrle Society to lay out the gardens.

This interesting story, and the background to the study of anatomy in the nineteenth century, will be told by Steve Job, who wrote the riveting history of a small estate off Gray's Inn Road, published by CHS, called *Cat's Meat Square*.

If you wish to visit St George's Gardens beforehand, there are several entrances, but probably the easiest to find is from Heathcote Street.

The AGM and Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens

Thurs 19 June, 6.30pm

Church of St Mary the Virgin, Primrose Hill, Elsworthy Road (jctn with Primrose Hill Road) NW3

Refreshments will be available at 6.30pm, and the AGM begins at 7pm. Members are asked to send in nominations for officers and Council to Jane Ramsay at the address on page 4. Please note (see p2), that Jane wishes to retire as Secretary after 39 years as one of our officers.

The present officers and Council are as follows:

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

At 7.30 Professor Penelope Corfield will talk about Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, the largest, smartest and most expensive of the more than sixty pleasure gardens dotted about 18th-century London.

It was closed in 1859 and part of its site - in Kennington by the river - is now taken by a small park called Spring Gardens.

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!!

A new Secretary

Jane Ramsay has indicated that at the next AGM in June she would like to retire as the Society's secretary. Jane was appointed to the post in June 1978, but had previously been our Treasurer from June 1975.

We are therefore seeking a new Secretary from the membership. If you wish to volunteer, Jane will send you a note describing her present duties – though it might be possible, if there is a problem, to find help in some of these.

Please telephone Jane on 020 7586 4436, or email her on jsramsay10@gmail.com.

Congratulations

We would like to congratulate Emily Gee, a member of our Council, on two things: one, the birth recently of a son, Ambrose; the second, she has recently been made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

Gwynydd Gosling

We are sorry to hear of the death of Gwynydd Gosling, a founder member of our Society in 1970, on 22 December last year, at the age of nearly 92.

Peter Barber writes:

Gwynydd moved to Highgate in 1939 when her mother was appointed librarian at the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution. I first met her in the mid-1960s. My awe at her encyclopaedic knowledge of Highgate life and history from the earliest times was soon succeeded by delight at her readiness to share her knowledge with a then youthful enthusiast. In some ways Gwynydd was an important part of that history. As deputy librarian to her mother, and then as the librarian herself, and later still as the Institution's archivist, she was at the heart of the Village's intellectual and social life for about 70 years. She was perhaps the last person to remember the days when the Village and the Institution were dominated, as they had been since the 1830s, by prosperous 'old' families living in grand houses well stocked with servants. She lived to see the same houses occupied by media celebrities and foreign potentates with little or no interest in Village life, for whom, one suspects, Highgate is just an impressive address.

Apart from her many duties at the Institution, she had her own research projects. She took a particular interest in Russian history, which ultimately led her to join the English branch of the Russian Orthodox Church.

In private she was emphatically her own person. Throughout her long life, her strong will, her religious faith, her insatiable curiosity and her boundless enthusiasm sustained her in face of hardships and tragedies – including desertion by her father, the early death of her only child, and the prolonged

mental illness of her husband – that would have crushed a lesser person. She was lucky, however, in her last years, when living in the eighteenth-century Pauncefort Almshouses in Southwood Lane – in some ways but not others a fitting final address – to enjoy the devoted care and friendship of Rosemary Carter. An important witness to Highgate history has departed – but luckily not before a good part of her memories were recorded in the filmed history compiled by the Hornsey Historical Society, *The Town or Hamlet of Highgate*.

The Annual Outing

We have chosen Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire as our destination this year. In spite of the Russell and Bedford family significance in Camden's history we do not seem to have visited here before.

Woburn Abbey has been the home of the Russell family for nearly 400 years and is now occupied by the 15th Duke of Bedford and his family. It is set in a 3000-acre deer park, with 30 acres of gardens, lawns, woodland glades and ponds. Repton's original Pleasure Grounds continue to be restored. The house itself, with three floors open to the public, dates from the 17th century, with later alterations, and contains 18th-century furniture, gold and silver collections, porcelain and family treasures. There are over 250 works of art, and the largest collection of Canalettos assembled in one room.

There are also two special exhibitions included, '*Peeling Back the Years*' on Chinese wallpaper, and '*Valiant Hearts*' on Woburn's response to the First World War.

You will be able to go around at your own pace, and lunch and other refreshments can be obtained at the Duchess' Tearooms. Picnics can be eaten in the grounds. The cost will be £31, which includes coach travel, gratuities and admission. A booking form is enclosed with this *Newsletter*. You are very welcome to bring family and friends.

The Castle in Kentish Town

CHS does not normally involve itself in conservation issues as, if it did, it would be overwhelmed by the work involved and its more central concerns would risk becoming sidelined. However, when an observant American, David Wenk, resident of Camden Town, was one of the first people to see that the Castle public house, 147 Kentish Town Road, was apparently being demolished and alerted CHS, I found myself taking the matter on. The present Castle (currently looking very sad, denuded of many of its features and swathed in scaffolding) is early Victorian, but its predecessor on the same site was a country tavern with a big forecourt for wagons and coaches, stabling at the side, a tea-garden where Castle Road now runs, and land stretching behind as far as the Fleet river. There has been an inn on or near this site for hundreds of years, since it is at the convergence of



The Castle in better days, some years back.

roads where the the one-time lane from St Pancras Old Church, and what is now Royal College Street, meet the High Street at the entrance to Kentish Town. The Castle is thus a venerable landmark building, and although in recent years it has been disguised in black paint as a music venue and finally left standing empty, strong local feeling was that it should not just disappear.

Ringleys, the present owners, are estate agents based in the block opposite: they hoped to replace the Castle with a much larger, glassy block of offices and flats, of undistinguished design. It would appear they thought that if they got the building down quickly that might be the end of any protest. They had sought no planning permission at this stage, and when Camden Council, alerted by the local councillor among others, ordered them to desist in their destructive work, it took an Article 4 Direction and then an Enforcement Notice and repeated visits from an officer before work ceased.

From June 2013 to the present time of writing the building has been left ill-protected from wind and rain, the Notice to re-instate it ignored because Ringleys were appealing against that Notice to the National Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. They started an ill-advised charm-initiative which attempted to assure the public that they 'love Kentish Town' and hadn't meant any harm to the Castle. Meanwhile they put in a planning application for its demolition and development, which Camden refused. They appealed against this, and also (rather late in the day, one might think) held public 'consultation' meetings at which quite other plans were dangled in the air.

If you, the reader, find this succession of events illogical and confusing, you are not the only one.

Finally, a few days before the Appeal hearing against Camden's refusal was due on 2nd April, the Planning Inspectorate came across with the decision that the Enforcement Notice was upheld and that Ringleys must restore the Castle building as it was before their wreckers got to work on it.

End, then of any point in the Appeal against Camden's refusal of the new development, you might think? Logically, yes - but British democracy does not necessarily work like that. 2nd April found a large number of local residents, plus a bevy of Ringley's employees also described, not always accurately, as 'local residents', in a hall rented by Camden, battling out the pros and cons of a new building along with Camden officers, Ringley's architects, and an imperterbably polite and even-handed Inspector from Bristol.

At the time of writing, some two weeks later, the Inspector's verdict has not yet been received. Watch this space.

Gillian Tindall

GEOFFREY HARRIS

We are sorry to hear of the death of Geoffrey Harris who was, for quite a few years, the Society's Auditor. Geoffrey had also been a Treasurer of the London Record Society.

Book Reviews

St Michael's Highgate: A History
by Roger Sainsbury

250 pages, 16pp colour pictures, size 230 x150; sewn hardback. ISBN 978-0-956-94214-2. Available at the church or else telephone 0208 883 4927. Published by the church. Price £25 inc postage.

It has been a problem and potentially a strength for Highgate Village that it has anciently, and in modern times, been spread over three local government areas. Before the creation of the Greater London boroughs these were St Pancras, Hornsey and Islington. This has meant, for example, that none of these boroughs had an interest in opening a public library in the village, partly because the Highgate Literary & Scientific Institution already offered a fee-paying service, but also, it was reasoned, many of the users would come from the other boroughs. It also meant that it took goodness knows how many years to resolve the simple problem of traffic control at the junction of Highgate Hill and Dartmouth Park Hill – the local authorities batted it around for years.

However, the strength has been that Highgate retained a clear sense of identity and was not at the mercy of some masterplan from one of the boroughs.

Before the foundation of St Michael's church in South Grove, this division of responsibility had religious implications. In theory, residents of Highgate in much earlier times were obliged to worship at their own parish church, which could mean St Mary Hornsey, St Mary Islington or St Pancras Old Church – each a considerable walk away, especially in bad weather, along indifferent roads and, of course, always the hill. What happened in practice was that a chapel established at Highgate School, succeeding a hermitage on the site, was used frequently by residents of the Highgate area, probably to the dismay of the parish vicars who lost revenue.

With the success of the chapel came a neglect of the school. Set up as a grammar school – the classics were badly if ever taught – it became in effect an unregarded, and expensive charity school. When the governors of the school launched a petition to enlarge the chapel to make room for a growing population, the issue became one of national importance. In short, one view was that the function of the Cholmeley Bequest, which founded the school, was not to provide a *de facto* parish church; others found it a reasonable solution. The battle raged for years all the way to Parliament.

The upshot was that it was agreed to build a new parish church, St Michael's, in South Grove. The ins and outs of this complicated story are told clearly by Mr Sainsbury, who has provided us with an unusually thorough history of a local church. His work is well illustrated and we are given biographies of all the vicars of the parish since consecration in 1832.

John Richardson

The Jewish Communities of Islington 1730s-1880s, by Petra Laidlaw

Published by Islington Archaeology and History Society. ISBN 978-1-291-64587-3.

Price £9.99. 128pp, 25 ills, 245 x 185 softback
Purchase from catherinebrighteyes@hotmail.co.uk

Islington is hardly now thought of as being a stronghold of Jewry, but by 1880 Islington was home to between 3500-4000 Jews – about 5 per cent of all Jews in Britain at that time. By the middle of the twentieth century the Jewish population in the area had become insignificant.

Petra Laidlaw surveys the ups and downs of Jewish life in Islington. The area, of course, was near to the core of Jewish life in the East End, and was a stepping stone when more affluent Jews wanted a larger property in more spacious streets. But today's southern Islington was also adjacent to the City and to the workshops of the diamond trade in which Jews were gradually prominent.

This is not to say that most of the diaspora from the congested East End went always to better conditions. Many Jews moved to places like Saffron Hill where some of London's worst slums were located.

The reluctant acceptance of Jews in both business and social life had the effect of drawing the families closer together. Lucy Aikin spent some time in Stoke Newington in her younger days, where she had relations. She noted that: 'Jews were then in a very different social position to that they now enjoy. They were treated with the greatest coldness and dislike by the other inhabitants of the place, and not visited by anyone.'

The year 1868 was a high point for Jews in Islington when a prominent, Italianate synagogue was opened in Lofting Road, Barnsbury. By that time Jews had moved north to that area, and to Canonbury and Highbury. Jews from Kentish Town and Camden Town also worshipped there.

The author tells us that she has hardly scratched the surface of the Jewish communities in Islington. However, she has produced a well-researched, readable book that gives us a great deal of new information, and brings to life a community that has moved on.

John Richardson

NEWS FROM WEST HAMPSTEAD

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms have added more entertaining items to their online feature. These include a conjuring trick manufacturer, Jimi Hendrix, a female boxer called Barbara Buttrick, and the man who brought the first hippo to London.

To be found on www.westhampsteadlife.com/features/history

And More Plaques

The list below of non-English Heritage plaques, continues from that published in the last *Newsletter*. Information comes from David Hayes, Christopher Wade, Lester May, Gerry Harrison, Lindsay Fry, Miĳe Pentelow and Tony Rouse.

Jaqueline Du Pré, cellist, 5a Pilgrims Lane NW3.
(Heath and Old Hampstead Society)

Peggy Duff, councillor, peace campaigner, 11 Albert Street NW1 (LBC)

Edward Elgar, composer, 44 Netherhall Gardens NW3 (Hampstead Plaque Fund).

T S Eliot, poet, 24 Russell Square WC1 (LBC)

William Empson, poet & critic, 65 Marchmont Street WC1 (Marchmont Association)

Brian Epstein, Beatles manager, 13 Monmouth Street WC2 (Seven Dials Trust).

Gracie Fields, entertainer, 20 Frognal Way NW3 (H&OHS)

Johnston Forbes-Robinson, actor, 22 Bedford Square WC1 (Bedford Estate)

Charles Fort, founder of Forteanism, 39 Marchmont Street WC1.

Mark Gertler, artist, Penn Studio, 13a Rudall Crescent NW3 (HPF) and 1 Well Mount Studios, Well Road NW3 (HPF)

The Goons (Sellers, Milligan and Secombe), Koko, 1a Camden High Street NW1 (Comic Heritage)

Anthony Green, artist, 11-20 Lissenden Mansions, Lissenden Gardens NW5 (Lissenden. Gardens Tenants' Assoc.)

James Hanley, writer, 21-30 Parliament Hill Mansions, Lissenden Gdns NW5 (LGTA)

Robert Harbin, magician, 1 Camden Square NW1

Harmsworth family, Rose Cottage, Vale of Health NW3 (HPF)

Christopher Hatton, courtier, 4 Leather Lane EC1

Cecil Hepworth, film pioneer, 32 Canteloves Road NW1 (BFI)

Alexander Herzen, founder Free Russian Press, 61 Judd Street WC1 (Marchmont Association).

Rowland Hill, postal reformer, Commonwealth Hall,

A A Milne, writer, Remsted House, Mortimer Crescent NW6 (Historic Kilburn Plaque Scheme)

Ottoline Morrell, 10 Gower Street WC1 (GLC)

John Nash, architect, 70 Great Russell Street WC1

John Henry Newman, Cardinal, 17 Southampton Place WC1 (Bedford Estate)

George Orwell, writer, 77 Parliament Hill NW3 (HPF) 1 South End Road NW3; and Kington House, Mortimer Crescent NW6 (Historic Kilburn Plaque Scheme).

George Padmore, Pan-Africanist, Cranleigh House, Cranleigh Street NW1 (Nubian Jak Community)

Robert Paul, cinema pioneer, 44 Hatton Garden EC1 (BFI)

[Lord] David Pitt, politician, civil rights campaigner, 200 North Gower Street NW1 (LBC)

William Pitt the Elder, prime minister, Pitt House, North End Avenue NW3

Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, 7 Gower Street WC1

Mary Prince, abolitionist and author, Senate House, Malet Street WC1 (Nubian Jak Community)

John Skinner Prout, artist, 43 Marchmont Street WC1 (MA)

Augustus C and AWN Pugin, architects, 106 Great Russell Street WC1 (Bedford Estate)

Ernest Raymond, novelist, 22 The Pryors, East Heath Road NW3 (HPF)

Maggie Richardson, flower seller, Essex Court, Hampstead High Street NW3 (H&OHS)

Arthur Rimbaud, poet, 8 Royal College Street NW1

Arthur Rowe, rent campaigner, Silverdale, Hampstead Road NW1

Willie Rushton, satirist, Mornington Crescent Station NW1 (Comic Heritage)

Bernard Shaw, 29 Fitzroy Square W1

Martin Shaw, composer, 42-51 Clevedon Mansions, Lissenden Gardens NW5 (LGTA)

Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet and Mary Shelley, author, 87 Marchmont Street WC1 (MA)

Clarkson Stanfield, painter, 86 Hampstead High Street NW3 (HPF)

Robert Louis Stevenson, writer, Abernethy House, 7 Mount Vernon NW3 (HPF)

Marie Stopes, birth control advocate, 14 Well Walk NW3 (HPF) and 108 Whitfield Street W1

George Symons, meteorologist, 62 Camden Square NW1

R H Tawney, economic historian, 21-30 Parliament Hill Mansions, Lissenden Gardens NW5 (LGTA)

Francis Topham, watercolour painter, 4 Arkwright Road NW3 (HPF)

Richard Trevithick, steam locomotive pioneer, UCL Chadwick Building, Gower Street WC1 (Trevithick Centenary Memorial Committee)

Paul Verlaine, poet, 8 Royal College Street NW1

William Walton, composer, 10 Hollyberry Lane NW3 (HPF)

John and Charles Wesley, evangelists, 24 West Street WC2 (World Methodist History Society)

Edward Westermarck, social anthropologist, Senate House, Russell Square WC1 (Anglo-Finnish Society)

Emlyn Williams, actor, playwright, 60 Marchmont Street WC1 (MA)

George Williams, founder YMCA, 13 Russell Square WC1

Kenneth Williams, comic actor, 57 Marchmont Street WC1 (MA)

Mary Wollstonecraft, writer, Oakshott Court, Werrington Street NW1 (LBC)

Haydn Wood, composer, 21-30 Parliament Hill Mansions, Lissenden Gardens NW5 (LGTA)

W B Yeats, poet, 5 Woburn Walk WC1

Alice Zimmern, feminist, 41-50 Clevedon Mansions, Lissenden Gardens NW5 (LGTA)



A lost station. This is Camden Road station on the Midland Railway line, c1904. It stood on the corner of Sandall and Camden Roads, very near the North London Collegiate School (now Camden School). The station closed in 1916 due to low passenger numbers. A petrol station is now on the site

Mr Anthony De La Poer has kindly sent us this splendid picture of a garden-party held at Angela Burdett-Coutts' Holly Lodge house in Highgate in June 1867. Miss Burdett-Coutts became a Baroness in 1871.

Mr De La Poer discovered this photograph in a family album, but does not know his family's connection with the event. Miss Burdett-Coutts is presumably to the right of the picture, wearing the most notable dress, and flanked by two men in top hats.



This Newsletter is published by the Camden History Society.

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Our website: www.camdenhistorysociety.org

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 264
Jul 2014

The Bishop's Park in Highgate

Tuesday, 15 July, 7.30pm
Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

The Bishop of London was, until relatively modern times, the major landowner in Hornsey. His estate included the land opposite Kenwood House, on the northern side of Hampstead Lane. Some of this is now an area of excessive wealth, and here the Bishop is commemorated in the name of The Bishop's Avenue, a lengthy thoroughfare which begins at Hampstead Lane and continues to the Great North Road. Today, this road is a byword for expenditure on its mansions, which are built in various pastiche styles. It used to be called Millionaires' Row, and is now Billionaires' Row. The fact that *The Guardian* earlier this year reported that sixteen of these houses were derelict and had not been occupied for years, seems not to deter very rich investors. The Bishop's estate also included what are today Highgate Wood and Queen's Wood, just north of Archway Road.

Successive bishops of London held this estate from before the Norman Conquest until they were administered by the Church Commissioners in the nineteenth century. The bishops created an enclosed deer park for hunting before 1200. This had gates at The Spaniards, The Gatehouse and on what became the Great North Road by East Finchley station. When a road across the park was opened in 1318 for payment of tolls, hunting had ceased. The moated site of the hunting lodge is on Highgate golf course.

Our speaker, Malcolm Stokes, is an active member of the Hornsey Historical Society, and has served on its Publications Committee for many years. He has written articles about each of the parish boundaries between Hornsey and adjacent ancient parishes, including our own.

Please note, this meeting is on a Tuesday, instead of the usual Thursday in the month.

The Annual Meeting

The 44th Annual Meeting of the Society was held on 19 June at St Mary the Virgin church in Primrose Hill. During this the Chairman made a presentation to Jane Ramsay, on her retirement as Secretary, to celebrate her many years in that office. The following were elected as officers and Council members:

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

The Chairman, in his report, noted that in the earlier years of the Society, there was a close relationship between it and the senior officers of the borough's libraries. A number of senior staff, including the Chief Librarian, were at times officers of the Society. Today this is not the case, although relations are still strong and frequent with the staff of Camden Local Studies & Archives. He wondered if the present-day pressure and detail of today's local government has encouraged this and if it had also occurred between other departmental heads and their relevant voluntary societies. He said that he had never met the previous Head of Libraries until we insisted on talks regarding the proposed outsourcing of Camden Local Studies

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outside of the borough. He had never yet met the new Head of Libraries.

The Society reported that it was making available to Camden's Local Studies and Archives Centre the sum of £3000 so that the 3000-odd slides in the Archives can be digitised. Slides are difficult to use in research. They are quite often put back in the wrong place by previous users, or not put back at all, and are difficult to assess on a lightbox. Once digitised they can be much enlarged on a computer and are safe from damage and loss. We think that this is a good use of the Society's funds at a time when Local Studies and Archives are on a restricted budget.

The AGM ended with a lively talk by Professor Penelope Corfield on Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens.

The Annual Outing

The Annual Outing on Saturday 9th August is to Woburn Abbey. There are still seats available on the coach. Please see the details and booking form in the *May Newsletter*, or phone the organiser, Jean Archer, on 020 7435 5490.

Things to come

Please put the following in your diary:

18 Sep: Oliver Heal on *The Heal family in Bloomsbury*

16 Oct: Patricia and Robert Malcolmson on *A free-spirited woman. The 1930s diary of Gladys Langford.*

20 Nov: Peter Backman on *Wrench Postcards*

11 Dec: Roham McWilliam: *The development of the West End as the Entertainments Centre for London*

Reprieve for the Castle

Gillian Tindall reported in our last *Newsletter* that the fate of The Castle pub in Kentish Town was still uncertain. It was threatened by development.

She reports that: "I hope all CHS members will be as pleased as I am that Messrs Ringleys, the would-be demolishers and developers of the Castle Tavern, have lost their second Appeal. They will now have to put the building back in its proper state. I and various other people will do our best to make sure they do!"

Mary Stapleton

Mary Stapleton has died, peacefully, in her sleep in a north London care home, at the age of 92. In the 1970s and early '80s she was an active member of the CHS, since she was an artist. Her drawings enlivened particularly, I remember, the *Kentish Town Package*, a collection of pieces in a yellow folder that was one of our early publications. She also did beautiful cloth collages. We own a set of four that show the back gardens of Kentish Town at different times of the day, with the old field tree lines. She also did a splendid collage based on my *The Fields Beneath*, which hung for many years in the James Wigg Medical Centre in Kentish Town.

Gillian Tindall

More Blue Plaques

There was some consternation when it was announced by English Heritage that due to budget restraints, the programme to research and award new blue plaques in London had been suspended. It has now been announced that, resulting from the generosity of one individual, the programme has been reopened for nominations.

Founded in 1866 and run today by English Heritage, the Blue Plaques scheme celebrates the link between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked. English Heritage has also launched the Blue Plaques Club, a donors group, to secure the scheme's long-term future. Also, individuals can support the scheme by donating at english-heritage.org.uk/donate.

Today, 880 official plaques can be found on London's streets. The people they commemorate range from famous figures to less familiar names but all are distinguished in their respective spheres.

Ronald Hutton, Chair of the Blue Plaque Panel, says: "Public nominations are the lifeblood of the London Blue Plaques scheme and we are looking forward to seeing lots of new proposals. We would ask people to think carefully about their nominations. Does the London building where the person lived or worked still stand? And has the person been dead for more than 20 years? If the answer to those and a few other questions are 'yes', then we want to hear from you."

Westminster has the highest number of blue plaques (302), followed by Camden (161) and Kensington & Chelsea (156).

MORE CASTLES

The Castle in Kentish Town (see opposite column) is a very old name, but a spate of pubs with Castle names occurred in the nineteenth century, around Camden Town. There is the Edinboro Castle in Mornington Terrace, the Dublin Castle and the Windsor Castle in Parkway, and the Pembroke Castle in Gloucester Avenue. Tim Matthews wonders if members have any suggestions as to why this deluge of Castle names occurred.

THE FINANCIAL REPORT

At the AGM, our Treasurer, Dr Henry Fitzhugh, reported that we had 392 members, the highest since he had been Treasurer.

Our total funds amounted to £28,722 against £26,922 the year previously. We had spent £1615 in continuing our project to have the early Hampstead court rolls transcribed into English. We had spent £3113 on publications (down from £6709), and income from them was approximately £7583. The Newsletter had cost £951 plus distribution.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts

In our last *Newsletter* we published an 1867 photograph of a garden party at Holly Lodge, then the home of Baroness Burdett-Coutts. Our caption suggested that the lady accompanied by two men in top hats was probably the Baroness, but Peter Barber thinks not:

"Almost certainly the plump lady escorted by the two gentlemen on the right is not Angela but Queen Victoria's cousin (and the mother of Queen Mary), Princess Mary Adelaide (1833-1897) who had married the penniless Duke of Teck in the previous year (1866). Princess Mary was one of Angela Burdett-Coutt's closest friends in the royal family and the people on the left are presumably waiting to be presented to her. Angela is, I think, the blurred figure with the white hat, the dark dress and the veil to her right."

Writing History

The City Lit is to hold a course on Writing History. Dr Pamela Pilbeam will be the tutor. Students will get an overview of the fundamentals including approaches to writing, referencing as well as what constitutes a good history. Pamela Pilbeam is Emeritus Professor of French History, Royal Holloway, University of London. The course will be held at the City Lit premises in Keeley Street, Covent Garden. The cost will be £50.

Further details may be obtained from Mark Isherwood at markisherwood@citylit.ac.uk. Or to enrol telephone 020 7831 7831.

Tales from the West

Dick Weindling and Marianne Colloms have, just since the last *Newsletter*, added seven new stories to their burgeoning websites on Kilburn and West Hampstead. In fact they have set up a single website called www.kilburnandwillesdenhistory.blogspot.co.uk. This will now specialise in those areas. In addition www.westhampsteadlife.com/ will continue to have stories about that area.

A plethora of emails from them tells us that for West Hampstead there is a story to coincide with the World Cup, another about John Lewis and his local connections, a new story about the black singer Turner Layton who lived in West Hampstead, together with some musical clips, and an account of a world champion real tennis player in the area. A new item is the history of the origin of the Acol Bridge Club.

For Kilburn and Willesden they have stories about a man who made motorcycles and had a 'mesmeric' effect on women; a wolf hunt in Willesden; Dave Urwin recalls events from his time with Willesden Council; and there is a story about Willesden Paddocks, a well-know stud farm.



Remembering

At Burgh House, New End Square, from 18 July until 14 December, there will be an exhibition called *Fellowship & Sacrifice: Hampstead and the First World War*. This commemorates the beginning of that war a hundred years ago.

If you are in that part of London, Chelsea has a particularly good exhibition on the same theme. This is housed in the marquee in Duke of York's Square, just off King's Road near Sloane Square.

Last notes in Camden Town

Camden Town and Kentish Town were both centres of piano making in the nineteenth century. Big names such as Collard & Collard, Challens, Brinsmead and Chappells were in Camden Town. The Mother Red Cap pub (now the World's End) was used as a labour exchange for the industry – potential employees and employers met there to discuss terms and qualifications.

There were about 100 companies associated with piano making in the area, many of them making small components such as hammers, keyboards and actions. They made a living from the major firms who constructed the bulk of the instrument. Among those smaller firms were Heckscher at 75 Bayham Street in Camden Town, founded by Siegmund Heckscher, who had been born in Hamburg. He bought up a firm called Herrburger Brooks which specialised in piano actions. That was in 1883. But Heckscher's is about to close – they appear to be the last firm associated with piano manufacture left in the area.

Lester May, always vigilant of changes in Camden Town, noticed that they were leaving, has been instrumental in ensuring that valuable company records are not discarded but will find their way into Camden's Local Studies and Archives Centre. He also hopes that with the co-operation of the Centre and members of the Society, when an established business in Camden indicates that it is closing down then photographs are taken – exterior and interior – and lodged in the archives.

(Historical information kindly supplied by Martin Heckscher)



The premises of Heckscher's at 75 Bayham Street in June 2014. Photo: Lester May.

Hampstead Heath station on the North London line c1906. Note the policeman with very little to do on the right, and the station advertising trains to Victoria.



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newsletter

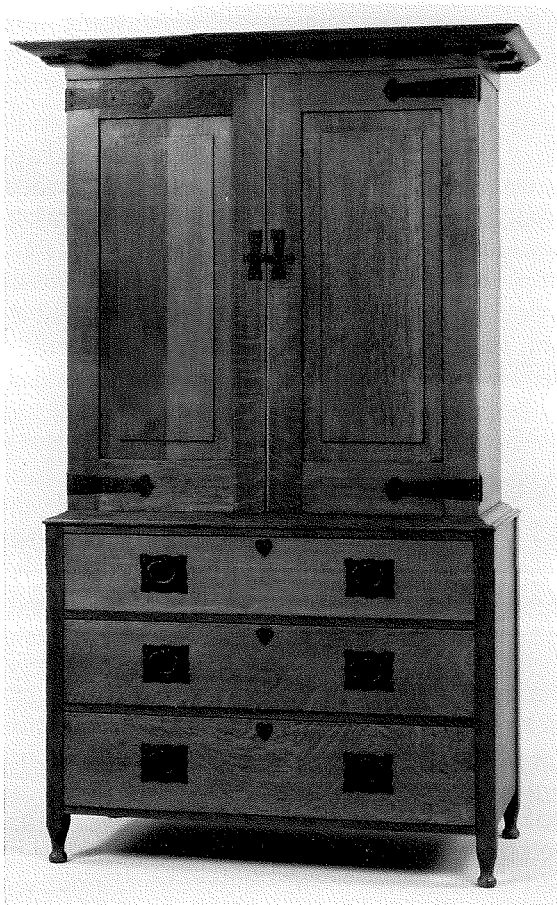
of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 265

Sep 2014

The Heal Family in Bloomsbury

Thursday, 18 September, 7.30 (doors open 7pm)
Camden Local Studies and Archives, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PA



Our speaker in September is Oliver Heal, historian and furniture restorer, who is the grandson of Sir Ambrose Heal. He worked in most parts of the famous furniture store and was a director for nine years, and was the last member of the family to be Chairman.

Sir Ambrose Heal (1872-1959) made the store in Tottenham Court Road famous. Very stylish, it was

a leading supplier of Arts and Crafts furniture. His father, also Ambrose, was a bed manufacturer and furnisher, who inherited a company which had begun in 1810 in Rathbone Place.

His father also collected historical ephemera and documents relating to the old parish and borough of St Pancras. This magnificent archive he left to St Pancras. It has been of remarkable importance in the study of our local history ever since.

Some of the Heal Collection will be on display for the occasion.

The 1930s diary of Gladys Langford

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3,
Thursday, 16 October, 7.30pm

This is a joint meeting with the London Record Society, which will hold its short AGM before the talk begins. The LRS will begin its meeting probably at 6.45pm and will we hope be concluded before the talk at 7.30pm.

Gladys Langford was a free spirit, an aspiring writer (but not published during her lifetime), an inveterate attender of plays, concerts, and films, and an astute and sometimes acerbic observer of everyday life in 1930s London. Born in 1890, married in 1913 - her marriage was later annulled - she, chained (as she saw it) to school-teaching for most of her adult life. Her diary, from 1936 to 1940, while frequently introspective, is also a vivid portrait of social life - her quirky friends, her family, her schoolboys in Hoxton and the behaviour of theatre audiences, London street life, anti-semitic outbursts, and the roller coaster moods of people living through 1939.

The diary has been edited by our speakers, Professors Robert and Patricia Malcolmson, who are travelling from their base in Canada to launch the resultant book, to be published by the London Record Society. Advance copies of this should be available after the talk.

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Our Secretary

From Jane Ramsay

I have been the Secretary to the Camden History Society for quite a number of years and I feel that I would like a break. I have enjoyed my time very much: it has always been interesting and my colleagues are very agreeable. We need someone to take over from me, possibly to work with me if they don't want to take the job on completely. The Council meetings are held about every two months at 6.30pm for up to two hours, in various parts of the borough. The job mainly entails preparing the Agenda, writing up minutes, some correspondence, mostly by email. If you would like to talk about it, please contact me on 0207 586 4436 or jsramsay10@gmail.com

Things to Come

20 Nov: Peter Backman on *Evelyn Wrench's Postcards of the early 1900s*.

11 Dec: Rohan McWilliam: *The development of the West End as the Entertainments Centre for London*.

5 Jan: Susie Harries on *Peovsner in Hampstead and Bloomsbury*

19 Feb: Helen Marcus on *What happened to the Heath after 1871?*

19 Mar: Lester Hillman on *Town planning in Camden*

16 Apr: Peter Darley on *Camden Goods Station through time*.

14 May: Dr David Burke on *Spies at the Isokon*.

18 Jun: Becky Haslam on *Archaeology of King's Cross Goods Yard*.

Those Other Castles

In the last *Newsletter* Tim Matthews queried why a number of pubs in the Camden Town area were called after castles – Windsor, Pembroke, Edinboro and Dublin – indicating the nationality of owner or main users.

He had heard, though we didn't feature this because of shortage of space, that they were so-called to keep the railway navvies of varying origins apart during the 19th century. But he finds that somewhat hard to believe. Also, he says railway building began in Camden in the late 1830s and does this match the building dates of the pubs anyway? It is also a common form of pub nomenclature.

Deirdre Yager has a similar proposal, that they were named for the navvies from each country who were working on the railways. She says that there was also a Caernarvon Castle for the Welsh before it burnt down in the Hawley Wharf fire.

Ed: Probably the only way in which this can be taken further is a detailed look at rate books, bearing in mind that Parkway – previously known as Park Street until 1938 – would probably not have had many buildings until the 1850s. The Licensing Records at the London Metropolitan Archives would also give the year when these premises were first licensed and by what name, and

also the name of the licensee. The census returns for the appropriate buildings of say, 1851, 1861 and 1871 would indicate the licensee's place of birth, which may point to the naming. Then again, the names could be aimed at the railway workers in the Camden Goods Yard, rather than the navvies building the canal or the railway.

Jack Whitehead

Jack Whitehead, teacher and local historian has died aged 98. He was familiar to us for his works on the development of Camden Town (2000), St Marylebone (2001), Stoke Newington (1985), and Muswell Hill (1998). He spent much of his career developing ways in which local history could be taught and made interesting to young people.

Born in Finsbury Park to musician parents, he went to Tollington Park grammar and Shoreditch Training College. He was politically involved, having been at the Battle of Cable Street and was also a member of Unity Theatre in St Pancras in the late 1930s.

Malcolm Tucker, who knew him, recommends *The Growth of Muswell Hill*, as it's partly autobiographical and more rounded than the other books. He recounts most readably his childhood experiences and growing perceptions of the world around him, as a thread on which to string unexpectedly many aspects of the district's natural environment and subsequent development. He was also an accurate architectural artist and decorated his books with neat and careful drawings of buildings.

Played in London

In 2012 London became the first city in the world to have staged three modern Olympic Games. this was no accident, for when it comes to sport, London has form.

English Heritage are about to publish a large (but softback) book called *Played in London*. It details the history of sport in the capital, from the often gory confrontations in the Roman amphitheatre in the City, to heydays of modern sports. There were tiltyards and pell mell. At Hampton Court is the world's oldest covered tennis court; in July is the oldest rowing race, initiated in 1715, and the sound of leather on willow may still be heard at the Artillery Garden in Finsbury, where cricket has been played since at least the 1720s.

London shaped many favourite sports, including athletics, rugby, boxing and football. In 2013 the Football Association celebrated its 150th anniversary – in 2014 46 London clubs were able to trace their roots back 150 years or more. London was also to the fore in the development of greyhound and speedway racing.

The book, by Simon English, is 360pp and costs £25.00 The ISBN is 978-1-84802-057-3.

Kentish Town Traders

Holden's *London Directory* of 1809 included Kentish Town. Prominent are a number of boarding schools - Kentish Town was regarded as a healthy location. Noteworthy too is a female plumber, Elizabeth Gill. Nirfe pubs are recorded and also the Fox and Crown on Kentish Town Hill, although this lay at the upper end of Highgate West Hill, and should be considered as a Highgate hostelry.

Adams, J, cheesemonger, Haymans Row
Adams, William, circulating library
Allam, M, gardener
Baber, Thomas, grocer
Barenger, John, plumber
Barenger, J, glazier and painter
Bateman, J, The Castle
Beckham, The Black Horse
Bellingham, S, The Jolly Angler
Browell, Miss, boarding school, Terrace
Brown, Miss, boarding school
Butler, William painter and glazier
Byard, J, watchmaker
Byard, W, watchmaker, Mansfield Place
Cantell, William carpenter
Cauckwell, E, haberdasher
Chapman, George, tailor, Haymans Row
Childs, John, wheelwright
Chitty, John, chandler
Clark, boot and shoemaker
Clark, John, farmer
Clarke, William, shoemaker
Clarkson, Mrs and Miss, Chapel House Boarding School
Collins, J, tailor
Collins, John, butcher
Corderoy, Thomas, shopkeeper
Crocker, Robert, the Kings Arms
Ellis, M, collar and harness maker
Evans, Thomas, builder
Folkes, Miss, Chapel Place Boarding School
Fort, Elizabeth, The Bull and Gate
Gabell, George, attorney and clerk to Exchequer pleas, 4&5 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, and Kentish Town
Gambal, William, carpenter and undertaker
Giles, George, The Old Vine
Gill, Elizabeth, plumber
Goodman, J, watchmaker
Goodwin, John, Haymans Row
Griffon Miss, ladies boarding school
Groom, J, chandler
Hale, Joseph, butcher, Green Street
Hale, William, butcher
Hall, H, Nags Head
Hambridge, William, bread and biscuit baker
Hanwell, Mrs, Grove House boarding school
Harding, John, surgeon, Upper Craven Place
Hart, Thomas, bread and biscuit baker, York Place
Hewitt, J, shoemaker, Cain Place
Holland, James, butcher, York Place
Holland W, butcher and porkman

Holmes, William, tanner, Mansfield Place
Joyce, John, smith and farrier
Kitson, George, Horseshoe Brewhouse
Mathews, Thomas shoemaker, Haymans Row
Mellor, Thomas shoemaker
Mensal, A.M.A Gordon House boarding school
Morgan, J, farmer
Morgan, William, farmer
Nelson, John, bricklayer
Oliver, John, Bull and Last
Page, W, carpenter, Chapel Place
Pritchard, Miss, fancy dressmaker
Pugh, William, Fox and Crown, Kentish Town Hill
Russell, Joseph, grocer and chandler
Russell and Pafford, plumbers
Senior, William, baker and cornchandler
Sladen, Mrs, ladies' boarding school
Smart, William, timber merchant
Spee, J, Mansfield Arms
Story, J, bricklayer
Tew, John, cowkeeper
Thrugood, Robert, baker
Walsh, Miss, boarding school for young ladies, Trafalgar Place
West, Robert, painter and glazier
Wheatley, smith and farrier
Wiber, Lewis, coachmaster
Wiles, Robert, linendraper and haberdasher, and agent to the County Fire Office, Kentish Town
Williams, Thomas, gardener
Yate, Elizabeth, confectioner, Haymans Row
Young, James, deputy parish clerk

No doubt a number of traders escaped the notice of the compiler because, for example, The Assembly House, the principal pub in Kentish Town, is not listed.

Hayman's Row was a group of small buildings on the east side of Kentish Town Road, north of the Assembly House. Miss Browell's school in 'The Terrace' was in Grove Terrace further north in Highgate Road. York Place was a row of buildings roughly opposite the underground station. Green Street is Highgate Road, leading to Kentish Town Green which lay opposite Grove Terrace. Cain Place lay between Kentish Town Road and Royal College Street near the junction of those two roads. Willow Walk is now called Fortess Walk. Trafalgar Place was on the west side of Kentish Town Road, opposite Prince of Wales Road.

CHARLES DICKENS'S BROTHER

A new blog on www.westhampsteadlife.com, compiled by Marianne Colloms and Dick Weindling, reveals that Dickens' younger brother Alfred Lamert Dickens, (1822-1860), at one time lived in West Hampstead. Alfred had mostly been engaged in civil engineering, particularly on railways.

He was living at Lawn Cottage in West End Lane in 1859, a house uphill from West End Green.

Pavement Plates

Tim Matthews, mystified by some distinctive plates in the pavements in Camden Town and Hampstead, has now identified what they are.

They are marker plates for Hampstead Electric Light supply. HVEL is Hampstead Vestry Electric Light; HCEL is Hampstead Council Electric Light.

Hampstead Vestry became Hampstead Council in 1900, which indicates their age. The term 'Electric Light' refers to the early domestic electricity supply, rather than public street lighting, as that is what it was mainly used for. Other domestic electrical appliances, and indeed plug sockets for them came later. (The term 'electric light' stuck: I remember Stan Butler in *On the Buses* on one occasion worrying because he was unsure how to pay the 'electric light' one week.)

The code is:

F = Feeder

HB = House Box

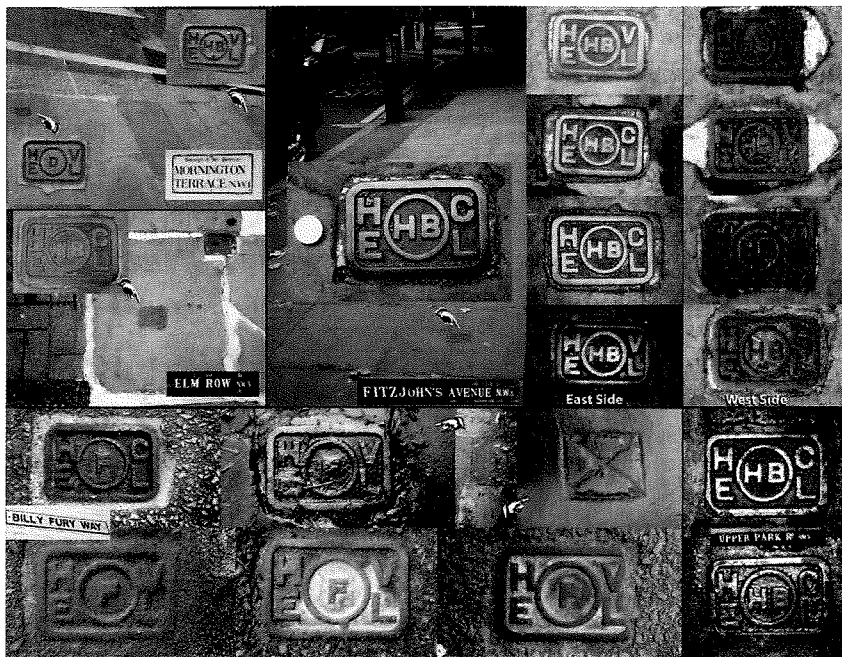
D = Distributor

Feeders, as the name implies, would have been a high voltage (2Kv) main cable from the power station to a remote underground transformer pit, from which low voltage (210/105v) distributors would radiate. The plates would be placed over the cable routes at regular intervals. The house box plate would have been above the point at which the house service cable was jointed to the distributor.

In later years the locations were also marked with a carved X in a box. (Placed at the base of a wall -

denotes a service cable entry. On a paving stone - denotes a cable joint underneath. On a kerb stone - denotes the position of a cable pipe crossing the road - often in an old 3° inch boiler tube from Lithos Road Generating Station, nothing was wasted!).

This was a Hampstead-only system. St Pancras had a separate supply system that didn't use these markers - the two in Camden Town must be the result of paving flag reuse, and possibly the one in Elm Row too.



They are to be seen on both sides of Fitzjohn's Avenue, and interestingly they're aligned so that the lettering reads uphill on the east side, and downhill on the west.

Tim Matthews

(With many thanks to Malcolm, Robin and Peter of GLIAS www.glias.org.uk)

CELEBRATING WATERLOW

The Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution at 11 South Grove, N6 are in September celebrating the gift 125 years ago by Sir Sydney Waterlow of his property in the village to the London County Council. Lauderdale House and Waterlow Park are the results. There will be an exhibition at the Institution.

Waterlow, a wealthy City printer and Lord Mayor of London, also presented the Council an additional £6,000 for maintenance and improvement to the property.

A statue of Waterlow in the park features him holding a key to the grounds, and he is also carrying a furled umbrella - thought to be the only statue in London featuring such an appendage.

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newsletter

of the CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

No 266
Nov 2014

Evelyn Wrench's picture postcards in the early 1900s

Thurs 20 Nov, 7.30pm

Camden Local Studies, 2nd floor, Holborn Library,
32-38 Theobalds Road WC1

Mr Evelyn Wrench and others took advantage of a Post Office ruling in 1902 to create a craze which still persists today – the collecting of picture postcards. Before this ruling a postcard was allowed to have one side given over only to the name and address of the recipient, with a message and a picture sharing the reverse. But the rule was changed so that the picture could occupy one whole side with the recipient and the message sharing the other. This led to a vast expansion of the use of postcards, especially with the frequency of deliveries – in town sometimes five times a day. The illustration could be a pet, a view of a street or landscape, a Salvation Army band, a sports event, or a music-hall star, and so on. The range was enormous as any visit to a postcard fair today will demonstrate. At its peak three million postcards a day were posted. It was quite possible for a card to be delivered the day it was sent. Postcards were, in effect, the telephone of the era.

Today, deltiologists, as collectors are known – but usually prefer to be called by the latter – spend a great deal of money at numerous fairs up and down the country.

Wrench was one of the early major producers. He began his business in 1900. It was successful at first but closed in 1904 for reasons that our speaker, Peter Backman, will make clear. He will also describe the whole industry up until World War I. Wrench himself went on to a distinguished career supporting the British Empire, *inter alia* founding the English Speaking Union and the Royal Overseas League. In the early 1900s he described his business as "an insatiable postcard monster".

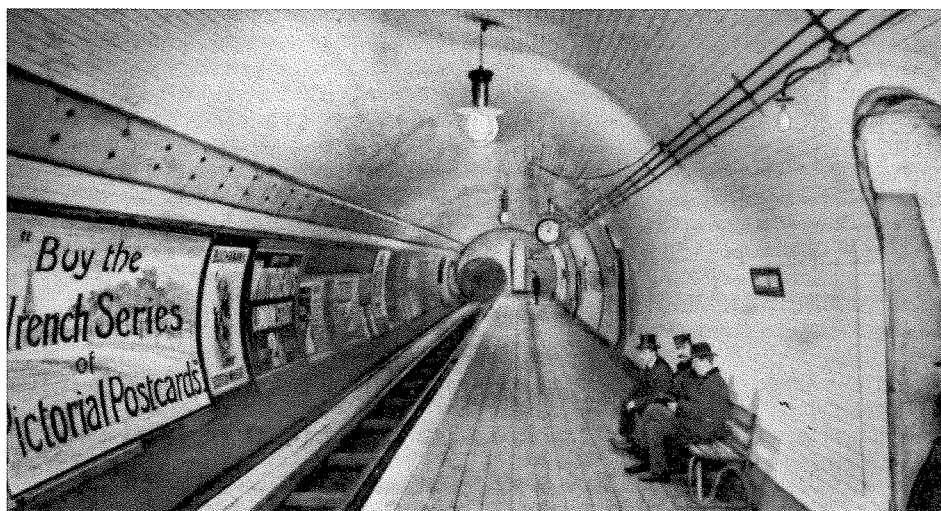
The West End in the 1800s: emerging pleasure district

Thurs, 11 Dec, 7pm

Burgh House, New End Square, NW3

Dr Rohan McWilliam, Professor of modern British history at Anglia Ruskin University and president of the British Association of Victorian Studies, is currently engaged with the social and cultural history of

A Wrench postcard of the former British Museum station advertising their own postcards.



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London's West End and its development as a pleasure district and entertainment centre.

As is usual at our December meeting, we shall be serving mince pies and festive drinks before the talk. Therefore, doors open at 7pm, with the talk beginning at 7.30pm.

Things to Come

15 Jan: Susie Harries on *Pevsner in Hampstead and Bloomsbury* (Please note: in the last Newsletter the date for this talk was inaccurately given as 5 Jan)

19 Feb: Helen Marcus on *What happened to the Heath after 1871?*

19 Mar: Lester Hillman on *Town planning in Camden*

16 Apr: Peter Darley on *Camden Goods Station through time.*

14 May: Dr David Burke on *Spies at the Isokon.*

18 Jun: AGM and Becky Haslam on *Archaeology of King's Cross Goods Yard.*

16 Jul: *History of St Michael's, Highgate.*

Those Castle pubs again

The popular theory about the origin of Camden Town's 'Castle' pubs, rightly queried by Tim Matthews (*Newsletter* 265), has taken root on the Internet. According to the website allinlondon.co.uk: The railway workers hailed from Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England, and had a tendency to spar with one another after having too many drinks in the local pubs. The solution? To create a pub to accommodate each country, thus limiting confrontations. And so the Edinboro Castle, Windsor Castle, Pembroke Castle and Dublin Castle were born...."

The impression is given that the pubs' advent was orchestrated by the railway company or its contractors, and that all were established at about the same time. In fact, far from being contemporary the four pubs, and the Caernarvon Castle mentioned by Deirdre Yager, appeared gradually over a period of 130 years.

A newly-built Dublin Castle (now 94 Parkway) appeared under that name, apparently newly-built, at '35 Park Street' in a Sun fire insurance record of November 1821, the policy holder being Charles Turner, a builder of St James' Place, Hampstead Road. If the pub was, implausibly, meant to attract Irish navvies, they must have been working, not on the later railway, but on the earlier Regent's Canal. However, the pub's name, like those of several local streets, may well have been more aristocratically inspired: the Earl of Mornington, Irish peer and friend of the Fitzroys (the ground landlords), had major Dublin connections.

The Edinboro Castle (57 Mornington Terrace) made its first rate-book appearance in 1839, listed under 'Stanhope Street', as the embryonic top end of adjacent Delancey Street. The Scottish capital's name was

routinely shortened to either Edinbr' or Edinbro' from the outset. Perched above the London & Birmingham Railway, the pub opened some two years after the opening of the line into Euston and so too late to serve navvies at work on the the railway cutting. With a tea garden, and facilities for the genteel game of lawn billiards, the pub also boasted a library and picture gallery. The latter was revived later in the century by its then landlord, Thomas Middlebrook, as a museum of curiosities, famed for its display of great auk eggs and visited by 'celebrities'. Saturday evening debates at the pub were sometimes attended by the Lord Chief Justice. So, the Edinboro Castle was hardly a pub designed to attract belligerent labourers, Scottish or otherwise. Nor were its landlords Scots.

The Pembroke Castle (now 150 Gloucester Avenue) first appears in directories only in the late 1860s. The pub appears to have been so named, not to attract Welsh customers, but simply reflected its then address of 1 Pembroke Terrace.

The Caernarvon Castle at 7-8 Chalk Farm Road (closed and converted into a clothes shop before being gutted in the 2008 Hawley Wharf fire) began life in the mid-19th century with a different name – as a 'hotel and tavern' named the Pickford Arms, presumably named after the famous firm of carriers who had a depot and offices in Camden Town. It was renamed the Carnarvon (*sic*) Castle only around 1870.

As for the Windsor Castle at 32 Parkway (closed and now a brasserie), this became a licensed public house only around 1953, having previously been a beer retailer's, or off-licence (run by a Mrs Minnie Sleet).

The overall chronology, and the inclusion of the post-war Windsor Castle in the tale linking the pubs with sparring 19th-century navvies or railwaymen, suggest to me that it is another urban myth, and one of quite recent origin.

David Hayes

Researching Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Church, Hartland Road/Clarence Way in Kentish Town was built in 1851 with a school to support the local population. The railway to Hampstead Heath was soon built beside it (the church owns the space under one of the viaduct arches) and the railway attracted bombs during WW2, so there was much rebuilding in the 1950s. There are extensive records of the church and school and Fr Graeme Rowlands would like to publish a history. Would any CHS members be willing to assist or take on the job? Please send your reply to Roger Cline (see panel on page 4) in the first instance.

The LAMAS Conference

This year's LAMAS Local History Conference is entitled *Coppers, Crooks & Counsel: Law & Order in London*. It will be held on Saturday 22 November at the Weston Theatre, Museum of London. Tickets are on sale from Eleanor Stanier, 48 Coval Road, East Sheen SW14 7RL (020 8876 0252); email: es@eleanorstanier.com. Before 31 October, tickets are £12, after that £15. Afternoon tea is provided. Lunch refreshments may be purchased from the Museum's cafés, or else you can bring your own.

Talks this year are:

Portals of the Law; How people got access to Justice in medieval London (Dr Penny Tucker).

Law and Business in 17th-century London: the Lord Mayor's Court and the Litigants (Prof. C W Brooks).

The Police of London in Transition 1750-1850 (Jerry White).

Transported beyond the seas: Criminal Justice and the Experience of Punishment in the late 18th and 19th centuries (Prof. Tim Hitchcock).

London's Prisons in the 19th century (Alex Werner)

Detectives in Fiction (Dr Kathryn Johnson)

The Outing to Woburn

Given the importance of the Bedford Estate in Camden's history, it is surprising that CHS had not previously visited this year's outing venue, Woburn Abbey, the seat of the Dukes of Bedford.

We had lovely weather on 9th August. En route from the M1, we skirted Ridgmont village (after which Ridgmount Street WC1 is erroneously named), and passed a number of Bedford Estate cottages (each bearing a coronet and capital B above their date); also some small plots of arable crops belonging to Woburn Experimental Farm. On the drive through the deer park we saw some of the deer at quite close quarters, and a few of them were splashing about in the water course near the Park Farm. Once we had arrived in the main part of the Abbey grounds, we could organise our time as we pleased; so spending the best part of three hours doing the tour of the house (as David and I did) may not have been to everyone's taste. We met many knowledgeable room stewards, exchanging information with them about the Bedford Estate in Bloomsbury. We were most impressed with the laminated booklets you could refer to in each room which documented, with thumbnail illustrations, the various paintings, sculptures, furniture and other objects to be found. For example, it was intriguing that the candlesticks in the Dining Room were indeed by THE Matthew Boulton. In the same room were depictions of Venice by Canaletto. Many of the rooms had portraits of Russell family members. We also learned of the house's origins as a Cistercian abbey, and of its main architects, Henry Flitcroft and Henry Holland. Displays of Sèvres porcelain and gold and silverware, and a room decorated with seashells rounded off our tour.

The grounds, where many of us picnicked, contained interesting trees and landscape features. Among displays in the outbuildings was one about Woburn Abbey as a military hospital during WW1, in which Mary, the then duchess of Bedford, acted as a theatre sister, performing a thousand operations herself. The first surgeon was a Brydon Glendining who had previously been a gynaecologist at the Samaritan Hospital and Hampstead General Hospital. Nurses came from London hospitals and by 1919 most came from St John's Nursing Institution in Bloomsbury.

We must thank Jean Archer for her usual efficient organisation, and Lisa Weaver, Group Co-ordinator at Woburn Abbey for her warm welcome.

Ruth Hayes

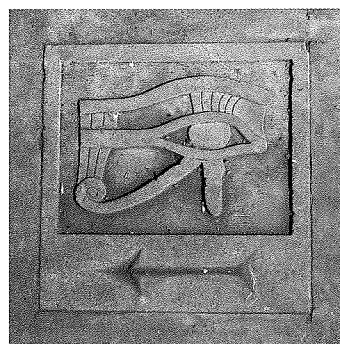
More pavement plaques

The excellent site, called www.londonremembers.com which displays many London plaques and memorials, asks if members can solve the mystery of some remarkable pavement plaques in Camden. These are pictured here and have a uniform style.

The house sparrow is in St James's Gardens, Cardington Street. The Palmette is in Euston Road in front of the caryatids on the north side of St Pancras New Church, and the Egyptian eye is in Hampstead Road outside the old Carreras factory.

Who put them there and why? Who designed them? And are there more?

See www.londonremembers.com/memorials/house-sparrow-pavement-plaque for more information.



More news from West Hampstead and Kilburn

Marianne Colloms and Dick Weindling have added more stories to their two websites.

On the www.westhampsteadlife.com/history site is a story on the Animals' Dispensary built in Cambridge Road to mark the loss of so many animals, especially horses of course, in the First World War. Also there is yet another Jack the Ripper story featuring Sickert, Patricia Cornwell's pet suspect, who lived in Broadhurst Avenue.

www.kilburnandwillesdenhistory.blogspot.co.uk features a topical story about the singer and songwriter Lynsey de Paul, who died recently. She was born in Cricklewood and lived in West Hampstead. She also lived for years in Holly Village in Highgate. Other items on this site include a detailed history of Netherwood Street, now mostly covered by the Council estate called Webheath; the Imperial Dry Plate factory in Cricklewood; and Margaret Cooper an Edwardian music-hall performer who lived in Brondesbury

The Great Wall of Camden

Peter Darley writes:

I have not, until now, seen any photographs of Chalk Farm (Hampstead) Road that showed the part of the Great Wall that was at its full height, ie between the western end of the Horse Hospital and the Roundhouse. There are a number that show the wall between the gated opening into Stables Yard and the western end of the Horse Hospital, the section over which it attained full height.

This was until I was alerted to the picture below. It is by a well-known photographer, Fay Godwin, and was taken around 1981. I have bought a book *Bison at Chalk Farm* in which it appears, but I have not been able to discover what a bison was doing there!



Members will know that the Society is funding the digitisation of some 3000 slides in the collection at Camden Local Studies. This is one of them. It depicts Mrs Percival's Women's Fellowship enjoying a 'tortoise race' at St Luke's church, Hampstead. Date unknown.



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